

VERN MYSLICHUK



What He's Wearing:
Jacket: Coppley
Shirt: Bugatchi Uomo
Jeans: 34 Heritage

Vern Myslichuk is excited for what the future has in store.

While the Director of the BetterMade Corporation admits 2020 has had its share of ups and downs, he chooses to look on the positive side, eager to start on his next project.

"Right now we're focused on bringing some life back into a small section of downtown," says Myslichuk. "It's very exciting."

This past spring, Myslichuk purchased property at 267 Pelissier Street. The entrepreneur has some big plans for the site, formerly known as the Security Building; a 10-storey structure built in 1928.

Myslichuk is currently working with the City of Windsor on architectural plans and hopes to convert the building from commercial to mixed use; creating beautiful apartments in the upper units and a grocery store on the ground level.

"It will tie in with my other companies; so the restaurant (Bacchus Ristorante) will buy groceries from the grocery store," explains Myslichuk. "It's one business supporting the other and that's what we like to do."

Myslichuk is thrilled to be a part of the downtown revitalization. His team at BetterMade Cabinets is currently finishing up a project for the University of Windsor; an art studio across from the Capital Theatre.

"We've been working on this project over the last few months and look forward to wrapping it up soon," says Myslichuk. "Again, it's a part of our focus on bringing things downtown and having businesses feed off of other businesses and support each other."

"There are a handful of us developers that are really trying to create something for people to enjoy," he explains. "There's a lot of strength downtown right now and a lot of positive changes coming over the next few years."

Despite setbacks from the COVID-19 pandemic, the BetterMade team has managed to continue to tackle projects, working within the new safety protocols to ensure customers feel comfortable.

"We never really stopped working, but we had a little slow down in the beginning," says Myslichuk. "We're back up and running now and we're full steam ahead working six days a week."

His other businesses, Bacchus Ristorante and Verna-Q-Lar Cocktail lounge, have also reopened to half capacity in accordance with safe social distancing protocols.

While Myslichuk looks forward to getting back to running at full capacity, he says it's all part of owning a business; learning to function the best you can with what you have.

"You have to work with what you have and adapt and hope that people understand and work with you," says Myslichuk.

"We've been very fortunate," he adds. "We've had wonderful support with the restaurant, the lounge, and BetterMade Cabinets. The community has been so supportive."

Myslichuk believes in giving back to the community that has provided so much support and loves taking part in many local charity initiatives.

Over the last six years, he has raised funds for various causes by hosting charity walk-throughs of the Low Martin mansion, a gorgeous historic building he purchased and restored back in 2012.

Although the pandemic has put a hold on the tours for now, Myslichuk and his team continue to support the community as much as possible.

"We're still involved with many local charities, but right now we're contributing more monetarily," says Myslichuk. "We're looking forward to getting back to doing the tours; they were really beneficial to a lot of people."

In the meantime, Myslichuk continues to focus on the future and ways he can continue to grow the BetterMade Corporation and also Windsor as a whole.

"I love when businesses can build off of each other," says Myslichuk. "Even with my own businesses, they all work together: the restaurant caters for the lounge, the grocery store will supply the restaurant. It helps me keep people employed, especially during this time. Everything kind of just flows."

It's that "just keep going" mentality that has helped Myslichuk and his team navigate the uncertainty of the last eight months.

"I think focusing on the positives is how we'll get through this."

To keep up with Myslichuk and learn more about BetterMade's dedication to superior customer service, log on to www.bettermadecabinets.com or call (519) 739-3330.



Story by Jennifer Brignall-Strong. Photo by Pat Scandale