

# Cathy Lemon is new owner of Robert Q Travel

By Liz Dadson

After more than 26 years in the travel business, Cathy Lemon is now the owner of Robert Q Travel in Kincardine.

Manager of the office for almost 20 years, she purchased it Feb. 16 from Mark Kriemer who is now running for the title of Liberal candidate in the federal riding of Huron-Bruce.

Lemon has seen some major changes over the years in the travel business.

"Companies and airlines come and go," she says. "The Internet has really taken up some business but when people run into problems, they usually come here."

One of the biggest changes, she says, is the increase in airport security. "There was a time when you didn't need any identification (ID) to board a plane within Canada. Now, you need photo ID to get on a plane, and you need a passport to travel to the United States as well as internationally. I never thought you'd need a passport to fly to the U.S."

Another big change for the Kin-

cardine travel agency occurred about two years ago when it was moved from the Sutton Park Mall to a storefront on Queen Street in downtown Kincardine.

"It's a lot busier here," says Lemon, "but I'm not sure if that's the location or because of the influx of people to the area."

Robert Q Travel books airline tickets, rail tickets and hotel accommodations, as well as three- to four-day holidays anywhere in the world.

Lemon has enjoyed a low staff turn-over. Her employees have included Marion Pym, Karen Green and Kathy Kozma. Her current co-workers, Sherry Reavie and Shawna Palmateer, have been with her for three years.

She urges her staff to take "business" holidays once a year so they have first-hand experience for assisting customers.

The busiest time for the travel business is from November to March and April when people are getting away from the Bruce County winter weather. However, Lemon says the trend is no longer to jet to a sunny

location but to travel for three to four days to Paris or Rome.

"People are also asking for adventure travel," she says. "They want to book a trek holiday - hiking through the Amazon or biking in Paris or bird-watching in the Galapagos Islands in South America - which is why they need the assistance of a

travel agency."

While she is the new "boss," Lemon says it is business as usual but she wants to raise awareness so people know where Robert Q Travel is - right in Kincardine's downtown on the main street.

She is planning to hold a grand opening later this year.



Cathy Lemon, seated, is the new owner/operator of Robert Q Travel in Kincardine. With her are her co-workers, Sherry Reavie, left, and Shawna Palmateer. (Liz



Three society members received the most points for their plants during the flower show. Above, from left, Marian Raynard, second; Gail VanderHoek, first; and Shirley Harris, third. Society president Ann Flintayson said there were more entries than any other year and the society was extremely pleased with this year's exhibits. *June 27, 2007*



Above: Donalda Pollard browses through the many different entries.

## Big vocals give youth big dreams

*June 27, 2007*  
ELYSE DEBRUYN

KINCARDINE NEWS STAFF

A local seven-year-old girl is on her way to fame.

Brontae Hunter, daughter of Paulette Lippert and Mike Hunter, of Lorne Beach area, recently competed in the Ontario Country Open and placed third in the under 12 category.

"I felt really happy," said Hunter, who said she never gets stage fright.

Each contestant was allowed to sing two songs with a six-and-a-half minute time limit. Hunter chose to sing *Suds in the Bucket* by Sara Evans and *Paper Rose* by Maria Osmond.

"I like *Suds in the Bucket* because I like the instruments like the violin and the guitar," said Hunter. "I picked *Paper Rose* because I couldn't find any other slow songs that I liked."

Hunter began singing when she was a mere four-years-old. She took the stage at her father's benefit

dance in Ripley.

"I like singing because I can do it whenever I want and it's not other people's decision if I have to sing or not," said Hunter, who will be turning eight-years-old in August.

Aside from her vocal talent, Hunter is taking piano lessons, recorder lessons and is a step dancer. She has also caught the acting bug as she played *Gretel* from the Von Trappe family in the Kincardine Theatre Guild's *Sound of Music* production.

"It felt hard at the beginning, but my mom helped me with my lines and other cast members helped me with my cues," she said. "But I never forgot my lines and I never got scared."

She comes by her musical talent honestly as both her parents were featured in Soundsation and her mother is a member of the local band Just Enough Rope.

For the past two years,

Hunter has been participating in the Teeswater's Youth Talent Search. She won first place both years and advanced to the Western Fair in London.

In October, Hunter will be featured in the CKNX Barn Dance Live at the Wingham Heritage Theatre.

Although she has a natural talent to bring an audience to tears with her voice, Hunter has other ambitions in life.

"I'm going to be an author and an actress," she said. "I'll do all the illustrations and no one else can write the stories or draw the pictures. I've already written one story called *Pioneer Schools Friends*."

*Elyse DeBruyn photo*

**Seven-year-old Brontae Hunter, daughter of Paulette Lippert and Mike Hunter, recently placed third in the Ontario Country Open in Blith.**

