

Memories in the Making

As construction crews tore up the mile of gold, the walls of the old Seymour's building were knocked down. Looking at the space still has some shock value. As I cruise along the Mile of Gold I still expect to see the old building with its white boarded up windows and doors. We all probably still hold fond memories of Seymour's and we all have a story to tell. Some of you may remember your dad bringing you in to buy your first suit, or maybe you rented your wedding tuxedo's from Marti or Glen.

I think my favorite memory was of the life size Santa that was a permanent fixture in their window at Christmas. I loved that Santa and in fact tried to purchase him when Seymour's closed their doors permanently.

Many of us had fond memories of the shop that used to be, a shop that was filled with fashions, friendly faces, and all the latest clothing brands. Do you remember Jordash, Calvin Klien and Addias in the 80's or Tommy Hillfiger, Mavi, and Point Zero in the 90's? Or maybe you can remember the famous blue suit of the 70's! Whatever decade your memories are from there is no doubt that Seymour's once played an important role in Kirkland Lake's retail sector and was a major destination for fashions in Northern Ontario.

It was a sad day when we had to say farewell to a store that had been through good times and tough times here in Kirkland Lake. Its closure had a very negative impact on our retail sector. It was a blow to the morale of remaining Kirkland Lake businesses and Kirkland Lake residents alike. In fact, it left a substantial hole in the morale of Kirkland Lakers that has yet to be filled.

However, this hole was much greater than the one left by the removal of the physical structure that was recently toppled to the ground. The empty building was devoid of any semblance of life whatsoever. It was nothing more than an eye sore, that served, no other purpose, but to remind us of what we once had and lost. In fact, it was a rather ugly shell that no longer possessed any potential.

The building has been down for a few weeks now and the empty lot is still a bit of shock, and it seems that everyone still looks twice. However, I now see

the space as having potential. The potential to provide us with the opportunity to create new memories, the potential to renew our interest in a space we had written off as unusable, unsafe and of no use to anyone. Finally, the space now has the potential to bring newness and life to the Mile of Gold.

You have probably heard that now that the building is gone there are plans to utilize that space. Frankly, I hope that the space is used and Kirkland Lakers get something they can be proud in once again. We do not need any reminders of the things we have lost but rather we need indicators that a brighter future is within our grasp.