



Consultants help businesses and individuals organize their lives

BY RON STANG

It's not so much time-management that's a problem but self-management, according to Barb Seegers, owner of **Solutions Organizational Management** of Essex. The entrepreneur recently opened a business to help firms organize to ultimately improve the bottom line.

"It's the way you handle yourself," said the former office manager and administrative assistant.

Her services range from physical organization - helping sort documents and organizing files - to providing advice on how to improve work flow both physically and mentally. "If you're cluttered in your mind, your physical surroundings will also be cluttered," she said.

Seegers decided to start the business because she saw too many people in work environments "stressed to the max. They just can't manage enough time in the day to do the things they need to do. I just saw a growing need that people need organizational assistance."

When she's hired for a job, she'll meet with key personnel to assess their organizational problems. This might be drawing

up a plan for management or meeting with certain staff one on one to assess problems and provide solutions, "because everybody's situation is so unique." It could be the need to reduce paper and store more files on the computer. It could mean reorganizing desks and shelves so documents are easier to retrieve.

"If you constantly have to stop and search for something that takes you perhaps 20 minutes," she said. Multiply that several times a day, and multiply that by the number of people in a firm. "That's a lot of money to a company over a year."

She also advises on ergonomics, since the physical surroundings might be uncomfortable and a hindrance for staff getting jobs done more efficiently. She suggests taking an hour and not allowing distractions, "so you can focus on what is important to your business and put your one-hundred percent into it."

She'll even advise on matters like how people present themselves on the phone to make sure the firm isn't "losing business because of inefficient or incorrect manners."

If Seegers focuses on the cor-

porate side of organization, Sharon Beintema of Windsor and her firm **Klutter Kleaner** works with individuals to provide help reorganizing their homes, clearing out unwanted belongings, and helping sort possessions at times of major life changes.

In fact, one of her new lines is called **Seniors Moves**, where she helps senior citizens move from their long-time residences to retirement facilities. This means setting up a homey and comfortable room at the facility with the senior's most important possessions, all ready to move in. She has started working with **Central Park Lodge** to assist clients.

On the home front, Beintema can assist not only with sorting through rooms filled with a lifetime of accumulated possessions, but with smaller matters like sorting bills and organizing personal documents.

Often, she said, clients who hire her have had some sort of personal trauma, and the crisis "has thrown their life out of kilter, and that's how things end up getting that way."

She has confronted rooms "absolutely filled floor to ceiling" with possessions that must be sorted or thrown out. **WB**



Marina upgrade revitalized tourism



BY RON STANG

Hoping to generate more business compared to what have been some rather lackluster tourist seasons for boating in the Ontario-Michigan area, Robert Troup Jr., co-owner with brother Ken Troup of **Sandbar Steak & Seafood and Puce River Harbour Inc.**, said a new pavilion will be ready for boaters this summer at the marina at Puce River and Lake St. Clair.

The renovations, amounting to \$100,000, follow changes completed to the restaurant two years ago. This was gutting the old restaurant "right to the two-by-four's," Robert Troup said, and changing its name from the **Sandbar Waterfront Café** to **Sandbar Steak & Seafood**, an investment of \$1 million. "Every year we continue to upgrade the property," he said.