

## Leather Showroom opens its doors

It's the only store of its kind in Georgetown and it opened Oct. 4 at 130 Guelph St.

You only need to open the door of this quaint showroom and breathe in the rich, heady smell to know what the store is all about.

Appropriately named Georgetown Leather Showroom, the store sells moderately priced leather jackets, outfits and purses at prices ranging from \$99 outfits to \$475 winter coats.

The store is owned and operated by Alberto Samian and his wife Carol who moved to Georgetown from Toronto where they operated a store called Leather Showroom on Danforth Avenue for two years and previously, a leather store called Moda Ojji in Yorkville for four years.

The decision to leave Toronto was made not only because of rising costs in the saturated leather market of Toronto but because the couple wanted to find a place to

make their home.

"We wanted to get a neighborhood atmosphere," said Mrs. Samian. "We have friends who live in Georgetown and we grew to love the area because it is cleaner and the people are friendly."

What the couple didn't want to leave was their leather business so it came along.

Leather has been a part of Mr. Samians' life since he entered high school in Florence Italy. He worked part-time in leather stores until he earned his degree in Interior Design from a Florence University. He then met his wife, moved to Canada and started Moda Ojji, which means Today's Fashion in Italian.

He said he's always worked on the premise of low marking on quality goods.

"Our customer leaves our store knowing they have made a purchase they will be happy with and not regret a month later."



Alberto Samian and his wife Carol, owners of Georgetown's new leather store, 'Georgetown Leather Showroom' on Guelph St. model some of the leather fashions available in the store.

## Dominion Seed House active at Winter Garden Show

By ROBSAVAGE  
Thomson News Service

TORONTO - Even garden enthusiasts are getting into the organic trend.

Charles MacLean, a co-owner of the Georgetown-based Dominion Seed House, said organic and untreated seeds are among the selection of products he offers, because of the increasing concern among garden enthusiasts to protect the environment.

"It's growing," MacLean said of the interest in seeds that are grown without the use of pesticides.

The organic seeds and other varieties offered by the company are currently on display at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair at Exhibition Place in Toronto.

Dominion Seed House is among more than 20 exhibitors in the Winter Garden Show, a revamped version of the Royal flower show that now covers about 15,000 sq. ft. This year's garden show is based on the Chelsea Garden Show in Britain and was designed by Canadian

landscape architect Tom Sparling.

During a recent interview at the Royal, MacLean said his company is among the ones that has felt the need to show environmental consciousness. In addition to the sales of organic seeds, the company is also careful to use recycled packaging, he said.

"We just felt, as a company, we should move that way."

However, he said gardeners are warned that organic seeds are more difficult to cultivate. Dominion Seed House, a family-run business, has been running since 1928. Originally founded by Bill Bradley, it is currently run by Margaret Harding (Bradley's daughter) and MacLean, who is Harding's son-in-law.

For most of its years, the company's business was done through mail orders. A few years ago, a store was opened at the company's Georgetown office location.

The company's history includes a 1952 magazine article

about it that was written by Pierre Berton.

MacLean said Dominion Seed House gets orders from across Canada. The company offers about 1,500 different types of flowers and vegetable seeds.

The company offers some exotic seeds that may not always be large volume sellers, MacLean said. However, he said the company wants to be able to offer a very large variety of seeds.

Seeds are bought from areas such as Africa, Europe and Japan.

This is the first year that Dominion Seed House has appeared at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair - an offer that came with the changes to create a larger and improved flower show this year. MacLean said his company welcomed the chance to appear at the Royal, which had an attendance last year of more than 300,000 people.

"We felt very honored to do it. It's a new initiative for us. We haven't done this type of thing in the past."



Dominion Seed House co-ordinator Charles MacLean, right, and Nancy Mallett, who runs educational programs for the company, are seen at the Georgetown-based company's display at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The display is part of the Winter Garden Show. (Thomson News photo)



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