

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

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Industry Retirements



INDUSTRY VETERAN JOHN MacLEAN RETIRES

John MacLean, Director/Sales Manager of Pacific Automation, Ltd. in Calgary, Alberta, retired at the end of May from the structural building components industry at the age of 59. John's presence will be missed in the industry, as he was known by many as an innovator of state-of-the-art component manufacturing equipment. John came from humble beginnings, raised on a dairy farm in the small town of Moose Creek, Ontario. In 1963, John moved to Montreal and worked as a tool and dye maker. He moved to Calgary in 1969 to work for a farm machinery



ELLINGSON RETIRES: BAKER NAMED NEW GM FOR THE KOSKOVICH COMPANY

Gene Ellingson, (right in photo) general manager at The Koskovich Company in Rochester, MN, for the better part of the last decade, recently retired from the company. Schooled as an engineer, Ellingson joined the Koskovich team in 1995 after retiring from a senior management position at IBM. Ellingson joined the company at a time when the wood component industry was just beginning to accept the concepts that the company had been trying to advance since the mid-1980s. He brought management and organizational skills that proved invaluable. During his tenure at The Koskovich Company, Ellingson put the necessary systems and procedures together to facilitate smooth production and also contributed a host of design ideas to enhance the company's line of automated products. In his role as general manager, Ellingson brought order to the chaos of tradeshow planning and setup, helped establish and detail a unique brand of advertising, created and implemented new customer service procedures, and in general

manufacturing company RennMan. It was in Calgary that John met and married his wife, Linda. John started to work for Jager Industries in 1974 as a machinist and remained there until 1992 when Jager shut down their equipment/ machinery facility. In 1993, John and his business partner, Rob Kloppenborg, founded Pacific Automation, Ltd. In June 2003, Pacific Automation was acquired by MiTek Industries. Rob retired in December 2003. John's family includes three children: daughters Sarah and Katie and son James. John kicked off his retirement in mid-June with a cross Canada vacation. John's parting wish was for everyone in the industry to know that the business he started remains strong and is experiencing healthy growth, and that Amir Ahmadi has taken over Pacific Automation's operations. We wish John the best of luck in his well deserved retirement.

served as a guiding hand on a never-ending series of projects. Jim Baker (left in photo) will replace retiring Ellingson as general manager. Baker joined The Koskovich Company after spending 34 years with IBM where he held management and executive positions in product development and customer support. His product development work was largely in software development, where he held numerous management positions. Baker's customer service positions included executive level responsibilities for a large support center that provided technical support to IBM customers, field engineers and international service organizations. Baker has been involved in home building since the mid-1970s, when he owned his own business. It was during that time that he developed an interest in using computers to automate the production of components.

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

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