

High-end tailor takes Beltline's measure

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Calgary's beltline district is going to get a third high-end tailor shop. O'Connors was the first to leave downtown for 1st Street S.W. when it built an attractive building on the former site of Valentine Volvo.

Then last month I announced that Formans Fashion Group will move into the old CIBC Bank Building on the corner of 1st Street and 12th Avenue S.W.

Now I can share that in the spring, Henry Singer will open a new concept in menswear on 4th Street S.W.

The main store on the third floor of Bankers Hall will continue on as usual, but Jordan Singer already has contractors working on space in the Royal Flush Boutique & Plumbing showroom building at 2115 4th St. S.W. He's taking over 3,000 square feet plus a mezzanine level to open Henry, a casual "metro street inspired" fashion shop for men only.

Singer is hiring and training a new team of young salespeople who understand his new concept, and ordering in new lines from Europe and North America for the active urban set.

I get to hear a lot of rumours and most I check out before making mention in this column. I don't know if this one's true, though, and I can't find anyone to confirm it, but it's so interesting I have to tell. It appears someone is thinking of transforming an above-ground parkade into condominium stalls. That means each space will be offered for sale, new owners having a permanent downtown parking spot. I guess like any condominium, there would be some maintenance fees to pay, but compared to the cost of some of the monthly corporate parking downtown it could be a very attractive proposition.

Dr. Jacqueline Shan, president, CEO and chief scientific officer of CV Technologies, who co-discovered its COLD-fX health-care product that sharply reduces the risk of catching colds and flu bugs, chooses to remain living in Edmonton. But company chairman Gordon Tallman has leased space in Calgary for his headquarter offices.

With the help of Andrew MacLachlan of JJ Barnicke, the former executive vice-president of the Royal Bank has taken 6,000 square feet on the main floor of Deerfoot Atrium South for his staff of 12 that allows CV Technologies the room to triple in size.

The company has become a darling of the TSX Venture Exchange, its shares having jumped more than tenfold since the beginning of the year. COLD-fX, in tandem with the University of Alberta and Capital Health, underwent clinical trials with 500 volunteers last month and recently launched into the important Hong Kong market. In October, sales were over \$413,000 -- that's up 85 per cent over the same period last year.

I would expect a number of readers might be finding a 2004 daytimer or new handheld under the Christmas tree and then spend some of the holiday time entering in dates for the New Year. A couple you might want to make a note of come to me from two of our more active local associations.

Iva Schafferova of the Canada Eurasian Energy & Industry Alliance informs me that its annual Members Showcase will be held on the SAIT Campus on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

CEEIA members share their experiences in initiating and actively continuing their business in Russia and how difficulties are overcome. A real help if you are thinking of doing business in that area.

One of my favourite groups is the Hong Kong Canada Business Association. It is already organized to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Monkey with its annual gala dinner. Write down Friday, Jan. 30, at the Regency Palace Restaurant, where revelers will include Premier Ralph Klein, Minister of Health and Wellness Gary Marr, and Mayor Dave Bronconnier. Always a great evening.

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