

Great gift ideas in Acton stores

Think twice before going Christmas shopping out of town this year - Acton stores are full of great gift ideas for every person on your shopping list.

If you know someone who's a fan of the British series *Coronation Street*, you might want to check out the selection of collectibles from the show at Wetherby's. Owner Jo Lister has books, magnets, tea cosies, tea towels and jigsaw puzzles from this popular dramatic series in the store.

Fine bone china mugs, including some with tartan designs are available starting at \$10.95. There are Beatrix Potter and Rupert the Bear gift items for kids, golf items from St. Andrew's in Scotland and tartan wool ties for \$25.95.

If you're having trouble deciding what to get someone, why not get them a basketful? Country Reflections has seven different sizes of decorated gift baskets, starting at \$10. These can be filled

with a variety of Christmas or gift items, from imported chocolates to scented candles, collector teddy bears and bath salts, says store owner Judy MacDonald.

The store also carries different styles of candle holders as well as solid wood-framed calligraphy prints, which range in price from \$18.95 to \$31.95.

With more than 30 crafters on consignment at Red Rose Country Crafts, it's hard to mention just a few of the items, says co-owner Nancy Labelle. Besides selling completed decorations and gifts, the store has the supplies for people to make their own. A great deal for parents are the colourful soft plush toys for less than \$5.

"We've got something for absolutely everyone here," she says, adding custom orders should be made by Dec. 9.

The Olde Hide House has a vast selection of gifts in addition to leather and suede coats. Leather

knapsacks start at \$59, while all-leather belts sell for \$12.

"Hot new fashion items are the Urban Jungle truckers' wallet, which come with a chain, for \$19.95," says Hide House president Steve Dawkins.

Halton Hills Furniture and Appliances has a large selection of clocks, from small ones to grandfather clocks, starting at \$39, says owner Ron Kuiken. Also great for gifts are framed prints in many sizes, from \$29.

Christmas gifts are only limited to your own imagination. Many times couples will buy a gift together and "give" it to themselves for Christmas. Kuiken says a couple may decide to furnish a room in their home for Christmas.

The same thing is seen by Gisele Charette at A Touch of Class, who says even a bathroom vanity can be a great gift at Christmas. A Touch of Class also carries different sizes of area novelty rugs, ranging from \$99, \$179 and \$349, depending on the size. The rugs can be used as a wall hanging or in front of a fireplace.

Whatever you're looking for at Christmas, remember to visit Acton shops first!



BEDROXX OPENS! Bartender Marina Kuehler fixes up a glass of Coke at Thursday's opening of Bedroxx, Acton's newest restaurant-bar on Mill Street. The bar features pool tables and a high-tech light and sound system for dancing. (Doug Harrison photo)

Gift Baskets • Hall Decorating • Balloon Bouquets



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Seminar helps holiday grieving

BY KAREN WETMORE
The Acton Tanner

Enduring the holiday season after the death of a loved one can be a difficult time.

The Bereavement Resource Centre of Halton Hills is holding a "Coping With the Holidays," seminar tomorrow (Thursday) at 7:30 pm in St. Alban's Church hall.

Mary Carpenter, co-ordinator for the three-year-old centre, will speak on ways to help get through a trying time of year.

"Our main focus is to give people some strategies on how to cope," says Carpenter.

One thing to do is make a list of all the holiday traditions you have done over the years. Decide on

your priorities. You might decide to cancel some of them or get help to keep all of the traditions in place. Carpenter says if a widow is used to having the entire family over for a big home-cooked meal, maybe a potluck dinner would be easier to accomplish this year.

When sending Christmas cards, Carpenter suggests writing one letter for all of them, especially if it's a letter informing acquaintances of the death of a family member. The important thing is to do whatever feels right.

"It's a time people seem to dread and is just as significant as an anniversary or birthday."

The centre runs group seminars for adults. The support from other

group members and hearing from people with the same experiences is very helpful, she says.

"People come in as strangers and in a lot of pain. They leave knowing they're not alone."

The centre serves all of North Halton. Although support sessions have only been held in Georgetown to date, Carpenter would like to offer them in Acton, if the interest is there. Carpenter can be reached by phone or in person on Fridays only, as the centre does not have office space of its own and uses an office at the Literacy Guild. Messages, which Carpenter tries to answer within a day, can be left on the centre's answering machine at 873-7630.

R.R.2

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