

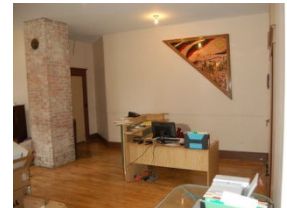
Bending Lake Iron Group Limited

Our Building Story



The hopes and dreams of our Elders ring in the hills of Bending Lake and watch over us at the business office at 201 Hardisty Street, Thunder Bay. In 2010, the building celebrated its' centennial. Over the past 100 years the 3 storey brick building situated in the heart of Fort William has witnessed glory days of settlement, industry, in thriving times and economic downturns over the years. Located along the CP Rail lines, the building has been used as a drug and chemical warehouse, dry storage, tire shop, meat packers and various other wholesale and distribution uses.

Today it houses the Bending Lake Iron Group Limited offices, data library and drill core. It's been the site of many gatherings, those to honour, and those to work or to play. A cut away section behind the wood pellet stove adds an artistic touch to the main floor salon. We left it like that because it's beautiful yet blends our ideas of industry, hearth and home. It's a beguiling presence that permeates the building. Well worn stair cases, hard wood floors, exposed wooden beams and multitude of windows bring a welcoming light and comforting appeal to those who enter. The building speaks volumes and are a testament to all those who laboured between these walls.



The building was given a few coats of paint, the floors finished in the traditional style in keeping with the buildings age. The second floor room dividers were salvaged by a local artist and transformed into a treated, weathered patina that plays up the original hardwood floors. It looks beautiful and makes great use of the space; allowing for our board room, open office cubicles and common areas without blocking the natural light.

We currently have about 10 staff and contractors that are using the building.

We've kept many areas open as possible. Any trepidation we had about our 'spit and polish' decorating style was allayed by all who tour the building. Most of the comments we receive are positive in that we've taken an old building in the heart of the industrial downtown core and are utilizing in the manner in which it was originally intended. The building has attracted CBC Radio to drop by to see what we've done to revitalize building in the Thunder Bay downtown south core and feature it in their morning programming.

In the end it's not a building that makes the business, but it certainly makes for easier transition when business priorities and strategies are updated. Over the years we realized it's not just one thing that makes a business successful, but like the Real Estate profession that touts "location is key to success". Like our ore body our building has the right postal code, people and technology behind us to sustain BLIG through the ages.

To view more photos of our building and work in progress – please visit our web site at www.bendinglakeiron.com and click on photo gallery.