



2016 CIBPA ENTREPRENEUR AWARD



PETER MIGNACCA QUIET GENEROSITY

Humility is a virtue. It helps you fly under the radar and stay in the shadows, but it can't hide you from the recognition and accolades of others when your good deeds speak for you.

Peter Mignacca is a soft-spoken man who avoids the spotlight. As President of Subterranean (Manitoba) Ltd., Peter is a respected leader in industry. In his community, he is acknowledged as passionate and caring, noble qualities that win him gratitude and a place in the hearts of those who know him.

It is Peter's quietude that speaks loudest for his good works in business and his personal life. Fr. Sam Argenziano of Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church calls him a man of faith and one of the quietest individuals he's ever met, yet it's this tranquility that makes others want to celebrate his achievements.

"Peter doesn't blow his own horn; if you don't blow the horn, he's not going to do it himself," says Fr. Sam.

For over 50 years, Subterranean Ltd. has been one of the first companies on-site at some of Western Canada's most significant construction projects, including the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg James Armstrong Richardson International Airport, Investors Group Field, Mosaic Stadium, MTS Centre, Manitoba Hydro Place and True North Square.

Peter's grandfather, Mark, founded Subterranean as a piling subcontractor, and during the time his father, Mickie, ran the company, Peter learned the basics of the foundation business. During high school, he worked summers in the field and upon graduating with an engineering degree from the University of Manitoba, took on a project manager's role.

When his father's health declined, Peter assumed more responsibility in the company. In 1993, Mickie died, and Peter became the third generation of his family to own Subterranean.

Providing solid foundations for multi-million dollar buildings is specialized work. It takes expertise, experience and integrity, attributes that Peter's colleagues in the construction industry appreciate.

"Peter, himself and his company, for generations, is well respected in our industry," explains John Garcea, head of the Garcea Group of Companies. "It doesn't matter what kind of project we're involved with; everybody appreciates the expertise Peter brings to the job."

Peter's considerable business skills have also transferred over to his work in the Italian community. He's a well-regarded addition to any initiative in which he's involved.

"If you want to make sure everything's on the up and up you have to have Peter Mignacca on your finance committee," says Fr. Sam who has witnessed Peter's good work as a trustee of Holy Rosary Church. "Every comma, every dot, every number is looked at very, very carefully."

Peter's passion for his family, church and community is inspiring, but it's the quiet way in which he goes about accomplishing things in life that sets him apart, says his sister-in-law, Tammy Mignacca. "He's very dedicated to his family, his work, the community, the church. He's always there to help anybody and everybody."

It's this generosità that Peter's family and friends celebrate. A lifetime of humbleness sometimes deserves applause, especially when the sum of your service to others amounts to a long list of accomplishments.

by Bernard Kruchak

