

TRENDS

Tire Industry News

Editor: Bob Bignell

Issue 1201

Inside this issue...

Minister Bradley Forces Changes to OTS

Success in Quebec City

TDAC Tackles Price Disparity

Don Frisby Inducted into OTDA Hall of Fame



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President: Mike McClory

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President's Message



The Ontario Tire Dealers Association has been very active since our last issue of Trends was published. We held our Annual Winter Conference in Costa Rica and it was fabulous. The weather was absolutely perfect, the company fantastic and lots of fun was had by all. The meetings were very informative, the networking invaluable and the food and drink much too accessible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended and our event organizer Rose Warnica from Travel Only for doing an outstanding job putting this together.

TDAC (Tire Dealers Association of Canada) Convention took place in Quebec City. With close to 400 participants it was a resounding success. Dealers from coast to coast attended and took full advantage of all aspects of the convention. Probably the highlight of the Convention for me was that I had the honour of Inducting Mr. Don Frisby into the OTDA Hall of

Fame. Don is a long time OTDA member and Director. Recognizing his valuable contributions to the tire industry in amongst his peers from across Canada was definitely one of the perks of being the current OTDA President. The success of the TDAC convention has prompted a national convention plan for September of 2014 to be held in Niagara Falls. This is a must for anyone involved in the tire business to attend. There will be lots of information regarding the 2014 Show in upcoming Trends magazines as organizers finalize the details.

On June 20, 2012 we will have the Ontario Tire Dealers Association Annual Fundraiser & Charity Golf Classic. This year's golf chairman Bob Bignell has picked a pristine location just north of Guelph at the Ariss Valley Golf & Country Club. Over the years this day has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities and at the same time provided a great day of recreation for Tire Dealers and Suppliers alike. This promises to be an amazing day of Golf, Prizes and great company. Inside this issue of Trends you will find a registration form so please register as early as possible to ensure a spot for this popular event.

Lot's of OTDA work has been going on behind the scenes. The Minister of the Environment has issued a directive to Ontario Tire Stewardship to change the way the OTS is funded. The details are not clear yet what impact this will have on Tire Dealers but the Directors of the Ontario Tire Dealers Association have been diligently working on your behalf. The Ontario Tire Stewardship has to date

done an outstanding job of recycling tires in Ontario with almost 100 per cent of tires being diverted to processors and ultimately made into products for resale. This achievement has been accomplished with the assistance of the OTDA. Two of our Directors are on the Board of the OTS and always looking out for our member's best interest. As more information becomes available be reassured that we will keep you informed.

On the national front The Tire Dealers Association of Canada has formed a committee on price disparity. The price differential between the US and Canada remains a concern. This is not just affecting the Tire Industry but many industries in Canada. The OTDA is actively working with this committee to formulate a comprehensive plan to tackle this issue.

The Ontario Tire Dealers Association is, and always will, try to provide exceptional benefits to our members. Our dedicated Volunteers and our Executive Director work extremely hard to accomplish goals and objectives pertaining to the Tire Business in Ontario. With your support, the valued Ontario Tire Dealer, we will continue on our quest to assist you in navigating your way through a very complex industry. Your support is imperative and much appreciated!

Thanks,
Mike McClory – OTDA President

TRENDS

Tire Industry News

**If you have a Website....
Send it to us and we will link it to our Website!!!**

Please take note to use the correct current address as listed below!

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Markham Tire Discounter	Markham, ON
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Casing Connection Ltd.	Lasalle, ON

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From Hwy 401 go north on Hwy 6 to Woodlawn Road. Turn left on Woodlawn Road-Hwy 7. Turn right on Elmira Road N (becomes Wellington Road 86/CR-86) Ariss Valley Golf & Country Club is just past Ariss Valley Road on the left. If you reach Schaefer Road you have gone about .6 km too far.

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Vice Chair: Eric Gilbert

Name	Company	Phone	Fax	Amount

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Treadlines

The Rubber Association of Canada will hold its 2012 Rubber Recycling Symposium on Oct. 17-19 in Toronto.

Entitled "A Balancing Act, Seeking Equilibrium Between Social Objectives And Economic Realities," the 2012 event will feature a broad range of presentations and seminars, as well as a 'table top' trade show.

The event will be held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, and the RAC has arranged a special event rate. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 416-361-1000.

To register for the symposium, visit rubber-recycling.ca.

Dill Hires Canadian Sales Manager March 05, 2012

Greg Van Sickle has joined Dill Air Controls as its new Canadian sales manager.

Van Sickle was most recently with tire repair marketer Prema Canada.

He will be based in Burlington, Ont., and will manage Dill's Canadian customers, which include retailers, distributors and OEMs.

Manitoba Tire Shop Blaze Blamed on Air Compressor

January 26, 2012 Tire Review Magazine
A fire at Sturgeon Tire in Brandon, Manitoba, may have been sparked by an aging air compressor, according to local reports.

Photo: Brandon Sun

An investigator told the Brandon Sun that it appeared a bearing inside the compressor's electric motor was the root cause of the Monday fire. The bearing failed, either due



to age or hours of service, and caused nearby wires to overheat, leading to an electrical fire. The fire is believed to have first broken out in a service room.

Two businesses in the building were completely destroyed by the fire, which burned for several hours. What little was left of the building was demolished.

Canadian light vehicle tire shipments flat in 2011

Tire Business staff report

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario (Jan. 18, 2012) — Canadian aftermarket demand for passenger tires slipped by about 3 percent last year, the Rubber Association of Canada (RAC) said recently, but the decline was offset by increased shipments of light truck and SUV tires.

Overall shipments in the category were essentially unchanged at 18.6 million units, the RAC said.

Replacement market demand for winter tires softened somewhat last year, as shipments slipped 1.2 percent. Despite the drop, winter tires account for nearly 38 percent of light vehicle tires sold in the aftermarket, the RAC said.

The ultra-high-performance tire segment grew 6.1 percent last year, offsetting the continuing decline in broad market tires, which lost 6.8 percent.

The commercial truck replacement market increased 9.4 percent in 2011, but the RAC did not disclose the unit shipment number.

Integra Tire President Sept leaves Canadian franchisor

Tire Business staff report

EDMONTON, Alberta (Jan. 26, 2012) — Darrell Sept, president of Integra Tire & Auto Centres Ltd. since its founding in 2008, has parted ways with the Edmonton-based tire retail concept franchisor.

Integra Tire President Darrell Sept (right) has left the Edmonton, Alberta-based company. CEO David Cosco (left) has taken on the president's title as well.

(Integra Tire & Auto Centres Ltd. photo)

Details of Mr. Sept's departure, disclosed in a Jan. 18 Integra Tire letter to suppliers, were not disclosed.

Integra CEO and Co-Founder David Cosco will assume the role of president as well, the letter said. Integra also will recruit a director of marketing. Integra said Mr. Cosco and Ross Kelly will handle supplier relations.



Mr. Sept, who was vice president of operations for Tirecraft Auto Centers Ltd. under the ownership of David and John Cosco and under subsequent ownership, joined the Coscos as Integra's president at its founding.

Mr. Sept did not respond to queries seeking comment.

Toyo extends Extensa recall to Canada

Tire Business staff report

RICHMOND, British Columbia (Jan. 27, 2012) — Toyo Tire Canada Inc. is recalling approximately 1,884 Toyo Extensa A/S tires sold in Canada since September 2009 because of a possible

manufacturing problem that could lead to cracks in the bead area and potentially to tire failure.

The recall is an extension of one disclosed earlier this week by Toyo Tire U.S.A. Corp. involving approximately 68,763 Extensa A/S tires sold in the U.S.

The tires being recalled are from Toyo's plant in White, Ga., during a period starting in the 38th week of 2009 and lasting through the 44th week of 2010, Toyo said.

The tires are identified by the Tire Identification Number (TIN) 3809 to 4410, molded into tire's sidewall.

Toyo said it determined that a select number of these tires were produced with a kink in the bead area. Under certain circumstances, the tire maker said, the kink eventually could lead to a crack in the bead area, which if left undetected could cause the tire to fail.

cont'd on page 36

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OTDA Winter Conference Costa Rica



Liberty Tire Recycling reviews the tire stewardship program



Federated presents at Costa Rica



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Outdoor cuisine



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Spoon Trick



The Band

Rose is the downtown champion

Dwight Rose of OK Tire and Auto Service is the 2011 Downtown Brantford Business Improvement Area downtown champion.

Rose was honoured during the BIA'S annual meeting Thursday night at the S. C. Johnson Building down the street from where he's operated his business with his brother, Keith, since 1977.

"Dwight has spent several years on board previously and under the current term," BIA chair David Prang said. "He brings a valuable historic perspective to our discussions, along with multiple new ideas."

For example, Prang said that Rose was the source of the BIA'S holiday window decorating contest, which rewarded those downtown businesses that spruced up their window or storefront displays in the spirit of the Christmas season.

Rose also has been a driving force behind the annual Telephone City Car Show, which had its eighth run in 2011 and brings hundreds into the core to admire participating vehicles.

"I'm terribly humbled," Rose said as he accepted a gift from Prang. "I just find it an exciting time to be in downtown Brantford. I used to be the young kid on the block, now I'm an old kid."

Rose first opened a tire store on Dalhousie Street in 1977 under the Mr. Tire banner, later moving it across the road and slightly east of that location in 1991 under the OK Tire banner.

"From what it was to what it is, the downtown has been like a phoenix rising out of the ashes," Rose said.

2011 OK Tire Regional Store of the Year

Ontario Region

Martin, Justin & Réjean Murray

OK Tire Kapuskasing, ON

The Murrays know a little something about staying on top of things and keeping it in the family! They have taken advantage of the new website offered by OK Tire and are the first to modernize any system that can be updated to an electronic version. They also know that social media is the way of the future so they never miss an opportunity to tap into it. Maintaining a clean and professional image is par for the course and everything about their store, both inside and out, reflects it.

When the economy started turning around a few years ago, these brothers weren't going to wait for business to come to them! They actively pursued potential customers, knocking on doors and creating business relationships which proved to be extremely lucrative. To their credit, this single minded determi-

nation landed them the largest individual order in OK Tire store history. But for them, it's not all about business all the time. They also know how to enjoy their community and organize many events for it!

They believe in making sure their staff has taken advantage of every professional development opportunity because they want to be the best at everything they do... and as many of you know from having had the chance to mingle with them over the past few years, having fun is part of that program!

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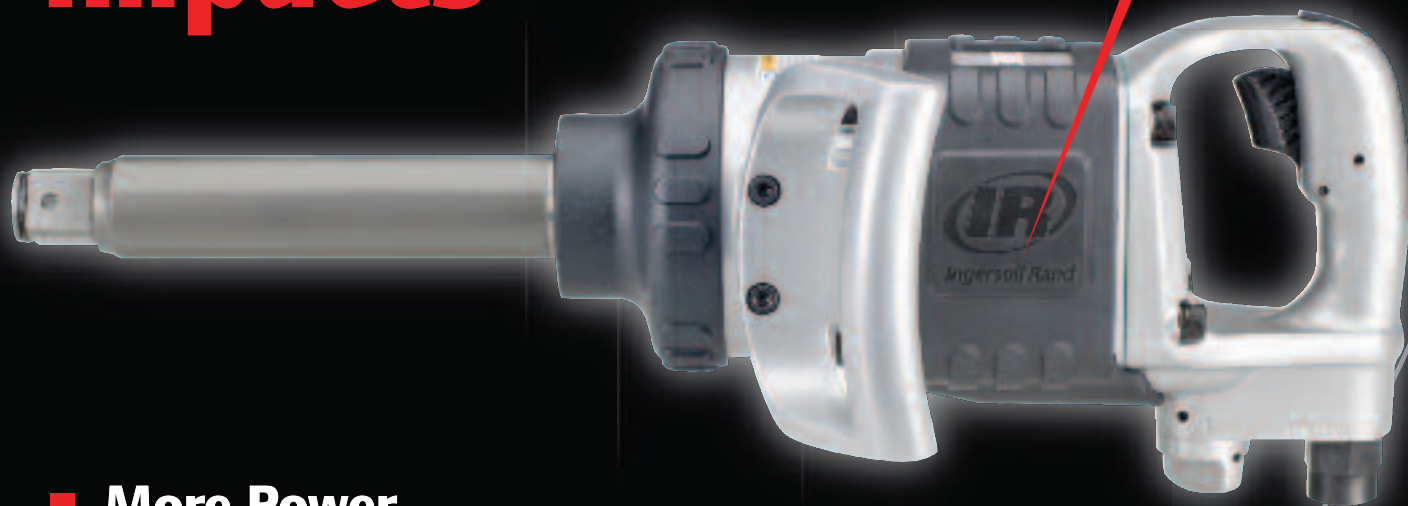
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IN THE NEWS.....

Tire Review Magazine

It's now more than two years since the Kal Tire Mining Tire Group acquired a majority shareholding in Derbyshire-based OTR Tyres, and the company says retreading at its Alfreton, England, facility shows that despite increasing raw material costs and a major shortage of good, retreadable casings, demand for a quality product still exists.



In the last year Kal Tire retreaded more than 3,000 earthmover and mining tires in the U.K.

In the past 12 months Kal Tire's U.K. retreading plant utilized in excess of 1.3 million pounds of rubber compound in the retreading of more than 3,000 OTR tires.

The company opines that this level of performance would not have been attainable without the infrastructure that has been put in place over the past three years, the initiatives introduced and adhered to and the performance of the Alfreton manufacturing team.

The facility is fitted with equipment valued at more than £4million, including a recently purchased fully automated builder, a refurbished semi automatic tire builder plus new mold matrices, purchased to meet customer demand for different tire size tread patterns. "We have a continual improvement program in the factories," commented U.K. and Ghana manufacturing manager Wayne Cornell. "And we will continue to look and find ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the whole process."

Kal Tire says that in the three years since the LEAN initiative was first introduced into the Alfreton factory following research and development by U.K. managing director Darren Flint, it has contributed significantly to performance. The core components of the initiative center around the '5 S's philosophy' – sort, set in order, shine, standardize and sustain.

"We are delighted with the way the manufacturing team have taken the initiative on to improve many aspects of the factory," said Flint. "The bottom line is simple – reduce all forms of 'waste', be that material waste, effort, energy, time etc. – it is a case of recognizing where there is waste, and doing something about it."

Highlighting an example of a waste reduction measure, Kal Tire comments that the recent introduction of energy efficient lighting has not only improved safety with a lighter, brighter working environment, but also cut energy costs and reduced the whole site's carbon footprint.

According to the company, the introduction of LEAN into the Alfreton plant was so successful that the initiative has now been rolled out across the U.K. to all Kal Tire service depots. This program is being implemented with the involvement of continuous improvement manager Alan Todd, and Kal Tire reports that "similar marked performance improvements are also being seen."

Whilst accepting that the manufacturing process used in the retreading of earthmover and mining tires will always generate 'waste', what Kal Tire says it has identified and reacted upon is that this discarded material, primarily rubber compound 'crumb' buffed from the tires prior to retreading or repair, may have a secondary use. To this end, the company has introduced hysteresis testing for a trial period to determine if the reclaimed materials can be reused, together with other raw materials and compounds, in the manufacturing process. "This initiative again highlights Kal Tire's continual commitment towards recycling and environmental efficiency – after all, retreading is recycling," commented Cornell.

Retreading and recycling are two ways of reducing costs; repairing is a third. Large tires are a significant investment and damage to these valuable products, particularly damage that exposes or impacts upon the tire's infrastructure, is always a cost concern for operators as well as a health and safety issue.

Therefore, tire repair component specialists from the Canadian company's homeland have commenced a 'major injuries' training program for Kal Tire's UK repair technicians and trials will soon begin on a number of repaired tires. "If these larger repairs prove successful then again, we will be giving our customer the chance to extend their tire life, at a fraction of the replacement cost," stated Cornell. (Tyres & Accessories)

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Tire Dealers Association of Canada 2012 Convention



Tim Pawsey photo

An expert panel moderated by TIA's Matt White explains the evolution of TPMS sensors.
John Rice - SmartSensor, Danny Bova - Redi-Sensor
Susan Hitchon - EZ Sensor



Tim Pawsey photo

TDAC President Eric Gilbert addressed the delegates during the opening ceremonies



Some OTDA members stopped in Valleyfield for a tour of Plombco's state of the art wheel weight plant.



Tim Pawsey photo

OTDA Board Member Alex Labrecque sits on a panel discussing tire dealer trends spanning the nation



Tim Pawsey Photo

Presidents from all Tire Dealer Association across Canada



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February 2012

Don Frisby



Don Frisby was born in Ottawa 1952 to Jim & Elizabeth Frisby. He has two brothers Dennis and Alan. He started working at Frisby's in the summer of 1967 at the old downtown Ottawa location. That year the company would move to a new facility on Clyde Avenue in the City's west end and open a new location in Centre Town. Don started working full time after studying business at Ottawa's Algonquin College.

Yet, as a young man, he left the business in 1979 to travel and "find himself" to use a familiar expression from those days only to return to Ottawa in 1980 and take a job bartending at Edelweiss Valley Ski Resort. There, he met his future wife Sarah who was a ski instructor.

Obviously, the young Frisby returned to the family business two years later and worked at a few different locations over the next several years learning the business. Meanwhile, Don & Sarah's family grew with Angela born in 1981, Emily in 1985 and Thomas 1988.

The company grew to five locations by the mid 80's. Don began managing a new location on Montreal Road in 1985 and later took over the flagship store on Clyde Avenue. He became President of Frisby Tire in the mid-nineties..

Don Frisby joined the OTDA as a director representing Eastern Ontario in late 80's and he chaired the OTDA Committee to establish the Tire Apprenticeship Training Program in 1994 at the Kemptville College. Earlier, he was asked by Paul Hyatt in 1993 to

stand as second Vice President of OTDA to become President from 1997 -1999. There is a little story attached to this nomination that we will tell you later on!

In 1997, Frisby Tire hosted the OTDA Convention & Trade Show in Ottawa at the Westin Hotel. He then participated in a committee to develop a Strategic Design Review for the OTDA which was completed in December 2004. Glenn Warnica and Eric Gilbert were key contributors. This review set the Association on a new path and the OTDA has flourished during the past several years.

More recently, Don hosted the OTDA Annual Fundraiser & Charity Golf Classic this past June at Edelweiss Golf Course in Wakefield, Quebec raising \$30,000 for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. Over \$300,000 has been raised to date for Ontario Charities. He is currently serving as an OTDA Director supporting various committees and looks forward every year to meeting Pelican Pete and his OTDA friends at the annual OTDA Winter Conference!



Don first joined Frisby Tire in 1967. But actually, the business had already been set up by his great uncle George who had emigrated from England in

1905. George went to work for Goodyear in Akron and amazingly saved up the princely sum of \$5000 in five years (try to do that today) in order to start up his new business in Ottawa called Frisby the Vulcanizer. Based on Lyon Street, Georges Frisby would innovate with a mobile service to repair flats which was a burgeoning business in those days. Notice the sign in the front window of the store advertising "Free Air".



Frisby the Vulcanizer later moved to the Sparks Street location and that is where Don's father, Jim, began to work for Uncle George shortly after returning from serving in World War II. Jim picked up the business in the sixties and changed the name to Frisby Tire. Frisby operated from that building from 1946 to 1967 when a new store was built in the West end of Ottawa.

By that time, Frisby the Vulcanizer, soon to become Frisby Tire, was getting to be a pretty big business as witnessed by this picture of the backyard of the store taken in the early Sixties. Frisby also operated quite an impressive fleet of small pick-up and delivery trucks. Frisby moved from that location that was close to Parliament Hill (you can see the tower of the Parliament building in the back-

ground). The building is now long gone since it was replaced by a Holiday Inn hotel in 1968.



In the early seventies, Don had joined the family business on a full time basis at the flagship store on Clyde Avenue. At that point, he began to learn to do...well, just about everything because that was the way it worked in those days.



In the early nineties, Frisby Tire had grown considerably. Staff was already up to some 60 to 70 people (up to 90 today). Business was booming. Pictured here is the better part of that staff and some of the almost twenty vehicles that made up the delivery & road service fleet. This picture was taken from the back lot of the Clyde Avenue location the city's west end.



In 1995, Jim Frisby (sitting at the desk) was still the president of Frisby Tire. Don (standing far right) was soon to be named president of the company. To his right are his brother Alan, now retired, his nephew Tim (who is now with another organization) and Tim's father Dennis also retired.



In 1993, Don was asked by Paul Hyatt to stand as second Vice-President of OTDA. Having second thoughts in 1994, Don wrote a letter to then Executive Director Bob Arthurs asking him to be excused due to family and business obligations as he did not feel comfortable with the idea of standing as President. Guess what? Whoever knew Bob Arthurs will surely guess that he completely ignored Don's letter and guess who wound up serving as the new President of the OTDA, a post he would hold from 1997 to 1999!



Today, Don is still very active within the company. He is seen here with his family. Don's wife Sarah to his left. To Don's right is his son Thomas who is also working at Frisby Tire. On the far right is Angela, Don's daughter who also works in the family business while

at the left is the recently married couple of Emily, Don's second daughter and her husband, Peter Thorne.



One thing that Don (extreme left) always looks forward to is to enjoy some vacation time with a few OTDA friends. Here he is at Bert's Bar in Barbados last year sitting with his lovely wife Sarah. To their left are Ron Spiewak, Glenn Warnica, Eric Gilbert and Mauro DiTullio of Federated Insurance.. Obviously, service is not as fast and efficient as at Frisby Tire!



Once in a while, it doesn't hurt Don and his wife Sarah to leave the business behind!

After all, there are other younger Frisby's taking care of business!

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The session opens with a Ministry of Labour presentation on: what their role is within the health and safety system; a look at upcoming enhancement priorities; and, what to expect from an MOL visit. This presentation will also include tools and resources available from the MOL. An "Open Mic" session follows where participants can talk directly with MOL representatives. Questions can also be submitted anonymously.

Following the "Open Mic" session, there will be three 90 minute, concurrent workshops, each with takeaway tools and resources, which focus on:

- Manual Material Handling Hazards
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- Protecting New and Vulnerable Workers

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London, April 16, Lamplighter Inn & Convention Centre
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Stratford, April 20, Arden Park
Mississauga, April 25, Centre for Health & Safety Innovation
Windsor, April 25, Holiday Inn Select
Sarnia, April 27, Quality Suites (Point Edward)
Burlington, May 17, Holiday Inn, May 17
Thunder Bay, May 8, Victoria Inn
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Ottawa, June 7, Hampton Inn Ottawa & Conference Centre

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IN THE NEWS.....

March 13, 2012

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. and ITASCA Ill. – TBC Corp. and Midas Inc. today announced that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement, through which TBC will acquire Midas in a cash tender offer of \$11.50 per share.

The all-cash transaction is valued at approximately \$310 million and includes the assumption of approximately \$137 million in debt and pension liabilities. The \$11.50 per share offer price represents a 75 percent premium over Midas' closing price of \$6.58 on Aug. 11, 2011, when Midas announced it would conduct a strategic review process, and a 28 percent premium over the closing share price as of Monday, March 12, 2012.

The proposed transaction has been unanimously approved by the board of

directors of both companies. In addition, Midas Chairman, President and CEO Alan Feldman has signed a tender and voting agreement in support of the offer.

TBC Chairman and CEO Lawrence Day commented, "With nearly 2,300 locations worldwide, Midas is a leader in automotive services and we are very excited to welcome such an iconic brand into our portfolio. By combining the strengths of Midas' platform with our industry expertise and financial resources, we will build on their current momentum and take the company to the next level."

"We are pleased to announce this transaction, which is strategically compelling and provides significant value to our shareholders," added Feldman. "The offer represents a significant and immediate premium for our sharehold-

ers and marks the culmination of a thorough strategic review process by our board of directors, which began last August. The combination of these two highly complementary businesses will provide significant opportunities for Midas to prosper in the future and will create enhanced opportunities for franchisees and strong benefits to customers."

The deal is expected to close by the end of the second quarter.

TBC's other companies include: Carroll Tire Company, Big O Tire, Tire Kingdom, NTB, Merchant's Tire & Auto Centers and Treadways. TBC is owned by Sumitomo Corp. of America. Sumitomo Corp. of America, the North American subsidiary of Sumitomo Rubber Industries, bought TBC Corp. in September 2005 in a \$1.1 billion deal.

The latest trend: all-season UHP tires

As always, tire manufacturers have been introducing their new tires in preparation for summer. It's no coincidence that they all seem to be all-season ultra-high performance tires.



That segment is the hot one, where all the technology is coming together to create the next generation of broad line tires. Wet traction? Certainly. Snow traction? Surprisingly, yes. Dry traction? That's a given.

The new Motivo from Nitto Tire U.S.A. Inc. (pictured) is even backed by a 60,000-mile limited tread wear warranty! (You can read about it in the March issue of Modern Tire Dealer.)

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

TIA Speaks to NHTSA about Tire Rating System



Earlier this month, the Tire Industry Association's (TIA) Senior Vice President of Training, Kevin Rohlwing, participated in the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) Tire Fuel Efficiency (TFE) workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to collect information about the new tire rating system on rolling resistance. Rohlwing stressed the importance of educating retailers on the new rating system since tire dealers are the primary sources of information for the average consumer.

TIA strongly believes that the new ratings must be simple and easy to explain, unlike the confusing Uniform Tire Quality Grading System (UTQG), which is supposed to provide consumers with information to compare tire treadwear, traction and performance.

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Treadlines

cont'd from page 10

The company stressed that Extensas made in Japan or China are not being recalled. Toyo's White plant has the Department of Transportation identification code 73.

Toyo said there has been only one report of air loss in the U.S. and no reports of accidents related to this condition.

Richmond-based Toyo Tire Canada is offering consumers with the identified tires free replacements. Consumers can check a dedicated web page for more information, or call a toll-free hotline, 877-682-8696.

Toyo will notify all consumers directly who registered their tires.

The firm said the replacement offer is valid through May 31.

March 13, 2012

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February 15, 2012

Hesje joins Amerityre's board of directors
Brian Hesje, chairman of Fountain Tire Ltd., has been appointed to Amerityre Corp.'s board of directors.

"Amerityre has a number of innovative tire solutions that are just beginning to reach the market," he says.

Fountain Tire is one of the largest retail distribution tire companies in western Canada. Hesje was CEO from 2001 to 2005 and president from 1991 to 2001.

Prior to joining Fountain Tire as a director and shareholder in 1984, Hesje was a partner in Sax, Zimmel, Stewart & Co., an accounting firm, where he specialized in small and medium sized public companies. Hesje has served on the board of several Canadian public and private companies and is currently a member of the Audit Committee for the University of Alberta.

"Brian is a welcome addition to the Amerityre board," says Tim Ryan, CEO of Amerityre. "His experience within the tire industry will be a key component in the strategic development of Amerityre's future growth plans."

Based in Boulder City, Nev., Amerityre manufactures and markets polyurethane foam and solid urethane tires for bicycle, handtruck, lawn and garden, medical and mobility, wheelbarrow, pivot, seeder, forklift, skid steer and scissor lift applications..

RMA Sees 2% Growth in 2012 Crystal Ball

March 08, 2012

The RMA has issued its first prognostication for 2012, calling for a meager increase in overall tire shipments of 2%. Of course, that's a better result than in 2011, which saw an overall shipment increase of just 0.2%.

Looking at 2011 results, RMA's preliminary results showed OE P-Metric tire shipments at 35.7 million, up 8% vs. 2010; LT-Metric OE shipments at 4.2 million, up 15.7%; and Medium Truck OE shipments at 4.9 million tires, up 55.1% from 2010.

The news was much different on the replacement side, P-Metric shipments came in at 195 million, down 2.8% vs. 2010; LT-Metric replacement shipments were 28.5 million, down 0.5% year-over-year; and replacement Medium Truck shipments hit 16.5 million, up 4.7% from the year prior.

Looking forward to this year, RMA sees the OE side of the ledger continuing as the main driver for the anticipated shipment increase, as "pent-up demand for both for light vehicles and commercial trucks will add to domestic new vehicle sales and production," according to the RMA.

Segment-by-segment, here is how the RMA sees 2012:

- P-Metric OE tire shipments are anticipated to increase by approximately 3 million units, or nearly 8%, to 38.6 million units.
- LT-Metric OE will remain flat with 2011, at approximately 4.2 million total units.
- Medium Truck OE is forecast to grow by approximately 12% in 2012, or another nearly 600,000 units.
- Replacement P-Metric shipments will continue to grow slowly, improving by just 1%, or about 2 million tires, this year. Imports by non-member tiremakers, however, will increase by 7%, RMA feels.
- Replacement LT-Metric will show minimal growth, primarily on the commercial LT side.
- Replacement Medium Truck will see moderate growth of about 2% or 400,000 units.



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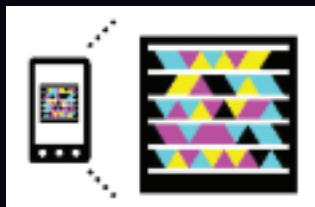
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NEWS RELEASE FEBRUARY 2012

The Suppliers Council to the Canadian Tire Industry held its Annual General Meeting in Quebec City on February 9th in conjunction with the Tire Dealers Association of Canada National Convention and Trade Show.

The following Officers and Directors were elected by the attending membership:

Ian Kedzierski as President
Mauro DiTullio as Vice President

Directors:
John Van Loenen
Ali Rakla
Peter Gelinias
Alex Moore

On behalf of everyone who attended, we would like to congratulate the Tire dealers Association of Canada and particularly the Association des Specialistes du Pneu de Quebec- for their hospitality and efforts in putting on a great show!

We look forward to continuing our support of the Tire Industry and the Tire Dealers in Canada.

Peter Parik
Executive Director

Tire Review Magazine – March 16, 2012

The Tire Industry Association has issued a statement on the stoppage of a proposed tire aging bill in Maryland, which the house placed on summer study. Consequently, the Maryland Senate version of the bill, SB 940, was withdrawn.

Roy Littlefield, TIA executive vice president, said, "We are appreciative that thoughtful legislatures saw that this proposal was not the answer to promoting the safety of our roadways."

He thanked the coalition partners and everyone who came out to testify and reach out to their respective legislatures in Maryland to "put the facts straight and not let hyperbole implement bad law."

TIA, in conjunction with the Rubber Manufacturers Association, the Chesapeake Automotive Business Association and numerous tire retailers, retreaders and manufacturers, came together to form a coalition that came to the Maryland state capital in Annapolis numerous times to testify and educate legislatures on facts about tire aging.

Kevin Rohlwing, TIA senior vice president of training, said, "It is inaccurate and misleading to suggest that 'tires deteriorate with age' as Maryland HB 729 stated, and even more irresponsible to cite NHTSA as the source for this premise. The official statement from NHTSA on tire aging at www.safercar.gov is, 'The structural integrity of a tire can degrade over an extended period of time.' NHTSA also goes on to say that, 'Tire aging is generally not an issue with vehicles that are driven regularly.'"

TIA recommends that, "public education, regular tire monitoring by drivers and periodic inspections by trained tire technicians is what keeps everyone's tires performing at peak performance and our roadways safe for our families and commerce."



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