

# Garage changes hands

by **Amanda Smith-Millar**

Press Staff

REIDS MILLS — C&M Garage, the business that has long-served motorists needing maintenance and repairs, has just received a makeover — specifically, a new pair of owners and a new name.

Now called Berends Automotive, the garage located south of Osgoode on County Rd. 25 has been bought by Jason Berends and his fiancée, Robin White.

Berends has been working at the shop for seven years, the last two of which were part-time. He recently completed an apprenticeship at Algonquin College.

The couple plan to get married in August. They have already moved into the small house beside Berends Automotive.

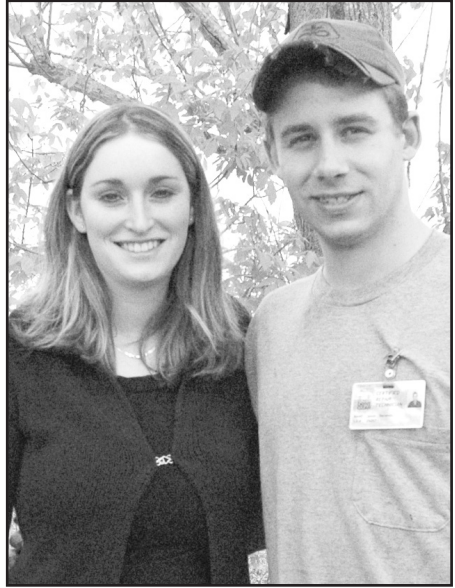
“I always wanted to be a mechanic and own my own business,” said Berends.

The couple recently bought the business from Berends’ uncle, Carl Berends. The younger Berends said Carl plans to stick around.

“He’s going to stay part-time,” the new entrepreneur said. “He just wanted to slow down, and I was ready to take over,” he adds with a laugh.

Berends said he feels fortunate that the garage sees a constant stream of business. Traffic on County Rd. 25 combined with word-of-mouth advertising keeps the shop hopping. Not only do local customers drop by, said Berends, but people drive out from Ottawa as well.

As for a specialty? Berends said his business doesn’t have one. They do everything from emission tests to repairs and maintenance. They said they work not only on cars but on lawn equipment, tractors, and motor homes.



## **New ownership**

*Jason Berends and his fiancée Robin White are the new co-owners of Berends Automotive, previously called C&M Garage. The couple recently bought the business from Berends’ uncle, Carl Berends.*

*Press Photo — Smith-Millar*

“We specialize in everything, I guess you could say,” said Berends.

Berends said the company is just gearing up for the busy season. Most people come in from April to Christmas.

“I think people are paying for bills at Christmas time,” said Berends, who guessed other expenses take priority in the early winter before doing maintenance work on the cars.

Do they have any plans for expansion?

“If we stay really busy like this, we might,” said Berends. “You always want to change a few things to make it your own.”