In 2005, our STEEL FAB REVIEW article started like this…

Waiward Steel Fabricators, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is an industrial fabricator specializing in the oil and gas, pulp and paper, and petrochemical industries. Founded in 1971, Waiward’s services include the fabrication and installation of structural and miscellaneous steel, equipment components, hoppers, plate work, material handling equipment & conveyors, and bridge girders...among others.

…7 years later; Waiward is still Thriving…

Essentially, that statement is true, Waiward still fabricates virtually all types of structural steel applications that come their way. No job is too big or too small for this 40,000 ton/year shop. Waiward is grateful to their customers; they are proud of their workforce and facility; and they have confidence for the future.

…Peddinghaus’ Technology Makes the difference.

Oh yes, one more thing – they have applied Peddinghaus’ Technology which has helped grow their business steadily through the ups and downs of a turbulent market.

A Working Partnership: Waiward Steel & Peddinghaus

The SFR staff sat down with Waiward President Terry Degner and Shop Operations Manager Rob Wright, to discuss the “state of the industry”
now and in the future. Here are their comments about a commitment to automation & technology.

“We started our automation process in 1989. We purchased a Peddinghaus drill/saw line, a Fabripunch plate machine and an AFPS 643 Anglemaster.

By 2005, we were running nine (9) Peddinghaus machines in our shop:
- 3 drill/saw lines (2 of BDL 1250/9 and BDL 760)
- 2 plate lines (FPB 1800 & FDB 1500)
- ABC Coping system
- Anglemaster AFPS 643

Today, in 2012, we employ these Peddinghaus machines every day in our Production:
- 3 drill/saw lines (1 BDL 1250 D – carbide; 1 of PCD B; 1 of BDL 1250/9 B)
- 3 plate lines (2 of HSFDB high speed; 1 FPB 1800 – still running from 2001)
- ABC Coping System (still running from 1992)
- Anglemaster AFPS 643 (from 2005)
- The new PeddiWriter Standalone Marking System* WOW – what a machine!!!

**Why Invest in the Latest Technology – the PeddiWriter?**

Waiward Steel purchased one of the first PeddiWriter Standalone Layout Marking Systems from Peddinghaus.

(Editor’s Note: When we mentioned the word “PeddiWriter” - both Terry & Rob began smiling 😊).

Terry: “The PeddiWriter machine concept was very intriguing for us – could one machine actually “write” all the data onto a beam – just like our existing layout and fitters?” The answer is “YES”!

Rob: “We explored the best location in our shop for the PeddiWriter, and we positioned it after our drill lines, integrating with our Peddinghaus conveyor/transfer handling system”...Wow does it produce steel!

**Lay Out a Beam or Column in minutes – not Hours? YES PeddiWriter!**

In side by side comparisons of an experienced shop layout technician (or fitter), the PeddiWriter reveals a 10 to 1 productivity edge.
Rob: “We started slowly as we became more familiar with the Plasma marking technology, but today we average about 60 beams/columns per our 10 hour shift.”

Robbi Dosanj is the foreman in the fit up area, and he monitors production closely.

What impresses me is that it is simple to operate. Peddinghaus software can extract the exact shape (beam, column, channel, tube) from the 3D model, and we are ready to run. The operator need only check for the right beam and the corresponding program.

Also, with the plasma technology, we don’t use many consumables – We have spent only $50 on plasma electrodes and nozzles in 3 months on a multi-shift basis.

**Automation (+ Accuracy / - Man hours) = Competitiveness**

Terry: Like every fabricator in North America, we compete in a tough, competitive market. Even in Western Canada, we compete with fabricators in Asia and other global locations. The only way to stay competitive is to reduce man hours per ton with “workable technology”

Peddinghaus has brought that automation technology to Waiward since 1971.

Rob: If you look at the carbide drilling technology that we employ on our BDL 1250 D drill line and our two HSFDB plate processing machines – it is hard to imagine where we would be, if we had not pursued the latest technologies.
We are producing holes now in 2-3 seconds compared to 9-10 seconds. The productivity speaks for itself, and gives us the edge against competitors using older technology.

It is all about producing a quality product faster and more accurately. A quality product remains the benchmark in today’s competitive market.

**Waiward Needs Round the Clock Service: Peddinghaus is There**

Being a good partner is true in any relationship – you need to be available and resourceful to assist where possible in any type of situation or circumstance.

How does Peddinghaus help Waiward?

1. Peddinghaus has an experienced service technician available within the area
2. Peddinghaus’ local dealer, George McCarthy and Akhurst Machinery maintain parts AND service technicians as well
3. 24 hour telephone customer support from the Bradley, IL USA headquarters with knowledgeable Peddinghaus technicians on the phone
4. Same day parts shipments if required from the largest parts inventory in the industry
5. Today’s electronic trouble shooting technology: from web cams to remote diagnostics – Akhurst/Peddinghaus uses them all – and then gets a qualified technician to you pronto!
6. Peddinghaus CARES about customers...it’s in their DNA

**Since 2005, Some Things Never Change: It’s Still People Embracing Technology**

“Waiward was founded in 1971 by two young Alberta farm boys who took their rural work ethic and love of steel construction and started a new enterprise. By applying these same strengths, Waiward Steel has flourished. (Yes that’s a quote from the 2005 SFR article).

Isn’t it refreshing to learn that a good work ethic, smart decision making, and having the foresight to invest in tomorrow’s technology today, makes the difference in today’s structural steel fabrication market?

“It ain’t easy out there, but when you have a plan and a technological partner on your side – the odds are in your favor”.

Clayton Hanson (Akhurst), Bruce Hemphill (Peddinghaus), and George McCarthy (Akhurst) insure that service is priority for all Peddinghaus customers.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Peddinghaus Corporation visit: www.peddinghaus.com

PRODUCT LIST:

- Beam Drill Lines
- Anglemasters
- Plate Processing
- Coping Machines
- Thermal Cutting
- Automated Layout Marking
- Structural Band Saws
- Ironworkers
- Material Handling