



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

Tom Konyndyk of White Rabbit Books in Georgetown says that for most local businesses, it's a labour of love, and owners are passionate about what they specialize in.

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and daughters.

Reading is a passion for he and his family.

"I think a lot of the small businesses in the downtown could be described as labours of love," he said, adding that these people give an insight and expertise to the products and services that they sell.

For Milton BIA executive director Rachel Shuttleworth, she has noticed a rise in workshops, classes and in-person experiences being offered at local businesses and shops in town.

"It's almost a two-part business," she said. "It's something else that's

unique. It gets people into the stores."

In Milton, shops like La-la Soap Company offer make-your-own cosmetics and skin care workshops, where they teach participants how to make products like organic lip gloss, scrubs and face masks.

"It's a neat byproduct of changing market forces," she said.

In 2016, a total of 13,287 businesses operated in Halton Region, providing a total of 224,299 jobs. Top companies like Ford, Mold-Masters and Sofina Foods provide some of the highest numbers of jobs in the Region and are affected by the push to buy local in

a different way. The town of Halton Hills is one of the leading municipalities in the buy Canadian movement, standing up against U.S. President Donald Trump's trade tariffs on Canadian products.

"It's actually having an impact on starting that conversation," said Regional councillor Clark Somerville, who has stood alongside Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette in his calls for Halton Hills to source Canadian products.

"If you don't have those local retailers, they won't be out supporting the community," he said. "For the sake of the community I will always shop local first."

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