

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR APRIL 20, 2026 CELEBRATES ARNOTT CONSTRUCTION

Arnott Construction was founded in 1929 by Leonard Arnott when he was just 20 years old. In the midst of the Great Depression, his persistence and determination was evident as he built the construction business. The first contract was awarded to Leonard on July 4, 1929 in Mount Forest...

"A motion was passed, moved by Coun Noonan, seconded by Coun Gardiner, that the tender of Leonard Arnott be accepted under conditions specified for \$3,800, also for laying tile on Silgo St."

At this time equipment of any kind was literally shunned. They sought to employ as many as possible. The trench was dug by placing men on tiers, which were dug into the trench each about three feet higher than the last.

Throughout the 1930s the company was involved in culvert and bridge projects across central Ontario, and in 1935 they moved to Arthur. The company officially incorporated as Arnott Construction Limited in 1954 with Leonard as President, his wife Hilda (nee Kramp) as Vice-President, and employing a crew of about 30 local men. Leonard knew the value of creating quality product and providing excellent service, and understood the value of a person and his employees. Arnott Construction had the benefit of a group insurance plan by 1954, something unheard of in the construction industry in those days.

Work frequently brought them north, where one project of interest was the building of a bridge over the Sand River on the new Trans Canada Highway, in 1959, about 100 miles north of Sault Ste. Marie.

The company was kept in the family, as the majority of the interest was acquired by Leonard's three sons – Warren, Keith, and Wayne – in 1973. In 1974, the company moved their head office to Collingwood, Ontario, where they continued with bridge, dam, water reservoir, water, sewer, and road infrastructure projects. Sadly in 1983, Leonard Arnott passed and his son Wayne acquired control of the company.

In 2006, the company once again relocated its head office to Midhurst, just north of Barrie, Ontario, and is now run by the third generation of the family, Wayne's son Todd.

Today you will see the company engaged primarily in sewer, water, and road construction projects all across Simcoe County and beyond. Throughout its nearly 100 years of business, Arnott Construction has been recognized for quality of construction and continues to grow, a testament to the company's strong foundation built in Wellington North.

Submitted by Tim McIntosh, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable



Leonard Arnott