

# By the truckload or the pail T&R Contracting has sand, gravel, green walls & more

Sometime you need an industrial-grade solution. Sometimes you need something pretty. And sometimes, you need both.

At T&R Contracting, staff understand that one solution doesn't fit all applications, which is why the same folks that provide rock and gravel for industrial roads will also help you get a pail of ready-to-use garden soil for your garden or planter box.

They've made big investments in their property in Paradise Valley, where they've expanded the office, and built a new workshop. More expansions are in the works. But they're also expanding the types of products they offer, both for industrial, commercial and civic operations, and for residential applications.

## Pre-Cast Concrete

One new offering is pre-cast concrete from Cumberland-based Hyland Pre-Cast. So when someone is looking for a concrete catch-basin, a parking curb, or a roadside barrier, they're likely to find it in-stock at T&R, and they won't have to go out of town and deal with huge shipping costs.

"We are looking forward to working with the team at T&R to bring precast concrete products to the Powell River market. Not only does this make it easier for contractors to access inventory, it helps reduce our carbon footprint by doing batch deliveries to the area", says Hyland operations manager Chris Huber.

## Green Walls

From the conversations about pre-cast came another new offering: vegetated wall systems. Hyland connected T&R with Flex MSE, a system that structurally serves like a traditional concrete block retaining wall, but look more like a vertical garden.

Flex MSE bags and interlocking plates are used to build naturally resilient geomodular structures that get stronger and greener as time goes on. Because they're a soft building material that acts like a hard one, Flex MSE stands up to events that would ruin other kinds of walls.

Both the City and Regional District have shown interest in the technology. It may also be adopted by residents who own properties, particularly on the waterfront or on steep banks, that could be susceptible to landslides or sloughing.

More than 1,000 projects across the country have used it, says Flex MSE parent company Trexiana president Mike Callewaert, who visited March 30.

"We think this could work in a lot of places in Powell River," said T&R co-owner Shaun Gloslee. "It's structurally really strong..."



Photo by  
Anji Smith Fotos

Shaun and Raeann Gloslee and Dan and Bonnie Robinson operate T&R Contracting from expanding headquarters at the West Lake Pit and garden centre in Paradise Valley next to Valley Building. Although construction and industrial aggregate remain at the core, the company also offers a wide range of soils and mulches for local gardeners, and has recently expanded into pre-cast concrete and vegetative wall systems (as seen below.)



"... but it's much prettier than a concrete block wall," finishes co-owner Bonnie Robinson.

T&R now has the bags, products to fill them, staff, equipment and services to build your wall from the beginning to the end.

## Still a gravel company

The new additions to the services offered by T&R don't take away from the fact that the company's core is with sand, gravel and rock for construction and for industrial roads. The owners of T&R, as well as partner companies Shaun Gloslee Excavating, Coast Hydro Excavating, and Rural Septic Services, know that diversification is important, but so is satisfying the customers that have helped build the business to what it is today. Much of their recent investment at the West Lake Pit has been to support that work.

Their fleet of equipment is designed to serve that core business, with dump trucks, rock crushers and excavators. But much of it serves dual purposes. The slinger truck, for instance, can be a huge timesaver for residential projects.

"The slinger truck accurately places product or materials as thin or thick as you would like. It throws a distance of 50 feet or more. We can place your product in inaccessible locations and over obstacles. It

saves individuals hours of back breaking work," says Bonnie.

## And for gardeners

The front end of the operation looks more like a nursery or garden centre than a gravel pit. It's a gardener's or landscaper's paradise. Various kinds of soil, sand, gravel, crushed rock, decorative rock are piled in organized concrete bins. They're labelled and prices per tonne or yard or pail are listed on easy-to-read signs. Friendly staff help you find what you're looking for, offers advice for your project, and then helps you load up a bucket or a truck, or arrange for delivery.

"Good soil is the foundation to reaping the rewards of bigger blooms and greater yields of flowers and vegetables," says Bonnie. She is particularly excited about Garden Blend, which is ideal for all types of plants including vegetables and flowers. It consists of certified organic compost-based matter and nutrients and sand screened to a specific recommendation to provide perfect growing conditions. It is free draining, weed free and ready to use.

But while residential gardeners load up on garden blend or mulch, you're also likely to see a dump truck rumble by with a load of rock headed out to help build a new industrial logging road. 🇨🇦

## Residential

Soil Amender  
Garden Blend Soil  
Turf Blend Soil  
Mushroom Manure  
Fish Mulch  
Aged Mulch  
Cedar & Fir Mulch  
Decorative Rock

Buy in bulk and save!  
By the truckload  
or by the pail!

We deliver or you pick up



Come see us at the  
Home + Garden Show!  
(or 7 days a week  
on Padgett Road)

## Commercial

Slinger truck  
Dump trucks  
Excavators  
Rock crusher  
Sand & gravel  
Navijack  
Rip Rap & Crush  
Pre-Cast Concrete