

Fifth Wheel opens No. 3 plans two more in 1979

By Roy Downs
Fifth Wheel Truck Stops officially opened its third Highway 401 truck stop at Dorchester (near London) Wednesday, and at the same time announced plans to open two more truck stops early in the new year.

General Manager Jim Powers announced arrangements to acquire existing outlets in Bowmanville and North Bay, expanding Fifth Wheel's string of full service truck centres to five. The first one opened in Milton six years ago, the second was opened in Cornwall three years ago, and Wednesday's opening ceremony marked the official launching of number three near London.

The company is purchasing an existing Esso service station and Voyageur Restaurant on Highway 401 at Bowmanville. The service station and restaurant on Highway 11 just south of North Bay is a smaller, privately owned business. Fifth Wheel plans major renovations and expansion at both locations, Powers said.

Building full service truck stops on Highway 401 and on other major highway routes in Ontario was a long-time dream of two Milton men, Claude Warren and Lew Loweridge. They were in the milk transport business in Milton until they acquired an existing truck depot in Milton and opened their first Fifth Wheel in November, 1972, along with Jim Powers, a third partner who had extensive restaurant and hotel experience.

The Milton location was expanded to include a fuel bar serving both trucks and cars, restaurant, store, motel, truckers' lounge, barber shop, repair shop and wash bays. Another company, Blue Beacon Truck Wash, took over the wash bays and now

runs it as a separate operation.

The founders formula for offering full services to busy truckers paid off, and the business growth was phenomenal. Three years after Milton opened, Fifth Wheel acquired a small restaurant and fuel bar in Cornwall, added a new store, restaurant and motel, and launched the company's second successful operation alongside 401.

A year ago Fifth Wheel purchased the Esso-Voyageur service centre at Dorchester, just east of London and transformed it into a similar operation to the first two. The restaurant was expanded, a store and truckers' facilities were added, and there are plans for a 24-unit motel and repair service centre building in the near future.

Indications of the company's growth are reflected in the fuel gallonage at the Dorchester location in just one year. Fifth Wheel has increased its average daily fuel sales 10-fold.

"We like to make our facilities a one-stop shop for the trucker and the travelling public," Powers told a group of 30 invited guests who participated in Wednesday's ribbon cutting ceremony, followed by a buffet dinner and tours of the Dorchester location. "The public and professional drivers appreciate being able to obtain fuel, service, food, rooms, and related supplies at one location."

He noted the Bowmanville Fifth Wheel, which will likely be under the company's operation by next spring, will give the firm excellent coverage on Highway 401. The North Bay site will fulfill a need for another one-stop shop in that area of Ontario, he said.



SNIP, IT'S OPEN: Middlesex MPP Bob Eaton and his wife Pat were on hand in Dorchester Wednesday to help Fifth Wheel Truck Stop officially open its third full service truck service centre on Highway 401. The firm's Milton and Cornwall operations were opened earlier. On the left is Charlie Hayles, assistant general manager of the retail division of Imperial Oil and to the right are Dorchester manager Vic Teather, President Claude Warren and general manager Jim Powers.

At Wednesday's opening, company officials also unveiled a new credit system for professional drivers and trucking firms, to be a joint operation between Fifth Wheel and Imperial Oil.

Bob Eaton, Conservative MPP for Middlesex, snipped the bright red ribbon to officially open the Dorchester operation. Assisting were Mr. Powers, Mr. Warren, Fifth Wheel's sales promotion manager Fred Doelle and Dorchester manager Vic Teather.

Mr. Loweridge, who is holidaying in the southern States, missed the grand opening.

Imperial Oil representative Charlie Hayles, assistant general manager of the retail division and Murray McInerney, national accounts

manager assisted in the ribbon cutting ceremony and several other Esso officials were among the crowd.

Restaurant managers at Dorchester are former Miltonians Al Schouten and Ron Oswald.

Who's in running?

Speculation for chairman's job

With the closing out of the old council of Halton and the inaugural meeting of the new one scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 13, speculation has begun on who will succeed Ric Morrow as chairman.

Morrow is stepping down after his one two-year term, saying he would like to spend more time with his family.

A pilot with Air Canada, Morrow told this newspaper he only spent three weekends at home with his family in Georgetown during his term.

He is the second regional chairman of Halton. The first one was Al Masson.

Among the people rumored for the position is Jack Raftis, veteran Burlington councillor.

Currently chairman of the region's public works com-

mittee, Raftis is a man who is known to get things done.

Also in the running according to the grapevine is Mac Anderson, a councillor from Oakville. Anderson is chairman of the administration committee.

Hearsay also lists Walter Mulkewich of Burlington, chairman of the Health and Social Services Committee, and Pat McLaughlin, chairman of the planning committee as possible candidates.

Yet at this point no one person is really fingered. Considering 12 new faces will be taking their seats on council, the odds are increased on picking a favorite.

Politics of the man will likely be considered a factor. Consequently, it is unlikely new Milton councillor Bill

Johnson, who has twice run on the NDP ticket in provincial elections, will be considered as chairman.

But regardless of a councillor's background, it will be how well he convinces his colleagues he will be able to guide them through the next two years of the future.

Morrow was one of six who stood for election two years ago and his manner and example convinced the majority to choose him.

He told this newspaper he would not designate a successor nor give any advice unless the newcomer to the position seeks it.

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Police commission waits on vandal file

Halton Police Commission is waiting for the report of a meeting between merchants and a staff sergeant before taking steps against vandals in Milton.

Halton Regional Police Chief Ken Skerrett told Thursday's commission meeting at Oakville he expected some information this week from Milton.

In a letter to Milton clerk C. Thompson, Skerrett stated he asked Staff Sergeant Ernie Bullock to "pay particular attention to the reported problems."

"We cannot guarantee that a foot patrol officer will always be available. However, there are measures that can be taken depending on the type of vandalism that is being experienced," stated Skerrett.

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The Regional Municipality of Halton has recommended a Regional Landfill Site on a 246 acre parcel of land in the Town of Milton.

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Variety of programs for Crafts Unlimited

Crafts Unlimited is in full swing once again, into another year of activities.

Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, in the library of Martin St. Public School at 7:30 p.m. Membership for the year is \$5 and open to anyone interested in crafts. At present, the membership consists of 16 ladies, all eager to learn from one another and to be instructed in various new crafts.

Interested persons are invited to join the meetings as visitors at first, then they can choose to become members. New members are always welcome and can receive more information by calling 878-5957.

Executive for the year is as follows, president, Heather Bishop; vice-president, Chris Good; secretary, Marg. Wrigglesworth; treasurer, Barb Cannon; program chairman, Libby Keller; phone committee, Jean Barnes; assistant, Edith Joyce.

The club's activities have been varied. Crafts Unlimited was represented at a course entitled, "Fashion Focus" sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture. This offered the club a better insight on the coordination of colors in the wardrobe.

Also the club was instructed in dough sculpture, by Marion Wagner. The creation of mushroom art, its structure, technique and finishing touches were shown. A concoction of sculptured originals was created with little imagination.

Crafts Unlimited is also working on stuffed animals for Christmas. These are unique in that they have movable parts, are made

A variety of Christmas crafts, ornaments and decorations were brought in and patterns and ideas were exchanged.

For the Christmas season a cookie exchange will take place and a Christmas party is planned at Halton Museum, Kelso.

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