

LOCAL NEWS

Welcome mat and fond farewells on North Shore

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The North Shore is starting the year with the closure of an anchor tenant and a move across the river by another long-term retailer.

Liquidation World, at the site of a former roller rink on Eighth Street, is expected to close at the end of February, part of a nationwide shutdown by operator Big Lots.

The company did not return phone calls seeking comment.

On the heels of Liquidation World's closure comes a decision by a longtime Tranquille Road retailer to move to Valleyview.

"We're relocating and closing [this location]" said Ann-Marie Fuoco, who has operated Light Your World for almost 18 years.

Fuoco is transitioning out of her small business, which will be taken over by employee Tara Chicoine.

Light Your World will move to a Valleyview strip mall where tenants include Starbucks.

Liquidation World Kamloops, which is located next to Bowlertime and the Dirty Jersey pub, is one of 73 stores closing across Canada.

Citing losses, U.S.-based Big Lots announced late last year it would pull out of this country by the end of March.

Each location has between 20 and 30 employees. Staff in Kamloops learned of the closure four days before Christmas.

Calling the North Shore business area "a gem of a place," Fuoco said the move

for her store is difficult but necessary to capture housing and population growth in the southeast sector of the city.

Chicoine said the full-service store will be able to grow in a new location with highway exposure and parking availability.

She said it remains relatively central, including to the North Shore clientele it has built up over nearly two decades.

"They need to know, no matter where, we can look after them . . ." Chicoine said.

"There's an opening in the market and we'll be able to grow our business."

To make its move easier, Light Your World is offering much of its stock at clearance prices.

Steven Puhallo, executive director

of the North Shore Business Improvement Association, said the closure and relocation are part of the natural change in any commercial area.

"Light Your World has been around for quite a while," he said.

"They're good people and it's a good business.

"In any commercial district, you have closures and movement, people in and out."

The association depends on property owners and leasing firms to attract new tenants, but will become involved if requested, Puhallo said.

However, the movement isn't all one-way.

Bonnie Matthews moved her Mulberry Bush consignment store to the 500-block of Tranquille Road.

Her partner also moved his auto detail-

ing shop to North Kamloops.

Both moved from downtown.

Matthews said moving a store that had been in the same location — on Battle Street downtown — for 10 years is a challenge.

But, she added, lower lease costs and access to the North

Shore population were important factors in the move.

Another businesswoman recently purchased Mommy & Me in North Kamloops.

"I've lived on the North Shore forever — it's home," said new operator Darlene Kelly.

"I thought this was

a cool little store, as many people do."

Kelly said she remains committed to the North Shore retail area.

She also credited Puhallo with injecting new energy and marketing effort into the business area, known as the Tranquille Market.

Road Closure Notice

Effective immediately, the Monte Creek (Private) Forest Service Road will be closed at the 5.75km marker until further notice.

The closure is to stabilize a section of the road damaged by erosion. Access through the closure area will be restricted to all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles only. Note the area past the closure can still be accessed by the Salmon River (Douglas Lake) Road or by the George Creek Connector onto the Pratt Lake Forest Service Road.

The closure is approximately 27kms east of Kamloops.

For more information contact the Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District at 250-558-1700 during regular business hours.



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