

For Immediate Release

Catastrophic Loss Leads to Forensic Appraisal

An Ontario shop owner was devastated when fire destroyed his business, O'Grady Garage in Eganville. As Pat O'Grady says, "the nightmare had only begun" when the fire was extinguished. Though Pat was insured, he had no appraisal on his tools and equipment, nor did he have any way to prove what he had owned.

Starting from memory on a garage that had been built 54 years previously was a Herculean task. He had been working at it for two or three months when Benson's Auto Parts got wind of what was going on. They told Pat, "You're crazy to do it that way. We need to get some help for you."

They called up Tool Inventory and Appraisal Systems (TIAS). While TIAS normally deal with existing shops and tools, owner Tony Auchincloss stepped in to perform his first forensic tool appraisal.

Tony met with Pat and Helen O'Grady at their kitchen table. After looking at the list that they had compiled from memory, Tony set it aside and they started from scratch. They spent nine hours compiling a list based on Tony's experience of what would be needed in their shop to tweak Pat's memory. "I was amazed at what I had forgotten on my original list," Pat states.

Then Tony asked if they had any work orders. Their saving grace – the office was located next door to the shop in their home. With the okay of the insurance adjuster, Tony started rebuilding the inventory from work orders.

"What I had to do was use the work orders to prove that he required the tools on the list we had created in order to complete the work on the work orders." It took about two half weeks of nine hour days to establish the proof of inventory.

This third party proof was what was needed – after completing the list Pat was paid by the insurance adjuster in just two weeks.

Pat has since opened his new shop and has a complete appraisal completed by TIAS on his new equipment with pictures and videos included. This report is stored offsite and online so he never has to go through this again.

Pat's advice – "If you haven't done it yet, you had better get your butts out there and get it appraised and check that you are insured right!"

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