

A Touch of Magic

From garden fantasy to fairies, The Gardener's Courtyard holds giftware galore

by Deborah Qualle

"I enjoy talking to people - the personal interaction makes me feel good," comments store owner Dawndeanna Murphy. "My sister started the store here three years ago, and I bought it from her about one year ago. I came into this business wanting to give and take; I believe 'what goes around, comes around'."

With that philosophy firmly in mind, Ms. Murphy approaches her customers and visitors with enthusiasm, making friends with all. Her warm family atmosphere from home spills over into work, a place where children can enjoy a chocolate after patiently waiting for their parent, or a regular customer is

offered a 15 per cent discount in appreciation for their valuable contribution to the community-rooted business.

"Come into the store," she invites, pausing here and there to show off some of her most unique treasures. There are treats for all the senses at The Gardener's Courtyard, from the rich scent of beeswax candles, the trickle of soothing water fountains, to satiny soft bears or furry pets. New products are constantly arriving, especially collectors' items from the Bradford lines, which are given a place of honour near the front of the store.

Bubbling with ideas and enthusiasm, Ms. Murphy will be expanding business soon by

launching a website for mail order sales. Right now, interested parties can email any questions or requests to her.

Even her quiet moments at the store are filled with work, like her handmade quilts, from baby to twin size. They make great gifts for Christmas, and can be specially ordered.

As well, as a member of Campbellville's business association she's putting together a vendor sale in the Campbellville Lions' Hall for the Harvest Festival on October 6, 7 and 8. The festival is a wonderful way to spend Thanksgiving weekend, enjoying the beauty and bounty of the season in the village. There will be live music in her courtyard, a spot that is a lovely work in progress. The area already has a beautiful rock fountain (made in conjunction with MacKinnon Ponds), benches, decorative home items, flowers and bushes. A playhouse will be installed shortly for children to visit and indulge in their own make-believe, while adults peruse the store at leisure.

"It's very pleasant for out-of-town people to come to Campbellville - we're here for you."

In fact, it's like Christmas all year round at Ms. Murphy's store. The cheerful glow of twinkle lights and icicle lights brighten the ceiling, and a gently overhanging tree

displays ornaments. Around the rest of the room are items for any age group, from April Scott's children's clothing (up to size 5) to Lena Liu collectibles, Bradford's Artist of the Year. A selection of Harry Potter ware is situated right at the front door, and farther inside are pieces from folk artist Laurie Tascone - birdhouses, planters and more.

Intriguing resin playing boards beg for outdoor games enthusiasts - who could resist playing tic-tac-toe with frogs and dragonflies, or toads and turtles? Or perhaps a friendly game of checkers with butterflies and roses?

The back-to-school crowd might appreciate a furry backpack clip-on, or a plush pet water bottle cover. Younger children may prefer "Godzippa" or "Hippazippa," fun pajama bags for overnight jaunts at grandparents' or friends' homes.

In an effort to assist various groups raise money, Ms. Murphy donates 15 per cent of special sales to parents or workers of organizations that meet certain sales amounts, such as Milton District High, the Oakville Choir, Milton Springers, and Brookville School.

Dedicated to finding more unique Canadian artists - especially local ones - Ms. Murphy is interested in viewing their quality, hand-crafted wares to sell in her store.

More important is the Big Birthday Bash during the entire

month of September, offering from 20 to 50 per cent off certain items. It's the third annual sale, highlighted by a fairy that will flit around and offer her own touch of whimsy to the store on weekends. Every item can be shipped free of charge in Canada. Customers can have gift baskets made up for babies, children or adults, and gift-wrapping is free - a particular boon in the onset of the upcoming holiday season.

Ms. Murphy's great spirit giving, honesty, and attention to detail is evident in every nook of The Gardener's Courtyard, a spot where the bottom line is not the end of the line. In part, she takes her philosophy from a children's book about Miss Rumphius, a retired school-teacher. The teacher wanted to give back some beauty to the world, and threw handfuls of wildflower seeds as she took her daily walk. Little by little as a couple of years passed, the flowers grew and bloomed, and re-seeded to provide even more loveliness to the countryside. After the teacher died, local children were still amazed at the wonderful contribution that the teacher

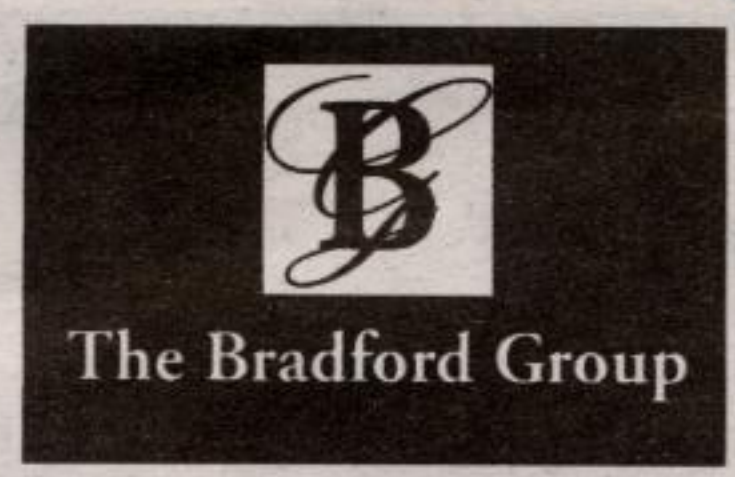
"That's how I feel," Ms. Murphy relates. "I want to bring beauty here, to show more gratitude for life."



The Gardener's Courtyard Big Birthday Bash!

Up to 50% off the entire stock
to celebrate our Third Birthday!

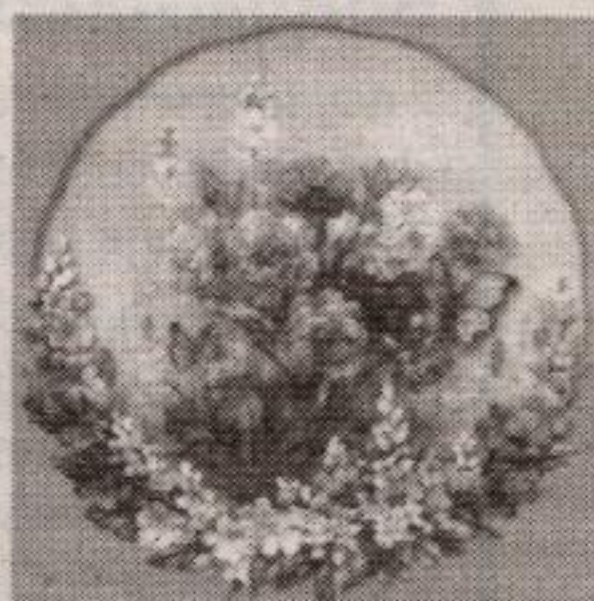
Sale runs September 1 to 30, 2001 - Come in and see us!



Always A Champion



Precious Blessing



Luminous Bouquet



Winter's Retreat

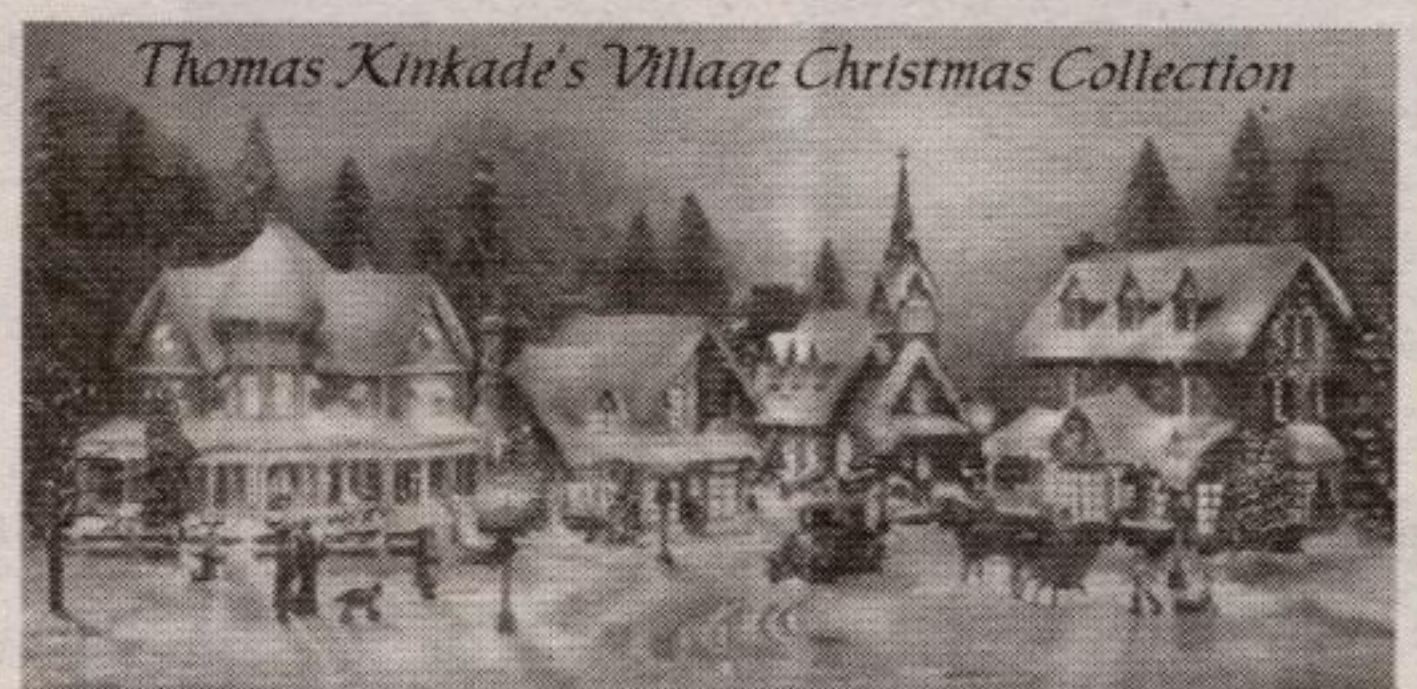


All God's Treasures



Spirit of the Night

Garden Sculptures - Waterfalls & Fountains
Unique Wall Plaques & Thermometers
Sundials & Stepping Stones - Collectibles, Musicals & Giftware
Candles & Fragrances - Collectible Bears & Dolls
... and so much more!

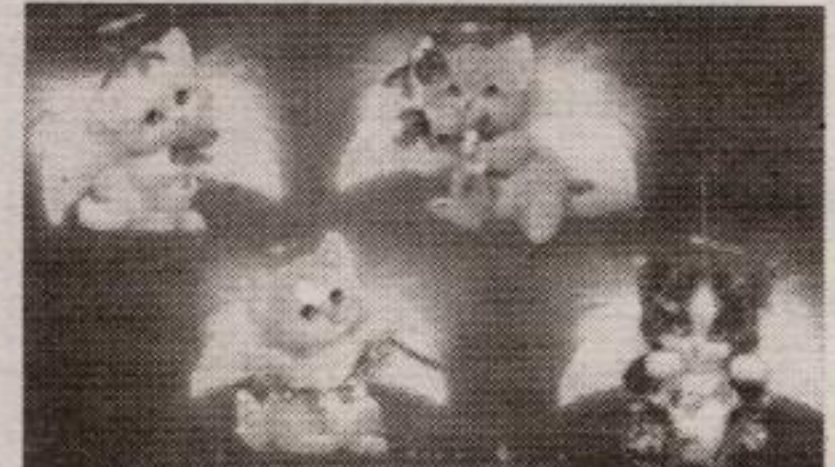
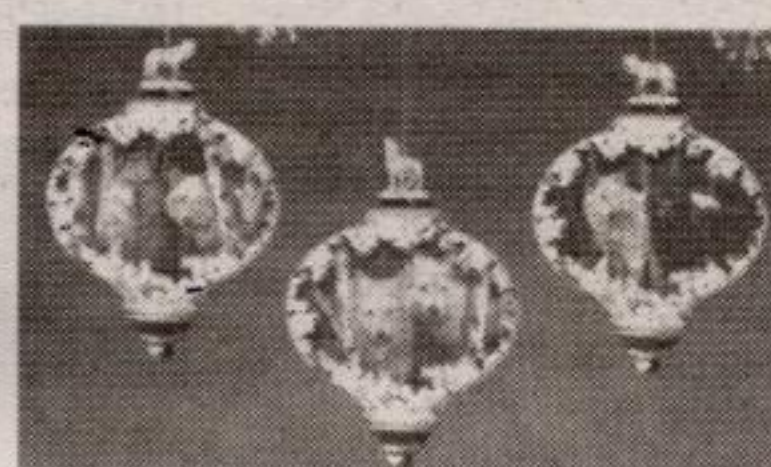


Thomas Kinkadee's Village Christmas Collection

Limited Edition Ornaments from...



Engles Wings



19 Main St. N., Noco Station Plaza, Campbellville, Ontario (905) 854-5000 Closed Mondays