

FRONT RUNNERS

"THE PROFESSIONAL TEAM AT MOUNTAINEER MOVERS PRIDE THEMSELVES ON THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE EVERY MOVE A SAFE AND WORRY-FREE EXPERIENCE FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS."



From left to right: Elena and Harry Mans, Wendy C. Mans-Keddie, Andrew Keddie and Sarah Mans-Keddie—3rd generation in the moving industry.

MOUNTAINEER MOVERS LIMITED

Full service moving company is celebrating over 33 years of serving the community—and the world.

BY SCOTT LESLIE
The Business Link

Finding the right moving company can be one of the most important decisions you ever have to make. That's why it's important to choose someone you can trust with your move and your most valuable possessions—someone like Moun-

taineer Movers Limited in Hamilton.

Family owned and operated, Mountaineer Movers has been in the moving business for over 33 years, specializing in home and office moves. Their full range of moving services including local and long distance moving, packing, private short and long term storage, and local deliveries. They also specialize in moving heavy items like pianos, and

can provide packing materials, moving supplies and plastic moving bin rentals.

Serving the greater Hamilton, Niagara and southwestern Ontario regions, the professional team at Mountaineer Movers pride themselves on their ability to make every move a safe and worry-free experience for their customers.

"We provide full service moving solutions for

individuals or companies looking to move across the street or across the country," explains Wendy Mans-Keddie, president of Mountaineer Movers. "We believe in making their move as stress free as possible."

Moving is always a snap with Mountaineer Movers. Their fully-trained moving consultants and van foreman work with each customer to ensure proper

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coordination and handling of all furniture throughout the move. (Their staff will wrap and pad all items and only their staff has access to the furniture.) They also have a computerized dispatch and communication system that allows their team to track moving shipments anywhere in the world. Mountaineer Movers even has an on-site heated storage facility with state-of-the-art alarms and video surveillance so they can keep your possessions safe and secure until you're ready to move them.

"We believe that understanding your needs is the key to a successful move," Wendy says. "That's why we work closely with our customers to tailor their move to their unique situation. At Mountaineer Movers, we want to help make every decision an easy one."

A History of Success

Mountaineer Movers was originally launched in 1978 by Wendy's father, Harry Mans. A Dutch immigrant, Harry came to Canada in 1951 when he was 16. Harry knew all about the value of hard work, having delivered groceries for his parents when he was just seven years old. He took a job working as a farmhand in Dunnville before deciding to get into the dairy industry. He started out at a small dairy in Welland, and eventually moved to Stoney Creek where he found work as an assistant at the Stoney Creek Dairy. But after a decade there, Harry began to tire of the dairying life.

"I was working long nights at the dairy," he says of his formative years. "I knew it was time to look for something else. Fortunately I saw an ad in the paper one day. There was a moving business for sale. I knew it would be a great opportunity if I worked



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Mountaineer Movers has a range of trucks to suit the need of any size move.



hard and everything came together."

Harry purchased the small company and a broken-down 1969 Mercury moving truck with the help of his father, Albert—and "Mountaineer Movers" was born.

In the early days, Harry operated the business out of his home in Winona, taking care of small local assignments like making store deliveries and moving pianos. Harry started out small, hoping he

could develop his moving company into a flourishing operation. He didn't have long to wait. By the mid-1980s, Harry's strong word of mouth led to more and more referrals and he began to enlarge his business, established a new location on 487 Grays Road in nearby Hamilton. (They've been there now for over 28 years.)

From the very beginning, Mountaineer Movers has been all about family. Wendy began working at

her father's business at the young age of 17. Back then, they delivered the Hamilton Spectator out in the country and made rural mail trips three times a day. Wendy spent many years learning the ropes from her father and now runs the firm along with her husband Andrew who acts as general manager. Her father is the company treasurer and CEO, and...

Continued on page 17

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“We do our best to keep our company running like one big family, and treat our employees well because we want them to build a career here. We appreciate all the great work they do. We wouldn’t be where we are today if it weren’t for them. They’re a big part of our success.”

Mountaineer Movers will move just about anything—this object was almost 1000lbs and had to go down a flight of stairs.

Continued from page 16

...continues to play an active role in the firm, helping everywhere he can along with his wife, Elena. The company has also expanded into its third generation with Wendy’s daughter Sarah who works as a receptionist.

“We’ve come a long way,” Harry says of their team’s hard work and dedication. “And we’re con-

tinuing to work hard to keep things going for future generations of our family.”

Moving Ahead

Mountaineer Movers has experienced tremendous growth in recent years. In 2006, Mountaineer Movers began expanding their horizons by becoming an agent for North American Van Lines in 2006, allowing them to help their customers move across

the country or around the world.

“Our team has consistently had good quality reports, particularly Dave VanSchyndel who is our long haul driver,” Wendy says. “We’ve had a lot of experience working with other agents as well.”

Their operation now includes a fleet of six moving trucks and two long haul tractor trailers that operate 24/7. They’ve even opened up an equipment rental moving store to provide their

customers with more flexibility when they’re planning a move.

“We’ve become a one-stop shop for all our customers’ packing needs, whether it’s paper, wardrobes or picture mirror boxes,” Wendy says. “We can also rent out fridge carts, moving pads—even a piano cart for the do-it yourself mover.”

The Mans family is extremely proud of their staff. Many of their employees have been with the firm for many years like Rick Hogan (17 years) and Dave VanSchyndel (21 years) which helps provide stability to both the company and the customer. They have a number of employees like Jim, Willy and Chris (to name a few) that are all great workers and team players, and are always ready to help out whenever they can.

“Our real strength is our employees,” Wendy explains. “We do our best to keep our company running like one big family, and treat our employees well because we want them to build a career here. We appreciate all the great work they do. We wouldn’t be where we are today if it weren’t for them. They’re a big part of our success.”

Over the years, Mountaineer Movers has helped out with a wide range of individual and corporate customers—both large and small. But you know you’ve hit the big time when you’re in the movies. The Mountaineer Movers crew has been called in on occasion to help out with various film and TV productions.

For instance, they were hired by Pebblehut Productions which wanted to use one of their moving trucks for the made-for-TV movie “The Moving of Sophia Myles” starring Della Reese. Wendy’s husband Andy drove the truck in the resulting film-shoot in downtown Grimsby.

“We had to put tape over our phone number,” Wendy admits. “But I was surprised how many phone calls we received after the movie aired.”

Recently, Wendy was asked if they could provide one of their trucks to appear on a recent episode of the Discovery Channel’s “Canada’s Greatest Know It All.” The producers were filming an episode on how to load a moving truck and needed an engineering expert for the show.

“It was great advertising for our firm and it’s always a great honour to be invited to appear in these projects,” Wendy says.

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Mountaineer Movers awarded the 2007 Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award. From left to right is Sarah Mans-Keddie, Harry Mans, Wendy C. Mans-Keddie and Andrew Keddie.



Moving well beyond Hamilton...this photo was taken in Kapuskasing.

“Our road to success wouldn’t be possible without our customers, . . . Our family has always been committed to providing them with the best in customer satisfaction. We’ve been that way from day one and that’s never going to change.”

A Mover of “Choice”

Running a successful business is one thing. But the Mans family and their employees are just as committed when it comes to standing by their community. Harry has been a part of the Stoney Creek Lions Club for nearly 30 years, and Wendy and Andrew are long-time members. The family is involved with various fundraising activities at the Paramount Drive Alliance Church where they help raise donations for the Stoney Creek Food Bank. They also participate in a number of annual community events such as the Stoney Creek Flag Day Parade (where they provide a truck to transport food donations) as well as the Stoney Creek Santa Claus Parade.

Mountaineer Movers’ connection with the community doesn’t end there. They’ve been an active member of several industry and networking organizations including the Canadian Association of Movers, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, the Hamilton

Chamber Connections Group, the Grimsby & District Chamber of Commerce, Women Who Excel, People In Connection, and the Better Business Bureau. Mountaineer Movers was also named Corporate Citizen of Year in 2007 by the Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce for their dedication to the community.

There are many companies out there that can help with your moving needs. But Mountaineer Movers is in a class by itself when it comes to popularity. Their firm has won a long line of Readers’ Choice Awards in the past several years including the Hamilton Readers’ Choice Platinum Award for Moving and the Diamond Award for Private Storage in 2011. They were also nominated for the Outstanding Business Achievement Award by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce in 2005. Our firm won the Stoney creek Chamber outstanding Business Award in 2007

The Mans family takes deep pride in their accomplishments and accolades. But according to Wendy,

their commitment to making things a little bit better for their customers is what it’s all about.

“Our road to success wouldn’t be possible without our customers,” she says. “Our family has always been committed to providing them with the best in customer satisfaction. We’ve been that way from day one and that’s never going to change. That will always be our number one goal.” **BL**



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