



Greg S.

Position: Refrigeration System Designer and Project Manager, Polar Refrigeration Services Ltd. (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

Background: Licensed Refrigeration Mechanic
BSC Mechanical Engineering

Currently working towards a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering (at press time)

How would you describe your career path?

"Evolved rather than chosen." Greg began as a general helper at Polar Refrigeration (family owned and operated) as a starting point until he decided what he *really* wanted to do. He liked what he was doing ("interesting and full of challenges") so he stayed on. After completing a refrigeration mechanic apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman he continued to be attracted by the creative and design aspect of refrigeration. He returned to school for his degree in Mechanical Engineering and now continues to work at Polar while pursuing a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

What does a typical day look like for you?

"Our company is a full service company working in all areas of HVACR, focusing on large commercial and industrial buildings. An average day for me could include doing refrigeration load calculations, selecting the correct equipment and components for a specific project, estimating, and working with others on construction project management." Greg spends 75% of his time at a desk in his office and the remainder at client meetings and project sites.

What keeps you interested in your work?

Greg defines it as the ability for his job to have a large impact. "Through my design I can create something that can have a direct influence. Even with the same type of job there are no two that are identical; there is always something that is different."

Any skills that you think have come in useful in your career path so far?

Greg describes the need for a "balance of skills". While it is necessary to have the technical skills required for the job - including ongoing learning - it is equally important to have 'people' skills and the ability to communicate effectively. In project management and design you are interacting with clients, technicians, suppliers and others as you plan and manage a job to completion.

Where do you see the industry headed?

Briefly; increasing environmental importance combined with ongoing cost concerns. In large installations for large clients, there is already a strong interest and reporting on the environmental 'bottom line'. Greg finds that the environmental conscience is starting to trickle down to smaller clients as they are beginning to ask questions about "greener technology" and they are seeing that it can be tied favourably to their bottom line.

What advice would you give to someone looking to work in the HVACR industry?

Greg's advice is simple, "get started and keep moving forward. You may not want to end up in the place where you start but you need to take that first step. You need to plan for life-long learning and plan to keep moving forward –or you will be left behind!"

Any immediate goals or future plans?

Greg plans to complete his Master's Degree in Engineering while continuing to work (so it takes a bit longer) followed by the next step for the Professional Engineer designation.

Do you have any time left for "fun"?

In addition to spending time with his young family this busy guy has two other passions. One is flying his antique 1930's plane and the other is dog sledding.

