



THE DAILY RECORD

LAW, REAL ESTATE, FINANCE AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SINCE 1908

Brothers focus on family values in construction

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Growing up in the construction field has paid off for Brad and Dave Norbut of Norbut Construction in Rochester.

The company started in 2002, but the Norbut brothers first were introduced to the business at an early age.

After losing their father to cancer in 1986, Brad and Dave's mother, Cindi, purchased a house that needed a lot of remodeling work and the young brothers helped with the job. They have been involved in construction ever since.

"Our mother programmed us at a young age to go into the construction field, which paid off because we learned the essential skills and bought and sold houses very young," said Dave Norbut. "People started asking us to do work for them and we constantly said 'no.' But [we] finally said 'OK' about five years ago."

The company centers its services around clients who understand the value of the construction process.

Renovations and restorations to kitchens, baths, and basements make up the bulk of the company's work.

Norbut also does some commercial jobs.

Having their own crew with a full custom cabinetry workshop and a yard for tools and equipment allows the company to keep everything in-house and ensure quality.

"My passion for construction and development has always been just watching a job transform," Norbut said.

Norbut Construction is currently renovating a cottage near Lake Ontario that also will include a light house as an addition. Reid Foertsch is the owner of the summer cottage, which has been in his family since 1955. The cottage was possibly built in or around 1942.

"I went into the walls to put in some electrical work a while ago and found that they used newspapers from primarily 1942 to insulate," Foertsch said.

Foertsch said he always dreamed of improving the property.

"In the back of my mind there was this idea of building a lighthouse, which I thought would be really interesting," he noted.

About two years ago Foertsch started seriously planning the renovation and



PHOTO COURTESY, NORBUT CONSTRUCTION

Dave and Brad Norbut started Norbut Construction in 2002.

the lighthouse. He came up with it's exact design while driving on Long Island.

"I was driving and looked over and saw exactly what I wanted. Later, while taking pictures of it, I learned that it was actually a faux lighthouse that stood at the entry way to a gated community," Foertsch said.

Foertsch looked into several builders for the project, but chose Norbut in the end.

"They were ... able to visualize and satisfy what I wanted, and I liked that very much," Foertsch said.

Norbut said the job represents a unique opportunity:

"There aren't too many lighthouses in Rochester, let alone one attached to anyone's home."

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The brothers are currently reconstructing this cottage near Lake Ontario.



PHOTOS COURTESY NORBUT CONSTRUCTION

The project includes the addition of a lighthouse that will be connected to the cottage.

Brothers

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Other projects now in the works include a site at the corner of East Avenue and Penfield Road. Although the decision has not been made on what will inhabit the space, the brothers want to create some type of "green" structure.

"I think there is more news around green building than what is really happening, but it is starting to take place in the area," Norbut said.

According to Norbut, the eco-friendly structure they are considering includes geothermal systems, permeable asphalt and water tanks to hold and irrigate the property.

Norbut said ground will be broken at the site either later

this year or sometime in 2008.

The brothers are seeing an increased demand for home theaters, bathroom project and performance showers, but Dave Norbut notes that "most people aren't aware how expensive performance showers are."

Performance showers can include anything from rainfall shower heads to a custom built spa-type shower, which can cost upwards of \$5,000.

According to Norbut, the future of the business includes perfecting their construction process and continuing to make their clients the priority.

"Clients give us all the feedback to make a successful company. They will tell you everything you need if you listen to them and that's what it's all about," Norbut said.

For more information, visit www.norbutconstruction.com.