Business



Tom Kase - new Georgetown Canadian Tire owner

New owner plans improvements

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT The Herald

Big changes will soon take place at Canadian Tire in Georgetown and heading those changes is the store's new owner from Saskatchewan, Tom Kase.

Mr. Kase took over ownership of the store Jan. 6 when he arrived in Georgetown from Estevan, Sask., where he had owned a Canadian Tire for seven years. He took ownership of the Georgetown store from Murray Lawton, who ran the business for 20 years, Mr. Lawton is now the owner of the St. Catharines Canadian Tire.

One of the first business

challenges Mr. Kase will oversee is the construction of a new addition to the store. Construction will start in July and should increase the store's retail space by 70 per cent, said Mr. Kase.

He also plans to provide better customer service. "My strength in Saskatchewan was the customer service my store offered," he said in an interview at the store. "I'll be training staff to provide the kind of service our customers expect and deserve."

"I've got a lot of work to do here," he continued. "We want to offer customers the right merchandise mix at the right time in a pleasant environment."

The environment and countryside in Ontario and especially Georgetown is something Mr. Kase certainly finds pleasant.

"It's a gorgeous area," he said. "What I find .unique about this area is the trees and the birds that some with them. Geographically speaking, this really is God's country."

Mr. Kase has purchased a home in Georgetown where he, his wife and their two boys, aged 14 and 16 will live.

Also new to the Canadian Tire store will be Scott Steep from Waterloo who will take over the position of general manager and Tracey Foster who will be the store's new assistant manager.

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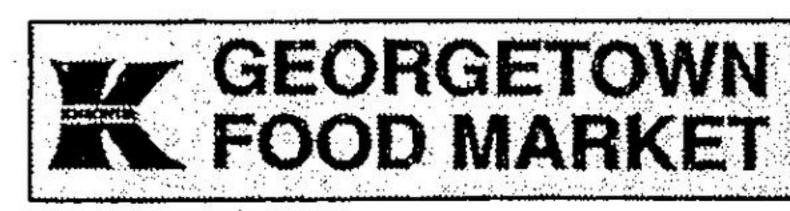
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