

# Anniversary celebration

## Dixon Tool Co. Ltd. turns 40



Dixon Tool Co. Ltd. at 5420 Walker Rd. in Oldcastle, celebrates 40 years.



I have worked for Dixon Tool for almost 2 years. I was welcomed into the company and family right from day one. They have always made me feel at home here. I have found a great family to work for and I feel like they have become a part of my extended family. Congratulations on 40 years in business!

Sally Lemire



Dixon Tool staff assembled for a 40th anniversary group shot.

Dear Dad and Mom,

Happy 40th Anniversary, Mom and Dad, on your opening and running Dixon Tool Co. Ltd.

My parents, along with my Uncle Al and Aunt Sue, started the business on February 27 1976. They never wanted to "go big," and hired a maximum of 30 employees. We've had 30 employees for as long as I can remember — they always wanted this shop to be more like a family. My dad always treats the employees with respect and gives them as much as he can. To this day there's nothing like seeing a new car and noticing all the parts that our shop — all of our employees, our extended family — actually built! I'm not only the luckiest son in the world to have the best parents, but also to be able to run and operate one of the best shops in Oldcastle. I always remember my dad going to work and absolutely loving his job. I can remember since I was a kid that all I wanted to do when I grow up was to help my dad at the shop and learn from the best. I started working at the shop in Grade 11 and I'd go there after school and work there till 8 p.m. I started working there full time after graduating in 1996.

I definitely can't leave out all the awesome employees that work for us. We have the most hard working and talented group — they take so much pride in all the work they do. If it wasn't for them, this shop would not have survived. Even when Dixon Tool was slow we never laid off a single employee.

Also a special thanks to all our suppliers and customers over the years! Hopefully one day when my parents retire (which will probably never happen), I'd love to keep the shop going, not only for my pride and all the employees, but also for the love of the community.

Love always,

Your son Bradley

P.S. Sorry for putting you in the Windsor Star but you deserve it!!!



Janis and Bradley Dixon.

Surprise, Bob!

On behalf of Janis, Brad and our very dedicated employees we want to congratulate you on being in a very successful business for 40 years.

It all began in 1976 when Bob and his brother Al decided to venture out on their own along with their spouses, Janis and Sue, who were behind them 100%.

They purchased a building along with land from a very nice couple on Walker Rd. The owner had built the building and lived upstairs. When the building was purchased by the Dixons, the couple built a new home next door.

Bob and Al began the business; they found it difficult at the start because it wasn't retail, a store where people would come in and purchase an item or two and pay cash. But they toiled on, and utilized their abilities and connections, putting the word out that they were looking for customers.

They worked long hours, manning the shop from dusk to dawn. For five years they stayed in the original building, and eventually found themselves in a position to build a new part of the shop, located at the other end of the property, and buy themselves a few machines.

Sue and I were originally doing the bookkeeping at home; we moved our bookkeeping services to the shop when the first addition was completed. Sue worked Mondays and Wednesdays, while I worked Tuesdays and Fridays. We worked every other Thursday, to ensure there was always someone in the office.

As the years went by Bob and Al completed another two additions to the shop and bought more machines. All the while, they rented out the original building to various businesses and organizations, including a tire shop, another tool shop just starting out, and the Oldcastle Post Office.

Eventually, we finally came to the fact that we were going to tear the original building down because we needed more room. We didn't want to tear it down without telling the original owner, who was now a widow. When it came time to tell her, I put Kleenex in my pocket in case she broke down. I knocked on the door and she invited me in for a cup of tea. We sat down and I mentioned that I had something to tell her, and she responded with "You're going to tear down the building." She said she knew eventually the time would come, and that she was happy for us and our progress. She has since passed away and her daughter and son-in-law still live in the house.

In 2002, Al and Sue decided to retire from the business. They decided to join the antique car business; Al and Bob, avid racecar drivers in the 60s, had always been involved with automotive, and it was a natural move. I think there are many factors that have contributed to our 40 years in business.

We have customers that we have dealt with for many years and our many suppliers have always been here for us.

Our employees are very dedicated. Three employees have worked here over 30 years, while seven others have worked here for over 15. The others continue to prove their dedication every day.

I still work my three days a week, and also have Sally who works full time. Right from the beginning our motto has always been to treat each other the way we want to be treated. Once again, surprise, Bob! Congratulations on 40 successful years!

- Janis Dixon

Dixon Tool Co. Ltd. founders Bob and Al Dixon, from the early days. At right an early view of the Dixon Tool building on Walker Road.

COURTESY DIXON TOOL



I'm glad I work for Dixon Tool and settled my career with them. This is the first time since I came to Canada that I have been so happy with my job. Thank you. Bai Lin Lau