

# SHOPPER

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*"When I saw you I fell in love, and you smiled because you knew."*

- Arrigo Boito

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## LITTLE CITY - BIG SUCCESSSES

By Gail Jansen

A few years ago I had the chance to work on a project that looked at some of the top homegrown companies that exist in Medicine Hat. I was astounded and amazed to find not only companies who are doing well, providing a service or product right here in Medicine Hat, but also companies who are major players on the world stage and markets.

What was even more amazing to me, as I shared this knowledge with many of my friends, was that most citizens in Medicine Hat have no idea that such top notch companies exist right here amongst us.

Take Classic Construction Ltd., as one example. A construction company that began just over five years ago Classic Construction Ltd. has gone from a new builder on the home scene in Medicine Hat, to one of Canada's leading high volume homebuilder. And not just any homes, but affordable homes. Homes that are helping to ease the housing crunch that exists in today's marketplace, not just in Medicine Hat but throughout Alberta, and soon beyond.

As a result, Classic Construction Ltd. has been named as Profit Magazines 11th most fastest growing company in Canada, and more recently topped Alberta Venture Magazines list as one of Alberta's 50 Fastest growing companies for the third year in a row.

Medicine Hat has also produced



L I T E B O O K



A few of Medicine Hat's top homegrown companies

another top construction company whose name incorporates the city from which it all began, Medican. A company that has grown by building both individual styled homes, condominiums and communities in 19 cities, 6 provinces and two countries over the past 34 years.

These aren't the only successful companies that Medicine Hat can boast of. With a broad spectrum of industries, there are many other notable fields in which we excel, that no one seems to really know of.

Take the Litebook Company for example. While much attention has been paid to the winter-prone condition of SADS (Seasonal Affective Disorder), which causes depression during the winter months because of a lack of exposure to sunlight, did you know that the patent for the LED full spectrum lighting treatment that is considered the best treatment for the disorder worldwide is held by this little known local Medicine Hat company?

Little known locally that is, but highly respected worldwide, with Yale University, McGill University, the

University of British Columbia, the University Medicine Centre in Groningen, the Netherlands, as well as Toronto Western Hospital, the U.S. Navy, and many more currently undertaking clinical trials and research using the Litebook to treat a variety of disorders including, depression, sleep disorders, and even cancer.

Another local company that is making its mark on an international scale, is

Auto-Star. Began when brother's Hugh and Ken Arthur looked for a way to manage their inventory control system for their auto dealership. The result is now a company that is the leading provider of POS inventory control for Pharmacies, Grocery stores and Health and Nutrition retailers across Canada and the United States. With an 80% share of the Canadian marketplace, chances are that any Pharmacy you walk into in Canada is using their software. With business partners in Toronto, Seattle, Chicago and Puerto Rico, as well as many other locations, Auto-Star is a worldwide force to be reckoned with that has no plans or desire to leave Medicine Hat.

Also happy to call Medicine Hat home, is yet another homegrown company known as Weddingstar Inc. A leading supplier of all things wedding oriented, from wedding accessories and wedding favours, to software and wedding ideas that can be found on their website, the company has several thousand retailers, who