

Holiday fashions

Wondering what to wear this holiday season? At Fairweather - Canada's premier fashion retailer committed to offering women up-to-the-minute fashion at exceptional value - the choices are clear. Easy elegance and pared-down simplicity signal a new freedom of expression. Whether you're dressing up for a night on the town or an intimate gathering at home, all the best options begin with fluid silhouettes and luxurious fabrics. A swish of velvet, a hint of sheer or a touch of ornamentation are all you need to capture the glamour of the holiday spirit.

What works ... Purity of line, simple shapes, and a gentle flow mark the newest evening dresses and separates. "This holiday, the look is clean and uncomplicated with the poured-on glamour of a sleek black column gown, a body-hugging cocktail dress with a flirt of fringe, or the smooth sophistication of a single-buttoned dinner suit," says Angela Brandon, Fairweather's Fashions Communications Co-ordinator.

The power of red emerges as a strong statement of bold colour - appearing on everything from lea, strappy, shoulder-baring dresses, to refined suits and soft evening sweaters (\$39 to \$150).

The luxury of velvet touches everything for day and night. Whether it's a crushed velvet broom skirt; a bodysuit; a decorative printed vest; a pair of leggings or a bolero, velvet looks newest when mixed with your favourite knits for day. By night, velvet steps out in rich Venetian jewel tones, jet black or siren red. Fairweather's long velvet dresses with scalloped hems or

criss-cross spaghetti straps; or short and shapely scooped-neck cocktail dresses are the classic evening pieces that offer pure pleasure (\$42 to \$119).

Fairweather shows the easiest way to dress up in pants ... Free flowing palazzo pants, pleated or cut in fabrics that are soft and fluid or sheer and finely-lined. The sheer delicacy of white-ruffled Edwardian blouses romance the stark lines of simple silhouettes. Tuxedo looks are touched with the graceful contours of organza blouses, with cuffs dangling well past the wrist. "A tonal camisole or bodysuit worn underneath is the ideal solution for transparency," suggests Angela Brandon. To lend an air of elegance to the evening, choose wide-legged trousers worn with a laced, beaded or brocade vest over a flounce of chiffon shirt; or a jumpsuit in soft crepe (\$40 to \$140).

"Decorative details add an ornamental allure to everything from sweaters and jackets to dresses and gowns," says Angela Brandon. "It's the romantic vintage influence of the 20s, showing up in iridescent and jet beading, pearl buttons, lace and feminine trims."

Delicate embroidery and cut-outs appear on collars and on camisoles. Frog closures and golden floral buttons fasten jackets and vests; dresses are all laced up. Satin piping winds along necklines; soutache trim covers the sleeves of jackets and edges its way around boleros and vests.

Relaxed glamour is evident in softly-wrapped and beaded evening sweaters, and in the shimmer of jacquards and shadow stripes (\$39 to \$129).

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Linda, right with classmate shows off leather and melton fashions.

Make Your Own Market A Proven Success

Since their opening last month, Linda Peel-Devitt's MacPhee Workshop has been a great success. As owner of Principle Designs, Linda introduced the make-your-own workshops last month to a willing clientele.

The Workshop is now fully stocked for the winter months, with all weather fabrics, duffle, melton, cloth, dyed fox and leather to create one-of-a-kind parkas, bombers and leather fashions.

Linda says that due to the popularity of the fur-trimmed designer parkas class she has added an additional session in November. She adds that "a few openings remain for the bomber jacket and leather skirt classes and the ever-popular Towel Coat Class,

being offered in December is surely popular with home sewers wanting to create unique Christmas gifts."

Also for the Christmas shopper, the MacPhee Workshop offers gift certificates and mail order service from the Oakville location to anywhere in Canada.

A new shipment of dyed fox tails, in an assortment of colours, has just arrived and is ideal for trimming sweaters and coats, and also for head bands and ear muffs.

The MacPhee Workshop will have a commanding presence at The Creative Needle Festival, with an hour long fashion show daily, full of designer ideas and tips for your MacPhee creation. For details on the Festival or McPhee classes call 844-9113.

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