

# Masstown Hardware: Changing from Gratto to Thompson

Story and photos by Linda Harrington

Masstown Hardware is changing hands from the Gratto's to the Thompson's but the business will continue with the same community minded, family-run dedication that has been at this location for the past 66 years.

Kurt and Noel Gratto were the third generation of Gratto's to operate a business on the corner of George Porter Rd. and Highway #2, Masstown. Their grandfather David Gratto first opened a service station in 1954, then passed it down to the boy's father Aubrey in the late 60's.

In the early 1990's Kurt and Noel, locally know as the Gratto boys, decided to open a hardware store. Their father, Aubrey, was ready to retire from the service station and the only local hardware store was closing. Renovations to the original building began in late 1991 and Masstown Pro Hardware opened for business on May 4th, 1992.

The business continued to grow over the years, with several expansions including a two-story addition in 2008, the same year the name was changed to Castle Masstown Hardware Building Centre. After 28 successful years, the Gratto boys decided the time had come to look at retirement.



Meet the new owners of Masstown Hardware- Chris, Jessica, Jaimee Lee and Devin Thompson.

On October 2nd, a BBQ took place at Masstown Hardware to celebrate the new owners Devin and Chris Thompson and to offer a chance for the community to congratulate Noel and Kurt on their retirement.

Noel says he was pleased to see the business passing hands from two brothers to two brothers and he wished the Thompsons well. "We are happy to keep the business in the community. Chris and Devin are young and ambitious, so I am sure it will be a continued success. Kurt agreed adding, "People have supported our family well over the years and we have had a good repour with our customers. We hope this continues for the Thompson fam-

ily." Both Gratto brothers were looking forward to some relaxing time in their retirement, doing things they enjoy, including time with their grandkids.

Devin and Chris are no strangers to the hardware business having run DC Thompson's Construction for the past 6 years. "We had been buying materials and doing installs for Masstown Hardware for years and when we heard they were thinking of retiring we decided this would be a good fit for us," says Devin, adding they plan to keep running their construction company, too.

The Thompson brothers have a few plans of their own for Masstown Hardware, the first will be to expand the woodyard to offer more prod-

ucts. They currently employ nine full and part time employees with their wives Jessica and Jaimee Lee an important part of the business, also.

There was a great turnout for the celebration BBQ, sponsored by Global Windows and Doors and Royal Building Supplies. A few lucky attendees went home with door prizes donated by Masstown Market, Masstown Movement Fitness Inc., Double C Truck Stop and Irwin Lake Chalets. The Grand Prize, a night's stay at Irwin Lake Chalets, was won by Charlie Brennan. At the end of the day, the Thompson's - Chris, Jessica, Devin and Jaimee Lee presented Kurt and Noel with a lovely framed photo collage.

The Shoreline Journal wishes Masstown Hardware and the Thompson family all the best for their future success and congratulate the Gratto boys on a well-earned retirement!



Jessica Thompson displays some of the Masstown Hardware giveaways, including a custom facemask.



Family Spirit! Front: (left to right) - Jessica Thompson, Geraldine Gratto, Tina Gratto, Jaimee Lee Thompson; Back: (left to right) - Chris Thompson, Noel Gratto, Kurt Gratto, Devin Thompson.



Jessica Thompson presents Charlie Brennan with the Grand Prize of a night's stay at Irwin Lake Chalets.



Chris and Devin Thompson present Noel and Kurt Gratto with a retirement gift.



Masstown Hardware celebration BBQ on Oct. 2nd.

## SPREAD KINDNESS

3

**Wear a mask,**  
in indoor public spaces and when social distancing is difficult.

2

**Keep your distance,**  
keep 2m between each other and stay home if you feel sick.

1

**Wash your hands,**  
frequently and using proper techniques.

SLOW

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