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Chisholm's: Generations of Success; Family Celebrates by Giving Back

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Nestled quaintly at the edge of the banks of the Moira River at Roslin, Ontario, you will find Chisholm Lumber. This beautiful landmark has been the interest of many different artist over the years. Whether they are capturing the mystic waterfall, the sturdy metal bridge, or the many buildings of the mill, they all have been inspired by the fascinating history that Chisholm Lumber represents.

Chisholm Lumber is so special, not only because of its beautiful location but also because of its long and interesting history. The mill has been in operation for 150 years, and the same family has been running it the entire time. It is an amazing accomplishment for any business to survive for a century and a half, but to be owned by the same family for 150 years is truly unique. The business was purchased in 1857 by William Fraser Chisholm, who managed to build a successful business that catered to the surrounding community.

The business has continued to be successful through the years, as it has been passed down through five generations of the Chisholm family. Presently the owners are Doug and Paul Chisholm, both fifth generation Chisholm's. The sixth generation is currently working at the mill.

There is a wealth of information about the history of Chisholm Lumber, thanks in part to the Chisholm families, who have done an incredible job at preserving this fascinating history. This information proved very useful, as much of it was used in the March, 2007 exhibit in the Tweed Heritage Centre. It was the first time that the exhibit had been dedicated to a theme, instead of one feature artist.

The exhibit displayed several paintings and photographs of Chisholm's Mills, as well as a large family album that included pictures from the very early days. The exhibit also displayed historical information that dated back to when the building was purchased in 1857.

The mill was powered by water, which enabled the employees of the mill to saw shingles and lumber as well as grind feed. Water power was used for all aspects of the production process until 1962. The new sawmill was completed at this time and the water power was replaced by modern equipment. It wasn't until the 1970's that the mill began using electricity exclusively.

In 1982 after serving the area farmers for 125 years, the feed mill closed down. The saw mill is still in operation.

Chisholm Lumber, currently operates two modern sawmills, and both hardwood and softwood lumber products are produced. The business also offers a building supply store, and a new design and building division.

The Chisholm family met together to plan a special event for this truly special occasion. The family decided that the best way to celebrate their successful history was to give something back to the community that it has served over the years. The family partnered with the Prince Edward-Hastings Habitat for Humanity affiliate to build a Habitat home on a lot that the company

owns on the Upper Flinton Road. The Chisholm's are also donating \$20,000 worth of building supplies or services to help with the project. This building project allows the family to help with not only the supply of products but also the manual labor needed to construct the home. The home should be finished in the fall.

This is an extraordinarily gracious gesture that the family has made, proving that they have always remained community minded.

There will also be a special celebration on August 25, 2007 at the mill, to salute the great success that the Chisholm's business has had throughout the last 150 years.