

The new Eden Place

Photo and story by Deborah Quaille

The old shop bell jangles over the door as a visitor edges around a large shipment of stock that just arrived, waiting for dispersal around the store. There are fascinating giftware pieces everywhere, from the thoughtful bears to antique weaving mills' bobbins.

The store's owner is enthusiastic over the space, a feeling that can't help be rubbed off on customers.

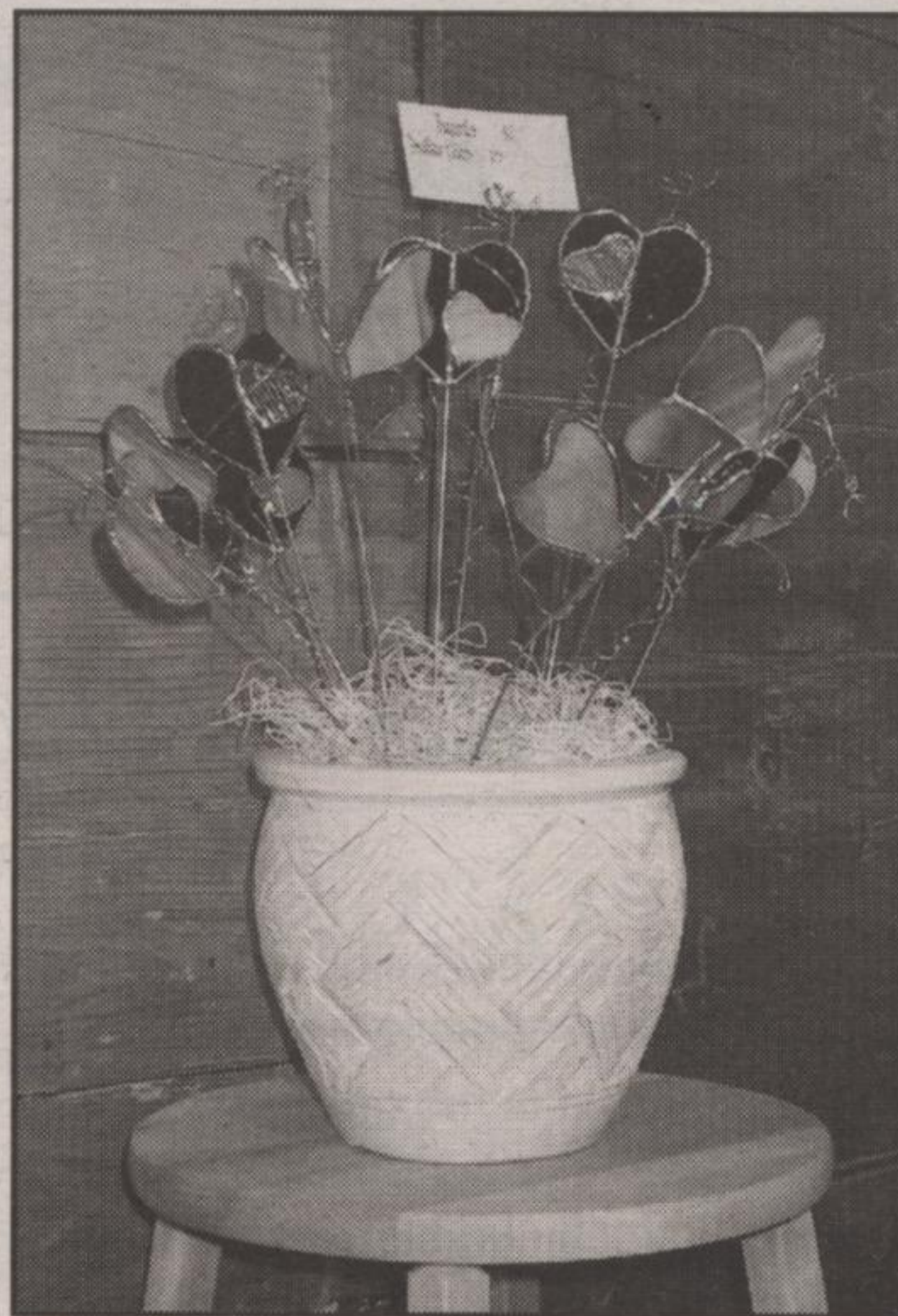
"This place is meant to inspire - the stone, the wood - I've loved this store for years," she says.

Wendy Evans, a Guelph resident, has recently purchased Eden Place in Eden Mills and will be showcasing her line of stained glass in the historic building. Evans is working hard to create a fresh environment, welcoming the village residents and tourists to the shop. The front windows are decorated for spring, and inside the building is a

growing display of whimsical glass creations, such as beveled glass angels, sun catchers of unusual design, and glass checker sets. There are "nature dishes" in soft earthy colours with thought-provoking sayings, and elements of the world around us: fused glass stars, moons, snowflakes or birds.

"I want to have a place where a woman can walk in and find a gift for herself, a sister, a mother... I want this place to be welcoming."

Evans will have her own operational studio inside, as well as keeping the post office open for the convenience of residents. She hopes to offer basic classes in the summer, for which she will supply all the materials to create a simple



glass item. The classes will probably take place on Saturdays, about three hours from start to finish. Afterward, if students are inspired by what they create, they may further their study in Guelph.

For further information on the new Eden Place, call Evans at 519-856-2459, or drop in and have a look. Be sure to visit Art In Eden, beginning this month.



Lesley Andrew's *Dream a Little Dream* concert, from left to right: Paula Ortelli, Lesley Andrew, Anthony Christie.

Photo by Donna Danielli

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