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Unique idea for crafts shop

Hot Bed to be run by new co-operative

The Hot Bed crafts store is undergoing a major change in management.

Owner Eileen Garde is moving to Ottawa, but will still be involved with the store. She's establishing a co-operative management, in which a group of women will own the store jointly. Judi Starkey and Cheryl Potosky are the first women to join the co-operative and others will follow until there are sufficient members to ensure the store is fully staffed.

Each of the members of the co-operative will be working one day a week. Mrs. Starkey and Mrs. Potosky both work at different crafts which will be sold in the store. Mrs. Starkey makes batik items and quilts by hand. Mrs. Potosky makes baby clothing and children's toys.

The co-operative also hopes to encourage local artists to bring in their crafts to be sold. Eileen will be bringing back crafts from Ottawa and Quebec on her regular visits back to the store. She also hopes to take local crafts back to the Ottawa area.

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"The emphasis on consignment crafts will be to use local people as much as possible," Mrs. Garde said.

The Hot Bed has been open two and a half years. The store carries a wide variety of arts and crafts items.

"If we don't have it, we'll try to get it," Mrs. Garde said. She said she hopes to retain a

corner of the store to display children's handiwork. She also intends to expand the store's lines to include antiques.

Mrs. Garde said they'd like some reaction from the public about selling fabrics, because they have been getting requests for any leftover pieces from the crafts on display in the store.



Hot Bed owner Eileen Garde (left) is shown here with two members of the co-operative which is being set up to run the store now that Mrs. Garde is moving to Ottawa. Judi Starkey (centre) and Cheryl Potosky, are the first members to join. The store will continue to stock crafts made by local artisans, and will soon be offering antiques and crafts from Ottawa and Quebec. (Herald photo)

A Halton Hills Arts Council member

Langcraft hobby shop's a family affair

One of the Halton Hills Arts Council's few commercial member-groups, downtown Georgetown's Langcraft, started out as Georgetown Hobbies and Crafts in the spring of 1971.

Store owners Jim and Lida Langedyk emigrated from Holland in 1952. Mr. Langedyk accepting civil engineering jobs in Alberta and Saskatchewan before being transferred to Ontario six years later. He currently works for Cannon Incorporated's pipe division in Toronto.

The Langedyks moved to Georgetown in August, 1970, and soon decided that what the community needed was a good hobby shop. Mr. Langedyk recalls that he searched the town high and low for a razor knife with which to pursue his own hobby interests, but had no success.

Since his youth in the Netherlands, Mr. Langedyk has enjoyed hobbies as diverse remote-control model plane flying and dollhouse making. The whole family - the Langedyks have raised ten children - derives much

pleasure from hobbies and crafts, the kind of activity that Europeans pursue much more so than North Americans. Mr. Langedyk estimates that one in every three European homes has a model train set up somewhere inside, compared to only about one in 25 here.

So while father builds model boats and trains, mother practises the delicate lettering of calligraphy (a subject she teaches in one of the store-sponsored crafts courses), daughters arrange flowers decoratively and sons paint - and everyone seems to help out in the store, especially Richard, Vera, Mary, Linda, and daughter-in-law Michelle.

MAIN STREET

From modest beginnings on Wesleyan Street as strictly a hobby shop for men and boys, Langcraft has moved to the Main Street site now occupied by Aatco Travel and again across the road to its present location in what used to be half of Silvers, and has grown to provide a wide-ranging variety of hobby supplies for the whole family, with yarns, stitchery

kits and art supplies joining models and trains on the shelves.

Mr. Langedyk estimates his crowded shelves feature 5,000 different items, with the biggest sellers being yarns and picture frames (the store offers a framing service). Plastic model kits are as popular as ever, he adds.

Almost as popular, though, are Langcraft's weekly courses in macrame, crochet and needlecraft and occasional workshops in doll-making and preparing Christmas decorations. Other workshops showing participants how to make pinecone wreaths, decorated brooms and mats and Christmas centrepieces have a significant part in the store's service, particularly since 65 per cent of its annual business comes around Christmastime.

Keen interest in the courses and workshops has helped convince Mr. Langedyk the future is bright for Halton Hills' arts and crafts community. It's a refreshing trend, he says, when the old-fashioned crafts - employing natural

utensils - return in popularity, and families are again hanging non-artificial Christmas wreaths on their front doors. More and more local people, he reports with pleasure, are enjoying working more with their hands.

Among Halton Hills hobbyists, the Georgetown Model Railroad Club had a head-start. Kindred spirits gathered when the Langedyks opened their hobby store, and until the move across Main Street, the club had a permanent railway display set up in the store. Langcraft usually holds an annual exhibition which is open to all hobbyists, but the past year's proven too busy a time.

ARTS COUNCIL

Adding to Mr. Langedyk's optimism about the future is

the Halton Hills Arts Council, a group he credits for much of the progress witnessed on the local arts scene in recent years. Having joined the Arts Council because they felt they can contribute to that scene, the Langedyks are regular exhibitors themselves at the Council's annual Summerfest celebration of the arts.

Langcraft carries many different styles of mouldings

suitable for paintings, photographs and needlework and offers picture framing and needletwork blocking as store services.

As well as sharing their own knowledge and talents at demonstrations around the area, Lida and daughters Vera and Linda attend many crafts courses themselves both in Canada and in the U.S.

Santa's coming Nov. 22

The theme for the 50th annual Georgetown Lions Club Santa Claus parade is "A Golden Christmas".

The parade will be held Nov. 22, and will follow the usual route, starting out from Moore Park Plaza at 1 p.m. Bob Ezard, committee chairman, would like to hear from entrants with details of their entries as soon as possible. He can be reached at 877-6394.

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Nick Hunsley

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