

Home Depot set to Open Second Windsor location

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Yet another big box store is coming to Windsor with the opening next month of the second location of the Home Depot on Tecumseh Road East.



The new store is situated in one of the busiest commercial stretches not only in Windsor, but of all southwestern Ontario. Located to the immediate east of the new Home Depot are Wal-Mart and Rona Canada, both of which opened in 2003.

Located across busy Lauzon Parkway (which will become infinitely busier if proposed plans are carried out to extend Hwy, 401 and use the arterial road as a linkage for truck traffic to Huron Church Road.) is the recently expanded Tecumseh Mall. And, only two blocks east of the busy Lauzon Road and Tecumseh Road intersection is the Rafih Auto Mall, which opened earlier this year.

"Of course the location is a bustling one, that is precisely why our company chose it," admits Mukesh Desai, project manager with the Home Depot's construction division. "This store will have a very high profile from the day it opens and we fully expect to capitalize on the heavy traffic along the Tecumseh Road East corridor."

The new store is 95,000 sq. ft. in size with 91,690 sq. ft. being retail space that is open to the public. Construction started in March of the year and will be completely finished later this month.

"This is pretty much a standard store for us in terms of its outside appearance and the layout of the interior of the store," Desai offers. "This is not to say that the building is prefabricated because like all of our stores, it has been constructed on site from the ground up."

"We simply use a layout plan that has worked across the country for us for years."

Desai, an architect has considerable experience when it comes to sites and situations of Home Depot stores as he is currently working on the construction of new stores in Guelph, Brockville, London, Etobicoke, Woodstock and Chatham.

The first Home Depot location, located at 655 Sydney and adjacent to Devonshire Mall opened in 1996.

While Home Depot has only had a presence in Windsor for close to a decade, the company does have a long and substantial fact sheet.

Founded in 1978 in Atlanta, Georgia, The Home Depot is the world's largest home improvement retailer currently operating over 1,923 stores, including 120 Home Depot stores across Canada. The company employs more than 325,000 associates, including 24,000 Canadians.

The Home Depot operates in 10 Canadian provinces and is widely recognized as an innovator in the home improvement retail industry, combining the economies of scale inherent to the warehouse format with a level of customer service unprecedented among warehouse-style retailers.

The Home Depot stores cater to Do-It-Yourselfers, as well as home improvement, construction and building maintenance professionals. Each store offers a Tool Rental Center.

The Home Depot stores have a design center staffed by professionals who offer free in-store consultation for home improvement projects, ranging from lighting to computer-assisted design for kitchens and decks.

The Home Depot focuses its philanthropic efforts in the areas of affordable housing, at-risk youth and environment. Team Depot, an organized volunteer force, was developed in 1992 to promote volunteer activities within local communities the stores serve.

The company's stock is publicly traded (NYSE: HD) and is included in the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

According to Desai, there were no problems with the construction of the new store in Windsor and the local contractor helped make the project go all the smoother.

"We have worked very well with Mady Construction Company, a local company that utilizes all local trades and sub-trades contractors," Desai offers. "Their work has been outstanding, on time and on budget, and I think that we have all benefited from the excellent working relationship in Windsor and the temperate weather allowed us to work longer hours during the day than we usually can in other areas of the province."

Mady Construction has also built - or is in the process of building - new Home Depot stores in Cambridge, Kitchener, Toronto, and Woodstock.

"All construction projects present problems and difficulties that must be overcome," Desai offers. "But I can honestly say that the construction of our new store in Windsor ran as smoothly as any other project I have ever worked on."