

Leader of Tomorrow:

Russ Hebblethwaite

Company: Enviro Vault Canada Ltd.

Incorporated: 1996

As a boy growing up, Russ Hebblethwaite had very little: patched pants, hand-me-downs and no electricity or running water for four years. "I knew early on what I didn't want," he recalls. He wound up in Fort McMurray in the 1970s and applied for a parts-man job at the time and travelled to Peace River to meet his future boss, Gary Rogers. Instead of being given the parts-man job, he was thrown directly into the role of parts manager at 19 years old.

A couple of years later, he transferred back to Fort McMurray and purchased a steam truck and started his own sideline business washing equipment in the evenings. At 21, he was given his own territory in Grande Prairie, where he ended up breaking sales records despite the 1981 NEP and an energy industry in turmoil. He later went with his truck to work full time in a uranium mine in northern Saskatchewan and has been running his own business ever since. In 1996, he founded Enviro Vault Canada Ltd. because he couldn't figure out why operators were settling for leaking and freezing equipment.

Today, as he always has, his mind thrives on exploring new ways of doing things; new technologies. "My mind is always working, thinking, imagining," says Hebblethwaite. He credits the relationships he's built ever since that first opportunity was given to him for his success today and he's proud to call this city home. "I am so overwhelmingly proud to be part of the Calgary and Alberta business scene," he says. From a man who grew up with literally nothing came a highly successful above ground storage tank business. "I do have a degree, with honours, though the School of Hard Knocks is not a recognized institution," says Hebblethwaite.



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