

Coleman's garage handed down from father to son

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By Bryan Hendry
Sun Reporter

Ownership of Coleman's Garage in Forester's Falls was officially handed down from father to son last Thursday, September 1st.

Kay Coleman will now devote his time to being a salesman for Reid Brothers Motor Sales in Arnprior. Son Robert, who became a licensed mechanic in 1982, will take over operation of the garage, which has been in business for 38 years.

"We started building early in the spring of 1950, and the garage opened on July 1st of that year," says Kay.

Mr. Coleman recalls that two 20-foot sections of the roof's steel beam were transported from Ottawa at a cost of \$5. Henry Dittburner welded the 40-foot

beam together.

The garage was expanded in 1966 when two more bays with a hoist and alignment rack were added.

Through the years, nine local boys apprenticed at the garage, including two brothers who are now high school auto mechanics teachers, Mel and Keith Curry.

Coleman's Garage also had Shell Oil gas pumps for 30 years, from 1950 to 1980. When the pumps were taken out, the spot was paved over and a used car lot was added. Mr. Coleman sold his first car for Reid Brothers in 1962.

"I'll sell cars for as long as I feel like it and as long as my health permits," says Kay.

Mr. Coleman's wife, Esther, has been the book

keeper ever since the garage opened. Another son, Terry, owned a Skidoo snowmobile dealership at the garage from 1975 to 1976. He is now the business manager at a Volkswagon-Audi dealership in Barrie.

Their daughter, Sheila, graduated last year with a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University and is now office manager at OWL Rafting.

"I enjoy my work and I enjoy living in a small village, especially Forester's Falls," says Kay, whose father, George owned the local general store that was started by his father.

Robert now represents the fourth generation of Colemans who have operated businesses in Forester's Falls.



50th Celebration - The green 1917 Model T-Ford car at the extreme right is owned by Garnet Hawkins.