

Woodbecks celebrate 60th anniversary with a giant party

Stirling - Say the phrase auto wreckers and you conjure up images of junk yards and piles of old tires waiting to be burned. Modern auto recycling is a very different business moving rapidly toward the whole concept of "cradle to grave," which means if you make a product you are responsible for it. In Europe, Mercedes Benz is committed to ensuring recycling of all components of their cars. In the States Ford is now getting into the auto recycling business. It is interesting in this area we have one of the most progressive auto recyclers in Ontario, Woodbeck Auto Parts. It is celebrating its 60th anniversary on Saturday, July 17.

In the old days a wrecked car was parked and sat there rotting away. Now when a car comes in an inventory is made and put on a computer data base. This inventory is linked to other recyclers across the province, so if a customer needs a special part it can be located. Owner Bruce Woodbeck says the environmental controls that came in during the 1970s are getting tighter and tighter. Tires are either reused or disposed of at a licensed facility, antifreeze, waste oils, washer fluid and brake fluid all have to be drained and correctly disposed of. Other things like mercury switches and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are also collected. The Ontario Automotive Recyclers Association, with which Bruce Woodbeck is closely involved, is calling

for licensing of auto recyclers to help regulate the industry. The remains of a car do not stay on site any longer than necessary. It is finally compressed and sold to scrap merchants.

The "cradle to grave" approach has many advantages says Woodbeck. It ensures parts are reused and materials are returned to the production process reducing the need for new natural resources.

Bruce Woodbeck's father, Burton, and his grandfather, Frank, started repairing cars in 1939. Frank had been a cheese maker at Lasswade near Coe Hill.

In Stirling, their original premises was near Station Street. In 1949 Frank and his wife, Verna, built a house on Wellington Street, behind where the North Street plaza is now and they moved their yard there. Bruce's brother bought the business in 1964 and moved it to the present site at Woodbeck Road north of Stirling in 1968. Bruce Woodbeck took over the business in 1978.

The 60th Anniversary Celebrations on July 17 are to thank the customers and employees for their valued business and help. As the Stirling Rawdon fire chief, Bruce Woodbeck has organized some interesting displays and demonstrations. At 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. you can see how an air bag works in a car without doors or a roof. This will help you know what to expect in a collision. The extrication demonstration will show the safe removal of accident victims. Fire departments normally keep the public away in these situations. The CoSteel Lasco car crusher will be there to show you how a wrecked car is prepared for scrap.

The Children's Safety Firehouse will be there to demonstrate to kids and adults how to "Get Out Alive." As well as these demonstrations there will be beef on a bun from 11

a.m. to 2 p.m. and again this time with citing prizes and evening entertainment all the trimmings from 4:30 p.m. to 7 from Sheri Lou Flint and Northern p.m. There will be draws for many ex-Lights.



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