



COVER STORY

Fabrimet Inc. Adds to Their Extensive Automated Capability with Additional Capital Investment



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FABRIMET INC. Continues to Endorse FICEP'S Innovative Labor Saving Technology

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FICEP Helps Little Tiny Steel Become A Titan

Georges Guerette (left) - President of Fabrimet Inc.
Paul Guerette (right) - Vice President of Sales



Fabrimet Inc. Continues to Endorse FICEP's Innovative Labor Saving Technology!

The town of Drummondville, Quebec was founded in 1815 to house the British in their battle against the Americans in the War of 1812. This is where an enterprising and inventive young man by the name of Georges Guerette, with his son Gilbert, founded the company Guerette Machine Shop in 1944. As Gilbert had seven children, he needed to generate some aggressive growth to provide for his family going forward. Thus, he grew the initial company into three diverse divisions under the name of General Manufacturing Company.

- Machinery Division (Woodworking Machinery)
- The Cast Iron Division
- Sheet Metal Division

Over the years Gilbert sold the machinery and casting divisions to other family members and ultimately

changed the name of the Sheet Metal Division in 1978 to the current name of Fabrimet Inc. During the past few decades Fabrimet Inc. has focused on the steel fabrication of different products.

- Lattice type transmission towers
- Highway guard rails, posts and accessories
- Bridge connection plates
- Electrical sub-stations
- Tubular transmission towers
- Generation of welded angles exceeding 10" x 10"

In 1978 Gilbert's sons, Georges and Paul, joined the firm and presently, represent the second generation's management.



From left to right Paul Guerette, Gilbert Guerette (both second generation), Raphael Guerette, Antoine Vaillancourt (third generation) and Georges Guerette (second generation) are all poised to continue the family business.



Georges Guerette, president states, *“As the majority of our historical products were galvanized, our principal production evolved into the area of power transmission and highway accessory items like guard rails.*”

“My father’s engineering background and experience in designing labor saving woodworking machinery meant we were always eager to engage in automation for the fabrication of our products. This creative thinking helped pioneer our initial investments in CNC angle fabrication systems from the firm Profel in 1979. As the fabrication of transmission towers grew to become a major portion of our products, we installed multiple CNC angle lines during the following few years. This was just the beginning as we continued to aggressively invest in multiple automated systems for plates and beams as well. As we moved to the next decade, we were producing virtually all our angles on CNC lines. This level of capital investment enabled us to focus on three target markets.”

- Utilities and engineering firms in Canada and the United States

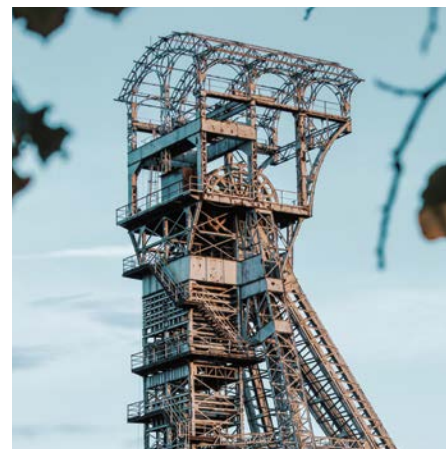


Lattice style transmission towers

- Guard rails, posts and related accessories in Eastern Canada



- Structural steel requirements for the mining industry in Canada and the United States



As Fabrimet’s sales expanded and the Profel lines started to show their age and obsolescence, Fabrimet started to invest in new technological solutions from FICEP. Georges had many discussions with FICEP’s engineering team, and his experience helped to support and adapt the machinery to the specific needs and requirements to meet Fabrimet’s needs.

Georges continues, “ In 2008 we started to focus on CNC technology that consolidated multiple operations into one system to eliminate the many material handling steps from one fabrication operation to the next. The FICEP CNC systems that we installed in 2008 accomplished several consolidated operations.”

Plate processing incorporated **punching, drilling, marking and thermal cutting**



Structural steel fabrication combined the operations of **drilling, marking and sawing**

Angle fabrication included **punching, marking and programmable notching** that could generate different notch geometry without the need to manually change tooling



“ The ability to incorporate programmable notching into a CNC angle line represented a major labor-saving function as most of the cross bracing angles in lattice type towers are notched or clipped. The FICEP angle line that we installed in 2008 enabled us to go from a stock length to a finished angle ready to go to galvanizing without manual labor! ”

Investment in automation at Fabrimet did not stop then, as in 2013 they once again invested in new technology from FICEP with the purchase of three new systems.

High speed beam **punching, marking and carbide sawing** of miscellaneous steel sections



Plate processing incorporating **drilling, marking and thermal cutting**



Angle **drilling, marking and carbide sawing** of larger angles that require drilled holes and saw cutting to length (in lieu of punching and shearing) per design code



Recently, Georges was asked how the FICEP equipment improved his productivity over past methods. *“In our business the goal is more pounds per hour with less labor. The ability of FICEP’s innovative technology to combine multiple operations and reduce up to six processes into one productive CNC operation and eliminate the need for secondary operations enables us to achieve this goal.”*

Fabrimet currently fabricates in excess of 55,000 US tons of fabricated lattice towers per year. This is a substantial tonnage comprised of hundreds of thousands of parts considering the average part weight. When Georges was asked how FICEP has enabled his company to grow to this level, he responded, *“We have been able to grow our volume and market share substantially through automation while maintaining exceptional quality and accuracy which is of paramount importance in our industry.”*

Presently, Fabrimet produces both lattice and monopole type towers. Georges shared his thoughts on how he sees the future of these two designs as well as the cost comparison between them. *“The lattice tower designs are much better, cheaper and do not require an extensive foundation when compared to a monopole tower design. Generally, monopoles are specified in urban areas for esthetic reasons.”*

Georges and his brother Paul continue to understand the role that technology and productivity in the fabrication of their product line plays now and in the future. In line with this thinking, in 2019 they added to their capability and capacity by purchasing three additional FICEP CNC fabrication systems.

In reviewing the capital investments in automation that have been made by Fabrimet over the past decade it is clear that they realize that efficiency, competitiveness and growth revolves around innovative automation and the consolidation of multiple fabrication steps. The nine different CNC lines that Fabrimet has purchased during the past decade represents the type of customer endorsement that confirms that FICEP continues to deliver industry leading innovative labor saving technology for the entire steel fabrication industry!



Gemini gantry style plate processor for *drilling, scribing and thermal cutting*



Two XP style angle lines that are clearly the fastest angle lines available on the market today for *punching, marking, notching and shearing*

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CNC Coping Robot and Systems



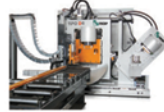
KATANA range
Band Sawing Systems



PLATE
PROCESSING



P range
CNC Punching, Drilling
and Marking Systems



TIPO D range
CNC Punching, Drilling
and Cutting Lines



KRONOS range
CNC High definition Plasma
and Oxy Cutting Systems



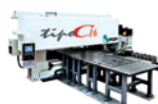
GEMINI range
CNC Drilling, Milling
and Thermal Cutting Systems



TIPO G range
CNC Drilling, Marking and
Thermal Cutting Systems



TIPO B range
CNC Punching, Marking and
Thermal Cutting Systems



TIPO C range
CNC Punching, Drilling and
Thermal Cutting Systems



ANGLE
AND FLAT
PROCESSING



A range
CNC Punching, Drilling,
Marking and Shearing Systems



SP range
Super Performance
CNC Punching and Shearing Systems



HP range
CNC Punching, Drilling, Notching,
Marking and Shearing Systems



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