

Winmar opens new locations in West, introduces high-tech cleaning machine



An Esporta unit removes dirt with high-pressure hydraulic action.

Following its start in Sarnia and London, Ont. 30 years ago, Winmar Disaster Restoration Services has enjoyed steady growth – growth that

continues to this day. Just recently the Canadian-owned and operated firm expanded both west and east, opening operations in Vancouver, Calgary and Atlantic Canada. A Winmar office will also soon open in Kelowna.

Each location – there are, or will be shortly, 36 in all across the country – is a full-service restoration and emergency-service response centre.

One of the keys to its success is Winmar's ability to search out and embrace new technology. Its most recent acquisition is the Esporta Wash System, the soft goods and content-cleaning machine that cleans and sanitizes water, sewer, mould and fire-damaged items that are currently being disposed of within the insurance industry.

Jay Handsor, an adjuster with Crawford Canada, was quoted recently as saying, "Winmar and its Esporta Wash System are saving the insurance industry thousands of dollars per loss. It's incredible!"

To date, Winmar has committed to buy-

ing 28 Esporta units; the firm's Vancouver and Calgary locations already have the new machine.

The unit looks like a large commercial washing machine and replaces the physical action typical washers use to remove dirt with high-pressure hydraulic action. Water and cleaning chemicals are forced through – to name just a few soft goods – leather, padded upholstery, luggage, backpacks and shoes. As the cleaning solution moves through the material, it dislodges dirt and contaminants, including bacteria and mould.

The technology was originally developed for cleaning multi-layer sports equipment such as football and hockey gear with built-in padding. The deep pressure washing was found to remove the grime without damaging the outer layer of fabric that was occurring during aggressive washing using traditional agitation machines and high alkaline cleaners.

Odour removal was a surprise by-product of the system. It was later discovered that