

Road Warrior

By Carolyn Cooper

Name: Kaelan Wall
Company: Aquatemp Radiant Heating Solutions
Job title: Lead technician
Lives in: Hepburn, SK
Age: 26
Spouse: Lana
Daughters: Sadie 6, Millie 4, Kaycie 1

Kaelan Wall: Problem solver

 Aquatemp
Certified Trained Technician

Kaelan Wall grew up working in his parents' plumbing and HVAC company, Warman, SK-based Aquatemp Radiant Heating Solutions, and swore he'd never become a plumber. But once he began working full time in the business, Wall says "I really enjoyed the HVAC portion of it, and hydronics and boiler systems. And I had an opportunity to stay in that realm so that's where I've stayed."

Wall is now lead technician for the company, which services the Warman and Saskatoon region. "We do lots of retrofits for furnaces and boilers. Lots of rural Saskatchewan people are replacing oil equipment," he says. "We've always put in heat pump systems, but this last year we've noticed a huge increase in interest. In Saskatchewan heat pumps are a relatively new thing, but because it's not a new technology to us it's fun to be able to help people out. Our electricity is about five times the cost of natural gas here, so we've got to be conscious of what things are going to cost to operate as well."

Aquatemp Radiant Heating Solutions also installs hydronic systems, which Wall says are some of his favourite projects. "Originally our focus was on steering the company towards being the hydronics experts in our area, and I think we've accomplished that. There's a lot of moving pieces in a hydronics system that can cause different issues, so it does make my mind work a little bit harder when I'm troubleshooting stuff like that." He also enjoys the challenge of working on complex boiler systems. "It's fun to go into those, take a step back, and be able to look at the system as

a whole and try and figure out the root of the problem rather than the immediate issue."

Wall has had the opportunity to service geothermal systems in the surrounding rural area. "The systems I'm looking at are in the 10- to 20-year-old range, so there's quite a few interesting problems to try and sort out with those. It's kind of a tricky balance because with the geothermal your only option for backup really is electric. When we move to an air-to-air heat pump, we're able to pair it with a gas furnace and have a little bit more efficient system that way. The cost of putting geothermal in now is fairly astronomical, so I think what we're going to end up seeing is subdivisions putting in geothermal. And then instead of them bringing in your gas, they would put two pipes in your basement for your geothermal."

Wall says that in an effort to continue finding energy efficient solutions for customers, the company has also expanded into solar energy. "We're trying to offer a complete solution on the energy side for a house," he explains. "Saskatchewan does have the highest daylight hours of sun in all of Canada, but we probably have the least amount of solar. But it's one of those areas that there's a lot going on in now. And it's a pretty exciting opportunity to be able to offer somebody a complete solution of moving to a heat pump system where they're on electricity, as well as being able to produce their own electricity and be at a zero-emission point."



In the mechanical industry since: 2013

Schools and programs: Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Red Seal journeyman plumber 2017, general gas fitter 2018

Advice for young people considering entering the trades: Come in with an open mind and don't assume you understand something. Ask lots of questions and learn as much as you can

The current work ride: 2019 Nissan NV

Favourite car of all time: Chevy Suburbans from the 1970s and 80s, they're pretty cool

Service area: Our local service area is Warman and area but we service all of Saskatchewan when it comes to more specialized equipment

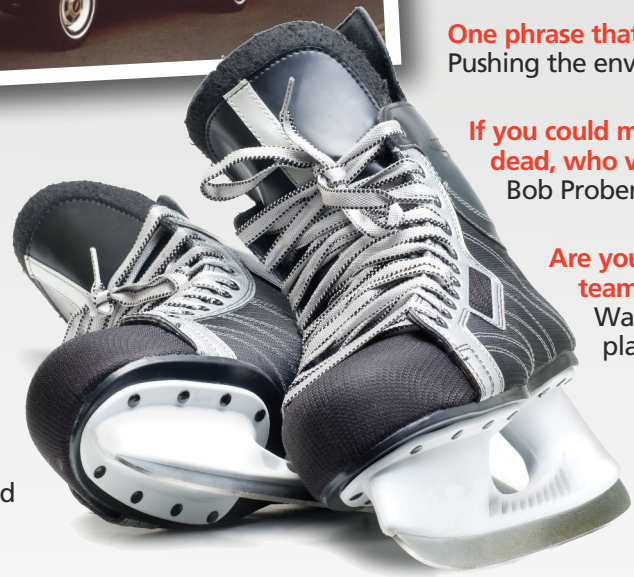
Any area you like to get dispatched to, and why? No specific area but I enjoy being dispatched to homes with complex heating and cooling systems, especially ones that have had a history of problems, and getting the opportunity to correct that for clients

Favourite part of the job? Designing and installing high-end heating and cooling systems

The most useful tool in your toolbox: Combustion analyzer ... it allows us to pin point issues without a doubt

Your favourite tool in your toolbox: Wera Tool-Check

Tool that you wish you had?
Hard drawn copper tubing bender



Favourite snacks: Jerky and Hawkins cheezies

Favourite outdoor activity: Going out hunting and walking through the river hills ... I get to see so many things that I would miss driving by

Favourite sport: Hockey

Biggest pet peeve:
Giving up on something

One place in the world you would like to visit:
It would be pretty cool to go to Europe and visit a boiler manufacturer such as Viessmann because the plant is fully automated

One phrase that describes you:
Pushing the envelope

If you could meet anyone, alive or dead, who would it be?
Bob Probert

Are you part of a sports team? Hockey team, the Waldheim Warriors, I play defence



Favourite band/performer:
Halestorm

Favourite TV show:
Cobra Kai

Favourite food:
Lasagna

Finish these sentences:

My rule of thumb is ...
never stop learning

If I had a million dollars ...
I would have a home butcher shop in the back yard

When I was a kid, I wanted to be ...
anything but a plumber

If I had a super power it would be ...
super strength to pull these old oil furnaces out of basements