



(L-R) Mainline founder Don Lyons with co-owners Mike Kosolofski, Chris Lyons, Rick Kosolofski and Matt Kosolofski.

Profile

Rolling with Mainline

Cariboo-based Mainline Roofing “covers every corner of BC”

By Frank O'Brien

Chris Lyons and Matt and Mike Kosolofski literally learned roofing in their fathers' footsteps and then followed their lead to replace both dads as co-owners of Mainline Roofing Co. Ltd. Mainline is a premier roofing company in the Cariboo and one of the earliest members of the Roofing Contractors Association of BC.

The company was started 48 years ago by Don Lyons, now 67 and semi-retired. Richard Kosolofski left architectural training to join Lyons as a partner in 1979.

Richard's sons began their career as teenage “grunts” during the summer helping their dad, Mike recalls. Chris Lyons started even earlier. “I was up in the shop at 10 years old and full time by 16,” he said.

All are apparently very good at



Williams Lake Information Centre, one of many metal roof contracts completed by Mainline

it. Today, Matt 34, Mike, 29 and Chris, 45, are co-owners leading a 40-person staff – 32 in the field – that handle major roofing contracts from the Lower Mainland to the Kootenays to the far north.

One problem the fast-tracking team is facing: finding workers with the same ‘can do’ attitude that they had as children.

“It's tough finding qualified people,” Chris said. While a non-union shop, Mainline pays industry

wages, offers full medical and dental, and pitches in to an employee registered savings plan. But, he said, they still lose crews to Alberta's oil patch and, ironically, to the northern BC building boom that provides much of Mainline's business.

Anyone hired at Mainline should be ready to work and ready to roll: the company's fleet of 20 trucks, including six high-lift cranes, are seen from the Cariboo to the

Kootenays, from Vancouver to Vanderhoof, from Prince George to Prince Rupert; with contracts in all areas in between, including a large cultural centre in Prophet River.

“We cover every corner of BC,” said Matt Kosolofski.

The company's primary work is larger commercial contracts but they also handle residential and will take on any size job, Lyons said, including cedar shake roofs, shingles, plus soffits and gutters

through an affiliate, Big Sky North Holdings Ltd.

Mainline's long experience gives them the credibility to change specs on big contracts if they believe they can provide a good alternative. Mainline's owners are confident that their recommendations and skill will provide their clients with a better, stronger roof that stands up to the northern climate.

Mainline, however, has also built a reputation as sheet metal