

Something for everyone



Jeff Tribe Photo

Michael O'Dwyer hustles to help unload components of the 'Super Dragon' Tuesday morning at the Tillsontburg Fair Grounds. Carter Shows is 'mixing up' its midway lineup this year, bringing 18 rides to the fair, which opens Thursday and runs through Sunday.

DAVE MORRIS

Tillsontburg CAO retires at end of year

BY JEFF HELSDON

Staff Writer

Tillsontburg CAO Dave Morris is packing it in after 36 years with the Town of Tillsontburg. Morris, 58, announced his retirement at the end of Monday's council meeting. He will retire from his regular duties effective Dec. 31, but will continue as a consultant with the town through August 2010.

"Originally I was going to retire at 55 or 56, when I was eligible under our pension plan," Morris said. "I ended up staying a couple more years. After 36 years it is time to pass the torch." Mayor Stephen Molnar lauded

Morris for his team-building ability and leaving the town in good shape.

"Tillsontburg has remained a good place to build a future because of the good substantive leadership you've provided," he said to Morris after the announcement.

Originally from Thunder Bay, Morris grew up with municipal politics. His father was the first city clerk of Thunder Bay after Fort William and Port Arthur merged.

Morris started with the town as deputy clerk-treasurer and tax collector on May 1, 1973. Tillsontburg was a town of 6,100 people at the time and meetings were

held in the old town hall.

"In those days, the council meetings were broadcast live and most council members smoked," Morris said. "As the night drew on, a haze grew in the room."

It ended up being trial by fire for Morris as clerk-administrator Ken Holland ended up leaving Morris' first meeting for emergency reasons and left the new deputy clerk-treasurer in charge. Morris survived that meeting and became deputy clerk-administrator in 1981.

Morris is going to be busy with the town through the fall as it is the start of budgets and business plans, which he likes to see

BY JEFF TRIBE
Staff Writer

This year's Tillsontburg Fair Board is 'reaching for the stars' by putting together a well-grounded and well-rounded four-day program.

"That's the sum of everything, really," said fair board president Jay McDonald of the 2009 fair's theme, "Going for it."

'Going for it' includes a focus on respecting and maintaining the annual event's agricultural roots. A prize book (available online at tillsontburgfair.tripod.com) outlines competition and financial rewards in categories including 4H, poultry, bunnies, vegetables, crafts, photography and traditional 'homemade,' with says McDonald, a real emphasis on junior categories.

"If they enter a lot of stuff, they can go home with cash in their pocket."

The homemade competition will be on display in the Gyrfal Palace, approved by the limited usage assembly by the fire department and upgraded significantly by the addition of flush toilets for fair patrons. The Kinsmen/Memorial Arena has also been rented for the weekend, a move designed to create more indoor space to attract more vendors and more exhibitors.

But 'going for it' also means broadening this base with a wide range of activities designed to appeal to an equally-diverse community.

There will be a midway, courtesy of Carter Shows, by design, a different company than attended the Spring Carnival. "They bring different rides," explained McDonald.

A fair queen, and mini king and queen will be crowned. And there will be the 'standard' four main events in front of the grandstand each evening (Thursday through Sunday).

A demolition derby bats 'lead-off' this Thursday evening (August 13th) at 8 p.m., featuring mini van, straight stock and pro mod classes.

"This town is big on demolition derbies," says McDonald. "They love to see things go smash and crash, so that's what we're bringing them."

Friday's 8 p.m. feature is a mini tractor pull, another 'dovetail' with the agricultural theme.

"They're loud and you'll see things go fast," said McDonald.

Saturday evening, wrestling legend Jimmy Superfly Snuka and a steel cage match between Jake O'Reilly and Cody Deaneer highlight a PWX Wrestling extravaganza, scheduled to hit the mat at 6:30 p.m. The event will go ahead, rain or shine, but in the case of inclement weather the venue will change to the interior of the Kinsmen/Memorial Arena. Sunday, a 6 p.m. "Figure 8" and 'Roller' demolition derby hits the field in front of the grandstand, an event unique from Thursday's due to its distinct classes.

"Totally different shows," emphasized McDonald. "You've got to come to both."

Beyond this familiar base, the fair board looks to round out the experience with a wide variety of events designed to generate interest and traffic throughout the weekend.

"There's always going to be something going on at this fair," said McDonald.

Patrons will have the opportunity to take a ride around the horse track, in a monster truck for \$5, over Tillsontburg in a helicopter for \$50 (\$40 for kids), or on a camel for \$5.

"Everybody loves a pony ride," explained McDonald. "Let's kick it up a notch and give everybody a camel ride. Next year - elephants," he promised.

The same exotic theme extends to this year's petting zoo, which features kangaroos, wallabies, a koala-mundy (South American raccoon) and a porcupine.

"Might not want to pet that one," laughed McDonald. "Camels and kangaroos," he added. "I love it - all in Tillsontburg."

Animal lovers may also wish to join in the pet show (simply show up with a pet, Saturday morning at 10 a.m.) or take in a barrel racing competition (in a renovated fenced in area to the right fore of the grandstand). An exhibition will be put on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. prior to the official races that afternoon at 1 p.m.

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Dave Morris

before council by November.

"Next year's budget is going to

be a challenge," he said. "There's a lot of things that have been deferred that will be coming up. Plus, there's a new accounting system so we will be changing our budget process."

When Holland retired in 1994, Morris was appointed to the position. With restructuring in 1999, Morris was appointed chief administrative officer.

In the meantime, council will be starting a recruitment process to hire a new CAO.

Morris will be on a retainer from the town until August 2010 as a consultant to ease the transition to the new CAO.

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BUSINESS

BY JEFF HELSDON

Staff Writer

From humble beginnings as a part-time business 50 years ago, Townsend Lumber has grown into a diversified, multi-faceted company.

Today, the company has six divisions, employs about 150 people and uses the latest technology in creating its products. Still, it's a family-owned operation with David Townsend, son of founder Robert Townsend, as president.

Touring around the 158-acre facility with David, it's apparent he is still involved in the day-to-day operations and takes pride in the products the company produces. Although the company has diversified into producing its own hardwood flooring collection called Nature's Medley, Townsend hasn't

forgotten the company's roots and talked about how he cares to speciality markers such as heat-treated industrial crating and other industrial and commercial niche markets.

The general public will have an opportunity to see the Townsend operation during an open house planned for Aug. 14, 15 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will include walking and wagon tours of the sawmill and information on the company's flooring products. To book a wagon tour during the open house, phone 688-3553.

The company traces its roots back to Abbott and Townsend Lumber, which Dave's father Robert and Bert Abbott started in 1959. Both were tobacco farmers at the time and the company was a winter project to bring in some extra income. Initially, an operator



JEFF HELSDON PHOTO

Townsend Lumber is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The company has grown greatly from one sawmill in Houghton Township to several operations with more than 150 employees and its own hardwood flooring line. The company is still family owned, with family members, from left, Andrew, David, Brenda and Laura involved.

with a portable sawmill was hired to cut the wood.

"They would find the timber,

harvest the timber and they would get it to the mill," David recounted. "They would then cut



Localnews

LUMBER

Townsend Lumber open house on weekend

FROM PAGE 1

The Abbotts have since moved on to other ventures. Townsend Lumber and its associated companies are still a family business. David's wife Brenda works in administration. Son Andrew is general manager of Breeze Wood Forest Products, which manufactures and retails hardwood flooring. Daughter Laura is a chartered accountant and helps in accounting.

In the 1990s, David recognized the company needed to diversify and sought value-added products.

"The lumber market goes up and down like farming," he said. "I thought the more we do ourselves and eliminate the middleman, the better."

In 1995, he invented Breeze Dried Sticks as an aid to drying hardwood. While drying, hardwood needs to be separated to allow airflow. The problem, though, is that putting a flat piece of lumber between the boards can leave permanent stains on the wood. Townsend's Breeze Dried Sticks, which are patented in Canada, United States and Europe and manufactured at the plant, solved the problem.

Breeze Wood Forest Products followed in 1999. This company manufactures the hardwood lumber cut at the sawmill into solid hardwood flooring. Initially, the finishing of the flooring was contracted to a Toronto company, but the start of Breeze Dura-coat in 2003 changed that.

The hardwood flooring is prefinished and boxed at this Rouse Street facility. The finish is state-of-the-art, using UV-cured urethane, providing scratch and wear resistance, enabling Breeze Wood to provide a 25-year warranty on its flooring products.

The opening of the Breeze Dura-coat facility meant one company is looking after production of hardwood flooring from the log to finished product. Andrew estimated typically there are seven or eight companies involved in the production of most hardwood flooring, resulting in the product being shipped great distances. Therefore, the Breeze Wood product

is more economical and has a smaller carbon footprint.

David said many people have the misconception that logging in Southwestern Ontario is similar to the clear cutting they hear about in British Columbia, or in the rain forest. The majority of trees processed at Townsend come from within a 100-mile radius of the mill and are removed by selective harvest. This means a Townsend employee, or independent marker, goes through a woodlot and marks only the trees to be removed. This allows hardwood forests to regenerate naturally without supplemental planting.

Townsend Lumber has even been developing local bylaws that dictate proper harvesting to ensure sustainable harvesting from Ontario woodlots. The Townsend family owns several woodlots and maintains them with long-term forest strategies.

Townsend Lumber is a member of the Canadian Wood and Pallet Association, Indiana Lumbermen's Association and National Hardwood Lumber Association. More locally, the company is Norfolk Woodlot Owners Association member.

"The Norfolk association is a trendsetter for woodlot management in Ontario," Brenda said.

The Townsend's commitment to assisting landowners manage their woodlots is such that they operate a separate smaller log sawmill specifically designed to utilize lower grade logs to allow a proper harvesting of a woodlot. The wood is sold to pallet and crate manufacturers.

All byproducts from the facility are used in some way. From the bark and sawdust to scrap lumber, it is all utilized in applications such as cattle bedding and garden mulch.

David and Brenda give credit to their employees for their contributions to 50 years of success. As they celebrate 50 years in the lumber industry, the family is proud to say their business is all-Canadian.

"We are manufacturing using a local sustainable resource and providing jobs for Canadians," David said.

and factory outlet stores in Tillsonburg and Kitchener.

• Breeze Dura-coat - Located on Rouse Street in Tillsonburg, this company is the pre-finishing factory for the flooring products.

• Kitchener Forest Products - Purchased by the Townsends in 1991, this company is comprised of one hardwood sawmill located just west of Kitchener. It produces lumber for the sawmill kilns, and industrial uses.

• Bass Lake Sawmill - This is a factory outlet store near Orillia where the flooring, trim and lumber processed in Tillsonburg are sold in the surrounding cottage country.



JEFF HELSDON PHOTO

David Townsend and retail sales manager Randy Sage examine a piece of moulding made in the Townsend facility from logs processed in the sawmill.

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Capsule Comments

-Advertisement-

Underarm perspiration can be a problem for some people. There are some high-powered antiperspirants on the market now to alleviate the problem. They are applied in the evening and don't have to be reapplied in the morning. Worth a try if excess sweating is a problem for you.

We keep hearing that dark chocolate is good for us but what is the dose? Chocolate, especially the dark type, contains polyphenols, which are purported to lower blood pressure and reduce heart disease. However, these polyphenols are quite bitter so manufacturers add sugar and milk to make it taste better. How it's more calorie-laden. Dose? About 50 grams or about an ounce and a half.

Linda Schaefer
Pharmacist

If you are prone to getting canker sores often, you might try taking a supplement of vitamin B-12. No one is sure why or how it works but those who took the vitamin had fewer canker sores and if they did get one, it didn't last as long. The dose is one 1000mcg tablet daily.

Some people are eating yogurt daily to keep their bowels regular. There is some evidence that yogurt will decrease the time it takes food to pass through the whole digestive tract. If you are going to try it, use the brands with an active bacterial culture in it.

There is so much information available today on medication and health. Our job is to know what is valid and what isn't. If you have any questions you'd like answered, our professional pharmacists will be happy to answer them for you.

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