

SG feed mill celebrates 50 years

By JILL HUDSON
Special to *The News*

An end of one era brings in the beginning of the next. Back on Aug. 18, 1959, Wilfrid Major was newly married. He purchased his uncle Donat Major's North Lancaster area feedlot which, at the time, produced an average of 25 tonnes of feed per week.

Over the years, the Major family has installed a new pellet system, computers and an automatic batching system.

Now, more than 250 loyal customers and friends were out Saturday to help Wilfrid Major Ltd celebrate its 50th anniversary while acknowledging a change in ownership.

The business has been purchased by Fernand and Michel Hubert and Mario Côté. All three have been heavily involved in the agricultural sector. Mr. Côté has extensive experience in the pork and dairy industry while the Hubert brothers are experienced in the poultry industry. Mario Côté said he and his partners will do their best to satisfy clients, future clients and will be happy to work with them in the future.

The mill will remain a Shur-Gain dealer and will retain its current name.

Throughout this transition, the mill's former owner, Jean Major, remained a



50TH ANNIVERSARY: Wilfrid Major Ltd celebrated their 50th year in business on Saturday. The business has been purchased by Fernand and Michel Hubert and Mario Côté from Quebec. From left: Therese Major, Wilfrid Major, Jean Major, Lise Major and Raymond Montcalm. Mr Montcalm was representing Shur-Gain. He is from St Hyacinthe, QC. Mr Montcalm is shown here presenting the Majors with a framed copy of the original franchise agreement Wilfrid signed in 1959. JILL HUDSON PHOTO

part of this team. The entire staff stays too. Plus production has increased substantially, allowing to bring in a night shift.

Mr. Major gave an emotional speech. There were some misty eyes in the room. He said,

"The most rewarding part was devel-

oping my Dad's heart and soul – his business," he said. "It has made me who I am today."

He credited his parents for giving him the green light regardless of what the decision was for the business. He thanked his wife Lise, his children Melissa and Jocelyn for their support.

"Life is not easy in business. I am grateful to have had family support through it all."

After thanking his loyal clients for the confidence they placed in them, he introduced the new owners of the business, and assured everyone they will provide the same service and quality.

"I am not worried at all. I know they'll do a good job," he said. "They work hard. The business will grow and grow."

Later, the mill received awards from MP Guy Lauzon on behalf of the riding and another from Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Jim Brownell presented the Majors with a certificate commemorating years of quality, honesty and service. South Glengarry mayor Jim McDonnell looked back on childhood memories of the Wilfrid Major business and said it has been a big part of the community.

At the end of the ceremony, Shur-Gain's head office presented the Majors with a framed copy of the original franchise agreement Wilfrid signed with Shur-Gain in 1959.

Event co-coordinator, Roxanne Hurtubise said "The last 50 years has been an incredible journey for this business and we truly believe the best is yet to come."