

## Opal Wing Creations to say farewell with weekend open house

More than a decade ago, Opal Wing Creations set up shop in the Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre in Glen Williams. Tucked in a little closet-sized space, Naomi Assenheim had no clue that this little hub would be the launching pad for a decade-long journey.

Thanks to the love and support of her fellow artists and the community around her, Opal Wing Creations blossomed into spirited and successful Jewelry business. Inspired by the natural world around her, Assenheim's jewelry features branches and twigs cast into silver, found on her daily hikes on the Bruce trail along the Niagara Escarpment. Many of you probably saw Assenheim hiking around on her morning walks, gathering inspiration and found objects to be transformed into her wearable art pieces.

Today, Assenheim and her family have embarked on a Georgian Bay adventure. Moving north along the escarpment, Opal Wing Creations has set up The Woodland Studio. Nestled amongst the trees and rocks of one of the most astounding geographic and bio-diverse regions in the world.

Assenheim and her family now live just outside of Meaford, Ont., where she will continue her journey with Opal Wing Creations, Spirited Jewelry, inspired by nature and created with



**NAOMI ASSENHEIM**

love.

"It has been totally exciting and terrifying all at the same time. Leaving the Mill was probably one of the hardest decisions that I have ever had to make"

But sometimes the river of life continues onward, and Naomi has never been one to sit back and watch it pass by her.

In order to commemorate her departure at the Williams Mill, Assenheim will be holding one more open house and gratitude sale, to celebrate, reminisce and give thanks for all the years of love, support, connections and joy that she has felt being part of such a strong artistic community.

The Open House celebration will take place the weekend of Sept. 25-27, noon to 5 p.m. Assenheim's work will still be available in the Main Gallery of the Williams Mill, where she will be happy to continue to stay connected and feature her new work.

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### What makes a bully?

Bullying among young people is a serious concern; parents, schools, and the law are taking it more seriously than ever before. But even though we all condemn this kind of violence, it can be useful to try and understand where exactly it comes from.

#### THE SOCIAL CONTEXT

First, the tolerance of aggression in our culture has a major influence on our children. Violence is often glorified, whether it is portrayed on television or in movies, music, or video games. It is not really viable to distance our children from the media and popular culture, but it is a wise parent who takes the time to explain that violence is never a good solution.

#### THE FAMILY CONTEXT

Children grow up learning from their parents, who are their role models. If parents practice discrimination or regularly express belittling sentiments about others, children will also adopt that kind of attitude and behaviour. The use of violence in child discipline also tends to instill such attitudes.

#### THE SCHOOL CONTEXT

Schools must establish a balance between clear and consistent discipline and warm and positive relationships, just like at home. Studies show that to reduce bullying at school, a clear policy on bullying should be established, and the consequences of this abhorrent behaviour enforced.

In Canada, the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention aims to help combat crime and victimization through bullying. Through various early intervention programs, the organization teaches young people to stand up to antisocial behaviour in order to create healthy environments for themselves. We should all advocate for this kind of policy so that bullying is never given the chance to take root. Bullying among young people is a serious concern; parents, schools, and the law are taking it more seriously than ever before. But even though we all condemn this kind of violence, it can be useful to try and understand where exactly it comes from.

