

# ACTON'S ARTSY PHARTSY A PLACE FOR CRAFTING AND COFFEE

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There's a new space in downtown Acton to relax and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee.

Artsy Phartsy recently added a lounge to its Mill Street East studio, where owner Amanda Warden is serving up locally-sourced java and treats, with lunch items potentially being added to the menu soon as well.

The popular arts business has become synonymous with creativity in Halton Hills, providing a place for people of all ages and skill levels to paint, illustrate and craft during drop-in sessions and classes.

The mother of two was inspired by her own crafty children to open the business. When they were younger, Warden found herself driving them to Georgetown for art classes as there was nothing available in Acton.

"I was always intrigued by what they did in class," she said.

"I thought you know what, I can do this."

From there, Warden - who went to school for interior design, along with crafts and design - began renting out space at Acton's Roxy Coffee to teach art classes.

With some encouragement from the Roxy and Downtown Acton Business Improvement Area, she was inspired to open her own paint lounge, starting off four years ago in a small downtown location with space for creating and merchandise from a few local artisans.

As the demand for local products grew, Warden began carrying more vendors. Today, the business has moved down the street to a larger location and is half studio, half store, with products available from over 40 local artisans.

"The business has grown organically. I listened to what customers wanted and made changes along the way," explained War-



Melanie Hennessey/Metroland

Artsy Phartsy owner Amanda Warden recently added a lounge for customers to sit and enjoy coffee and treats while their children paint and create.

den. "It's been such a labour of love."

The family-run shop also re-

cently welcomed Life Vine Creations by Dorothea Vuyk, who will be supplying the store with

## ARTSY PHARTSY

122 Mill St. E., Acton

### CONTACT:

artsyphartsy@bell.net

www.artsyphartsy.ca

### PHONE:

519-853-2789

### HOURS:

Tuesday-Friday - 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday - open for private events

Monday - closed

both fresh and silk flower arrangements.

The ever-popular ice cream shop at the store will open during the May long weekend.

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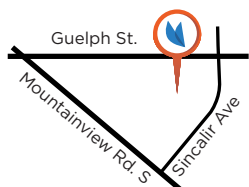
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