



Graham Paine/Metroland

Puzzles Canada owners Bruce Donnelly and his wife Trista have tens of thousands of puzzles to choose from.

# 'ALL THE PIECES FELL INTO PLACE'

LOCAL STORE HAS THOUSANDS OF PUZZLES TO CHOOSE FROM

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One may say it was the missing piece on the local retail scene. Puzzles Canada officially opened its showroom doors in Georgetown late last year, with over 20,000 puzzles in stock from 60 different brand names.

While the activity became increasingly common to fill the hours during lockdowns over the past two years, Bruce Donnelly — who owns Puzzles Canada with his wife Trista, along with Squirt's Toys — said that puzzles have long been a go-to pastime for many.

"They've always been popular, but there was definitely a bit of a spike when it (the pandemic) hit," he said.

The entrepreneurial couple sell their share of puzzles at Squirt's and say they reached a point where they couldn't handle the volume within the confines of their Guelph Street toy store. From there, Puzzles Canada was born.

The brand initially

launched as an online-only business, shipping its good across Canada and the United States, with many orders coming from far-reaching places like Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

When the Donnellys were looking for a warehouse to store their products, they came across a Mountainview Road North building with space that could also serve as a storefront.

"This was definitely not the vision we started off with, but we're glad that everything worked out," said Donnelly. "All the pieces fell into place."

The couple opened their doors to the public just before Christmas, and Donnelly said there has been a lot of excitement in the community about their expansive inventory.

From traditional children's puzzles to popular

## PUZZLES CANADA

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1,000 piece ones for adults, the store carries every theme imaginable, with Cobble Hill and Ravensburger being a couple of their biggest brands.

Among their most unique offerings is a 42,000-piece puzzle that's 25 feet long when completed. They also sell family puzzles, which include a combination of large pieces for children to assemble and small/medium pieces for adults so that everyone can work on the same project.

"It's bringing families back together, just like the old family dinner where you sit around and talk," said Donnelly.

For further details, visit [puzzlescanada.ca](http://puzzlescanada.ca).

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### Challenging a Will because of "Undue Influence"



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The basic purpose of a Will is to allow individuals to set out their final wishes and instructions as to how their affairs should be handled after they pass away. Therefore, the Court will not set aside a Will lightly.

Often when a Will is challenged "undue influence" is one of the primary grounds. Although it may seem obvious to the Will challenger that the testator was influenced by an ill-intentioned friend or relative, because a Will challenge takes place after the testator has passed away, the testator is unable to say what really happened.

Understandably then, the threshold for establishing a Will was the product of undue influence is high. In *Banton v. Banton* the Superior Court of Ontario stated it must be "...established on the balance of probabilities that the influence imposed by some other person on the deceased was so great and overpowering that the document reflects the will of the former and not that of the deceased."

Although the facts of each case are unique, there are certain indicators of undue influence which have been noted in the case law, including:

- The testator is depending on the beneficiary for emotional and physical needs;
- The testator is socially isolated;
- The testator has experienced recent bereavement; and
- The testator has made a new will not consistent with prior Wills.

Simply showing there was opportunity or motive to unduly influence a testator, however, is not sufficient to prove undue influence.

Considering the high threshold and evidentiary hurdles for challenging a Will, those considering a Will challenge should evaluate their options by consulting with a lawyer experienced in estate litigation.

Call us we can help.

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