

Warehouse home-building doesn't work out for Mattamy

By Tim Foran
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Henry Ford, the automobile visionary who spurred the growth of assembly line production of cars, once remarked that an American could have any Ford in any colour he liked, as long as it was black.

Unfortunately for Mattamy Homes, which has attempted the past two years to build whole houses on an assembly line inside a massive warehouse in Milton, the company didn't stick to Ford's simple message.

"It was the reds and greens and yellows that killed us," said Peter Gilgan, the CEO of Oakville-based Mattamy, Canada's largest

new homebuilder.

Gilgan said Mattamy has closed its 78,000-square-foot Stelumar warehouse in Milton, in which 120 employees once assembled houses in 10 days, from roof to chandelier, and then transported them to a nearby subdivision. And with the closing goes the company's much celebrated experiment with assembly line homebuilding.

"We just threw in the towel," said Gilgan. "We got tired of losing money at it."

The problem was the company's insistence on building homes with the same size and features as those assembled at a construction site, said Gilgan.

"We found it to be — whole home con-
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Koso volunteers at Maplehurst

• from MILTON on page A3

"I really felt this was an opportunity for me to step up and give back to the community," said Koso, after the board of trustees approved his appointment Tuesday night.

Although he grew up in Winnipeg, Koso's family was originally from Yugoslavia, where religious education wasn't available and he said that makes him particularly appreciative of the opportunity to have his children educated as Catholics.

"We have the privilege of having faith as part of our education," he said. "I felt this was something special when I came here."

He said he brings a strong understanding of educational issues to the board, as well as an appreciation for the drive and enthusiasm of young people gleaned through working in a university setting.

He added that his experience working with students from around the world may also be useful as Milton becomes an increasingly multicultural community.

Along with serving on the Pastoral Advisory Council and as a eucharistic minister at Holy Rosary Church, Koso also volunteers for Catholic Services at the Maplehurst Correctional Complex.

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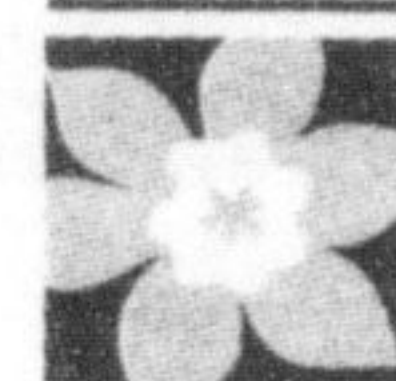
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