

## *Carpet and upholstery cleaning*

# Dixon's celebrates 50th anniversary

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**By Henry Bury**

**THE INTELLIGENCER**

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This is a special year for Kevin Dixon and the family business in Belleville.

Unfortunately, he's been too busy to celebrate a half century of doing business in the Quinte area.

"Maybe with a round of golf later this year, but not right now," he quipped.

Dixon owns Dixon's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning.

"We turned 50 years old as a company this year and it's rare for a company in the cleaning business to be around for a half century. Many companies come and

go," he said.

Dixon's father, John Dixon, started the business in 1952. Originally called Dixon's Rug Cleaning, the elder Dixon began by cleaning carpets by hand out of his home.

He eventually moved the operation into a shop on Highway 2 in Bayside. A fire destroyed the shop and Dixon relocated the business to Trenton.

The former Beaver Lumber custom designed the current business headquarters, at 107 Herchimer Ave., just south of Dundas Street East, and Dixon moved there in the mid-1970s.

Kevin Dixon has worked for the family business since he was 16 and took over officially as owner

two years ago.

"We're still in the same building on Herchimer Avenue. It has a high ceiling so that we can hang a 25-foot rug, special fans and heaters to dry the rugs, exhaust fans to remove humidity from inside the building and blowers to move the air inside the building," he said.

Half the family business is devoted to going into customers' homes to clean carpeting and upholstery. The other half is in-shop cleaning of fine wool rugs and area rugs.

"We are very proud of what we have been able to do and very appreciative of our customers who call us year after year," said Dixon.

# BUSINESS

For business coverage, contact reporter Henry Bury at 962-9171, ext. 223

*Third-generation operator of Dixon's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning*

## A family tradition

By Henry Bury

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Kevin Dixon grew up watching his dad and grandfather clean rugs by hand.

And when he was old enough, he joined them in the family business.

He's now the third generation family member to operate Dixon's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning.

The 40-year-old Dixon assumed control of the family business Jan. 1. He had managed the business, located at 107 Herchimer Ave., since 1993 after his father took an early retirement and moved to Markham.

"It's a new experience working for yourself," he said Monday. "You really realize the responsibility of ensuring the business does well. I have a family name to protect and therefore I have to make sure the work we do is the best."

Dixon's father, John, established the family business in 1952 and he said he believes it's the oldest existing carpet and upholstery cleaning operation between Kingston and Toronto.

"My father began by picking up rugs from people's homes, bringing them to his parent's house, cleaning them by hand with scrub brushes and shampoo and then delivering them back to the customers," Dixon said.

Dixon's grandfather, Ross, started working for the family business in the late 1960s.

The pair opened a small shop in Bayside shortly thereafter and brought rugs to that location to clean and dry. That's also when they started to use a rotary shampooer.

When the shop burned down, they rented some space on Dundas Street in Trenton.

They had their one-storey Herchimer Avenue shop specially built in the early 1970s to house their operation. The facility features a dry room at the rear where carpets up to 25 feet long can hang to dry.

Dixon said he "kind of walked into" the family business that now employs two full-time and three part-time workers.

He graduated from high school, was immediately offered a job and took it.



INTELLIGENCER PHOTO BY HENRY BURY

"It's a new experience working for yourself," says Dixon's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning owner Kevin Dixon.

"And I'm still here. But it's nice to be in control and the third generation of my family to be involved in this business," he said.

Besides picking up and cleaning area rugs, the firm's employees will clean carpets and upholstery in

clients' homes, bind carpets as well as supply and install fringes on carpets and complete some carpet repairs.

A large part of the family business is still devoted to installing carpets for other firms.