

Business

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Williamson Industries celebrates 40 years of success

Williamson Industries Inc. is celebrating the big 4-0 this year! The 40-year-old Armstrong Ave. company is a manufacturer and seller of maintenance and repair equipment such as fittings for pipelines, gas distribution companies, refineries, steel mills, gas processing plants, etc.

"Our success over the past 40 years, and particularly since we became an independent company 10 years ago, has been a focus on serving the customer and maintaining a high level of integrity in our business dealings," said President Steve Williamson. "I've been really pleased to see how that comes across in the day-to-day activities of the employees doing their job."

"We're looking forward to continuing growth. We're looking at significant changes in the industries we serve, both the pipelines and the gas distribution industries in particular. Part of our challenge in the future will be learning how to change our operation and our way of dealing with customers to fit these new realities."

The pipeline and gas distribution industries, he explained, is becoming deregulated and more competitive, and that "creates challenges and opportunities for us."

Williamson Industries came to Canada in 1958 as an expansion by Williamson's grandfather's company, T.D. Williamson, which started in Oklahoma in 1920. Ten years ago, grandson Steve bought the Canadian business, and it's now a wholly-owned Canadian company that services the country's oil and gas industry. Williamson



Williamson Industries president Steve Williamson and his daughter Katherine, 13, were among the many employees who lifted off in a helicopter from the plant's Armstrong Avenue location recently as the company hosted a family picnic in celebration of its 40th anniversary.

Photo by Ted Brown

Industries Inc. employs 25 people, including eight in a service repair centre located in Edmonton.

Community service is a big part of the Williamson Industries' philosophy and both employers and employees are actively involved in corporate philanthropy. The

company has been a strong supporter of the United Way and The Open Door. Williamson had served as president of the Halton Hills United Way for three years, and is currently involved in the annual campaign helping out the industrial drive. As well, his company, an active member of the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, contributes to numerous groups and charities through the year. An employees' committee meets annually to discuss donation distribution.

At a special birthday party on Friday, Sept. 4, there were more than 75 people—employees, their families and invited guests—celebrating. They enjoyed helicopter rides, clowns, train and roller coaster rides, treats, face painting and demonstrations of the manufacturing and service machinery.

In addition, the Town of Halton Hills, represented by Councillor Kevin Kuiack, and the Province of Ontario, represented by Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh, presented plaques of recognition.

Company employees also presented a special plaque to Williamson. It read: Williamson Industries '58-'98 anniversary. In recognition and presentation to an excellent man and employer, Stephen D. Williamson. Happy 40th anniversary Stephen for 40 years of excellence in the Canadian pipeline industry. Presented by his staff in Georgetown and Edmonton who are very proud and honored to be part of the family of Williamson Industries Inc.

—By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

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