

Wandering through The Gardener's Courtyard

BY DEBORAH QUAILLE
THE COMPASS

A world of whimsical gifts awaits at The Gardener's Courtyard in Campbellville.

Once inside the door, a waft of delicious beeswax fragrance assails the visitor's senses, coming from an entire shelf of hand crafted candles. The bee lanterns are made by a family colony in Winnipeg, and can be used with inside tapers that can be replaced, allowing reuse of the outer flower-studded shell. Even more interesting is a honey pot beeswax candle with dipper; when the honey is done, the shell can be used with candles.

The trickle of indoor water fountains murmurs in the background as shoppers eye the numerous shelves and wallspace. Each holds a new delight, and it's no wonder that visitors have told owner Lisa Stoodley that they don't want to leave - her space is so soothing and enjoyable.

"I really love the store. I've been able to make it personal -

with the serenity of the water and everything. I enjoy the arts very much - I've done a lot of my own artwork, and made a few dolls. I thought I'd try my hand at a store because I enjoy it."

Lisa, who lives in Mississauga with her husband and son, moved her store to Campbellville last July.

"I thought that Campbellville needed something along with the antique shops. I wanted to offer a little more. That's why we went to Bradford - their heirloom quality, the limited editions of items - they're special gifts. I also wanted to cater to the residents of Campbellville rather than being just a 'tourist' store."

Lisa enjoys the work of many artists and carries "a lot of Canadian and local artists. Getting started, for an artist, is very difficult because in today's world everything is mass produced. I thought this way I could help them out."

There are many items in the store from local craftspeople, such as handcrafted stone art mosaics by Oakville's Gabrielle and Roma Cortez and hand painted candles from Bonnie Peacock of Cambridge. Not to mention, of course, the Raggedy Anne and Andy sets created by Lisa herself.

Out of the immediate geographic area, shoppers can select an item from Jan Stevens, who creates toad houses and bird feeders; photographic nature art by Peter and Marilyn Doney of Etobicoke, or the watercolour work of Rachel Anne from New Brunswick.

Along with one of a kind items, Lisa is an authorized Bradford Group dealership, carrying ornaments (the most successful of which are by Lena Lui) and art plates.

"It's Christmas all year here," she mentions, smiling, especially with the range of decorations that arrive daily.

Lisa has two assistants in her shop: Marie, who works part time, and Lisa's son Ryan, who is a great help with receiving goods and talking to customers. He also gives his mother's work a preferential plug to anyone in the store.

Ginger the cat is always in The Gardener's Courtyard too, wandering through the statuary or relaxing in her basket.

"Ginger loves the attention upon greeting everyone," Lisa adds.

The Second Birthday Sale Event at The Gardener's Courtyard offers 20 per cent off everything in the store for the entire month of September. It's a wonderful opportunity for shoppers to browse and find some memorable gifts, perhaps while

cruising the countryside on fall foliage tours.

The Gardener's Courtyard is at 19 Main Street, Campbellville. Phone 905-854-5000 for further information about the store. Parking spaces are off Main, just north of the Noco Gas Station.



The Gardener's Courtyard Sizzling Sale!

"The garden is where the soul feels at home."

E. Lisa Stoodley



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