

Lyle Yorke – A lot of changes in the past 10 years

By Maurice Rees

When Lyle Yorke was honoured on the 40th anniversary of being a leading business owner in Parrsboro he was 70 and past what most people consider as retirement time. Now a decade later on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of his business, he is still going strong, will be 80 next April and has no desire to stop.

Sure there have been changes in business, Main Street Parrsboro has undergone significant changes with many of the older long established businesses gone, some vacant buildings, yet there are four new businesses on Main Street in the past year.

At House of Yorke, there have been changes. He no longer handles floor covering, which historically had been a major part of the business. With the advent of laminate,

stick on tiles, and other new products, big box stores, and customer desires to have professional installation services included, Lyle deleted floor coverings from his product list nearly 8 years ago.

Daughter, Debbie, came on board approximately six years ago, and is destined to take over the business when Lyle figures it's time to take his charming smile home and stay there. Working and serving the needs of customers has been his way of life since he started at Cadman Jewellery Factory in Tillisonburg, Ontario in 1952. So don't expect Lyle to look for a lifestyle change soon. Even though he will be 80 next April it's still fun and enjoyable and he enjoys nothing better.

The 21st Century version of House of Yorke Furnishings focuses on products from

four main suppliers which includes a large selection of furniture, Frigidaire refrigerators, washer and dryers and MacGregor mattresses, box springs and sleep products. Another big line is Crosley Enterprise Fawcett chest freezers, and the Maritime famous Enterprise Fawcett Heating products including wood ranges, camp stoves, and oil and wood furnaces.

Kitchen and living room furniture is supplied by C.A. Munro Limited, who have been a Maritime fixture since 1910. Products include sofa, chairs, recliners, rocker recliners and solid wood table sets.

Another big part of the business is appliance repair, and Lyle claims when customers purchase a new appliance, it's installed ready to be used before he finishes his delivery.

Lyle Yorke – Great Future for Parrsboro

By Maurice Rees

Even though Parrsboro has suffered many of the same problems as small-town Nova Scotia, Lyle Yorke sees a great future for Parrsboro. He sees more people moving back purchasing older properties, fixing them up to serve their needs in retirement years.

His many years as Parrsboro Town Councillor, which ended nearly four years ago, a member of the Board of Trade since starting in business 50 years ago; many years of volunteer service in all positions at Central Nova Tourism Association (CNTA), and thousands of hours of volunteering to community groups, give Lyle a broad view of life in Parrsboro.

Parrsboro Arena - when a service club decided not to proceed with construction

of the area, Lyle spearheaded an effort with the help of many business owners and community minded citizens to kick-start construction. He was instrumental in getting steel beams from Amherst, arranging payment over time, then persuading local residents to purchase one of the beams. Then he persuaded the province to provide significant funding.

He continued his effort until construction was complete. Then he volunteered full time for two years making ice and running the facility in addition to running his business and being husband, father and grandfather.

Tourism: Lyle says it's a tough competition market, but Parrsboro has a great future in tourism. There are lots of world class assets, like no where's else: fossils, the Fundy Geological Museum, the UNESCO designation for the fossil centre in Joggins and the sheer beauty of the Parrsboro shore. "There are a lot of good operators here, they just need to stick with it and they will win", he claims.

Tidal Power: Lyle sees the interest in Tidal Power and the large investment being made into the Tidal Power Research and Demonstration facility as being a big asset for the

Parrsboro area. It is pumping money into the local construction and building trades sector, it is putting Parrsboro on the map for tidal power research, and the demonstration facility, which will officially open later this year, will be another tourist attraction.

7 Wonders of the World: The Bay of Fundy withstood the challenge from 441 world sites to make it into the semi-final list of 28 world sites vying to become one of the 7 Wonders of the World. Voting continues until November 11, 2011, at which time the final seven will be announced. Even the recognition of making it to the top 28 sites has been beneficial for areas touching the Bay of Fundy. Lyle figures if they can make it to the final selection in about two weeks time that will be the caveat, which will make it all happen.

"If the Bay of Fundy gets the final nod, it bodes well for the Parrsboro area. At that time the hard work will begin to live up to the reputation which has been placed upon us", he says.

Don't worry Lyle plans on being active in business to see some of the rewards give Parrsboro the prominence it once enjoyed.

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