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Chris Wilson is a product manager with Varian Canada Inc. He started with the company as an engineer on the production floor but his duties now include sales and marketing. Product managers are on the front lines, talking regularly with Varian's customers. (Herald photo).



NEW DESIGNS - It's the job of Varian employee Paul Kubinec to help his department maintain the building, the building when additions or space re-locations are property and equipment. He's in the plant engineering

'There's an emphasis on people at Varian'

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The office next door belongs to Jim Fallow, the production manager for travelling wave tubes. He has a staff of 36 and works closely with the production engineering manager, Mr. Spiller.

The main function of his department is to manufacture travelling wave tubes (TWT). Some of the biggest customers for the TWT products are AT and T in the United States and Bell Canada along with other members of Telecom Canada.

Mr. Fallow has worked with the company for 29 years. He attended Georgetown District High School and went on to school at Tyersan Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. Mr. Fallow joined Varian three years after the company started in Georgetown.

"The length of time I've spent here speaks for itself in terms of what I think about the company." As a manager, he has the freedom to

run his own area, although there are targets to be met, he said.

There's an emphasis on people at Varian, Mr. Fallow said. Mr. Spiller agrees. "There's a great bunch of people here," he said.

Betty Kristy was born and raised in Mississauga and went to school there. It was on Valentine's Day seven years ago when she first started working for Varian in Georgetown. Ms. Kristy started as a switchboard receptionist but her duties have expanded since then.

She handles physical security by monitoring two television cameras, is familiar with various emergency procedures and controls all entrances and exits from the building.

All visitors must sign in and she gives them a temporary badge to wear. Name and photo badges are mandatory for full-time employees.

There are 250 active extension numbers for the receptionist to handle, but after seven years Ms. Kristy

takes it all in stride, she said. She and her partner Cindy Paulin also handle a telex machine which receives and sends out information each day.

Ms. Kristy is also president of the Recreation Club at Varian. In her third year as president, she has a \$20,000 budget to work with. The money comes from both employees and donations by the company, she said.

Some of the events planned are bus trips to a dinner theatre, an annual curling bonspiel, monkey golf, a company picnic (for 450 people), Blue Jay Games, trips to the Orangeville Raceway and Wonderland.

Other events include a children's Christmas Party with free gifts for all the children, plus an adult Christmas Party (for 450 people). "Every year we add more events. It's a lot of work and a challenge, but someone's got to do it," she said.

Some of the events are planned on her own time, but Varian has been very supportive with her duties planning recreational programs, she said.

Jeanette Hancock is the Receiving Inspection Supervisor. She has worked for Varian for the past 10 years. Her department receives and inspects parts from vendors. Each part has to be checked out for quality before it is manufactured into a Varian product.

There are seven employees in the department. This includes a master inspector named Ted Kurys, who has a wide range of qualifications and skills.

A variety of tools are used to check for defects, measuring dimensions and so forth. If a part fails inspection, a report is sent to the appropriate engineer, who makes a decision if the part should be sent back to the vendor.

Mrs. Hancock was born and raised

in Georgetown on Normandy Boulevard. She is married and lives in Glen Williams and has four children, two of them now married.

Her daughter Tammy also works at Varian as a secretary for the materials department.

"This is a real good company to work for," she said. The benefits are good and people are proud of working for Varian and the company is well organized, she said. "My first thought when I started working here was how clean it is here, like a hospital," she said. "It's a family-type atmosphere here and they (management) really do care."

Simon Willis is a technician in the production engineering department. A seven year employee with Varian, he builds and maintains test equipment for the production lines, particularly power supply products. He also tests circuit boards and final product.

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