

Why is this man smiling?
See page 18.

MAXIMIZE UPTIME

Special Report

Finning boasts new and revamped services to keep you up and running

Take Command

Expose your machine's secret life

Placid Lake

One B.C. family business faces the downturn with serenity

Power Points

Planned maintenance readies backup generators

DO IT!
Protect Your Power Train



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Andre Lavallee of Alta-Fab Structures
Photograph: Kelly Redinger

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Swiss Army Cat

BY KATHERINE FAWCETT
ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT DUTTON

Finning provides tons of attachments, turning a single piece of landscaper's iron into a fleet

When François Fedorus takes time away from his busy landscaping company, he does what many Edmontonians do on a sunny weekend: yardwork.

His passion is obvious and he enjoys being busy. As the owner and sole operator of FNF Services, Fedorus offers snow clearing and removal in the winter and landscaping services the rest of the year.

For a small company, FNF Services' equipment inventory list is long. Fedorus's machines include a 304 excavator, a 242 B2 wheeled skid steer, a 277C multi-terrain loader, an IT24 F loader, two dump trucks, a pup trailer and more. His Cat tools include: rototillers, a brushcutter, post-hole auger, an angle broom and an angle blade, plus buckets and other tools for winter operations. He has also rented a trencher, landscape rake and a compactor.

Fedorus relies on these attachments, rotating them depending on job requirements. "Attaching them and removing them is no problem with the hydraulic hoses and the quick couplers," Fedorus says.

His current favourite is the brushcutter. "It's a big, very hungry lawnmower. It even goes through little trees and makes chips of them," says Fedorus. He recently used his brushcutter, attached to the 277 multi-terrain loader, for clearing under power lines and for fence lines around farms. "You just attach and away you go."

Blades (Angle or Dozer)

Stuff it does: Moves dirt, gravel, snow, livestock waste and other materials; sculpts and contours dirt

Brag about it: Easy-to-operate angled or tilting front hydraulic blades
Ideal for: Creating hills, ponds and garden beds for commercial, residential or recreational properties

Bonus: Blades are easy to use with Cat joystick controls; heavier dozer blade has a six-way tilting function

Landscape Tiller

Stuff it does: Pulverizes soil half a foot deep; mixes in compost; stabilizes and levels terrain

Brag about it: Tungsten carbon bolt-on tines provide maximum strength, durability and quick changeability

Ideal for: Residential and commercial landscaping; agricultural applications; golf courses
Bonus: Spiral tine arrangement provides greater cutting performance

Brushcutter

Stuff it does: Clears rough overgrowth, heavy weeds, long grass and shrubbery
Brag about it: High-strength blades are tapered to allow cutter to ride up over stumps and rocks

Ideal for: Highway medians; utility easements; clearing for houses, commercial developments or recreation areas; clearing pastures
Bonus: Fully balanced blades minimize vibration

Landscape Rake

Stuff it does: Aerates, agitates, pulverizes and rakes soil; levels; removes rocks and debris

Brag about it: High-strength carbon steel rotating fingers, plus integrated hopper bucket for collecting debris
Ideal for: Prepping land for sod or seed on sports fields and parks, residential and commercial developments

Bonus: Operates with loader travelling in reverse to eliminate tire compaction in finely groomed soil

Power Box Rake

Stuff it does: Clears weeds, old lawns, overgrowth and debris; grades, levels, rakes and mills soil

Brag about it: Endplates can be angled or remain parallel for close raking; blunt, pure carbide teeth create a dimpled sub-surface pattern for seeding

Ideal for: Trench restoration; golf course construction and sports field maintenance; commercial and residential landscaping; agricultural applications
Bonus: Allows multiple applications with one machine

