

SERVING THE KOOTENAYS

Agency celebrates 50th anniversary

CASTLEGAR — An insurance agency that sold its first policy immediately after the second world war is celebrating its 50th anniversary of service to this community in B.C.'s Kootenay region.

Now known as Anderson Insurance Agencies Ltd., the firm has been owned by the Moorey family since 1975. Its predecessor agencies had several different owners after Cyril Bell opened an insurance and real estate office under his own name in 1946. His first policy was sold to dairy operator Johnny Sherbiko for "milk delivery".

Today, Anderson offers a full line of auto, home and business insurance, as well as operating the Castlegar motor licence office. It also has a life insurance department. The agency employs seven people and has "several thousand clients", according to Scott Moorey, who was elected a director of the Insurance Brokers Association of B.C. earlier this year.

Cyril Bell, the original owner, sold the business in 1955 and it was renamed



Anderson staff celebrate (left to right): Jodi Beamish, Naomi Popoff, Lara Sapriken, Carvil Moorey, Lisa Moorey, Rae Penman, Scott Moorey, Linda Moorey.

Anderson Agencies after the new owners. They sold the insurance portion of the business in 1968 to Hugh Nicol, who merged it with Young Insurance Agency in 1970.

Carvil Moorey joined the firm as an

employee in 1972 and in 1975 purchased it from Nicol. He subsequently acquired the Castlegar motor licence office, and in 1992 purchased the general insurance division of Mountainview Agencies in Castlegar. He has been joined in the firm by his son Scott and his daughter Lisa.

Anderson Insurance has kept pace with the times in automating its operations, Scott Moorey says. It competes for business with four other agencies in Castlegar — three of them owned by credit unions — and is preparing for the direct writers and other new competitors of the future.

"Insurance is forever changing, and the successful insurance brokerage of the future will be one that can see change coming and react to it in the brokerage's favor," he adds. ■