

# 'Ribbon Man' opens in Rockwood

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Rockwood Miller

The *Ribbon and Lace Man* considers himself a middle man who is bringing his cut-rate prices to downtown Rockwood.

After 11 years and three relocations in Guelph, Larry Stafford has decided to move *The Ribbon and Lace Man* to Main Street, beside Saunders Bakery.

Part of it is for sentimental reasons. And part of it is his dislike for the City of Guelph. The final straw was the switch to quarter-to-loonie parking meters from dime-to-quarter machines in front of his former downtown business.

"Stores in Guelph are dying because of it," charged the Rockwood resident recently. "Nothing pisses off a person more than getting a ticket after buying something. They (City of Guelph) have

done nothing but raise taxes, over double the last two years."

So, needless to say, Stafford is thrilled to move from the big city to what he considers "a crafty town" like Rockwood.

"I live here and my wife is due with our first child in March. So I'll be in town, ready to look after the baby if she needs a break," Stafford explained.

Despite there not being another ribbon and lace store in the village, Stafford, 35, doesn't see a risk opening shop in Rockwood, because the majority of his business is done on the road at sewing shows, flea markets, fairs, craft sales and the International Plowing Match.

"It's basically a warehouse here," he said of the Rockwood business, adding two fully-stored trucks are continuously on the road.

"I'm kind of a middle man who offers items 30 to 40 per cent cheaper than other stores."

What *The Ribbon and Lace Man* offers is lines of ribbon; cotton laces, threads, sequins for dance attire and full-range Christmas supplies.

On the craft end, there's a small selection of craft ribbon, beads and items with lace for making dolls.

As well, quilting and embroidering items, iron-on hem tap, hem facings, craft and quilt needles and folding scissors are also available.

Stafford, with a degree in chemistry and physics from the University of Guelph, added that he ruffles lace on the premises for customers, along with taking special orders, like pew bow ribbons for weddings.

"After I finished school there wasn't any work, so I wanted to make my own work and not go on unemployment or welfare," stated Stafford, who was introduced to the business by his father.

He hopes people will take to the store in Rockwood and is confident former customers at his old store, especially those from Acton and Georgetown, will appreciate the shorter drive.

According to Stafford, about 30 locals have already dropped by to say hello and take a look-see. "It's nice and refreshing when people want to see you make it and aren't doing something to not make it survive," said Stafford, taking another shot at Guelph.

"I'll have better hours here (open Sundays from May to October) and the prices will be the same, if not cheaper, than always."



LOTS OF LACE! Ribbon and Lace Man Larry Stafford shows off some lace available at his Rockwood store on Main Street. He also offers lines of ribbon, cotton laces and threads.

## Coming up ...

**April 7, Friday — 8 pm:** The Eden Mills Friendly Seniors are holding their spring euchre night, at Eden Mills Hall. Admission \$2. Refreshments, prizes. Everybody welcome. Call John at 856-4784 for details.

**April 10, Monday — 7 pm:** Eramosa Seniors' Resource Centre presents their Spring Fashion Show at the Rockmosa Community Centre. Tickets are \$5. Chance to win a door prize. Everyone is welcome.

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## Tax clinic

Next Wednesday and Friday, March 29 and 31, the Eramosa Seniors' Resource Centre, in co-operation with Cote & Associates, an accounting and tax firm, is hosting a seniors' income tax clinic at 155 Main St. S. in Rockwood.

To qualify, seniors must have an income under \$18,000, or \$23,000 for a couple. Call 1-800-640-0928 to set up an appointment (space is filling fast).

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