

Local jewellers looking forward to retirement



Dave and Lucille Burke, proprietors of Burkes Jewellers, are preparing for their retirement after operating their downtown Bancroft store for 54 years. SARAH VANCE Special to This Week

By Sarah Vance

Avid recreational motorcycle riders and proud grandparents to 10 children between the ages of two and 20, Dave and Lucille Burke are looking forward to devoting their retirement to family, while also exploring the open road on their bikes. "Now we're going to visit areas like Stratford and Michigan, where our children and their families are living," said Lucille.

The Burkes are the proprietors of Burkes Jewellers, which has operated for 54 years on Hastings Street in downtown Bancroft. "I worked in Pembroke up until 1959 and then in Killaloe," Dave said, "then came to Bancroft in 1962. And in all that time, we have never had a bad year of business in Bancroft."

Having learned the trade of watch repair and gold-smithing from his father, Dave's first local shop was located near the corner of Hastings and Bridge Street, in the building that is currently home to Jungle Imports.

In 1968, Dave initiated the progress that would see his business expanding to a new location, which he designed for the centre of downtown Bancroft, where the business is currently located.

Over the years, the storefront has become a focal point of the downtown, especially during holidays like Christmas. Creative window displays have made it a destination for shoppers, who came to this area just to see the seasonal themes.

Watch repair is an increasingly rare trade and up until a few years ago, the storefront featured an impressive outdoor clock, which served as a beautiful focal point for visitors to the downtown core.

"That clock was very close to our hearts but it required a lot of maintenance," said Dave. "In the winter, when the temperatures often drop below -30 degrees, it would freeze solid and then it would halt all together."

Lucille, who runs the front end of the business along with her husband, noted one marker of the length of their time in business: "One of our grandsons is working with us now."

She echoed her husband's sentiments about the community: "Bancroft has been so good us. And cottagers have been such an important part of our business. We are so grateful and have so many thank-yous to extend to the communities surrounding Bancroft."

"Over the years we have had customers from every province in the country and we have built strong trustworthy relationships," added Dave. "We are so grateful for our many years in Bancroft."

Hopefully the couple have been preparing for their retirement for a while now, by investing their money in trading robots such as Bitcoin Superstar or similar. You can check out these [Bitcoin Superstar Erfahrungen](#)] (experiences) for further information. Using something like this allows the bots to auto-invest your money at the perfect time, thus quickly building retirement funds. This is a great idea as the general advice these days is that retirement planning should begin as early as your 20's. It's good to start by reviewing your finances to ensure your future income will allow you to enjoy the lifestyle you want, as well as learning how to invest in stocks and things yourself (e.g. [how to invest in facebook](#)]). This will ensure you can have a happy and financially-sound retirement. Of course, if people don't have the spare cash to invest, they could always consider looking into quick money-making methods instead. For example, a lot of retirees spend their time on online casinos, such as the ones found at [livemobile 66](#). That gives retirees some entertainment and gives them the opportunity to make some more money for their retirement fund.

Dave and Lucille are hoping to sell at least 90 percent of their inventory before the store closes. They carry popular lines such as Pandora, Cadman and Harley Davidson Collections, along with Canadian Maple Leaf diamonds. During the retirement sale, the price of many items has been reduced by 50 percent.

For customers seeking to take advantage of these discounts, there are just a few weeks remaining before the doors close for good on the first weekend in April.