

Milton • Means Business



Studio CI vice-president Stephen Anderson shows a portable USB drive, which stores a company's hard copy emergency plans.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Firm keeps vital info safe in case of disaster

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

It's ironic that many corporations' disaster recovery plans wouldn't be accessible should a disaster arise.

Studio CI is a Milton-based company that might be the first to not just recognize the irony, but do something about it through its Compact Disaster Recovery service.

Stephen Anderson, vice-president of Studio CI, is used to corporate executives looking puzzled when he asks them how their recovery plans — information such as procedures and emergency contacts — could be accessed if a fire rav-

aged the building or something like a massive black-out struck. Could the company survive? For how long?

"Businesses are big on disaster recovery. They put time and money into it. But once it's done, there's no access if there's a fire (or other emergency)," said Mr. Anderson, a licenced private investigator.

Compact Disaster Recovery is a new service that takes hard copies of important information — information vital to the company's survival in any emergency — and puts it onto a CD or USB drive. A copy is stored off site at Studio CI's highly-secured location.

"To get in, it needs your finger print and an access code," Mr. Anderson said. "A company's

information is safe here."

The service has been available for the past six months.

In addition to being able to access information from anywhere at any time, Compact Disaster Recovery offers its clients access to its facility to meet, should it be required, complete with laptops and other technology.

That's not the only emergency service that's provided. If a fire does break out, an arson-trained security officer is sent within two hours.

"Once the fire department is done, they leave the site unprotected," Mr. Anderson said, adding that means people can loot the facility or the arsonist can try to cover his tracks.

This won't happen with trained security offi-

cers on duty, he said.

The security officers can also help police with crowd and traffic control.

An example of when the service would've been invaluable was after the first World Trade Centre bombing (not 9/11). Mr. Anderson said many companies shut down because they couldn't function outside their normal location.

"If a building is a disaster, it (the business) needs to get up and running as soon as possible."

Sometimes people question why the information isn't simply put on the Internet, where it could also be viewed from anywhere. The answer is it's then susceptible to hackers, Mr. Anderson said.

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