

Cozens Machine and Tool Works

Watch out for Shadow when you visit tool maker George



George Cozens, owner of Cozens Machine and Tool Works has been in Georgetown for over 20 years. His shop, located on Armstrong Ave.,

specializes in custom machinery and repairs. (Photo by Mary-Liz Shaw).

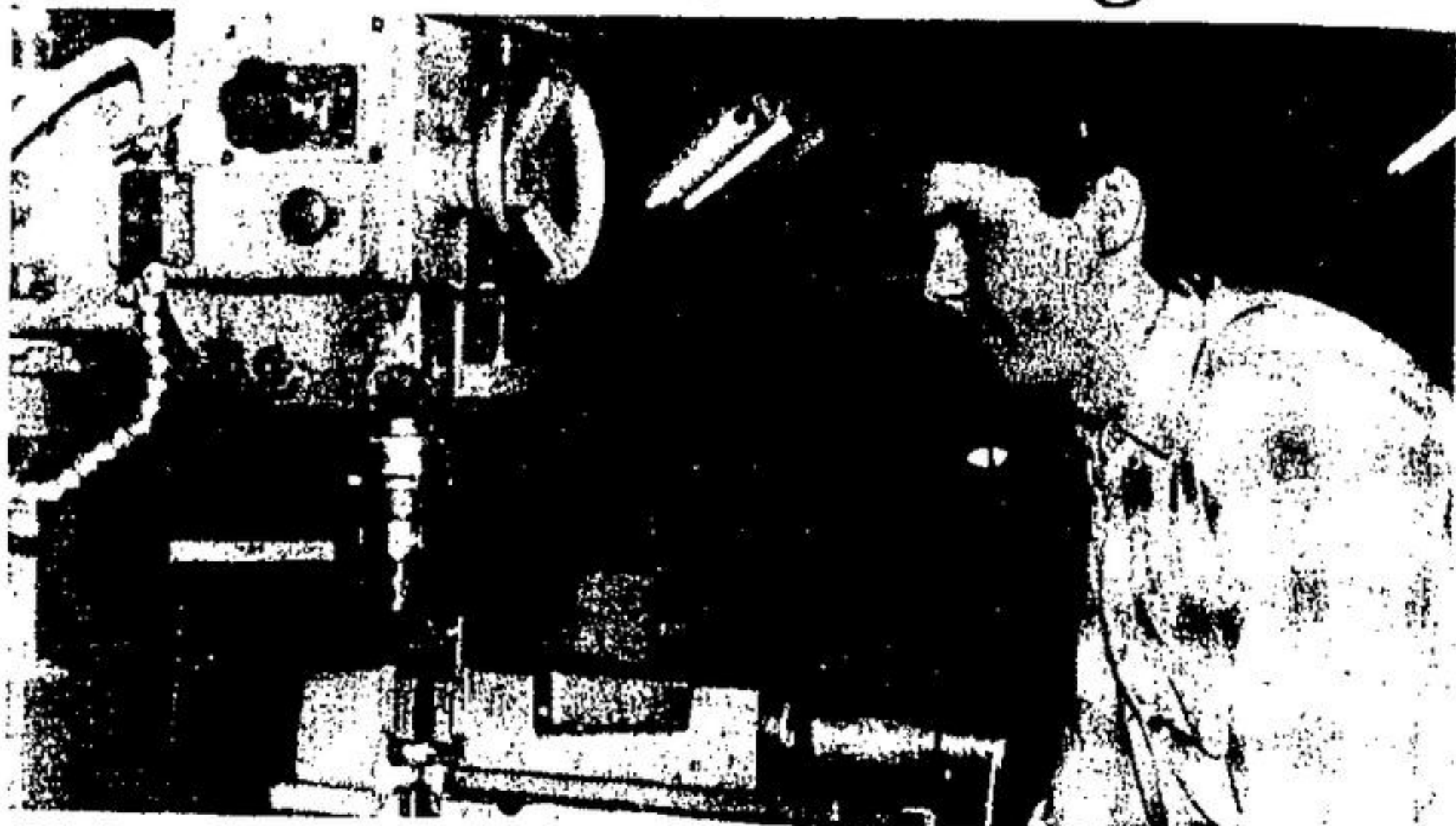
The first thing you see when you walk into Cozens Machine and Tool Works on Armstrong Ave. is an eight-year-old Doberman pinscher named Shadow. The next is the smiling face of George Cozens.

"Don't worry," he said. "She won't hurt you. She keeps away the vandals."

When George Cozens arrived in Canada 23 years ago, he settled in Georgetown because he said it was just as he had imagined Canada to be. Now, the 51-year-old toolmaker originally from London, England, is still pleased with his adopted home. He recently took his Canadian citizenship.

"I went to Hamilton for about one week but I found it rather dirty," Mr. Cozens said. "When I saw Georgetown I decided to stay."

Mr. Cozens apprenticed in London but he found the large city confining. By 1975, Mr. Cozens was comfortable enough in Georgetown to open his own business which specializes in custom machine making and repair.



Chris Cozens of Cozens Machine and Tool Works leans over his work on the drill press. (Photo by Mary-Liz Shaw).

Although his business has steadily increased since he first began 12 years ago, Mr. Cozens said the past fiscal year has brought him greater prosperity compared with the past two to three years.

"The dollar is worth more and interest rates are down; people are willing to spend," he said. "But we were just barely scraping by in '83, '84 and '85."

Mr. Cozens' clients span the country. Last year some of his machinery went into slide tracks for children's games at Expo '86 in Vancouver. He has also made machines for the winter games in Cape Breton this year.

Perhaps his most unique achievement is the sock-turner, a machine George invented for the sock-making industry. The sock-turner turns newly-woven socks inside out automatically to enable operators to sew up the toes.

"It duplicates what your hand would do," Mr. Cozens said. "Sock machine operators were wasting a lot of time turning socks inside out to sew them up and then turning them right side out again."

George also made the first prototype mold for the Brushette toothbrush, a portable toothbrush and toothpaste kit. The brushes are now sold widely in drug and department stores.

The largest machine Mr. Cozens has made is a dootang maker which, when finished, completely filled his 2400-square foot shop.

Mr. Cozens and his son Chris have been at their Armstrong Ave. location for two years. Although he is hoping his business will continue to grow, Mr. Cozens said he is not planning to expand in the immediate future. Most of his advertising, he added, is through word-of-mouth.

"I like it here. People are just beginning to know where I am and we can deal with the customer comfortably. I don't think I'll ever leave Georgetown."

Town looking forward to sod turning this year

Finishing up paper work so projects can proceed seems to have been the name of the game in 1986 and sod turning will hopefully be the characteristic for 1987.

Speaking on behalf of council, acting mayor Rick Bonnette listed achieving fair market value and equalized assessment after years of inequity from regionalization as the town's first achievement.

The second step forward was getting council, after 14 years of discussion, to finally agree on the need for a new administration building. The site was reaffirmed, a budget established and recently an architect was hired.

After 20 years the Enterac development south of Georgetown is almost completed. That project, when it begins, will be the first major growth in the community since the formation of Halton Hills in 1974.

"As I said in council last night, nothing seems to come easy in this town," Coun. Bonnette joked, referring to the delays that have characterized so many municipal projects.

The town produced a brochure to help attract new business and industry to Halton Hills and hired a new town clerk in 1986.

"We finally established a LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) - again after many years," he said, "and, of course, we can't forget that after 14 years we will finally see some development in Acton. In the next year we should see almost 140 new homes built here."

A new emergency communication centre was set up and building the boat house on Fairy Lake added some sparkle to that area of town.

The major disaster for the town was the closing of Beardmore Tannery in September after more than a century of operation in Acton. It lopped the list for lost jobs, family disruptions and some damage to other businesses, Coun. Bonnette said. It also cost the town quite a bit of assessment when it closed.

All future sales of the property seem to be deferred indefinitely pending some answers from the Ministry of Environment, so no one knows when they may eventually happen.

"It could be a short term disaster that turns out to have long term gain," Coun. Bonnette said. "No one knows what silver lining could still come out of that cloud and most people seem to have managed to re-adjust somehow."

"If everything goes well I expect 1987 could be termed the year of the sod turnings," he said. "We look for that with projects from Enterac (Georgetown south), Danville, Cedarville and Civiore (Acton) and Meagan (Glen Williams), and then there's the new administration centre too."

At the regional level, Coun. Bonnette, who is Acton's regional councillor, hopes to see a solution to Halton's landfill problems. He feels council should make a clear choice on a preferred site before it goes to the environmental hearings. Even though it may seem as if tremendous sums have been wasted for councillors' reports, at least now councillors have some logical, rather than parochial, base for that choice. Such would not have been the case some years ago and the result will probably benefit the town of Milton.

The question of what will happen with arenas in the town will also require solving in 1987. Without trying to pre-judge the outcome of the current arena study, Coun. Bonnette said, council will have to decide on building one or two arenas, or just refurbishing some to last another 10 to 15 years.

"Considering we have so many new councillors, (seven of 12), we've managed to accomplish almost as much in this past year as we did in my whole first term," he said.

Coun. Bonnette is the mayor's designate for December and was speaking for Mayor Huss Miller while Mayor Miller is recuperating from serious surgery.

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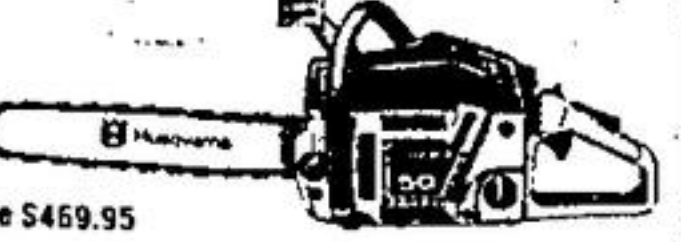
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