

# Hot for business

## Wellington Stove Sales opens home heating and leisure centre

By Deb Quaille

With colder weather on the way, comfort is the key word to keep in mind. Wellington Stove Sales knows all about that basic human desire to cocoon by a fire and warm tired bones at the end of the day.

This is the season to begin thinking about all of your heating needs. The focus should be on efficiency and with quality products that provide the best heating for every size of dwelling. "We've had 12 years in the heating industry nationwide. We know what works, especially in alternative fuels," says Art Davis, the owner of Wellington Stove Sales. "The store in Rockwood is new, but we're not. Our other retail outlet on the Fourth Line is still operating. That location will handle firewood as well.

"We think we're fulfilling a need in the community. As energy prices rise, we will continue to offer alternative heating products. Many other retail locations are just fireplace stores, but we have a full range of goods," Mr. Davis explains. If visitors don't immedi-

ately see what they want, all they need to do is ask.

Wellington Stove Sales' stock includes small stoves for hunting camps and large fireplaces suited to designer homes, with an eye to renewable fuel sources, maximum efficiency and features such as double burning chambers. It's a one-stop shopping experience for homeowners whether they want wood, pellet, gas or propane heating. The mandate for home heating includes pleasure along with efficiency, but the staff at Wellington Stove Sales also cares about the environment.

"People should be burning renewable fuels," Jackie Davis-Rayner believes. "Pellet stoves, for example, use a renewable wood product."

Although pellet stoves run via a hydro connection, they can be backed up with a battery or generator when power is temporarily discontinued. Pellet stoves are 80 to 85 per cent efficient, some of the highest ratings available, with enough

BTUs to heat anything from 1,000 square feet to well over 2,000 square feet of living space.

Ian Clark, who runs the Rockwood store, recently installed a wood pellet central furnace in a Guelph greenhouse to extend the operation's growing time. As a fuel source, wood pellets are cheaper than propane, oil or electricity, and initial start-up costs can

be recovered in three years. The furnace offers the luxurious heat and warmth of wood at a higher efficiency rate with a controlled auto-burn system. In the near

future, Harman Stoves, one of the main manufacturers that Wellington Stove Sales carries, will be introducing a combined corn and wood pellet stove that will offer owners the option of burning either fuel from their separate chambers.

"We are looking to increase our prominence in solar and wind powered energy sources in the future," Mr. Clark adds. "The concept of the store is to be a designer location for home comfort. People may choose the heating product to suit their concepts and designs."

Whether you purchase a stand-alone wood stove or a fireplace, you'll want to dress it up and insulate the surrounding space. Mr. Clark has sample mantles in a range of woods including oak, maple and pine that can be custom stained or antiqued. The craftsman who constructs the woodwork can also surround the fireplace with a TV, electronic equipment or shelf space so that an entire wall becomes the focal point for a handsome living area. If wood is not the way you want to go, there are sample stone finishes that exude beauty, durability and timeless appeal.

Along with the wide array of home heating concepts, the store continues to expand its leisure lines. There are barbecues, smokers, outdoor fire pits (wood or propane), smoking chips and pellets, barbecue accessories, venting systems and fireplace accessories. You can even select something spe-



PHOTO BY DEB QUAILLE

Welcome to home comfort! The staff of Wellington Stove Sales is ready to provide customers with options for all their heating needs. From left to right: Bob Girdwood, Ian Clark, Art Davis and Jackie Davis-Rayner.



cial for tonight's dinner from the array of spice mixes and gourmet barbecue sauces.

As forecasts suggest that oil, propane and natural gas costs will continue to rise, it might be wise to consider the optional heating systems available at Wellington Stove Sales, not to mention the added ambiance of flickering flames that everyone loves on a cold winter night.

WOOD PELLETS

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