### BERGSMA'S GEORGETOWN STORE **CLOSES AFTER 5 DECADES**

**MELANIE HENNESSEY** 

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After more than half a century serving local residents, Bergsma's Paint and Décor in Georgetown has shut its doors.

The family business in the Georgetown Market Place marked its last day on August 3 as manager Yvonne Bergsma prepares to switch gears and offer her interior decorating services on a mobile basis with in-home consultations.

"There were definitely many factors that went into making this decision," she said, noting the trend for people to do more online shopping now was among the considerations. "A lot of my customers are sad because they like to come in and see and feel our products, but we need to change with the times."

The name Bergsma has become synonymous with paint and home decorating in north Halton. The first store, called the Georgetown Decorating Centre, was opened in the downtown core in April 1968 by Yvonne's father, George Bergsma.

A few years later, the business expanded to a larger location on Main Street, with the name ultimately changing to Bergsma's Paint and Wallpaper to better reflect the services offered.

Bergsma's was one of the original stores in the Georgetown Market Place, joining the shopping centre decades ago when it was just a strip plaza.

Over the years, George and wife Shirley's five children have all worked at the family business, with some grandchildren joining the ranks as well.

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Melanie Hennessey/Torstar

Bergsma's Paint and Decor founder George Bergsma with daughter Yvonne, the Georgetown store's manager.

Bergsma's Paint and Décor store in downtown Milton, operated by son Jeff, will remain open.

For George, who still frequents the Georgetown store today, the closure is bittersweet.

'We've done this for over 50 years, so it's going to be quite a change," he said. "But I think Georgetown is ready for the mobile business."

Yvonne extended her gratitude to local residents for their 51 years of supporting the retail Address: Georgetown (mobile business) Email: yvonne@bergsmas.ca Website: www.bergsmas.ca

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chapter of the family venture.

"We look forward to many more years of serving our customers in this new way," she said.

Bergsma's has partnered with Floor Diva in Georgetown to continue making the C2 Paint line that the store was known for.

For more information visit bergsmas.ca.



By Cory Soal

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