

Re-energizing the entrepreneurial spirit

BY ANDY COMBER

Just as minds and bodies sometimes need therapy to re-energize, so do businesses. That is the idea behind a new business service in Essex. "I am inventing the business therapy industry," said

> Paul Foster, founder of "The Business Therapist", a new business advisory service provided through the Paul

Foster C.A. Professional Corporation. "Many people are not

getting the results they want from their business," said Foster, noting that many entrepreneurs lose sight of their original dreams, vision and goals, both for

themselves and for their business.

"We provide the tools and resources to re-energize the entrepreneurial spirit," he said.

Foster compares a business to an orchestra, with the owner or manager much like the musicians, each knowing their instrument, but without the ability to direct everything like an orchestra's conductor.

"We teach them to be conductors," said Foster, who has adopted the image of a conductor as the logo for The Business Therapist.

"Our goal is to help entrepreneurs achieve the quality of life, growth and stability they desire and deserve."

The Business Therapist is affiliated with RAN ONE, a global network of professional service firms, providing proven business building strategies and ideas.

Business therapy can be provided by attending a series of "Business Getting Results" (BGR) seminars, or through an appointment for one-on-one consulting sessions.

June 26 marks the first of the six monthly BGR seminars, "The 4 Ways to Grow your Business", with others focusing on visioning, business differentiation, and managing cash flow.

"With visioning, we help business owners clarify what their vision for the business is," said Foster, who will be assisted in the seminars by two business advisors, Grace Flood and Heidi Farough.

"We'll show how to win new customers, keep customers coming back and improve the business process in a simple and convenient way," Foster said.

"The ultimate goal is to grow your business, increase your profits and create a business that works for you."

In November, the seminar will cover the use of SWOT analysis, a proven business building method that explores the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats affecting business.

SWOT analysis involves specifying the objective of the business and identifying the internal and external factors that are favourable and unfavourable to achieving that objective. "It is 100 per cent guaran-

teed," Foster said, "If you are not happy, you don't pay."

For more information, call The Business Therapist at 519-776-4869 or visit the website at www.thebusinesstherapist.com.

Summer **Art Walk**

The Kingsville Business Improvement Association will be hosting a monthly Summer Art Walk starting June 29.

Fifteen or more local and international artists will display their works and provide visitors with an experience they'll be able to repeat from 5 to 8 p.m. on the last Friday of each month from June to September.

Visitors will be able to walk from business to business, enjoying the art show and a night on the town.

For more information, contact the Kingsville BIA at 519-733-6250.

Home Furniture adds new outdoor living centre

With the addition of new manager Scott McCullough, Home Furniture is taking things up to a whole new level.

deserve.

McCullough, who lives in Essex, joined the staff just in time for the opening of a new 500-square-foot outdoor living centre, which features a variety of durable wooden tables, loveseats, cushioned patio sets, rocking chairs and coffee tables. "We're growing," McCullough said. "We've got more merchandise, more product lines, more advertising. We're moving for-

ward." McCullough said his role with the business is to let shoppers know Home

Furniture is thriving and here in Essex to stay. The outdoor living centre was the idea of Home Furniture owner Ib Fynbo, who said, "The time of just a picnic table is over."

"People want to sit on something better," said Fynbo, the 2006 Essex Citizen of the Year. "They want high quality, good looking furniture for their Florida room, gazebo, deck or patio."

The PVC chairs are durable, weather-resistant and can be kept outside vear-round.

Along with the Europeanstyle outdoor furniture sets, the living centre also offers decorative ivy and Italian paintings.

Fynbo said he plans to substantially expand the outdoor furniture centre in the future.

It's a sign that Home Furniture is continuing to grow as a business while offering customers affordable, high quality products, Fynbo said.







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