

# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Established 1946*



**MURPHY**  
BUS LINES



Established 1946

## INTRODUCTION

For more than 75 years, Murphy Bus Lines has been committed to providing safe, reliable transportation for passengers who ride our buses.

We are a leader in the transportation sector. Our infrastructure, our superior training and safety processes, our fleet of first-rate, well-serviced buses, and our commitment to continuous improvement all come together to support our experienced, professional staff in providing transportation for our passengers.

Murphy is proud to be considered an approachable, responsive service provider that shares our expertise. Whether we're sharing guidance on student safety, updates on inclement weather or the status of our buses, our stakeholders know they can count on us.

With three generations of busing experience behind us, passengers can be confident when they ride a Murphy bus - whether travelling to and from school, on a field trip or a special journey on a charter bus - they are taking the safest, most-dependable way to go.

## OUR HERITAGE

The Murphy story began in Clinton, Ontario, in 1946, when Joe and Tom Murphy started Murphy Bus Lines. Together, the two brothers built their first school bus by hand from an old soft-drink delivery truck. Their goal was simple: to transport rural students safely to Clinton District High School. And while plenty has changed since that first hand-crafted Murphy bus, the company's goal has remained the same: to provide passengers safe, dependable transportation. Today, Murphy is the one of the best transportation companies in the region, with over 300 employees and 350 vehicles providing services to approximately 15,000 students.. While education makes up the majority of Murphy's business, Charter services account for almost 15 percent of the company's volume, including school trips and others requiring safe, dependable transportation within the southwestern Ontario region.

Though steeped in tradition, Murphy has earned a reputation for being one of the most innovative and service-oriented companies in the school transportation sector. Over the years, many company policies have become industry standards; and the company continues to meet all industry standards – and strives to exceed them – through a program of continuous improvement. From student safety programs and state-of-the-art weather-updating computer programs to an unparalleled fleet and bus-maintenance program and a comprehensive training culture, Murphy has earned a reputation for being a leader in the industry.

Our expertise – combined with our heritage and history – offers unique value within the industry: Murphy has the experience and expertise of a large, multinational organization and the integrity and values of a local operator. Even today, as a large enterprise, employees feel like members of "the Murphy family." The quality of the people Murphy employs is reflected in the high retention rate of the team. The average tenure is around 20 years, and more than one-third of our employees have stayed with Murphy for over 10 years. This retention of quality, caring individuals has created a solid, tight-knit team that is as personable as it is professional.

These hard-working, caring people share in our mission: to provide the safest, most-reliable transportation possible for the passengers who ride our buses.

We're Murphy Bus Lines, and we're proud to be driving you to great things.



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## History of the J. & T. Murphy Company

At the end of World War II Joe and Tom Murphy were discharged from the Royal Canadian Air Force. They started a business in Clinton called Murphy Brothers Garage.

The Clinton Fire Hall is now located on that property.

In 1946 the Ontario Government encouraged local high school boards to transport rural students to the district high schools. The Clinton High School Board asked the Murphy brothers to supply transportation from the township of Goderich and the Village of Bayfield. At that time school buses were not available for purchase so Tom took a 1946 chassis and built a school bus.

The seats ran lengthways and it had its own gasoline heater for the passengers. One advantage was, the students were separate from the driver.

Soon a station wagon was added to the "fleet" for the Summer Hill area. September 1947 saw a new 31 passenger Reo School Bus put into service and in 1956 Stanely Township was added to the area for transportation.

Hobbs lines which served Medway High School was purchased in 1958. Tom and his family moved to Arva while Joe and his family remained in Clinton. The 1960's saw the area elementary schools transform into larger central schools, each required busing.

In 1971 Perth Coach Lines in St. Marys was purchased and we sadly note that Joe Murphy passed away in August 1977. We see the 1980's with the Murphys serving the families in the Counties of Huron, Perth and Middlesex as well as the City of London.

It is a company with a long tradition of service. A family business with a fleet of approximately two hundred vehicles of various types and sizes. We offer the most diversified fleet (supplied by one company) available in Western Ontario. We have four modern garages to service our up-to-date fleet and mechanics with years of experience. Whatever your transportation needs - we specialize in transportation.

Thomas H. Murphy - President

Michael T. Murphy  
Secretary- Treasurer



Paul H. Murphy  
Vice President



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## Murphy History–Chronological

1945	<p>In 1945, after WWII, the Murphy brothers opened a White Rose service station near the main corner in Clinton. (Huron St.).</p> <p>Joe served as an officer at Malton and Tom an aircraft mechanic at Sky Harbour near Goderich. Tom was also a pilot. As was the rule “You Fix It, You Fly It”.</p> <p>Both were Class “A” auto mechanics.</p>
1946	<p>In 1946 the Ontario government wanted to ensure all students could attend High School, so the brothers started busing in Stanley and Goderich townships for the Clinton High School. The first run in 1946 had 14 students and the bus had a Murphy Body on a GMC chassis.</p>
1947	<p>In 1947 the first REO was purchased (built in Toronto , ON) and the GMC was retired.</p> <p>A new yard, and garage was started at 64 Huron St. Each year another REO was added until 1954 when a Fargo with a Wayne Body was purchased as Chrysler entered the Bus Market.</p>
1952	<p>Bill Appleby joined the staff as a mechanic and body man. Bill would go on to become the future manager of the Lucan shop.</p>
1960	<p>Mike Murphy starts driving.</p>
1958	<p>Tom and family moved to Arva as HOBBS Bus Line was purchased, (16 buses). Medway and London routes. J. &amp; T. Murphy Limited is formed.</p> <p>Barry Young joins us in Clinton.</p>
1963	<p>Hyde Park property purchased.</p>
1964	<p>Lucan Depot, on Market St., in Lucan, ON, is established to support elementary and Medway routes.</p>
1965	<p>Arva shop is destroyed by fire.</p>

1966	Paul Murphy starts.
1970	JoAnne Trudgen starts working in the office.
1971	Arva Office constructed.
1971	Perth Coach Lines, buses and property purchased to support routes in Perth (12 routes). Lloyd Drinkwalter & Barry Smith join us.
1974	New Yard in St. Marys started.
1975	Sold Chrysler-Plymouth-Fargo Dealership in Clinton.  In the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's the dealership sold Hudson, Austin, Jeep, and Chrysler products along with Oliver and International farm equipment.
1977	Joe passed away.
1978	Tom, Mike & Paul are owners of J. & T. Murphy Limited .
1980	Randy Wilson starts as a bus cleaner, now he is Lead Technician in Arva (2021).  Purchase Kennedy United Bus Lines of Ailsa Craig. Clinton Shop rebuild started.
1983	Purchased Muxlow Bus of Parkhill.
1985	Seaforth purchased from United Trails (Habkirk).
1986	Boyes Farm Equipment property purchased near Seaforth.  Shirley Wyatt starts in Arva.
1987	Michelle Murphy joins us.
1988	New Yard (current location) in Lucan established on William St. Market St. property sold.
1990	Purchased McClinchy Buses in Blyth.
1993	Tom passes away and Mike and Paul continue the business .
1994	Della Carroll, started driving in 1987, moved on to training in 1991 and moved to Seaforth office in 1994.  Phyllis Hanson moves into the office after driving for 2 years. (1992).  Linda Smith joins us.

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1996	Rob Murphy joins us.
1998	Kyle Murphy joins us.
1999	Purchased Earl's Taxi of Centralia .
2001	Purchased Montgomery, buses & property, in Stratford.
2002	Purchased Hullett Bus Lines, buses, and property (Mitchell & Blyth).
2003	Purchased routes in Exeter from First Student.  Sold Stratford Routes to First Student.
2004	Derrick Becker starts in Exeter.
2006	Dave Richardson starts in Seaforth.
2007	Eileen Walraven starts in Clinton.
2008	Sean Brogden starts in St. Marys.
2009	Winthrop Bus Lines purchased.
2013	Scruton Bus Lines, of Dublin, purchased.



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For Barry Young

In 1945, at the end of WWII, Joe and Tom Murphy left the service to open Murphy Bros. Garage in Clinton, Ontario. (Joe was an officer at Malton and Tom an aircraft mechanic at Sky Harbour). The original garage was located where the town parking is located today on Hwy 8 just west of the main intersection, across the road from Corrie's Freshmart Grocery Store.

In 1946 the Provincial Government under Premier Drew decided to give rural Ontario students the opportunity to attend high school by providing transportation to High Schools such as Clinton, St. Marys, Exeter, Wingham, Goderich and so on. The Clinton High School Board contracted the Murphy Bros. to operate in Stanley and Goderich Townships, (effective September 1946).

Because of war-time manufacturing, buses of any type were hardly available and old retired city transit style buses were a poor choice on rural gravel and snow clogged roads. (As the new operator in St. Marys found out). The Murphy's purchased a used Pepsi Cola truck, a GMC, in Goderich and removed the box, leaving only a chassis. They purchased an old windmill and used the angle iron to build a frame. The body was mostly hardwood, the windows came from a shed and the service door and emergency exit door were handmade as were the wood slatted seats which were placed around the inside perimeter, each facing the centre where an aircraft heater was installed. The rear window of the truck cab was removed and replaced with a rubber flap. The bus driver reached through the opening, pulled a lever to open the door for his new, excited students. No one took a picture of bus #1 and all we have today is one seat. I was just 3 years old during this first year and never rode in #1. (Any pictures would be so very welcome).

In 1947 Reo was producing school buses near Toronto and that September, bus #1 was retired and the Reo took over. Each year another Reo was added to the "fleet", so by 1950 there were 4 buses serving many rural students. In 1954 the first Fargo with a Van-Wilson body was purchased. It was a 32 passenger with a flat-head six and a 4 speed transmission.

During the same period the Murphy's purchased a property at the corner of Huron St. and Orange St. The construction occurred during 1947 and 1948. In the 1940's they sold Jeep, Hudson, Austin vehicles and Oliver Farm Equipment. (I have a Standard 88 and 550 from those times). In 1949 they acquired a Chrysler Plymouth dealership along with Fargo Trucks. During the 1950's the garage and lot were expanded all the way to Mary Street (to the south). International Farm Equipment was added to the business and I remember their refrigerators being a best seller (they lasted a lot longer than today's models).

By 1958 many of the Reo's had been retired and the growing fleet consisted mainly of Fargo's with Welles-Wayne bodies made in Windsor. Expansion occurred with the purchase of Hobbs Bus Line in Arva, Ontario. These buses served Medway High School in Arva and Beal and Clarke Road in London. The purchase included 18 buses, the property and the Hobbs residence (the Royal Bank in Clinton played a major role in this expansion). Joe stayed in Clinton to operate the dealership, truck repair garage and bus lines. Tom and family moved to Arva on a new and exciting "frontier". The Hobbs fleet consisted of tired old Ford buses with a few retired city liners that served what is now North London. I remember many nights with my Dad under an old flat-head V8 changing rod inserts so we could cover the routes the next morning.

The logo for Murphy Bus Lines features the word "MURPHY" in a large, bold, yellow, stylized font with a black outline. Below it, the words "BUS LINES" are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark red background.

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In 1975 Joe was diagnosed with Melanoma Cancer. The dealership was sold to lighten his load and the bus business continued with facilities in Lucan and St. Marys now being a part of the family. Also Paul (Pat), Jo Anne and yours truly were part of the business (since the 60's and 70's). Joe passed in August 1977 and Paul and myself acquired those shares in 1978 (Royal Bank still there).

Tom passed in 1993 and today Murphy Bus Lines operates from 8 yards in Southwestern Ontario with Clinton still being at the original location on Huron St. Kyle Murphy, Rob Murphy and Michelle Murphy-Bukala are “steering the ship” with Paul and myself watching in lessor roles.

The Murphy's are very fortunate to have employed many dedicated, loyal, life-long employees, really considered part of the family. Some examples are Barry Young in Clinton (nearing 60 years), Barry Smith in St. Marys (almost 50 years) Bill Appleby in Lucan (deceased) was near 50 years and Randy Wilson in Arva who is nearing 40 years are just examples of our experienced and loyal staff.

Last fall Murphy Bus Lines celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and plans are in the works with a view to 75. The bus industry is in a constant state of change. Family operations that have survived are becoming rare, but early mornings, long days, a great group of employees and looking after our precious passengers remains a constant. Remembering the vision and dedication of Joe and Tom and their families is a gift and a road map for the future.

Submitted by  
Michael Thomas Murphy, Secretary-Treasurer, & C.F.O.



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## HONOUR ROLL FOR SIGNIFICANT YEARS OF SERVICE

Habib	Abado	Donna	Hansen	Evelyn	McNall	Jane	Urbshott
Darrel	Abbott	Phyllis	Hanson	Reiner	Mueller	Lynda	Verwer
John	Allen	Anne	Harrison	Joe	Murphy	Ann	Vlasman
Lloyd	Annett	Orrie	Hartwick	Kyle	Murphy	John	Vlasman
Bill	Appleby	Myrtle	Hastings	Lenore	Murphy	Bruce	Warner
Deb	Arrand	Jack	Hedden	Mike	Murphy	Don	Watt
Marg	Arthur	Cliff	Henderson	Paul	Murphy	Linda	Wilkinson
Cliff	Ashton	Brenda	Hickson	Rob	Murphy	Bev	Wilson
Harvey	Ashton	Orval	Higgs	Tom	Murphy	Randy	Wilson
Pete	Bakalaar	Lorne	Hodgins	Michelle	Murphy-Bukala	Marg	Wragg
Marion	Baker	Sharon	Hodgins	Jack	Park	Doug	Wyatt
Marion	Barr	Ross	Holden	Donna	Pautler	Shirley	Wyatt
Derrick	Becker	Bruce	Horton	Walter	Pepper	Barry	Young
Nancy	Beiber	Marg	Hotson	Bill	Pickle	Betty	Young
Ed	Blagdon	Helga	Howald	Pat	Poulton		
Hazel	Blane	Keith	Hudson	Ron	Read		
Jeannie	Blyde	Helen	Hummell	Orland	Reichert		
Cathy	Boon	Donna	Jeffrey	Dave	Richardson		
Bev	Broadfoot	Bill	Jenkins	Gayle	Riley		
Olive	Broadfoot	Jeannie	Johns	Alison	Robinson		
Debbie	Burdge	Janice	Karr	Ed	Robson		
Frank	Carpenter	Ren	Keffer	Jack	Ryan		
Della	Carroll-Smith	Wayne	Keller	Ruth	Sawdon		
Laila	Chicka	Bonnie	Kilbourn	Jim	Seeley		
Bill	Cleland	Anne	Kling-Furry	Ben	Seifred		
Bob	Clemance	Helen	Koricina	Helen	Seifred		
Norman	Conkey	Barb	Lafromboise	Dorothy	Simpson		
Glenn	Copeland	Dave	Lassaline	Barry	Smith		
Jacque	Cousineau	Joan	Leitch	Leonard	Smith		
Stanley	Crinklaw	George	Levy	Linda	Smith		
Gord	Dawson	Lynda	Lewis	Mary Anne	Smith		
Brian	Decker	Marie	Lewis	George	Spearin		
Nancy	Deveau	Alice	Lloyd	Doris	Spence		
Wilmer	Donaldson	Bill	Lloyd	Arnold	Steckle		
Sheila	Dunlop	Eric	Maddeford	Betty	Steckle		
Rene	Dupuis	Cal	Marshall	Nellie	Steckle		
Jas	Fairbrother	Joyce	McDonald	William	Steckle		
Alvin	Faulder	Audrey	McFalls	Gordon	Steepe		
Ina	Finlayson	Gary	McFalls	Janet	Stewart		
Jack	Finnie	Marlyne	McFalls	Harry	Stuart		
Bill	Fletcher	Jane	McGowan	Bev	Taylor		
John	Freele	Eileen	McGregor	Bob	Taylor		
Donald	Freeman	Crawford	McKeen	Leonard	Thacker		
Donna	Freeman	Laureen	McKenzie	Glen	Thiel		
Marion	Fulcher	Linda	McLean	Ray	Thomas		
Bill	Godwin	Donna	McLinchey	Lee	Tomkins		
Ginette	Gwalchmai	Lila	McLinchey	Alex	Townsend		
Darlene	Hallman	Elgin	McNall	JoAnne	Trudgen		



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## Murphy Bus Lines Full Time Staff

As of October 2021

Clinton  
Est. 1946

Tony Goulding  
Paul Peterson  
Tammy Russell  
David Smith  
**Eileen Walraven**

Former Manager: Barry Young

Lucan  
Est. 1964

Andy Dang  
**Phyllis Hanson**  
Al Johnson  
Bob Smith

St. Marys  
1971

**Sean Brogden**  
Mike Jones  
Roberta Nunns  
Ashley Steffler

Former Manager: Barry Smith

Arva  
Est. 1958

Greg Karam  
Reiner Mueller  
Lorrie Munroe  
Ross Myatt  
Phyllis Noubarian  
Sue Pike  
Heather Smith  
Linda Smith  
Randy Wilson  
Shawn Wilson  
John Woolley  
Shirley Wyatt

Seaforth  
Est. 1985

**Dave Richardson**  
Don Tunney

Mitchell  
Est. 2002

**Della Carroll Smith**  
Angela Hunt  
Laura Kemp  
Scott Williamson

Woodstock  
Est. 2018

Lori Winter

Exeter  
Est. 2003

**Derrick Becker**  
Julia Brintnell  
Tom Humphreys  
Al Rader  
Henry Vanderspek



Michael Murphy  
CFO

Paul Murphy  
President

Robert Murphy  
Vice President

Michelle Murphy -Bukala  
Supervisor of Business  
Operations

Kyle Murphy  
Vice President



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I want to send my Sincere congratulations to the Murphy family for their dedication and commitment to safe bus transportation over these past 75 years. I appreciate the insight and support you provide to the overall bus transportation sector, while the trust and respect you have earned is clearly evident. I wish you the very best as you celebrate this impressive milestone and may you look to the future with pride and confidence that Murphy Bus Lines will continue to lead by example for years to come.

Lisa Thompson,  
MPP, Huron-Bruce

Congratulations to Murphy Bus Lines on 75 years in business. On behalf of the Province of Ontario, thank you to the Murphy family and team for all you do safely serving students every day. May you continue the journey of success with pride.

What a great accomplishment. 75 years is a long time in business. Glad it's continuing in the family, sir.

Monte McNaughton  
MPP- Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

Wow...75 years. Congratulations on 75 years of School Transportation.

Thanks for keeping our kids safe, and for continuing to be a leader in the industry.

John Grochot,  
Transportation Compliance Program Administrator Provincial and Demonstration School Branch

"On behalf of Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services, we would like to congratulate the Murphy Family on 75 years of busing in our service area. Thank you for your years of outstanding customer service and your continued commitment to student safety. Wishing you continued success in the years ahead!"

Ryan Readings  
Interim Chief Administrative Officer  
Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services

On behalf of Service de transport Francobus, I want to congratulate the Murphy family on 75 years of business. This is a great accomplishment, félicitations!

Nancy Bouchard  
Directrice/Director, Service de transport Francobus

On behalf of the entire team at Huron Perth Student Transportation we want to congratulate you on your 75th anniversary in business. That is quite an achievement. Your commitment to the students and their families in our communities is outstanding! We wish you all the success for many more years. From the Team at HPSTS

Janice White  
General Manager, Huron-Perth Student Transportation Services

On behalf of School Bus Ontario (SBO), I'd like to extend congratulations to Murphy Bus Lines on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. School busing is so important to the overall education of students by ensuring they get to and from school safely every day. –

Nancy Daigneault,  
Executive Director, School Bus Ontario.



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Thank you for sharing in the story of  
Murphy Bus Lines and being apart of our family  
We Hope you enjoyed this magazine.

Rob Murphy  
Kyle Murphy  
Michelle Murphy-Bukala



# MURPHY

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