



**LOCAL STARS TO APPEAR IN FILM**

Barrhead residents featured in a German documentary to air in Berlin. See story on

4A

# The Barrhead Leader

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Please join us May 30th from 5 - 8 p.m. to celebrate our new building. Beef on a bun, hot dogs for kids, cake and coffee, tours.

**Stephani Motors**  
Barrhead, AB

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## Barrhead Motor Sports named top dealership in Canada

ANDREW COFFEY  
LEADER STAFF

The next time you walk into Barrhead Motor Sports, keep in mind you just entered Canada's number one snowmobile dealership.

That's right, the best in nation.

"We were thrilled. We didn't think we had done anything too special to warrant such recognition. When we were told we had received the award, we were shocked," said co-owner Irene Strawson.

The Strawsons are no strangers to winning industry awards. Last year they won the Outstanding Dealership Award, which recognizes the best snowmobile dealership in the province of Alberta. That was what launched their nomination for the national award that recognizes Canada's best dealership.

Darren Strawson started the business in 1997 with his wife Irene. At the time, there were only two other employees. Since then, business has been booming and Barrhead Motor Sports currently maintains a staff of 13 employees. A third owner, Darren's mother Edie Strawson also works at the store, truly making it a family affair.

The prerequisite for winning the award was to be recognized as the best dealer on a provincial lev-

el. Once the Strawson team earned that designation, it was off to nationals.

The 11 year old business has steadily grown over the years. Today, you can walk in with nothing and leave a fully equipped snowmobile owner. The store sells everything from ATV's and dirt bikes to helmets and treads. A licensed Polaris dealer, Barrhead Motor Sports also does repairs at its state of the art repair shop.

Al Breikreitz, president of the Northern Lights Snowmobile Club in Barrhead, did a lot of the groundwork in getting Barrhead Motor Sports nominated for the national award.

"They were looking for a club oriented dealership that did a lot for the town and local community. Being president of the Chamber of Commerce probably helped Darren stand out among the other contestants," said Breikreitz.

In fact, Barrhead Motor Sports has been very active in helping out the local club. "They have been big sponsors for us, and have helped organize events. That's why we pushed so hard for them to be nominated for this award," added Breikreitz.

The Canadian Excellence Award is give out by



ANDREW COFFEY PHOTO

Proud owners and employees of Canada's best snowmobile dealership pose in front of an ATV. Barrhead Motor Sports was recently given the Canadian Excellence Award by the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations.

the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations. Out of hundreds of potential nominees, only one from each province makes it all the way to consideration for national recognition.

Breikreitz explained that winning the award is a great honour, and that Barrhead Motor Sports is finally getting well deserved recognition.

The Strawsons were very grateful to the snowmobile club. "Our club has done a tremendous amount of work to ensure that the trails, warm up cabins and other destinations are accessible for our customers," said Irene.

"We really appreciate the club leaders for the nomination and for recognizing our contributions."

The snowmobile club

has 67 members and owns and maintains over 100 miles of trails along with three state of the art warm up cabins. The club also has the equipment and manpower to groom riding trails.

The club is also active in the community and provides safety information on snowmobiling in area schools. Breikreitz also added that the north-

ernmost warm up cabin has been linked to the Trans Canada Trail, which has been a club goal for quite some time.

The Barrhead Motor Sports team truly offers an exceptional and valuable service to the community. Pay them a visit...even if it's only to say you have been to the best snowmobile dealership in Canada.



ANDREW COFFEY PHOTO

True Value owner Durriyah Mithaiwala holds the "ribbon" for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock MLA Ken Kowalski. Barrhead mayor Brian Schulz is seen holding the other end.

## New home and garden store opens doors

ANDREW COFFEY  
LEADER STAFF

The True Value garden centre is now open for business.

MLA Ken Kowalski was on hand for the Friday ribbon cutting and presentation of a plaque, along with mayor Brian Schulz who gave owner Durriyah Mithaiwala a certificate of opening.

Mithaiwala thanked those who made the store a reality.

"I wouldn't have been able to do it if I wouldn't have had such wonderful people with me to make it a success," she said.

The gardening centre in Barrhead is located on 51 Avenue and 49 A Street.

The store offers everything from lawn equipment and push mowers to fruit trees and rose bushes.

The store location is also conveniently positioned with great access for loading and unloading supplies.

Mayor Schulz thanked Mithaiwala for staying in the local area and opening her business, adding that she is one of the town's most esteemed business owners.

Kowalski also commended Mithaiwala for providing the community with jobs and a valuable service.