Red Rose shop moves downtown

BY DOUG HARRISON The Acton Tanner

The name hasn't changed, but the scenery certainly has.

After almost four months operating in the country between Acton and Georgetown, Nancy Labelle has rejuvenated some life — and variety — into the downtown core by moving her craft consignment business to the Nielsen building (between the police station and the former bake shop).

I've already had a lot of seniors come to me and say 'thank heaven you're here, we're glad you moved into town," said Labelle after opening Red Rose Country Crafts last Monday. The grand opening was Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm.

The switch to a bigger location has allowed the Erin resident to

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bring in more consigners (17 currently) and more variety, not to mention more clientele.

"People have been very friendly and responsive and I appreciate that. It makes me feel good in that I've done the right thing by coming into town," Labelle offers.

Indeed she has. A look at last week's numbers tells the story: last Monday brought about a 150 per cent increase in business from the old location and by mid-afternoon on Thursday, Labelle figured over 150 people had already paid a welcome visit.

Red Rose is a crafter's paradise. No longer will there be public outcry about having to trek to Georgetown or Guelph to purchase a spool of wool.

Some of the items available, Labelle notes, are cross-stitch, knitting supplies, flower arranging, baby's needs, woodworking, finished gifts for virtually any occasion, customized orders and, of

Main man charged

A Main Street North man was charged following an altercation last Sunday evening.

The 35-year-old man punched another Main Street resident in the mouth during an argument at approximately 11:45 pm.

The man will appear in court on Aug. 15, charged with assault, level 1.

course, "my smiling face."

Fabrics should be in stock next week, while Victorian crafts have been talked about.

If a customer wants a different colour and size of an item, consigners can take special requests.

Red Rose Country Crafts also has two classrooms. Labelle is currently teaching ceramics, knitting registration is taking place, folk-art classes commence this Sunday and a kids craft class will start at the end of the month.

"I enjoy dealing with people. I've taught ceramic lessons for seven years and enjoy all ages."

It all started for Labelle when she was a youngster. In fact, she was born into a crafter's family.

"Everyone in my family is talented at some craft and I have several of the pieces in the store," Labelle stated. "I have a rocking horse and foot stool from my uncles, folk-art painting from aunts, cushions that my grandmother did and unfinished wooden pieces from my sister in Nova Scotia.

"I went there for a visit and came back with a car load of stuff. It turned out to be a business trip."

It was a dream of Labelle, and her late husband William, to open a resort in northern Ontario after putting their children through school. Labelle would run the gift shop-restaurant, while her husband would head the resort.

"I have people to support (three of the four children are still in school) and I can't afford to have the business not work," she says.

"I lost my husband last year, so this is my new beginning."



CRAFT CONSIGNMENTS!

Consignor Wendy Holmes holds the bunny she made at Red Rose Country Crafts' grand opening on Saturday. Presently some 17 consignors have their craft work on display at the new Mill Street shop. (Lori Frechette photo)

Dan C. Dolliver

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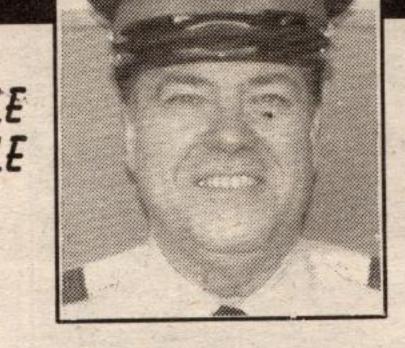
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Tips for seniors

We have some final tips for seniors on crimeproofing your home and car.

Have you put special phone numbers beside the telephone for quick access in an emergency?

If you notice a suspicious loiterer, play it safe and call the police.

· If you return home and suspect someone is in your home, do not enter; call the police immediately.

Remembering these safety tips can be beneficial for everyone. Safety is everybody's business; watch out for yourself and your neighbour.

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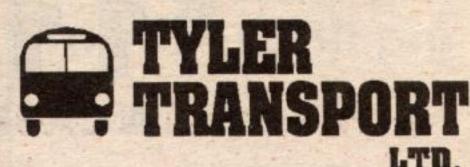
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