

Foxboro Fabrics

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Foxboro Fabrics as it appears today.

weren't going out to business and they were at home sewing. People are not sewing as much now."

Today, many women are interested more in crafting and quilting. Unlike sewing clothing, which Saunders considers an isolated activity, craft work can be done on the couch with the family nearby.

However, Saunders sees the trend is slowly starting to reverse itself.

"We have sewing classes and we have waiting lists."

Today, Foxboro Fabrics offers its own classes and, for the past three years, has been affiliated with Loyalist College. As well, Saunders is heavily involved with sewing uniforms for fraternal organizations.

"Up until (Roy) got sick — he was sick for nine years — it was fun. We got a lot of laughs and had a lot of laughs with our customers too. People in business have to realize it's work but you have to enjoy it."

Roy died a little over a year ago, and Saunders continues to run the store herself.

After 31 years of expanding the business, Saunders, who will be 70 in January, has

learned to react to changes in market tastes, in the value of the Canadian dollar, and even to natural disasters that affect prices — such as flooding in the cotton belt in the United States and the earthquake in the manufacturing section in Japan.

"I'm a creative person. I studied art history in Italy and music. On three different occasions I was asked to be translator at the International Fashion Show. Maybe unknowingly there was a seed planted."

Whatever it was, for 31 years Foxboro Fabrics has been a favorite of fabric buyers and, like the old barbershops, for those who just want to hang out.