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W. BRICE MCVICAR The Intelligencer

Ruth Ferguson Aulhouse, owner and president of RFA Planning Consultant Inc., sits inside her new office at 211 Dundas Street East. Aulhouse had operated the business out of her home for 15 years before moving to the new location earlier this year.

Veteran planner moves into new digs on Dundas St. East

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As a professional planner, Ruth Ferguson Aulhouse has developed hundreds of different projects and earlier this week she unveiled one that has been 15 years in the making.

That's how many years it has taken the president of RFA Planning Consultant Inc. to move her successful business out of her home and into a new, modern office on Dundas Street East. The 1,000-square-foot location —

which features framed schematics from some of Aulhouse's projects on the walls, contemporary furniture and lighting and beautiful hardwood floors — was needed as business has grown and additional employees were needed, she said.

Though Aulhouse moved into her new digs in January, she held an open house earlier this week to show off the space to clients and friends.

"It was time for a change and our business has expanded over the past five years and this was an

opportunity to bring people together in one space and to better serve the clients," Aulhouse said.

Interested in planning since she was an eight-year-old, Aulhouse has spent 29 years in the planning field including three as the director of planning for the former Sidney Township. She said urban planning has always intrigued her and admitted she loves the challenges that come with her job.

"There's lots of problem solving and working in teams," she said. "I've always been interested in our

urban surroundings. You look at things a little differently than most people, I suppose."

Aulhouse's company handles projects from Cobourg to Kingston and from Prince Edward County to Bancroft. Over the years, she said, she's handled many different jobs, but pointed to a current project in Prince Edward County valued at \$50 million as one of the largest.

Roughly 15 years ago Aulhouse was instrumental in the development of Bell Boulevard. She said it was her company that handled all the

necessary approvals to see the area developed and changed from its Official Plan designation as a part of the city to house industrial, not commercial, development.

A project which consumed her time for nearly 10 years, she said, is likely her "most rewarding." Aulhouse said the Riverpark Subdivision in Kingston was one of "the most complex" projects she ever tackled so to see the construction begin earlier this year was fulfilling.

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