



Located at 112 Station St., Allan's Auto Repair has been called one of the best auto repair shops in Quinte.



One of Allan's most dedicated workers, his brother, 50-year-old Mark Woodley.



Chris Hebden takes a moment break before having to mend a wire in an automobile.

THE FAMILY FIX

Story and photos by Rachel Cohen

It's 5 a.m. on Nov. 11, 2011. As the sun begins to rise over Belleville, 55-year-old Allan Woodley opens up the doors to his locally owned family business, which has been running for over 25 years. Located at 112 Station St., Allan's Auto Repair is recognized as one of the best auto repair shops in Quinte.

"It's something my father and I always spoke about-- that one day I would open up my very own auto repair shop," Allan says.

Allan, who grew up in Belleville, knows more about cars than anything else, he admits. As time goes by, business keeps getting better and better.

The area near the repair shop was bustling with traffic as more than 1,000 Belleville residents made their way to the service at Memorial Park on Station Street for Remembrance Day.

"We remember, and our thoughts of past sacrifice are in our hearts, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done at the shop," Allan said.

As he turns on the lights in the office, his workers begin to arrive. The majority of the men who work in the shop are on apprenticeship through Loyalist College. One of Allan's most dedicated workers is his brother, 50-year-old Mark Woodley, who has been working with Allan ever since the shop's opening.

"It was always just Allan and I, we did everything together, and eventually that meant getting our hands dirty with oil and fuel," Mark says.

The family-owned auto repair shop was humming with customers as early as 7 a.m. as people eagerly waited in line to drop off their vehicles.

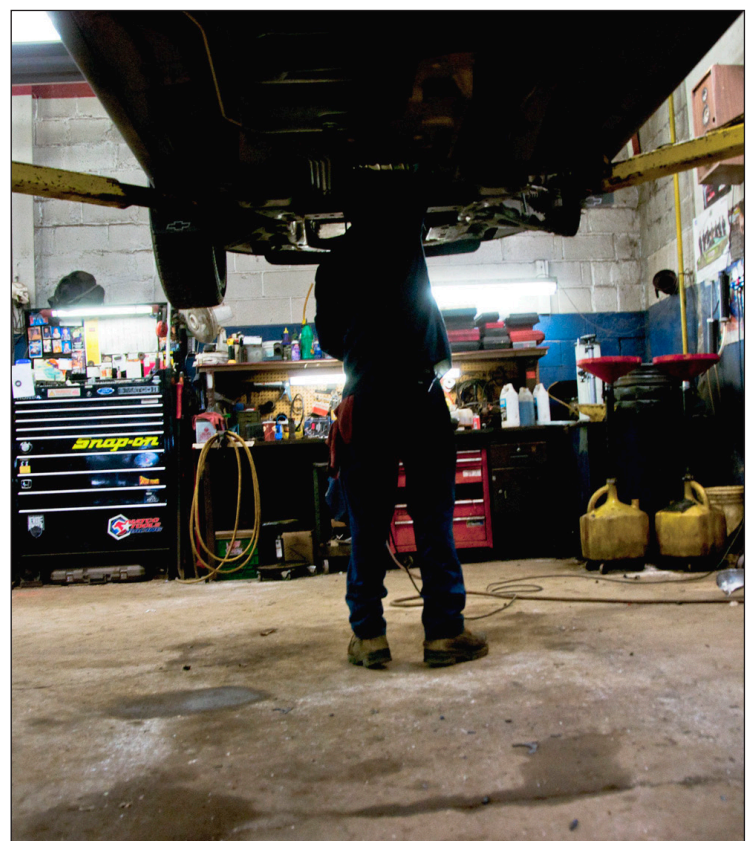
"People aren't buying new cars as often," Allan says. "Cars are a lot more complicated than they used to be, and people can't fix them."

The smell of burnt tires pierces through the crisp winter air. Allan's staff does not stop working until people are back on the road with their vehicles. More and more people are relying on local auto repair shops that are well established, and used car lots have seen growth.

"The shop checks and repairs brakes, does oil changes, tune-ups, belts, hoses, radiators and windows, and does engine diagnostics for foreign and domestic cars," Allan says. "Also available are alternator, starter, fuel pump, clutch and transmission services."

Oil stained everything including Woodley's newly washed blue overalls. His pale hands and fingers are taped and withered from his constant use of tools. After a long day's work, Allan has shown true dedication.

"In these tough economic times, the citizens of our area need a mechanic they can trust and afford," Allan said.



Kyle Chambers has been working at Allan's Auto Repair since 2004.



After a long day's work, Allan's taped and withered hands stained in car oil show no sign of being tired. "I love shaking my customer's hand knowing I have done my job right."