

Serendipity Gifts

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■ Terri Horricks, artist and proprietor of SerendipityGifts in downtown Belleville, has brought together an impressive display of work by artists and craftspeople, most of them from the Quinte area. She also provides studio space and hosts classes and workshops.

Celia Ware photo

Terri Horricks isn't the only artist who has a studio in the store. Connie Yrjola—the Glamour Junkie—handcrafts jewellery in silver with stones and crystals and is often at her workbench. She also carries out jewellery repair. The guest artists for the month of August are Bob McIntosh and photographers Charlene Cowling and Darko Zeljkovic. There is a large range of other work on display: paintings, photography, wood turning, pottery, sculpture (various media), fabric work, native art, stained glass and glassware, candles, soaps and music (CDs) by local artists.

the store also carries a few imported products with African and Oriental themes. However, Horricks says recruiting artists who do new and interesting work is what she really enjoys – “that’s exciting. I love that part of it,” she says. She also adds that the Quinte Arts Council (QAC) has been “unbelievably helpful” in putting new artists in touch with her.

At the rear of the store is a large room that can be rented if you wish to teach a class or workshop or even if you want to hold a dinner party. Jeanette Campbell, an artist who works in various media, will be teaching each Thursday night from September. Her work is on display in the store. The Glamour Junkie (Connie Yrjola) also offers classes, mostly one-on-one, in jewellery making and Terri herself teaches painting and drawing. Bookings are presently being taken for Hypnotist Pat Kammer, who will be holding Friday evening sessions at the store.

SerendipityGifts is located at 255 Front Street and the

There are also body products and culinary products (such as jams, sauces and sprouted foods), all locally produced. Horricks has collected a truly eclectic and original mix of arts and crafts. There are some particularly eye-catching items such as the cement sculptures by Marc Bourdon, the salt and peppershakers from Erin, Ontario, and the whimsical works in clay by Mira Macrea. Serendipity also carries a number of furniture pieces by David Little of Belleville. He builds these using wood from old granaries and old buggies. It is solid and richly coloured, using wide boards that are so rarely seen nowadays. For a little extra variety

interior of the store is warm and inviting with open wooden beams and stonework. It first opened in 2001 with three women partners but Terri Horricks has been the proprietor since January of this year. Upstairs, above the SerendipityGifts gallery, the space is rented to Gaia’s Gifts, where you can find New Age gifts and books, runes and tarot cards. Serendipity-Gifts is also a drop-off point for non-perishable food items in the Farm Credit Corporation Food Drive that runs into October. If you are interested in taking or teaching classes, selling your work on consignment or even setting up a studio in the store and (especially) if you are looking for a gift or something unique for your home, drop in or give Terri a call at (613) 967-4438.

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