

Local family business marks its 65th anniversary in Stettler

As one of the longest-serving family businesses currently in the Stettler region, Bagshaw Electric Ltd. celebrates 65 years in 2012.

And its motto states that the business has been “electrifying since 1947.”

“For one family to be in business for 65 years is a great milestone,” said owner Charlie Bagshaw.

“It’s one of the oldest family businesses in the Stettler area.”

Serving primarily the Stettler region, Bagshaw Electric serves customers east to the Saskatchewan border, Drumheller to the south and Camrose to the north, while Mosquito Magnets have been sold to

customers as far as Europe, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

Currently located at 6128 — 50 Ave., the business provides a full line of supplies, from wire and cable, to lighting, receptacles, boxes, conduit and connectors and propane products and services.

Bagshaw Electric was started by Charlie’s father, Bill Bagshaw, in 1947 on the site of the current Sears building shared with Armstrong Radio and Appliance.

“He just came out of the army and he worked in Calgary for a year and then came back home to Stettler,” said the young Bagshaw, now 65.

“Dad was an electrical instructor in the army and he had his electrical ticket before going,”

Bill Bagshaw served as president and CEO until 1987 when son, Charlie, succeeded his father.

Helping out his father since 3 or 4 years of age and officially employed since he was 12 years old, Charlie has grown with the business. He received his journeyman’s ticket in 1969 at the age of 22, and received his master electrician certificate in 1973, the youngest in Alberta at that time, at 26 years of age.

As the business has grown, Bagshaw Electric moved to various locations

around town. From the current sites of Party Maxx in the mid-1950s, near Bloke’s Bakery in 1961, Smitty’s in 1975 until it burned down, and Boston Pizza in 1982.

In 1991 they purchased the ICG propane building and added propane and propane accessories to their services where they still reside today.

Now the business is operated with Charlie, his wife Beth as the corporate controller, son Russell, daughter Allison, son-in-law Kevin, and employs two master electricians, three journeymen, two apprentices and four sales and office staff.

“The biggest change in the industry has

been the advent of electronics and electronic control,” said Charlie.

While in training in the late 1960s, one of his instructors predicted this new trend called electronics or solid state that many disregarded.

“We had no concept how much of an understatement that would be and electronics would revolutionize our industry,” said Charlie.

“We didn’t see huge inroads in that until the early 1970s when it really started.

“Now, program logic controls and smart relays in electronic controls has become a huge portion of our industry.”

He also noted that

all electrical services are still included. Everything from changing a light switch in your house to wiring up a new processing plant.

“Being an electrician is a lot more complex than it was in 1947.”

When asked how they have stayed in business for this long Charlie said, “We have electricians and inside staff dedicated to customer service and maintain a strong relationship within the community.

“We couldn’t have done it without the wonderful and dedicated employees throughout the years and amazing people of Stettler and area who have supported us since Day One.”



William (Bill) Bagshaw (1912 to 1992) — founder and CEO of Bagshaw Electric from 1947 to 1987.



Bill Bagshaw with 10-year-old Charlie at Buffalo Lake in July 1957. Charlie was already helping his dad.



Charlie and Beth Bagshaw married in 1980, had two children, and then Charlie took over Bagshaw Electric in 1987. Beth is a certified management accountant and joined the company then as corporate controller.



Russell Bagshaw and his fiancée, Kodie-ann Douglas. Russell has worked almost steadily within the business since being officially hired at age seven, when he started by taking out the garbage and dusting the shelves after school.



Kevin and Allison Kerik, and their two children, recently moved back to Stettler to re-learn the family business.



Shyanne, 3, and Preston, 6, are the fourth generation and already showing much interest in the industry. Shyanne loves to help her dad, Russell, fix things. Preston (son of Allison and Kevin) has shown a huge interest in all things electrical and especially lighting.

