## ESSEX BUSINESS

## **Essex Home Furniture co-owner retiring**

BY DANIEL SCHWAB

Philip Fynbo learned everything he knows about running a Home Hardware business from his parents.

The couple, Ib and Clemence Fynbo, worked at the store, now located on Wilson Street in Essex, from 1978 until 2003.

When Philip was old enough, his parents taught him the tricks of the trade, guiding him into the business with their knowledge and experience.

"I would come up with an idea for the business and my dad would perfect it," said Philip, Home Hardware's new manager. "My mother would help to realize how the idea would work manpower wise, space wise and money wise. Both my parents had their own unique strengths and, together, they made a pretty good team."

Now, one-half of that team is retiring.

"We don't have a definite date yet," Clemence said of her own retirement.

But once Essex Home Furniture is sold to new owners or managers, the Quebec-born mother of two will be calling it quits.

Three years ago the couple purchased a location for Essex Home Furniture, which was nothing but an empty building at the time. Now, the business offers gifts, bedroom and living room sets, rugs, mirrors and accessories.

"I've had enough of work. I'd like to spend time with my husband," she said.

Ib, who retired a yearand-a-half ago, says the time is due for his wife to retire.

"She has worked long, hard and intelligently. I know I will enjoy being with her everyday and not just



Clemence Fynbo, left, stands with husband lb at the couple's Essex Home Furniture business Sept. 7. Clemence is planning to retire after nearly 30 years in the Home Hardware business to spend more time with her husband and grandchildren.

working."

Clemence is excited about retiring and says she'll

spend her time being a "nana" to her five grandchildren.

## WARDEN SALARY

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"I think there has to be some level of fair compensation because it's not how it used to be; it's more like being the mayor of a city," LaSalle Deputy Mayor Bill Varga said about the \$44,000 salary suggestion. "... This will take four years out of his life. I don't think this is fair compensation."

The group acknowledged the increasing amount of work that has been required of the county warden in recent years, and expects the workload to increase further as plans for a new border crossing continue.

"Let's face it, we all know our region is going to get busier," Raymond said.

The council passed several recommendations of the committee, including an increase in the salary of the deputy warden, a base salary for councillors of \$3,000 and an increase in the amount of

compensation for meeting attendance from \$75 to \$100.

It chose not to follow the committee's recommendation that an annual report of meeting attendance and compensation for each councillor be published in all local newspapers by March 31 of the following year.

"This is beyond what we've asked this committee to do," said Leamington Deputy Mayor Robert Schmidt. "And, this information is already available."

Paul Hertel, chairman of the remuneration review committee, said after the meeting that publishing a record of meeting attendance and compensation for meeting attendance is about accountability which was one of the mandates of the remuneration review.

"The one they voted down was the most interesting to me," Hertel said. "They didn't want a published record in the newspapers. The record was a sug-

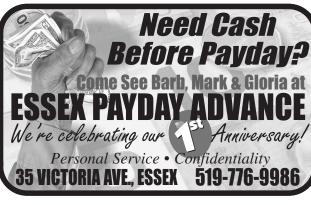
gestion to say councillors A, B and C did this. That was our thinking, that this was a way for the public to know what was spent. You have to be accountable for what you're doing and that should be public."

Hertel was pleased that the council voted to allow compensation for meeting attendance only for those who attended the meeting. Currently the policy allows members to receive the \$75 payment even if they are unable to attend.

"I don't see where we have an abuse," Tecumseh Deputy Mayor Tom Burton said.

"I can remember a certain gentleman we tried to get off county council for a while who missed too many meetings and he was out fishing," Lakeshore Deputy Mayor Tom Bain said.

"He shouldn't have been paid," said Amherstburg Mayor Wayne Hurst.







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