In 1930, Sadowsky proposed the limiting form of the energy of an inextensible ribbon of negligible width. Sadowsky and subsequent authors based this limit upon taking a pointwise limit of the integrand for a ribbon with positive width, where the energy is written as an integral along the centerline of the ribbon. Subsequent to these contributions the method of gamma-convergence has matured significantly. It will be demonstrated that the Sadowsky's proposed functional is the proper gamma-limit of the energy functionals for inextensible ribbons with fixed centerline upon passing to the limit of a ribbon of negligible width.

This is joint work with E. Fried.