



After putting in the years learning his craft, Bryan Klomp launched his own company in 2009.



RENOVATOR PROFILE

Klompco Carpentry

The next generation is off to a great start

Bryan Klomp readily admits that getting into the renovation business was “kind of a fluke.” He’d studied mechanical engineering, but quickly realized he couldn’t imagine spending his days stuck in front of a computer staring at AutoCad files. When his dad mentioned that a friend was looking for a summer helper on a reno crew, he decided to take a chance and apply for the job.

“At the time [2003], I

couldn’t tell the difference between a Philips and a Robertson,” says the now 30-year-old. His first day on the job, the crew was siding a house. He shook off some initial nervous jitters and climbed up the ladder. He hasn’t look back – or down – since.

After apprenticing and earning his carpenter’s ticket with that first company, he later joined a firm that specialized in flood and fire restoration work.

There, in addition to some messy hands-on experience, he got a taste of the management side of the business.

Then, in 2009, he launched Klompco Carpentry. Within a year things really took off. “I think I’ve maybe taken a week off since then,” he sighs. Impressive, considering that aside from one small ad placed in a community paper (that netted precisely one gig), all his



work comes through word-of-mouth referrals.

While based in picturesque Elmira, Ont., the job has taken him far from home, including work on cottage projects in Orillia to the east and on the Bruce Peninsula north of him.

As a general contrac-

tor, he's taken on both residential and commercial projects, including kitchen and bathroom renos, deck building, siding, and roofing. "I understand all the fundamentals of building construction," he says. "But I'm a firm believer in using the right people for

does stand out. He'd been called in to do a bathroom reno and the client mentioned that the downstairs toilet wasn't working. Once he broke up the concrete floor he could easily see what the problem was. The previous homeowner had rigged up a DIY drain

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the job.” So he farms out cabinetry, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical work to sub-trades, leaving the rest for himself and his apprentice.

Having handled a diverse range of projects in his 10 years in the business, he finds it hard to single out a particular job that stands out. “They're always interesting. You always find something.”

But there is one “something” in particular that

from a set of below-grade exterior stairs with Big-O pipe, and brought it inside, where it was joined to the ABS toilet drain and the original cast-iron sewer pipe. But the real kicker: “It's was all connected with silicone.”

Makes you glad to hear that there are still young guys out there willing to learn how to do the job properly.
—Allan Britnell

FAST FACTS

Company name: Klompco Carpentry
Founded: 2009
Location: Elmira, Ont.
Specializing in: General renovations
Number of employees: Two
Gross revenue (2012): \$300,000

JAN/FEB

CALENDAR COUNTDOWN



January 1st

Happy New Year!

Oh, sorry, we'll try to keep it down.



HELPING BUILD YOUR BUSINESS.

January 9

Tough As Nails Show, London, Ont.

Home Hardware's annual contractor event launches in London.

From there, the show will travel across the country:

- Ottawa, January 16
- Barrie, Ont., January 22
- Calgary, February 5
- Winnipeg, February 21
- Kelowna, B.C., February 25
- Halifax, March 20

February 2

Groundhog Day

Will Wiarton Willie see his shadow? Does it matter? It's still fricken cold outside.

February 3

Super Bowl XLVII, New Orleans

If you've got \$3.5 million sitting around in your marketing budget, why not buy a 30-second ad?

February 13 and 14

Buildex Vancouver

The largest annual construction-related trade show and seminar series in Western Canada takes place at the Vancouver Convention Centre West.

BUILDEX VANCOUVER

February 14

Valentine's Day

While you're at the Buildex show, pick up a nice keychain or mousepad for your sweetheart.

February 18

Family Day

We know there's no such thing as a paid vacation in this business, but it's worth taking the time off to be with your family. You know, the reason you put in all those long hours. (Note that in B.C. the holiday is held one week earlier, on February 11.)



RECALL ROUNDUP

Combustible compressors, flammable fireplaces, and insufficient impact wrenches

To err is human. But when you make consumer goods, fessing up about it is sometimes required by law. Here's the latest batch of product recalls that may be relevant to you.



Contents under pressure

Models affected: A variety of Craftsman, Ex-Cell, Pro-Air II, and Porter-Cable air compressors. They range in size from 20 to 33 gallons.

Sold: About 4,900 of the affected units were sold in Canada between July 2003 and September 2008.

Potential Problem: The compressor may overheat, leading to a fire risk.

Contact: 866-885-1877; DeVap.com

Gas leak

Models affected: Manchester Vertical DOT Propane Cylinders bearing model numbers starting with 14281TC.

Sold: Nearly 7,000 were sold in Canada between February 2012 and September 2012.



Potential Problem: There could be a small leak in the threaded connection between the cylinder and valve. You can see how that could be problematic.

Contact: Manchester Tank & Equipment Company, 800-640-6327.

A loose cannon

Model affected: Mastercraft MX Impact Wrench (model 54-1265).

Sold: Nearly 18,000 were sold in Canadian Tire stores from October 2010 to October 2012.

Potential Problem: Inaccurate calibration of the digital display could lead to bolts being under-tightened, which could in turn result in a, ahem, wheely big problem.

Contact: Return it to your nearest Canadian Tire store for a full refund.



Fiery fireplaces

Models affected: A number of fireplace inserts sold under the Majestic, Monessen, and Vermont Castings brands.

Sold: Some 4,000 were sold between October 2011 and October 2012.

Potential Problem: A faulty igniter could lead to a build-up of gas in the unit.

Contact: Monessen Hearth Systems, 877-406-9180; MonessenHearth.com



A shocking display

Models affected: Four models of Jotul and Scan gas fireplace inserts.

Sold: 54 of the affected units were sold in Canada between June 2010 and September 2012.

Potential Problem: Faulty wiring can pose shock and fire hazards, so you should keep them away from your leaky propane cylinders.

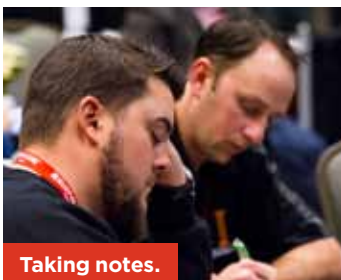
Contact: Jotul North America, 800-797-5912; Jotul.com.



THE SOCIETY PAGE

Days and Nights of the Roundtable

Scenes from the 2012 Renovators' Roundtable, held in Niagara Falls, Ont.





Our speakers held the crowd's attention.



Speaker Bill Millholland.



Speaker Lloyd Lindsay.



Speaker Ramsin Khachi.



Speaker Bob Mercer.



Speaker Melissa Schenk.



An appreciative audience.

