



Production Peace of Mind™

Newsletter - September 2025

"With our 30-year track record, I am proud to share with you an update on some of Roska's innovative solutions that help to provide each of our customers with Production Peace of Mind.

I encourage you to contact our remarkable staff to help address any of your rental process equipment, workforce solutions or production testing needs."

- Clayton Roska, Founder & President, Roska DBO

Roska Roots to Operations Leadership: Growing Local Careers in Hythe



Darren Thomas, Lane Flaten, Darby DeSchipper, Andrew Graham, Tyrell Mason

Over twenty years ago, a handful of local kids stepped through the gates of the Hythe Brainard Gas Plant, eager to learn what life in the oil and gas industry was all about. They arrived with more enthusiasm than experience—some as summer students, others on short-term placements through Roska’s legacy company, Total Production Services. None of them could have imagined that those first steps would launch careers leading all the way to senior leadership roles with one of Canada’s largest pipeline companies.

At the time, most companies brought in engineering students from Calgary for summer field experience before those students returned to university and city careers. But at Hythe, with Roska’s support, the team tried something different. They opened the doors to local youth who wanted to stay and build their futures in the Peace Country. It was a bet on homegrown talent, and the results have been remarkable.

Among those who started at Hythe were **Darby DeSchipper**, [Trent Wilson](#), [Darren Thomas](#), [Bart Balderson](#), **Andrew Graham**, [Tyrell Mason](#), and [Lane Flaten](#) - today all senior operators and leaders with **Pembina Pipeline**, still working in the same area where their careers began. In those early days, they learned from seasoned operators like Kelly Southwell, Donnie Schuller, and [Orval Pierson](#) who insisted on hard work but never forgot the importance of family and fun. Days were filled with tree-trimming, painting signs, and shadowing operators, balanced with camaraderie and the kind of light-hearted pranks that still bring smiles years later. The sheer scale of the plant was daunting at first, but each task and each mentor’s lesson-built confidence.

Lane Flaten, now Day Foreman at Pembina’s Hythe Plant, recalls starting out in maintenance. “The trees lining the North plant road were tiny back then,” he laughs. “I spent hours rototilling, weeding, and trimming. It wasn’t glamorous, but it taught me hard work.” What struck him most, though, was the size of the facility: “For an 18-year-old kid, it was overwhelming. The plant was only half the size it is now, but it felt massive.” Lane credits mentors like Bill Schneider, Kelly, Donnie, and Orval for teaching him to ask questions, work through problems, and back each other up. “That sense of family has stayed with me,” he says.

Darren Thomas, now Senior Technologist in Field Measurement, remembers

being awed by the maze of pipes and vessels. “It was overwhelming at first,” he admits, “but mentors like Kelly, Stan Vig, Shane Sipe, and [Ron Bettin](#) helped me see the bigger picture.” Darren also recalls the initiative he and Darby took one weekend: “We decided to do one of the first formal Hazard ID sweeps of the plant. Nobody asked us—we just saw what needed to be done. That experience showed me the importance of making a difference, even as a young worker.”

Those first placements grew into full-time roles, and full-time roles evolved into long-term careers. Their journeys are living proof of the value of giving local people a chance. For Roska, it’s part of a broader legacy that spans three decades.



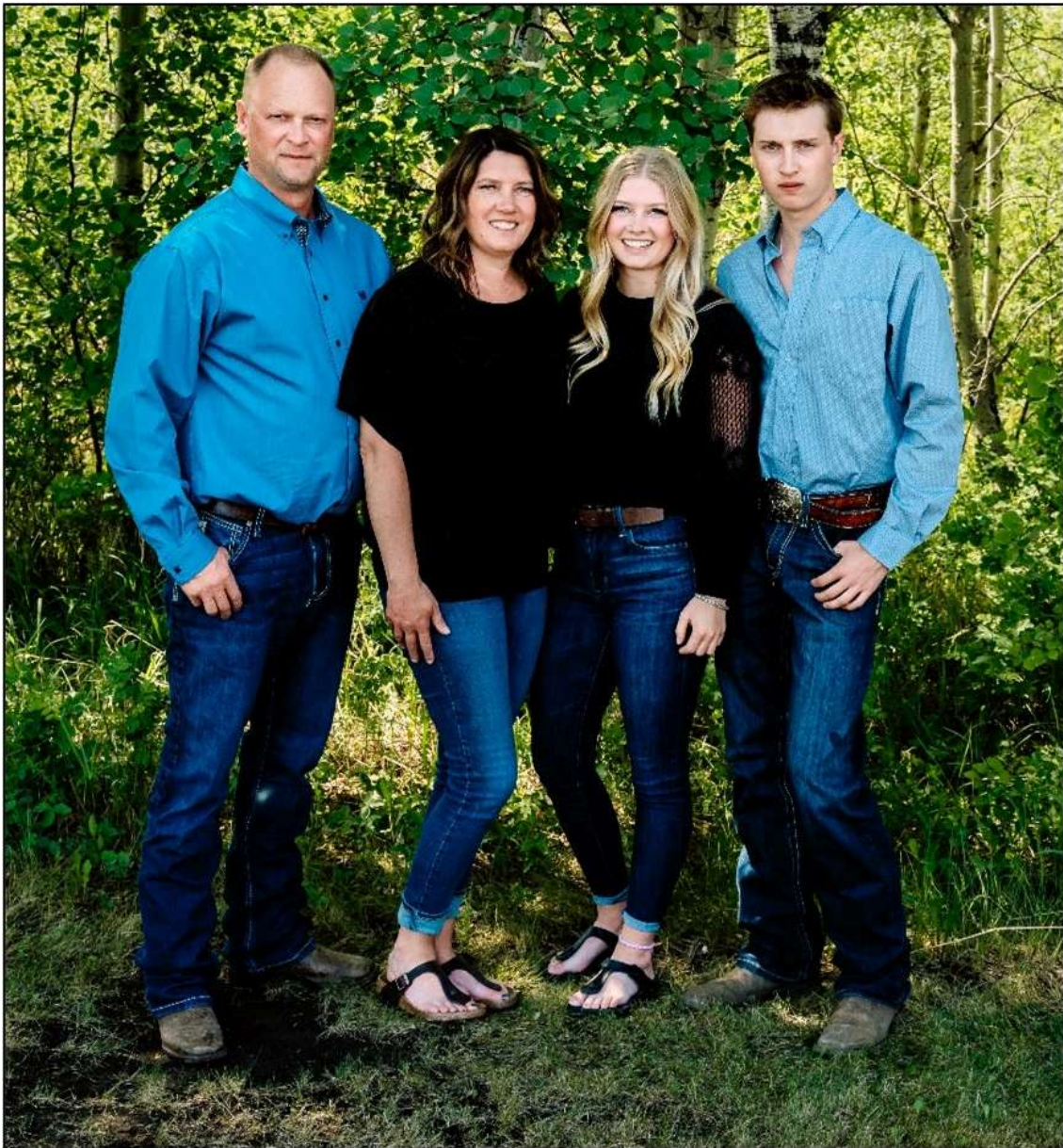
Mini Reunion at the Hythe Plant

As Roska DBO celebrates its 30th Anniversary, stories like Hythe’s remind us of what has always set the company apart investing in people, building opportunities close to home, and creating pathways into the industry that last a lifetime. The careers of Darby, Trent, Darren, Bart, and Lane are not just personal success stories; they are milestones in Roska’s history. They show how a company rooted in Grande Prairie has shaped the workforce of an entire region and continues to leave its mark on the oil and gas industry.

When we look back on thirty years of Roska, we see more than projects delivered or equipment supplied - we see people who started with Roska, grew with Roska, and carried those lessons forward into leadership. The Hythe alumni are a proud part of that legacy, and a reminder that Roska's greatest contribution has always been its people.

Employee Profile:

Sherene Hawkes - Rooted in Relationships, Powered by Community



Darren, Sherene, Alyssa, Brody

Walk into Roska's Grande Prairie office and you'll likely hear Sherene Hawkes before you see her—the laugh, the warmth, the “how can I help you!” that turns co-workers into friends and clients into lifelong relationships. For Sherene, Roska isn't just a workplace; it's a second home.

She started near the beginning of Roska about 25 years ago answering phones and doing “a bit of everything.” Over the years that has included reception, AP/AR, payroll and benefits. Later in the logistics department she helped launch GeoTrack in the Roska vehicles. But her true fit was Workforce Solutions. “I kind of weaseled my way in,” she jokes. Half-days became full-days—and a decade later, she's a go-to connector whose relationships spill far beyond office walls into hockey rinks, rodeo grounds and community events. After a 10-year break to be at home with her young family Sherene returned to the off and said the “felt just like coming home again”: familiar faces, the same business units - just bigger. That “Roska family” feeling has always anchored her. Ask about memorable moments and one name blazes back: Brad Welch. There was always a “BW factor”—plans changing on the fly, clay-shoot teams being reshuffled, turkey deliveries that somehow bypassed security and protocols yet still got everyone fed. “He was a tornado,” Sherene laughs. “You learned to roll with it.” We sure miss him!

Today she credits mentors—Jeff, Don, Jenn, Kerry, Jamie, and the whole Workforce team—for shaping her craft. “Everyone does the job differently. I learned from all of them and built my own way.” Raised in the Peace Country, she also brought a built-in map of roads, plants, and people. It shows. Her customers trust her because she knows their work—and their world.

That world, for Sherene, includes a 300-head cow-calf ranch near Teepee Creek with her husband, Darren, and his parents. Everyone works full-time off the farm with chores being done before dawn and after work until dark. January kicks off 100 days of 24/7 calving. Summer is haying; fall is feeding and shipping. “Ranching taught me accountability and teamwork,” she says. “No matter the weather, the work has to get done. Sherene's motto is to “choose joy” no matter the circumstances - especially at -40 deg.”



Liam (farm hand), KC (billet), Brody (son), Darren (husband), Sherene, Alyssa (daughter), Karsten, Andy & Fran Johnson (Darren's Parents)

In 2024, her family was named Farm Family of the Year, recognition of the multi-generational heritage that she and her husband have lived since childhood. Community is constant: 13 years on the Teepee Creek Stampede Board (she's a fourth-generation board member) and managing director of the indoor riding arena year-round; a decade as secretary for Alberta High School Rodeo District 3; strong ties to local hockey and 4-H.

Resilience runs deep. In 2020, just before COVID, a cow launched her over a fence, breaking her femur and tibia and shredding knee ligaments. Four surgeries later, she was back - helped by Roska's flexibility and a stubborn optimism. "It was a long road. The support meant everything."

When she does slow down, Sherene golfs and gardens—flowerbeds bursting with colour—and hosts Sunday family dinners that can swell past twenty people. Looking ahead? Simple: "I hope nothing changes. I love my family, the ranch, and Roska. Staying rooted—that's the good life."



Sherene's Flowers and Garden

Sherene and the Roska team would be happy to discuss any of your Workforce needs. Contact Sherene and anyone else on the Roska team at sales@roskadbo.com

Roska News

30 Year of Roska - Honouring the People Behind our Success

On **May 25, 2025**, Roska officially marked 30 years in business. To honour this milestone, we've been celebrating throughout the year with staff, alumni, partners, and our community. The highlight came on **September 12–14**, when we gathered in Teepee Creek for a weekend that brought the Roska family - past and present - together.

At the heart of every moment was **our people**. Roska's story isn't just about equipment, services, or projects; it's about the individuals whose hard work, dedication, and relationships built the company we are today.



Clayton Roska, Mac Disher, Brian Furman, Terry Bullen

We were proud to have **four of our five original partners** with us to share stories about starting the company. Their memories reminded us of the courage, creativity, and teamwork that shaped Roska's foundation. We also took time to remember our late partner Brad Welsh, and were grateful for his wife Dana, who shared his reflections from those early years.



Retirement Jerseys

Equally meaningful was the presence of many **former employees and long-standing partners** who joined us to reconnect and share stories from across the decades. Their contributions and friendships have been vital in shaping Roska's culture and success.



And of course, our **current employees and their families** were at the heart of the celebration. From organizing and volunteering to participating in games, dinners, and community activities, they made the weekend one filled with laughter, connection, and pride.

The 30th Anniversary Celebration was more than an event - it was a reminder that Roska's greatest strength has always been its people. Together, we've built three decades of success, and together, we'll continue to build the future.

To everyone who has been part of the Roska journey - Thank You!

Contact sales@roskadbo.com or call 1.877.532.8347 for more information.

Have questions or need support, Roska DBO is here to help Contact us today!

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