



WINDSOR, CT
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THE FOUR SEASONS TIMES



Winter 2010

Newsletter

We Are PROBLEM SOLVERS

Four Seasons "MAKES IT HAPPEN" as a result of being persistent and consistent to create and offer services that contribute to a more pleasant, trouble-free way of life to benefit our clients, staff, and our community.

APRIL 22, 2010
"Join the Movement"

April 22nd is Earth Day, 2010! Be a part of the movement in some way. At Four Seasons, we plan to participate through the PLANET Day of Service, so watch for details! www.planetdayofservice.org

"Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome."

-Samuel Johnson

Challenge? Let Us Craft a Solution.

"**Problem Solving**" is a phrase that means many things to many people. It's also one of the things that I believe we excel at here at Four Seasons.

By Bob St. Jacques,
C.S.P., C.L.P.
President-Four Seasons

We were recently involved with a project at the Aetna here in Hartford that required some "creative thinking" about logistics and manpower utilization (see inside spread for more details). Our ability to come up with a solution that was both cost-effective and efficient, and our utilization of multiple resources to get that job accomplished, speaks to the type of work that we thrive on. Whether it involves hauling thousands of bags of soil mix carefully (and quietly!) through a place of business like the Aetna, or crossing railroad tracks with heavy equipment safely, installing plant materials in marshes by hand, or installing erosion control on slopes that no one else would consider, we aim to deliver solutions, not excuses.

On the "green" front, many have asked about the acronym LEED, and what it means. This stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, and it is a set of standards that provide specific metrics for the design and construction of environmentally "responsible" buildings, administered by the U.S. Green Building Council. I mention this as a "timely topic".

Speaking of excuses, we're waiting on Mother Nature's written note about her behavioral problems. She has been diagnosed as being bipolar this year, but for those of you that follow these things, you know it's not a new condition (get it?!) Seriously, we're hoping for a little bit of consistency in the weather department so we can plan (and react) accordingly. The chances of that happening, of course, are slim!

One condition that we would like to see improve soon is that of our battered economy. With that in mind, we have been working with clients that need to find creative ways to get their projects completed while lowering the costs. If you have a project that you are considering but didn't think it was do-able, give me a call to discuss it. As I said at the top, we can always find a way to "make it happen". It just might require some creative thinking!

I look forward to hearing from you: 860.688.7130.

Bob



Aetna C & T Courtyard Renovation

Project Spotlight: Aetna C & T Courtyard Renovation

The theme of this month's newsletter is "Going Green", and we tie into that quite nicely with our recent involvement with the project at Aetna in Hartford, the "Courtyard Renovation". It also ties nicely into our message of **"making it happen"**, and shows how hard work, creative thinking, and utilizing all of the tools available, (and some that initially weren't!), can make a challenging project ultimately successful.

Our ability to coordinate with the other trades and to assemble for "multiple mobilizations" over the course of the project (early August to almost Thanksgiving) also highlights our flexibility.

When we were first consulted for this project, the idea was considered to blow the materials that were necessary (soil, bark mulch) from the ground up to this "courtyard". Ultimately, after considering a crane, blowers, and other ideas, through the cooperation of all parties, a solution was crafted that is described in detail below. Our value-add also included consulting with folks like Sue Lavallo from Fafard to tap into her expertise and determine the optimal soil mix for this application.

Although it sounds simple enough, the "Courtyard" is actually on the second floor, and might even be considered "rooftop", depending on how it is viewed. It is also, from a construction and equipment delivery standpoint, highly inaccessible to heavy equipment and materials. This, it would turn out, would be one of our greatest challenges, but more on that later.

On this project we worked for Bartlett, Brainard, Eacott (www.bbeinc.com), as the General Contractor. Tim Horan, the Project Manager, and Mike Lapila, Project Superintendent, were both great to work for, as was Chris Hopper from Grub and Ellis Management, and Gary Hath from CR3 Landscape Architects.

With multiple mobilizations, work restrictions (Aetna was working a regular schedule in the building) and a monumental challenge regarding materials delivery, it wasn't easy, but it was actually the type of job that we have done quite well with over the years.

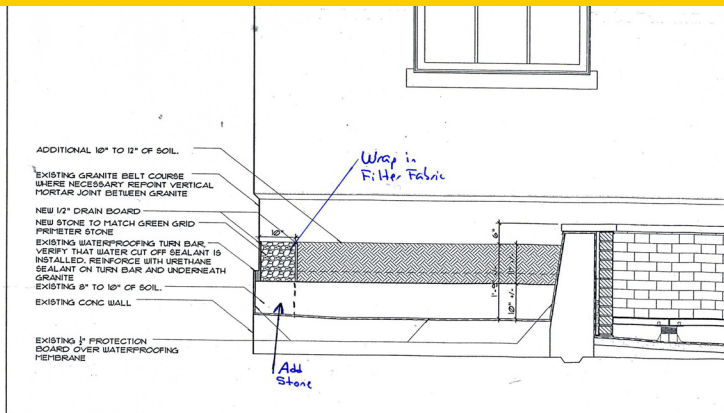
In conjunction with Tim, Mike, and Chris, we crafted a solution that involved the installation of over **85,000 lbs** of soil mix to a location that was essentially accessible only from inside! The 85,000 lbs included two trailer truck loads of bagged (1,680 bags!!), yes, bagged soil, courtesy of Sue Lavallo from longtime FSL partner Fafard.

An interesting sight for Aetna employees must have been the freight elevator being filled with pallet after pallet....of soil! To top that off (or more accurately, "bottom" it off), we also brought in 900 bags of 3/4" gravel for drainage purposes—**45,000 lbs** worth!

With the utilization of pallet jacks, dollies, and rented "high reach" fork lifts, the FSL team became experts at materials transportation and distribution in high sensitivity areas, adding to our list of places called "we go where others can't or won't".

Finishing touches included decorative stone (**another 300+ bags/15,000 lbs**), bark mulch (**400 more bags!!**), and installation of a rather unique irrigation system both for our planters as well as for the green roof panel that was being installed - requiring some creative design-build revisions to accommodate the piping.

Overall, the project was a true collaborative effort, and we thank the many people that helped to make it a success, especially Tim, Mike, and Chris, Gary, Sue, and our own FSL team.







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**FOUR SEASONS
LANDSCAPING INC.**



How about a \$100 Dinner on Us?

Know the Answer?

Hint: Look inside this issue! Save and Win!

1. How many bags of soil did FSL use on the Aetna project?
2. When is Earth Day 2010?
2. What does the acronym LEED stand for?

Fax your answers to: 860.688.3856, and we'll select one winner (at random) from the correct answers. Winner receives a \$100 gift certificate.

Congratulations to Last Month's Winner:
Terri Chapman, Windsor Federal Savings.

Fun Facts...

1. U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson was one of the originators of the idea for Earth Day.
2. April 22, 1970 was the first Earth Day!
3. The United Nations celebrates Earth Day on March 20.
4. *Design With Nature*, by Ian McHarg, laid the groundwork for Green Architecture.
5. There are 5 key areas for LEED certification: sustainable site development, water conservation, energy efficiency, recyclable/renewable materials, indoor environmental quality.

Coming in our Spring Newsletter:

- **Company Spotlight: KAZ Equipment**
- **Earth Day 2010: FSL Projects in the Community**
- **Tips & Tricks: Get your plants ready for spring!**