**15520, William Verity**

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Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome our staff, customers, and vendors here tonight to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Crown Verity. We have a proud heritage that goes back more than 100 years. It is my honor and privilege to tell you about our illustrious history. Later, my esteemed colleague will talk to about our future.

From the very beginning, when we were called W. H. Verity and Son, we established a reputation for being a catalyst for providing high quality contemporary products in markets throughout North America. In 1892, we relocated to Brantford and changed our name to Verity Plow Co., and produced cultivating equipment and plows. Here we worked hard and earned a nation-wide reputation for integrity and exceptional customer service.

Any company that stays in business a long time will at some point experience great challenges. In 1897 Verity Plow Co. suffered a fire that destroyed most of the company. But, our leaders at the time refused to bow to that tragedy. They rebuilt and continued to grow and eventually expanded to 700 employees. Later, in 1910 the owners incorporated Crown Electrical Manufacturing Company. They were the first company in Canada to manufacture lighting fixtures, fireplace assemblies, portable lamps and brass art ware. Their success over the next 25 years built a country-wide reputation for quality and workmanship and they experienced great sales and rapid growth.

Life continues to throw challenges at us though, and when the Great Depression hit Crown Electrical Manufacture Company was forced into bankruptcy. Determined as ever not to fail, a group of local men using the name Crown Electrical Manufacturing, LLC obtained a new charter with P.E. Verity as their president. Despite the new start the struggling economy continued to trouble the new company.

Just as life throws challenges it also offers opportunities. After the end of the Great Depression, the world threw the company into a different direction with the coming of the Second World War. So, the company decided to roll with the changes in the needs of their customers. To continue to operate they began building component parts for Mosquito aircraft. Then, changing with the times again, after the war they returned to manufacturing lamps and fixtures for markets all across America.

As the needs of the country continued to change, in 1951 the company, now named Crown Electrical decided to diversify and became a distributor of commercial restaurant appliances. The company continued successfully for another 25 years, then in 1974 I began working there for my father Jack. That was a great learning experience. After examining several commercial restaurant grills I believed I could improve upon them.

I am proud to say that my ideas proved successful, and in 1991 my wife and I launched Crown Verity and introduced a state-of-the-art commercial barbeque. Today we still provide superior portable grills and accessories to food service professionals. Just last year I was proud to name Andy Incitti as the new President of Crown Verity. The market always pushes us to move forward, innovate new ideas and expand our product line. In light of that we manufacture barbecue grills, patio heaters and portable sinks. In every product we emphasize versatility and portability so that we can enable the brilliance of both professional and amateur chefs to shine anywhere.

We have had a great first 25 years and I want to thank our staff, our customers and our vendors for the success that we have enjoyed. It takes a team to accomplish that, and we have made a great team. I believe we can look forward to another successful 25 years in our future. Please take tonight and enjoy the celebration of our past, and then look forward to a great future.

Thank you Everyone