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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Gerry Denyer who celebrated his 82nd birthday on January 15th. Born in Red Hill, Sussex, England, Gerry has 1 son and 4 grandchildren. Happy Birthday Gerry!

If you would like to nominate someone for Senior of the Week, Contact us at 519-282-9595 (Phone) or 519-284-0042 (Fax), or info@exeterexaminer.com.

Exeter Examiner

In addition to home delivery, please also look for copies of the Exeter Examiner at the following locations:

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Business of the Week

Hamilton's Machine Shop Ltd.

By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is your local destination for steel sales, Linde gas and welding supplies, and custom fabricating: Hamilton's Machine Shop Ltd., located at 261 Thames Road West in Exeter and owned by Ray Hamilton.

The shop celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, as Ray's father Laverne started the business back in 1965. At that time, it was located at 26 Nelson Street in Exeter, Ray recalls. "Dad bought that off an existing machine shop, Cecil-Murray in 1965," he said. "He had worked for them for a few years. They ran it probably right from the blacksmith days until then."

Ray said he started working at the shop long before he entered high school out of a love for the trade. "I was involved pretty well all my life," he said. "I was either in the shop or wanting to be working in here. When I was a kid I would build go-carts and put motors on them, anything like that."

They built a new, bigger shop on the five-acre property at their current location and moved the business to Thames



Street West in 1984. Today, Ray works there with about four other employees and his wife Carol takes care of the shop's office.

Their many varied machines, including lathes, drill presses, grinders, cutting torches and more, make them a popular destination for farmers in need of machine repairs or fabricated prototypes, but they're also often outside the shop making service calls. "If factories are installing new machines, we go out and make sure they're put in right, or make stuff to fit the parts, so that they work out the way they want them," Ray said. Some of their returning commercial and industrial customers include Huron Motor Products, Northlander

Industries, Andex Metal Products Ltd., and Exeter Produce, he said.

Steel sales make up a substantial part of Hamilton's business, Ray said, but they also sell other items, including hardware (nuts, bolts, sprockets, bearings, casters, etc.) and mailboxes.

Things can change up from one day to the next at the machine shop, as one day they might be building a platform on the lake for a cottager, and the next they might be helping out on a film shoot.

"We can fabricate just about anything," he said. "It was quite a while ago, but we've even worked on a Disney movie production. They were doing a movie in Toronto and

they needed something to blow up the university down there, but not really blow it up. So we made some pyramid-shaped explosion boxes, so they could blow up that and give the appearance of the building disappearing.

"We'll work on anything and everything from boats to airplanes," he said.

Hamilton's Machine Shop Ltd. is open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday and 8:00 am to noon on Saturdays.

To contact the shop, call 519-235-1655 (or toll-free at 1-866-235-1655) or email hamiltons@hay.net. For more information, and to see photos of some of their custom work, visit them online at HamiltonsMachineShop.ca.



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