
Sharing SBLA Success Stories

St. Walburg SBLA Story **Guy's Garage – Marty and Monty Guy**

In April 2000, Marty and Monty Guy saw a business opportunity that they couldn't pass up. A garage in St. Walburg, formerly known as Prosser's, was on the market. The business was well-established, having provided automotive and farm repair services and parts for more than 50 years. The garage also used to sell Ford automobiles and tractors, BA and Shell fuel and oil and then gradually moved on to Minneapolis Moline, New Holland and finally Vermeer farm equipment. The Guy brothers decided the price was right for a business that was a perfect match for Marty, a parts manager and Monty, an automotive technician.

They contacted the St. Walburg Economic Diversification Co-operative Ltd. (SWEDCO) for guidance on where to begin. Their contact at SWEDCO told them about the Small Business Loans Association (SBLA) program and encouraged them to apply.



SWEDCO is part of the province's SBLA program, which provides a revolving line of credit to SBLA groups. In turn, the SBLAs provide loans to local start-up and non-traditional business ventures. By supporting new and existing small businesses, like Guy's Garage, the SBLAs bring economic strength to their community, the majority of which are rural.

Their application was successful and in 2001, Monty and Marty Guy set up shop at Guy's Garage.

The funds provided by the SBLA allowed the brothers to purchase a hoist and other diagnostic equipment. The garage is the place for automotive and agricultural parts and service repair in St. Walburg. The business employs seven people.

Since setting up the garage, Monty and Marty have also specialized in providing antique parts and accessories for Ford cars and farm machinery.

The Guy brothers have also set up a Web site at www.guysgarage.ca that has attracted customers from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Guy's Garage is an important part of the local economy, serving the 800 residents of St. Walburg with mixed farming, ranching and oil as the main employers in the area. Monty and Marty Guy are great examples of two entrepreneurs who provide a valuable service in the northwest part of the province. They are confident the addition of providing antique parts for auto and farm restoration enthusiasts will be a boost to the business in the future.