Happy Birthday to Us!

Since 1904 Thomas Skinner & Son Ltd. has strived to provide the highest quality products with the latest technology available and backed by excellent service. With 100 years of commitment to achievement, Thomas Skinner is Western Canada’s Largest Distributor of Industrial Metalworking Products. With four branches located across Western Canada, extensive inventories, and quality customer service, our knowledgeable sales staff is able to provide business solutions, which help our customers compete in today’s global economy.

December 2, 2004, marked Thomas Skinner’s Head Office Birthday Celebration. We invited our BC, Yukon and Northwest Territories customers to share our 100 Year Birthday with us. We would like to thank everyone (all 450 of you) who took time out of your day to come to our Vancouver Birthday Party/Open House to share this momentous occasion.

Our Birthday ceremony consisted of speeches from Paul Krainer, President and Owner of Thomas Skinner, and other dignitaries, including Robert Murray, General Manager of Haas Automation Inc., Dave Palmer, Executive Vice President of Mitutoyo Canada Inc., Dave Purchase, Vice President and General Manager of Sandvik Canada Inc., Larry Schwartz, Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing of Okuma America Corp., Michael Colwell, Operations Manager of Carmanah Design and Manufacturing Inc., Malcom Brodie, Mayor of Richmond, and Linda Reid, MLA of Richmond, who read a letter on behalf of the Premier of BC, Gordon Campbell. All who attended received champagne for toasts, cake and either a commemorative 100 Year Strong Thomas Skinner shirt or baseball cap.

Said Robert Murray of Haas Automation Inc., “This is quite an accomplishment - 100 years in business - honestly I don’t know of any machine tool distributor that has been in business for 100 years. Congratulations.”

“We’ve always been impressed by the quality and integrity of the people that we dealt with and we’ve always believed that Thomas Skinner was taking the long view - looking to strengthen our company by providing good value, not simply to turn a fast buck.” said Michael Colwell of Carmanah Design and Manufacturing Inc. “As a customer of this fine company that’s what we see, and what I believe has lead to 100 years of success - really a phenomenal achievement.”

While Gordon Campbell, Premier of BC, was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts, Linda Reid, MLA of Richmond, presented Paul Krainer with a message from the Premier which included “Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone and I wish you continued success in the future.”

This event drew the attention of the Vancouver Province, one of Vancouver’s largest local newspapers. The interview resulted in a half page story about Thomas Skinner, which ran the next day.
More machines were on display at this Open House than ever before. The Haas EC-400 Horizontal Machining Centre was sold to Straightline Precision, the Haas VF-2 Vertical Machining Centre was sold to Nicholson Machinery, and the Star SV-32JII CNC Swiss Type Automatic Lathe was sold to Lick Sing Metals. In addition, our Machine Tool Sales Representatives received numerous leads.

We were especially pleased to be able to display two vintage machines. The Okuma Vintage Simple Lathe was made in 1904, built for the Japanese Army for Russo-Japanese War in 1904. The Haas VF-1 Vertical Machining Centre was introduced in 1988 at IMTS in Chicago, IL. This machine was kept by Haas Automation and was used in production until about 1996. A few years ago, the employees of Haas Automation Inc. refurbished this machine and gave it as a gift to Gene Haas, Owner of Haas Automation.


The staff of Thomas Skinner would like to thank all of those involved with helping to make our 100 Year Birthday Celebration a success. We look forward to serving the industrial metalworking industry for the next 100 years.

For a complete list of machines on display at our Vancouver Open House/Birthday Party, contact Bruce Foskett at (604) 276-2131 or 1-800-567-2131.