

Halton Hills marathon sends mittens to charity

By Taylor Shappert
Special to The IFP



The Sewing Cafe owner Linda Pidzamecky patiently helps Raquel Byrne, 8, use the sewing machine for the first time.

Photo by Taylor Shappert

As the temperature drops, The Sewing Cafe warmed hearts and hands with their mitten marathon on January 30.

The Sewing Cafe donated its Saturday and equipment to anyone who wanted to come sew mittens out of old sweaters, which were donated by the community.

I'm really, truly pleased with the success and how many people showed up, co-owner Linda Pidzamecky said.

Thirty pairs of mittens were sewn by the 16 people who dropped in throughout the day. Half of the mitts will go to an outreach program at a synagogue in Toronto, while the remaining half will stay in Georgetown. We'll find someone who needs mittens, Pidzamecky said. We're going to make sure they stay local.

Nancy Moran, director of business development for Spinnaker, took a mitten-making course at the cafe and has been enjoying the experience.

It's just so relaxing to make them and I thought, why not make them for people?

Moran volunteers for Interval House, Sister's Outreach and others in her spare time. She reached out to several connections to encourage donations and participation in the mitten marathon.

Linda and Anna are such patient teachers,

participant Caroline Mitchell said, whose eight-year-old daughter Elsie attended a birthday party at the cafe and loved it. It's fantastic that (today's event) is for charity.

Eight-year-old Raquel Byrne, from Toronto, also came to participate. It's fun, exciting, colourful, and it feels good that you're doing something nice, she said. I really really feel welcomed.

Proceeds from sales will go to perpetuating

the charity, and Pidzamecky and Barkhouse plan to do this again in the fall.

Pidzamecky, a graduate from Ryerson's fashion design program and the national educator for Janome, has been sewing for 45 years. You can see her on The Shopping Channel a few times per year. She and Barkhouse, who has been a sewer for

48 years, opened the cafe two and a half years ago and the business continues to grow.

The Sewing Cafe is open Monday to Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, check out their Facebook page or their website at www.TheSewingCafe.ca



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