These new construction projects are two of the largest underway in Connecticut. They’re massive by any standard. The demands they place on men and machines are intense. The fact that they are being done in an uncertain economy with a considerable investment by their owners puts added pressure on all involved to see that the work is done expertly and efficiently. Throw into the mix very aggressive scheduling and these jobs become a pressure-cooker for the O&G teams involved.

In Hamden, Quinnipiac University has tapped O&G once again for a major construction project. This time crews are preparing the site and building a new dormitory complex, student center and parking garage totalling some $300 million. Meanwhile, in Stamford, developer Building and Land Technology has plunged into its expansive vision for a “smart growth” project that will see the reclamation and redevelopment of 88 acres of former urban industrial area into a high-end, mixed-use community. Over the approximate ten years of this project, work is
BIG TEAMWORK  Continued from Page 2
expected to be valued at close to $4 billion.
In both cases, the project owners are putting their trust in O&G because of a proven track record: O&G has successfully developed other large-scale projects for each owner. But just as central to their decision is the confidence that O&G brings because of its size, capability and caliber of manpower.

Relentless schedules are pacing both projects, so a tremendous amount of collaboration between O&G’s Building and Heavy/Civil divisions has been essential, and the collaboration has been exemplary.

York Hill at Quinnipiac University
Quinnipiac University faced a challenge – a good challenge for them, but a challenge nonetheless. With rising enrollment came the need for more living space for larger incoming classes, and with it a new student center to house a cafeteria, spaces for activities and the like, and more parking spaces close to the school’s new TD Banknorth Sports Center.

O&G was chosen to begin developing the site. To save time and efficiently assist the Quinnipiac team, estimating, design, and value engineering services were provided to the University before Chris Tuomey, Assistant Vice President, Heavy/Civil Division, and his crew dug into the sitework. The complete site package includes over 500,000 CY of excavating, running underground utilities, and installing footings and foundations for all the buildings.

Given the hard date when dorm rooms need to be ready for occupancy, work needed to begin even without a complete set of plans for all of that work. (Half of the rooms in the 2,000-bed, nine-story complex need to be built, fitted out, inspected, furnished and fit for occupation in the Summer of 2009, the balance the following Summer.)

Work began six months later than hoped for, in July, due to permitting and other issues. But the completion dates could not be moved. “We started with about 30 to 40 percent of the drawings and our estimating team of Jerry Traub and Kevin O’Connell gave Quinnipiac an order-of-magnitude price that adjusted as plans were developed further. It was still a hard-dollar bid but an undeveloped bid. That was really the only way they could put out drawings and get the work going at the same time,” says Tuomey.

Shortly thereafter the Building Division competed for and was awarded the second half of the project for all the above-ground building work at the dormitories and student center. There were three different packages within this second phase, for the dorms, student center and the facilities fitout. Three different contractors could have worked at the site but the University chose to single-source with O&G.

“They were comfortable with our work ethic, our personnel, what our size enables us to do, how our divisions work together and they wanted to continue that, I believe,” says Tuomey.

Mark Jeffko was named the Project Manager. Tuomey chuckles, with obvious respect for the Building Division crew: “I don’t envy Mark. He’s got a big, big job ahead. Lots of detailed work and a very hard schedule.”

“We’re not building a big box store or the like. The main dorm is 390,000 SF, nine stories high, built on a radius and includes many ornate features,” says Jeffko, referring to the elegant design of the Crescent Dorm by the project architect, Centerbrook Architects of Centerbrook, Connecticut. “The dorm rooms are designed as suites with their own kitchenettes and bathrooms. The student center will be constructed of heavy timber framing, three stories high and built off an elevated concrete deck built by the Heavy/Civil Division guys,” says Jeffko.

He continues: “The level of detail on these structures and the time frame we’ve got to complete them in makes this one of the most challenging projects I have been involved with.” Which causes Tuomey to quip, “Mark will make things look beautiful. But to get to that level of detail in the timeframe the University wants – it’s just a monumental task.”

Site work has also been pretty monumental, too. To put it in perspective, site work has accounted for about half of the budget, close to $130 million. The building budget, including the recent addition of the Crescent Dorm extension, stands at approximately $146M.

Tuomey and Jeffko reflect on the advantages that collaborating inter-divisionally bring to bear for the University. “For one thing,”

This project has a very aggressive schedule, and O&G offers a tremendous advantage to the owner, having the capability and experience of two groups on one site.

ERIC KRUSE, PEGASUS GROUP OWNER REPRESENTATIVE FOR QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

The York Hill Management Team: (l to r) Mike Gemmell, Nick Carrieri, Kevin Voelker, Bill Noll, Pete Hinman, Marty Page, Building Division Project Manager Mark Jeffko, Brett Stackhouse, Diana Shouf, Ernie Smith, Ken Hunt, Scott Kosky, Frank Rubino, Heavy/Civil Division Project Manager Chris Tuomey, Rich Briggs, Rob Martinotti, Ryan Benoit, Carleton Stoup
bring that experience to the concrete and structure. Our site is being worked on by a team of men who have been on site for seven or eight months, who know the site intimately, who can help guide the process as it is being checked off. These are the gradual switchover of manpower from the civil work as it is being performed.

With subcontractors included, Jeffko O&G is doing very well. We’re definitely glad O&G has both sides of this job – it gives us a real chance of meeting the schedule.

Eric Kruse, of Minnesota-based construction consultants Pegasus Group, represents Quinnipiac. He cites the benefits of having O&G as a single-source contractor on the job. “This project has a very aggressive schedule, and O&G offers a tremendous advantage to the owner, having the capability and experience of two groups on one site.” He notes that while he picks up on two distinct “cultures” that define the Heavy/Civil and Building crews, “there is one O&G.” The collaboration between the crews is close to seamless, and any issues that come up “are O&G issues to resolve, not ‘mine’ or ‘yours,’” which is something Kruse very much appreciates.

**Harbor Point “Smart Growth” Project**

Harbor Point comprises 88 acres of the 322-acre peninsula jutting into Long Island Sound, south of Stamford center. In a four-phase project that will span a decade, this ambitious project will build 400,000 SF of retail space, 350,000 SF of office space, a hotel, spa, 4,000 new housing units – 30 buildings altogether – and over 16 acres of parkland and a mile of shoreline trails. “This is an extraordinary piece of ground. Harbor Point incorporates the best in innovative urban design, community planning and technologically advanced environmental design,” says Carl Kuehner, III, President and CEO of project developer Building and Land Technology.

As Partner in Charge for Harbor Point, Kuehner is described as demanding and involved but always knowledgeable and fair by O&G’s project managers. He and his partners made the decision to entrust Harbor Point construction to O&G in no small part because of inter-divisional collaboration. “The sort of integration of divisions O&G is capable of makes it easier to manage from my perspective. There’s less of a chance to point fingers,” says Kuehner. “I’ve found it to be a successful marriage.” O&G also successfully built another BLT commercial project, The Towers in Norwalk, Connecticut, just a few years ago.

O&G was happy to comply with Kuehner’s request that key managers with whom he had worked earlier projects be assigned to this job. George Givens, who had earned Kuehner’s trust as O&G’s superintendent at The Towers, was brought aboard. After watching the work of the other managers involved, including Heavy/Civil Superintendent Dwight Pulica, Building Division Project Manager Louis Rosenblatt and Concrete Superintendent Brian Pracuta, he felt that the right team had been pulled together to realize the vision of Harbor Point.

Harbor Point will repurpose one of the state’s most contaminated properties. This “brownfields” site where coal was gasified at the turn of the century and where industrial manufacturing in the following decades left behind significant pollutants, will be transformed into eminently useable land. In fact, Harbor Point is one of the first projects to qualify for the US Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) pilot program.
Designed for smart growth and transit-oriented development, Harbor Point is hailed as a model for traffic reduction, jobs creation and environmental sensitivity – like the Wire Mill Redevelopment project in nearby Georgetown, Connecticut, where O&G led a team building a transit-oriented community. Wire Mill’s Project Manager, Joe Nowicki, is now applying his experience as part of the Harbor Point management team.

This is a fluid project. Ideas, opportunities and designs ebb and flow, and O&G crews and subcontractors respond. Case in point is the “P Park,” a 16-acre park being built on the site. Utilities to handle as many as six buildings are being brought to a central location in P Park in readiness for a time when the park may (or may not) be divided up in some fashion for other development. But for now, the park will remain a park.

Like York Hill at Quinnipiac, Harbor Point is a fast track project. “We may be working on a set of drawings at a percentage level of completion. At times the Heavy/Civil guys may be working faster than the pace of the design so we’re calling for more designs and info [from civil engineer Milone and MacBroom and architect Perkins Eastman], trying to stay ahead of everything,” says the Building Division’s Rosenblatt. “We’re just trying to finish a sequence of work in the most efficient manner.” There will be an estimated 100 workers on the civil side and 200 to 300 on the building side, depending on how the scope develops.

In the eyes of Pulica and Rosenblatt, Heavy/Civil and Building division crews are collaborating well, or as Pulica puts it, they are “meshing” well. Echoing the statement, Rosenblatt says, “I can’t see boundaries here. Each division has its own policies but they mesh all the way through. On most every job I’ve been on I’ve never seen that there is any difference. I really don’t see that one division does anything differently than the other. The way we communicate with each other, the experience, our ability to work together and to handle the daily changes and stresses – it’s pure O&G mold.”

You might say that Harbor Point is characterized by a horizontal approach to project management rather than a vertical one. There is a vertical reporting and responsibility certainly, but when it comes to getting the work done on time, responding to the changes that mark the job, a horizontal approach where manpower and equipment is readily utilized between divisions wins the day. “A vertical...
Ninety days of work in 31 days. That’s how Lime Rock Park in Lakeville, Connecticut, described the ambitious race track reconstruction awarded to O&G this Summer. And O&G delivered.

The track hosts all types of major motor events, from Busch Series and American LeMans races to regional club outings and race schools. Virtually every free minute of track time is spoken for during the racing season. So the window of opportunity to provide these needed enhancements was a tight one indeed.

Aimed at resurfacing the entire 1.53-mile track and building two 40-foot-wide, technically challenging “optional” track sections by the end of June, O&G and its subcontractors dug in on May 27, hoping for consistently cooperative weather. Work included complete section leveling and rebuilds, reworking the pit area, and milling and repaving the rest of the raceway to create a final surface one review described as “level as a pool table.”

One reason for the smoothness and consistency of the asphalt laydown was tandem paving or “paving in echelon.” Two pavers proceeded up the prepared trackbase side by side, laying down asphalt with a virtually invisible longitudinal joint. Another reason was the work of O&G’s Leighton Davis. Davis consistently delivered a unique asphalt mix specified by LRP’s NASCAR-pedigreed paving consultant, Advanced Materials Services of Auburn, Alabama. O&G dedicated its Bogue Road asphalt plant to the project to ensure repeatable production.

O&G’s Walt Koziol, VP of the Heavy/Civil Division, worked closely with track owner Skip Barber, regularly visiting the site and managing the project. “This was a big, big effort,” says Koziol. “No single person made this a success — a lot of people did.” He credits Brad Oneglia, Asphalt Sales and Operations, with coordinating equipment and manpower from the company’s Bridgeport operations, VP Leo Nardi for his usual stellar support, and Paving Superintendent Vic Mancini who made sure all the paving was done properly and on schedule.

Five weeks and $5 M after the work began, a revamped Lime Rock Park opened on time for the American Le Mans Northeast Grand Prix — exactly as planned.
Creating Great Escapes

The best landscape architecture, from its living organic elements to the structures that underlie and organize them, is designed to complement every feature of the building it surrounds. “Earth products” – architectural elements from stones to bricks, derived from natural materials – help form that underlying core. Sometimes derived from the site but often procured and brought to the location, these elements are used to create a framework that binds the landscape design together.

Landscape architects and masons turn to O&G for expertise in selecting and installing high-end materials, from raw stone to cut and fabricated products ready for installation. They are significant contributors to the Masonry Division’s business, specifying raw materials and finished products for projects throughout New England, New York and New Jersey, and on occasion across the country and offshore.

O&G caters to this high-end trade, beyond its four showrooms featuring over 35,000 SF of displays and its expertly trained personnel. In 2008, O&G created a Stone Sample Binder Kit as a desk reference for instant product review and selection. Hosting innovative programs like the annual six-hour continuing education workshop for the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects continually builds upon relationships in the business-to-business market and maintains top-of-mind awareness.

Sales representatives Jim Gallagher, Ed Moavero and Al Tamburini are a few of the men whose job it is to meet the needs of landscape architects with creative solutions and timely problem solving. The trio works closely with their clients to ensure their success. In the typical development of a project, Gallagher, Moavero and Tamburini confer with the landscape architect or mason, offering recommendations on product selection best suited to the application at hand. On request they will create custom display boards that feature the stone materials chosen for the project. The architects or masons present the boards to their clients for approval, and occasionally the client will come into an Earth Products Showcase showroom to view more options before making his final selection. Gallagher, Moavero and Tamburini continue to support their clients as needed through completion of the project.

In the end the success of a high-end landscape design is in the details. Concepts and plans, materials and options, delivery and expert installation all must work together, with nothing overlooked and every facet first-rate.

Stone Sample Desk Reference
Developed in 2008 by O&G

This seven-acre site features different themed gardens, including a woodland watercourse and Japanese-inspired meditation garden with lily pond.

“Mauro created architectural cut coping which was quarried by hand from ledges deeply veined in historic New York State Dutch country. He’s created a remarkable masterpiece – no tricks, just extraordinarily well done.” Jim Gallagher

Mason: Mauro Fidelo  I  O&G Sales Representative: Jim Gallagher
This estate exemplifies a home in harmony with its surroundings, designed with lush expanses of vegetation that melt into expertly designed and installed stone-product structures.

“This property features hidden gardens and retreats throughout that are a real showcase in craftsmanship and design. We supplied all of the stone and fabrication services, all delivered ahead of schedule.”  Ed Moavero

Designer: Kaeli-Nagy Architects  I  Mason: Mauro Fidelio  I  O&G Sales Representative: Ed Moavero

Natural fieldstone mosaic veneer facade, chimneys, walls and patio fireplace makes for an elegant and charming residence. Poolside products featuring Eramosa coping, Indiana limestone wall caps and Buckskin limestone decking top off this relaxing natural environment.

“There is a seamless transition between our stone and the architectural design that make this property a classic New England home.”  Al Tamburini

Architect: DiBiase Flikoff Architects  I  Mason: Robert Waldron  
Masonry  I  Landscape Architect: Spaulding Landscape Architects  I  O&G Sales Representative: Al Tamburini
Talking with Tracy Ladd and Tom Hunter about the safety program they oversee at O&G, you hear a lot about teamwork, about shared responsibility for job safety – and about fostering a corporate “safety-aware” culture.

Ladd, with some 29 years of experience in safety programs, joined the company in 1998 as its Director of Safety. He credits O&G’s improving record in safety not as much to the loss management system he has been developing as to a more generalized focus, supported by O&G’s upper management, on creating a corporate culture where safety becomes everyone’s duty.

Making safety such an integral part of everyday operations is particularly important. Nationally, construction work ranks as the most dangerous occupation, accounting for 1,226 fatalities or 21 percent of the nation’s job-site deaths, according to the US Census Bureau’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Emphasizing the individual responsibility everyone has for job safety isn’t just the smartest, most effective way to cut down on accidents and other losses. It’s the only way. With 50 different sites and locations up and running every day, from retail settings to quarries and batch plants to job sites, safety is more than a two-man operation.

Says Hunter, O&G’s Field Safety Officer, “I’m constantly on the road. My office is my truck. At best I can make it to a job site once a week for an hour or two, provide support, inspect things, answer questions, and then I’m on my way to the next one. We train and support our workers, especially our project managers and superintendents, because they’re right at the sites, in the very best position to identify and correct potential hazards, and to prevent losses.”

Along those lines, O&G has “site-specific” safety personnel at several key construction sites. These men – John Flannery at Yale, John Boguslawski at Kleen Energy and James Rodger at the BELD Power Plant in Braintree, Massachusetts – are at those projects full-time, part of a contractual agreement that reflects the owners’ concern over jobsite safety.

One of the techniques Ladd and Hunter continue to stress are the “tool box talks” instituted at O&G in the early 1990s. They have prepared a series of practical presentations, meant to be given by field supervisors to their teams weekly, with directions and refreshers on important topics, like working safely around roads or at heights or in trenches. Not only are these talks useful for O&G’s teams, in the interest of total project safety, they’re made available to subcontractors to educate their crews as well.

Do workers view Ladd and Hunter as adversaries, guys who show up at a site to make life difficult? “Not at all,” says Ladd. “Nobody likes non-compliance or hazardous situations pointed out to them, but they recognize that we’re here to support their efforts and assist them in preventing any losses to their project. Identifying hazards, correcting hazards and working safely is every person’s responsibility.”

Adds Hunter, “My goal is to have guys tie off when they work at heights, for example – not because, ‘Tom was here and he said to tie off’ but because it’s the safe thing to do.”

Most helpful to Hunter as he checks on construction sites is to simply watch how the crews work. With his years of on-the-job safety training and hours of classroom work he has developed a reliable sense for reading a work
site, spotting crews or individuals who really have safety “nailed,” and those who might not recognize and adequately address hazards, which could present a hazard to O&G, to the project, to themselves and to their families.

Of all the positions on a construction site, Ladd and Hunter view those of superintendent and project manager as among the most demanding. Not only are “supers” and managers required to be knowledgeable in trades across the board, from excavation to landscaping, but they are another essential set of eyes to anticipate and prevent job site accidents. “They’re at the point where decisions are made, and that’s the best place to prevent incidents which could lead to losses.” To that end, Ladd and Hunter do their part to heighten the safety awareness of these field bosses, equipping them in monthly sessions, held at O&G’s Torrington headquarters, with the management skills that will help them plan many safety concerns out of a project, and intelligently manage those that are unavoidable.

“This is construction,” says Ladd, “where the work and the conditions are very dynamic. Situations constantly change. Holes are dug in the ground. Overhead and elevated work is performed. Large pieces of mobile and lifting equipment are needed for the work and are in constant motion. Potential hazards need to be anticipated so that they can be controlled.”

Ladd likens the construction process – and safety in the broader sense – to driving a car. “We have to do everything right that we can control. We have the engine tuned, the windshield clear, the tires all set and we drive the speed limit, but does that mean that nothing could go wrong? We have to be aware of the unconsidered hazard and the unintended consequence. If we drive over the speed limit, the police tell us, ‘You have a good chance of dying,’ but the temptation is to say, ‘I’ve always done it this way but nothing has happened.’ Nothing’s happened yet. We think that we’re willing to accept the risk because we’re experienced and have always done it this way.”

“Good safety is all in planning and asking questions,” he continues. “The trick is to recognize changing conditions and anticipate hazards. If I’m good I will have the protection ready at the site when the tasks start. And if I’m smart I will learn from whatever losses do happen and massage my original safety system to make it better. The worst thing to do with any accident is to have the same accident happen again. Then I have to question how good I am and how much I care.”

Hunter reflects on the success of efforts at O&G: “Safety here is 100% better than where I used to work in the early 1990s,” he says, of a large regional competitor. “But it’s not really that useful to compare ourselves to other contractors because we all have unique situations. When we compare our records here, year to year, we’re seeing steady improvement and that’s rewarding for all of us.”

Pulica and a crew from the Heavy/Civil Division were the first on the scene back in October of 2007, accomplishing extensive site preparation before Rosenblatt and the Building Division team arrived. When they saw the assistance required they immediately jumped in. Rosenblatt says that every day he crosses between civil and building activities, working with Stamford’s Engineering Department, working with Pulica – “a job is a job,” says Rosenblatt. And the same sentiment is echoed by Pulica, a twenty-eight-year veteran who sums it up: “We’re getting a tremendous amount done here because this is a team effort between divisions, developer and designers.”

The end result is a forward-moving project and a pleased client.
Web Crusaders: This intrepid team organized and executed a complete rebuild of the O&G corporate website. (l to r) Earl Raifstanger, Marketing Coordinator; Ida Mussen, Human Resources Specialist; Tara Grieco, Administrative Assistant, Pre-Construction; Dori Wityak, Marketing Coordinator; Aaron Mednick, Vice President, Building Division; Barbara Weingart, Telecommunications Manager; Brad Oneglia, Asphalt Sales and Operations; Jessica Samios, Business Development Manager; Fred Manteghian, Chief Information Officer; Anita Parzuchowski, Director of Marketing, Masonry Division; and Reece Hoben, Vice President, Building Division (retired). Not in photo: Wendy Wagner, Project Administrator, Heavy/Civil Division.

Some much-needed website work, that is. Except “some” isn’t at all accurate. This was much more than a “makeover” of the venerable O&G site. This was a complete rebuild.

When the old site was launched in the mid-1990s, it represented a big step forward for O&G. (“Back when websites were the wild, wild West,” jokes Fred Manteghian, O&G’s Chief Information Officer.) But more than a decade later it no longer served the company on several levels: from the dated appearance to the content it delivered, to the limited functionality and especially to the difficulty of maintaining and updating the site.

Says Brad Oneglia, the youngest of O&G’s development team (read “very web literate”), the site presented a disconnect. “We invest money and effort polishing our trucks, making sure everything is clean and up to par. But our website looked like an afterthought.” And, adds Oneglia, it needed to be transformed into a recruiting tool for web-savvy college graduates who, in addition to interviews and phone calls, will visit a corporation’s website to thoroughly check out a potential employer.

It was clearly time for a radical change.

That is when the nucleus of what would later become a much larger team was assembled. The initial four-person group, led by Manteghian and including Masonry Division Director of Marketing Anita Parzuchowski, Business Development Manager Jessica Samios and Building Division Vice President Reece Hoben, began at the beginning. They developed a vision for how they wanted the new site to operate and what they wanted it to contain, defining the interplay of O&G’s major divisions, and ultimately writing a set of requirements.

“We wanted a site that would give a more interactive experience,” says Hoben. “There are many more things we can do now, technologically, than when the old site was written. We can exchange more information more effectively.”

They considered the heart of the site, how it should interact with visitors and how it should be maintained by O&G personnel, and after a long process settled on a content management system that best suited their requirements.

One interesting twist, as discussions continued, was the decision to develop a “site within a site” for the Masonry Division’s Earth Products Showcase. “We really were that different and needed a different focus for our pages, which are heavily product-oriented,” says Parzuchowski.

It was after this initial development process and the selection of a vendor to execute the design and programming that the remainder of the team came aboard. The team was assembled from different areas of the company, from HR to asphalt, with each member bringing a unique set of skills. Evaluation of content to include, content writing, data gathering and entry, collection and selection of photography, proof reading – all skills mattered.

With Manteghian’s announcement of a February, 2008 “live” date (the date by which the site was to be completed, tested, debugged and launched on the Web) all hands kicked into high gear. What had been an arduous laying of groundwork now took on a faster flow and site sections rapidly came together. All aspects of O&G’s business were described with a fresh look in a user-friendly interface.

Today the company regularly garners compliments on the new Web presence. The site is working as envisioned for visitors, and internally for those who manage the site. It seems that ogind.com has stepped out of the “wild, wild West” and into civilized society.

People Pleaser: Visitors – and the IT folks who maintain the site – enjoy the content, look and functionality of the rebuilt ogind.com
“I worked at O&G for 47 years. More if you count the summers when I was in school.” So says JOHN CELLERINO, a heavy equipment operator at the Bogue Road plant in Torrington. He also continues the tradition of family employment at O&G. Fresh from America from Italy, his grandfather started with Andrew Oneglia, the company’s founder, as a mechanic. Next was dad, Sam, also newly arrived from Italy as a teenager. And John’s kids worked summers while in college. “Other than the Oneglias, I think we’re the first family with four generations working at O&G!” he says with pride. John also chuckles as he recalls being Andrew Oneglia’s unoffi-
cial driver. “George would say, ‘Go get my father!’ and away I’d go.” Retired in September, he and wife Doreen keep busy with their six grandchildren and their new house, and are planning a trip to San Francisco in February. “There aren’t many places left where you can work your whole life. I was fortunate. You can’t find a better employer,” says John. We’ll miss you, John – keep in touch.

HENRY MILLER operated heavy equipment most all his working life, right up to the time O&G acquired his former company and kept him on as a payloader operator at the New Milford asphalt plant. And he stayed with O&G until he retired, some twenty years later, in September of 2008. “Everything was good at O&G. It was a good job, paid good wages, there were good people to work with, and there were good people to work for,” says Henry. “Tony Damiano and Ray Oneglia were always very fair, and Bill Ayers and Sherry Travers at the scale house – we were a real good team.” Not letting any moss grow under his feet, Henry plans to pull up stakes and move to Bay City, Texas, due south of Houston, with his wife, Nancy, this December so they can be close to one son’s family (they have four children altogether). And enjoy warmer weather! He’ll probably continue league bowling and definitely get back to fishing when he settles in. Our best to you, Henry!

With a warm manner and a rich accent that reveal his Italian roots, MARIO PERUGINI fondly recalls the last 15 years spent working for O&G. He started running heavy equipment for the Building Division and then the Heavy/Civil Division before being moved to the more settled life of a plant operator, first at the wash plant in Beacon Falls and then at the company’s concrete operation in Danbury. “O&G was the best company I ever worked for,” says Mario. “I got along very, very good with the owners. I wish I could stay another 30 years, no kidding.” He has special praise for Leo Nardi: “He’s a real gentleman, the best guy. When he asks you to do something, you know he’s done it himself.” Since retiring in May, Mario has visited Las Vegas and taken a bus tour through Italy. He went with his wife of 41 years, Margarita: “It’s too late to turn around now,” he laughs. “No, we get along good. She’s a nice quiet woman – you know he’s done it himself.” Since retiring in May, Mario has visited Las Vegas and taken a bus tour through Italy. He went with his wife of 41 years, Margarita: “It’s too late to turn around now,” he laughs. “No, we get along good. She’s a nice quiet woman – me, I get too excited sometimes!” Seize the day, Mario, and keep living life to the fullest. Buona fortuna!
BELD WATSON GENERATING STATION, BRAIN TREE, MASSACHUSETTS

116 megawatts of power will be available to the Boston-area grid when this new plant comes on line for the Braintree Electric Light Department in the Spring of 2009. Two Rolls Royce Trent 60 gas turbines and all associated equipment and facilities needed to operate and maintain the plant are efficiently fit into a footprint under two acres.

BELD Watson Generating Station
Braintree, MA

Work continues on the construction of the Thomas A. Watson Generating Station, a 116-megawatt power plant facility for the Braintree Electric Light Department. With construction approximately seventy percent complete, an early Spring 2009 “substantial completion” milestone is planned. Work continues to shift from a heavy-civil application, which included the installation of 300 piles and 5500 CYs of concrete, to a focused and heavily integrated mechanical and electrical construction period. PB Power, the project design engineer, has managed to efficiently locate two Rolls Royce Trent 60 gas turbine units and the associated equipment needed to operate and maintain the plant in an area under two acres in size. Recent work includes the erection of the 400,000-gallon demin water tank, completion of all underground piping systems, and the installation and fit-out of the Butler-style control and equipment buildings. The project’s commissioning agents will be on site in early November 2008 to begin plant turnover procedures.

Fairfield Hills
Newtown, CT

Until it closed in 1996, Fairfield Hills was the site of a State Mental Health Hospital. The Town of Newtown purchased the property in 2001 and planned a mixed use development of the 189 acre campus. O&G was chosen by the Fairfield Hills Authority in 2005 to be the Project Manager for the Town development activities. O&G teamed with architects Tai Soo Kim Partners and BVH Integrated Services in a design-build effort to restore and renovate Bridgeport Hall, a 45,000 SF space built in 1933 which was originally the Food Service center for the campus. The development will convert the building to central Town Offices including space for Newtown Public Schools. Construction work commenced in October 2008 with a scheduled completion of July 2009. The O&G team has worked closely with Newtown’s Board of Selectmen, the Fairfield Hills Authority and the Board of Education, and now reports monthly to the Public Building and Site Commission.

Watertown High School
Watertown, CT

Construction began August 11, 2008 on additions and renovations to the Watertown High School. The project includes demolition of the school’s north wing, construction of a 35,000 SF addition in the same area, and a phased renovation of the remaining 169,000 SF. All building systems will be replaced along with other improvements to bring the building up to current building and fire codes. Extensive site work and the construction of a synthetic turf football field will also be performed. The project is scheduled for completion in February of 2011. The project budget is $56M. The O&G Team working on the project includes: Brian Holmes, Project Executive; Bruce Gelbar, Senior Estimator; Larry Schilling, Preconstruction Manager; Joe Vetro, Project Manager; Roger Johnson, Superintendent; and Carl Rushton, Project Engineer. The architect is Kaestle Boos Associates of New Britain, Connecticut.

Murtha Cullina Office Renovations
Hartford, CT

Work consists of interior finish renovations of floors 29 and 30 of CityPlace I. Major work items are new acoustical ceilings and light fixtures, millwork, new flooring and wall finishes, creation of new office space and the relocation of sprinkler heads. Work is phased by floor, beginning this November and concluding in May of 2009. The owner, Murtha Cullina LLP, will be relocating to “swing space” on another floor during construction. Project architect is S/L/A/M Collaborative of Glastonbury, Connecticut, and the engineer is vanZelm Engineers of Farmington, Connecticut.

Torrington City Hall
Torrington, CT

This project will renovate the existing 40,000 SF City Hall building, including hazardous materials abatement, new mechanical and electrical systems, energy-efficient windows, a new roof, code compliance updates and new vaults. A Veterans’ War Memorial will be built to honor those who served our country. The city will be relocating its employees to temporary leased space so that the building can be renovated while unoccupied. Work is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2009 and be completed in the Spring of 2010. The project architect is Friar Associates located in Farmington, Connecticut.