

Where creative décor is timeless

by Deborah Qualle

Tucked in the trees up on the Campbell Avenue hill in Campbellville is Carriage Hill Interiors & Accessories Ltd., a small shop where owner Sue Duval fashions rooms from sensational items.

Ms. Duval offers a complete home decorating service, where in-home consultations, fabric selection, colour coordination, custom window treatments, and arrangements are worked with care.

"A lot of the items I've designed and made on my own," she comments while displaying a snow-tipped, wintry centerpiece for the table. "I always loved interior design. I graduated in June 2000 from Sheridan College, and opened the shop in July 2000. This was my millennium project. It's something I've always wanted to do."

From cheery, sparkling Santas clutching "HO HO HO" sleighs, to shelves of mantle clocks ticking in gentle unison, the little shop is sure to please prospective clients. There is a wide range of items, from tiny decorative pieces modeled after Victorian dresses or boots, to lovely old-fashioned cat gift bags crafted from velvet and lace. Comfortable carved and upholstered chairs entice visitors to imagine them in their own homes, perhaps along with a delightful table.

Ms. Duval converted part of the garage to offer a sampling of items "to promote what I do," and display a selection of things available from various sources. She enjoys acting as consultant for new homeowners through local



Photo by Deborah Qualle

Sue Duval displays pieces from her interior design shop.

builders, creating cohesive looks for residential space, commercial buildings, and hospitality industries. As well, she is a member of CDECA, the Canadian Decorators Association, a group dedicated to giving professional and ethical consultation to clients (after members have obtained the appropriate educational background). As well, she likes to share opportunities and resources with others, and through that "trade networking" knows what goods are out there, or where to find certain things.

Of course, a successful business is nothing without mentioning the assistance behind the scenes. Ms. Duval's husband Larry provides enthusiastic support, and their beloved dog Molson is often a charming greeter.

Last year's Christmas Open House was a booming success, and Ms. Duval will be offering the same

festive atmosphere this year. From Friday, November 9 to Sunday, November 18, Carriage Hill will be open from 12 to 7 p.m. daily. Many of her in-shop items would make delightful gifts for the holiday season, or pampering purchases for your own home. She invites interested individuals to drop by and view what the business has to offer.

"A home should reflect your personality, not the decorator's likes. Good décor is timeless, and I want to make a customer's home comfortable, with a style that works and lasts a lifetime."

Carriage Hill Interiors is open May to October, Saturdays 10 to 5, Sundays and holidays 12 to 5 and by appointment Monday to Friday year round. The location is 106 Campbell Avenue East, Campbellville. Call 905-854-4451 or email carriagehill@on.aibn.com for further information.

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