

# Maritime Auto Parts Celebrates 80 Years in Business



By Linda Herrington

Ed MacDonald is walking the back compound with Councillor Tom Taggart and he points out a massive pile of over 300 cars heading for the crusher. He has seen the price of steel fluctuate over the years. "It was \$17/tonne when I first got into the business and it rose to a high of \$225 to \$240 a tonne last year. Now it is down to \$140/tonne. Re-cycled steel represents about 5-7% of total sales for the industry, so this definitely has an effect on overall profits," he says.

The pile of twisted metal is what is known as a "clean can", with all fluids drained from each of the vehicles. Most have come from the insurance company contracts for "end of life vehicles" and "Cash 4 Cars" programs.

Maritime Auto Parts takes pride in their green recycle parts program and adheres strongly to the Canadian Auto Recyclers' Environmental Code (CAREC), which provides recyclers with the most relevant information and tools to prevent hazardous materials contained in end-of-life vehicles from contaminating our water, land, and air during and after the vehicle recycling process.

All vehicles arriving at Maritime Auto salvage are labeled and put in one of three categories: parts vehicle, rebuildable vehicle and end-of-life vehicle. How a vehicle best fits one of these categories is based on the condition and type of damage upon its arrival to the facility.

A parts vehicle will have all its useable parts carded, tested and entered into the computer-

ized inventory system. The parts vehicle is then put through the shop for processing.

Rebuildable vehicles are deemed safely repairable units, when repaired will meet all safety standards. Before a rebuildable vehicle is sold, attempts are made to identify all the damage the vehicle has sustained, as well, efforts are made to locate the parts necessary to rebuild the unit.

End-of Life vehicles are stripped of any last remaining parts that may be useful, then it is crushed. These crushed vehicles are then sold to companies for its steel, copper, aluminum, etc. These compounds are then used to produce many new products, including new vehicle parts.

"I am always trying to "squeeze the dishrag" and get more out of each automobile" laughs Ed as he describes the complex process involved with recycling each vehicle beginning with gas, oil and CFC recovery all the way down to separating out copper wire and aluminum.

"About 20-25% of each vehicle is recycled pure and simple," says Ed. "It takes a long time and many man hours, but with our twenty employees we are able to recycle 20 to 25 cars per week. Of course we are always looking at ways to get this up higher."

Inventory control is an essential part of operating an effective recycling yard. With an average inventory of 800-1000 parts vehicles in the yard and thousands of warehoused parts, it is imperative that all inventory is closely monitored and regulated.



Ed, Lana and Andrew pose for a photo in front of one of their Maritime Auto Parts vehicles.



Robert Layton picks up a door prize from Betty Scribner-Butt.



An archway of balloons held coupons for hundreds of door prizes.



Brrrr! Ed was looking a little sad after hitting the cold water in the dunk tank.



Paul Baird, Vince Marshall and Cory Smith (left to right) were kept busy on the BBQ during the Open House.



Vince Marshall has an up-to-date computerized parts inventory readily available to satisfy customer's needs.

## Sometimes Accidents Happen...

Congratulations to staff and management of **Maritime Auto Parts Ltd.** on the occasion of your **80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**





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## Congratulations Maritime Auto Parts On your 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!



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