

Some changes in Wiarton

There have been a number of changes in the business community in Wiarton over the past while, with a number changing hands and some new ones starting up. Over the next few weeks, the Echo will be featuring a number of them. This week we are focussing on two of them.

No strangers to the business community in Wiarton, Wendy and Ted Wilford have expanded their existing store at Outback Tackle and Spirit Rock Motel to include "Mothers' Fabric and Notions @ the Spirit Rock Motel."

Located at the top of the North Hill in Wiarton, Mothers' will carry a wide variety of fabrics with quilting supplies and books, Olfa rotary cutters and mats, Creative Grid rulers, 100% cotton fabric, flannel and flannelette, ultra soft poodle cloth and fireside suede and fleece. Classes will also be offered starting this month.

"Sewing has always been a hobby for me," said Wendy. As established retailers, my husband and I saw a potential for a fabric store in Wiarton. We felt we could better utilize space in our existing building. What better way to feed a fabric fetish?"

The new fabric store opened early in October and so far they have had strong public support. "It's been very encouraging," she said.

"I've been in the floral industry for 20-odd years. We owned Wendy's Flowers in Wiarton for 16 years and sold that business in 1997... and after a few years here, it was time to be creative again.

Wendy said that at first they thought the store would just be Spirit Rock Fabrics, but after some consideration, we decided that Mothers' (plural) was more fitting. "My mother, Win Cunningham, has been

our greatest supporter. My Mother-in-law, (the late Dora Wilford) is remembered with her wonderful dining room table, not to mention other family treasures such as the quilt shown right. It was judged the best quilt in the 1910 Agricultural Society's Fall Fair and was made by Wendy's great, great Grandmother, Margaret Walker Walpole.

Wiarion Flowers changes hands

After many years in business on Wiarton's main street, Wiarion Flowers has been sold.

"I have been warmly welcomed by all my customers," said new owner Dixie Jones of Wiarion, who purchased the business from June Kreutzweiser in early October. The business had been operating since 1969 and "with her wanting to retire, I decided to buy it."

A love for flowers, time spent in the flower shop and a floral course in Toronto prepared her for the career change. She had been an employee in the dietary department at Gateway Haven for the past 18 years.

Wiarion Flowers will carry on with the tradition of fresh, cut flowers and arrangements for pick-up or delivery and "for all occasions in and out of the area," she said.

She will also carry an assortment of Gund animals, silks, vases and bird houses.

"I have been warmly welcomed by all my customers and many friends have wished me well in my new endeavor, which I have greatly appreciated.



Wendy Wilford from Mothers' Fabric and Notions

— K Gilbert Photo