

# NATIONAL TRADESMEN DAY



**MIKE BEMENT**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF SHOP OPERATIONS

**Q: What are some of the biggest advancements that have taken place in our industry over the course of your career? This could be in the industry as a whole, in your geographic region and/or here at Danforth.**

*A: Usage of Computers in everyday activities (geese I'm old)*

- VDC Involvement on Projects
- Advancements in Shop & Jobsite Tooling

**Q: What changes/advancements do you think are next on the horizon?**

*A: Incorporating more technology into projects*

**Q: What are the challenges facing our industry in the near term?**

*A: Worker Shortages and worker accountability*

**Q: How are we - as an industry and as a company - working to recruit, retain and prepare the next generation of tradespeople?**

*A: Student awareness and college internships. We are spending more time with trade schools and regional worker development / outreach programs to make them aware of the industry we are in and the rewards it has to offer.*

**Q: Other thoughts on the industry and where it is headed, the benefits of working in the trades, etc.**

*A: Great industry. There is a tremendous amount of challenge, opportunity, and growth.*

- Headed towards more technology integration, robotics & automation, faster projects
- Modularization of construction packages...off site manufacturing and assembly in the field
- Benefits - its rewarding to be part of a Project. To build a building or renovate an old building; to know you were part of project that is going to touch so many people in your community for such a long time.



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