

RobertsonReview



Our Past Speaks for Itself

Since our founding in 1958 by Joseph Robertson, JRF has evolved into a modern, lean and responsive company that specializes in the complete production of brass, bronze and aluminum alloy castings.



Joseph Robertson, circa early 1950s

At first, Robertson supplied the commercial markets in Toronto and South Ontario by drawing on the founder's previous experience with Crouse Hinds Corporation. In 1964 ownership transferred to the Temple Family. Under the leadership of the Temples over the decades,

the company has grown in competitiveness, adding machining and permanent mold technologies. Along the way, we gained a range of experience in sand and permanent mold in aluminum, brass and bronze materials.

Today, JRF produces high quality components for all commercial non-ferrous castings and associated machining requirements in our 30,000 square-foot facility in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. We are fully equipped for mold making, casting in brass, bronze and aluminum, and machining and other finishing operations.

Our Long History Assures Our Future

There's a lot of talk today in the media about the return of manufacturing to North America. These reports seem to suggest that manufacturing went away from Canada and the U.S. for places like China, India and South Korea. Nothing could be further from the truth.

First of all, manufacturing never left Canadian shores. As our article on our rich heritage of more than 55 years attests, JRF has been manufacturing high quality components for nearly six decades.

What's really going on?

The history of so-called "off shoring" began with low labor countries vying for business from North American manufacturers. These OEMs rightly sought the lowest prices to stay competitive with their local and global competition. What "off shoring" taught these OEMs, however, is the old lesson – "You get what you pay for."

While low labor markets excel at producing simple components, they have not proven to be quality suppliers of complex parts. Add to this the added costs of transportation which can be significant with oil prices soaring, and you begin to see why OEMs are returning more of their component production to domestic Canadian suppliers.

Productivity aces cheap labor

When the "off shoring" craze began, the disparity between Canadian wages and labor rates in Asia-Pacific were staggering.

But over the years, Canadian rates have remained relatively stable while rates in Asia-Pacific have soared. Adding to the difficulty for low wage markets to compete has been the significant increase in Canadian worker productivity thanks in part to rapid advances in technology which has significantly reduced the number of workers needed to produce parts.

We've been here all along and plan to stay

While we appreciate the media coverage of the Canadian industrial sector, we trust their readers will see a world of opportunity for those seeking long-term, permanent positions in stable manufacturing companies like JRF. We look forward to a future of growth in North America and to our competition in low labor cost markets, we can only say: "Bring it on."

10 Top Things You May Not Know About Joseph Robertson Foundries

Here are 10 facts about Robertson that make us your choice for foundry products and services:

- 1. We are among the industry leaders in technical knowledge** – so you can depend on Robertson to review your general component geometry, parting lines and machining allowances.
- 2. We are flexible in our casting methods** – so you can depend on the highest quality components from our sand and permanent mold processes.
- 3. We cast the metal you need** – so you can order the bronze alloy castings and aluminum alloy castings you need.
- 4. We are a single-source supplier** – so you can make one call to receive high quality castings along with the fabrication and finishing services you need.
- 5. We are ISO 9001:2008 certified** – so you will receive part verification reports and test results to assure high quality components.
- 6. We have a huge 30,000 square foot facility at your disposal** – so you can receive timely shipments in support of Kanban or other requirements.
- 7. We can help you with part design and prototyping** – so you can receive foundry components designed for the most efficient production of your end product.
- 8. We can meet your tightest tolerances** – so you can specify components to + 0.0005 inch.
- 9. We can anodize your aluminum components** – so you receive finished parts ready for production.
- 10. We serve your market** – so you can depend on Robertson for the expertise and experience necessary to serve your industry. 

