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kitchen kapers

COOKING UP A TREAT WITH GLENDA BENTON

This hot weather has turned me into a lazy meal planner. I even surprised Bert one day by making and displaying a sampler on the kitchen door. Among all the pots, pans and bowls it says "This kitchen is closed due to illness." And in brackets below, it says, "I'm sick of cookin'." We have sure made good use of the barbecue and the George Foreman Cooker. Anything to keep the kitchen cool! Vegetables can be made very tasty cooked on either. I even looked for unbaked cookies and squares for euchres and a funeral luncheon we did. This is simply called GOODIES and I think it is well named.

1 tin eagle brand milk (300ml)

16 graham crackers rolled fine (need I say I crush them in the food processor)

1/4 tsp salt

1 cup semi sweet chocolate chipits

2-1/2 cups small marshmallows

28 maraschino cherries (halved and drained)

Melt chocolate over hot water (I did this in the microwave in an 8 cup Pyrex measuring bowl) Remove from heat and add remainder of ingredients and mix well. Line

an 8 x 8 greased pan with a little coconut. Pack above mixture into the pan and top with a little coconut. (Best with a very small sprinkling of coconut top and bottom.) Pat down, cover tightly and chill in refrigerator.

I think I have one for Ripley Believe It or Not. We had rain all around several times. On Friday July 8 the first rain stopped at our south line fence and we heard that two miles south they had 1" rain. When we came home the road was wet above us and would you believe this second rain stopped or started at our north line fence. Bert thought I didn't pray loud enough. We did however get a good rain a week later and is the garden ever growing now. Here is an easy Zucchini Casserole.

Layer sliced zucchini, sliced tomatoes, and sliced onions or chopped green onions and season with salt and pepper to taste. (You may add additional seasonings as desired such as basil, oregano, dill etc.) Add cheese slices over each layer ending with cheese. If you wish you may use grated cheese and I sometimes add a few bread-crumbs. Bake at 375 degrees for 35-40 minutes.

Gifts for Your Wife as easy as going online

BY ANN KORNUA

Face it. Everyone makes mistakes. Even the most devoted husbands out there know that important dates are sometimes overlooked. Moreover some people have difficulty finding the right gift for that special occasion. There's no forgetting the look on her face when she opens the bag to find that what had seemed like a great idea in the mall is now a disaster. The answer may just be a few clicks of the keyboard away for confused males. Gifts for your Wife.com helps the busy man find those important gifts for the lady in his life.

Teresa Mitrovich, president of GiftsForYourWife.com and Milton resident, explains part of the unique service her website offers. "Other online stores offer a lot of items but it's hard to search websites when you don't have that much time," Teresa said. She offers special gifts for every occasion from a birthday present for your wife to a nice gift saying thanks to a secretary. All of the items on the site are hand picked and suitable for all occasions, according to Teresa.

How does Teresa know what women want? Teresa discovered the answer to that elusive question through market research. "I asked 200 men and 200 women what the best gifts are," Teresa explained. "Most of the men put down flowers and candy, but the women all chose different things. I discovered that women today wanted more than just the traditional gifts."

According to her research, the more popular gifts include home decor ideas such as elegant candles and stylish jewellery. "I really wanted to keep everything on my site contemporary and fit for anyone's tastes or décor," Teresa explained. "Women are also really into the whole spa concept, so we have spa bags with robes, candles, soaps and lotions on our website."

Still stumped on what to get that special person? Teresa offers a few tips to get you started. Steer clear of chore related items (no one wants a waffle iron for their birthday), and stay away from such treat items such as gym passes that could be perceived as carrying a hidden message. Currently, Gifts For Your Wife.com ships to anywhere in Canada or US from Teresa's Milton location.



Teresa Mitrovich stands with a heart shaped jewellery box that is only one of the items available on her eCommerce website, GiftsForYourWife.com

Recycled clothes and recycled money

BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT

Second hand children's clothing stores provide an option for families feeling the monetary squeeze as a new school year commences as well as at other times of the year. But even those who don't need to watch their spending can be found at these stores searching out the bargains.

Sandi Beuhler, owner of *As We Grow* in Milton, says the reasons are simple: people find it makes sense to bring in their old clothes and to go on a "shopping spree." Beuhler likens it to recycling. "It doesn't cost them a penny," notes Beuhler who has been the owner of *As We Grow*, a children's clothing consignment store that sells re-sale clothing, since 1998. "They've just recycled their old clothes to buy new clothes. So it's recycled clothes and recycled money."

Kim McNeil of *Snails 'N' Pails* children's clothing store in Milton also sells re-sale clothing, but her store is not a consignment store. Clothing that she considers good enough for re-sale is purchased within the same day.

Like Beuhler, McNeil and her mom Gayle Roehrig agree that much of the attraction of re-sale children's clothing stores comes down to price, but there's also the quality of the clothing that appeals to people as well.

McNeil finds that re-sale shopping is attractive to a lot of people. There are no used children's clothing stores in Georgetown and Acton, so a lot of her customers come from other parts of north Halton. But she has people visit her store from Mississauga and as far away as St. Catharines.

As co-owners of *Snails 'N' Pails*, McNeil and Roehrig are careful to select only the best clothing for re-sale. Some of their clothing is new, but most of the merchandise at their business is what they describe as "gently used" or what Roehrig prefers to call "gently loved."

The standards are the same whether it's at *As We Grow* or *Snails 'N' Pails*. No stains. No rips. No fading. No outdated or stinky clothes.

What customers end up getting are clean clothes that could easily pass for new, according to Beuhler. She says there's very little difference in what people buy brand new at Wal-Mart or Zellers for example and what they purchase at a quality re-sale children's store. When it comes down to it the only difference is one laundering - that and a difference in the price tag, says Beuhler.

Cost savings are significant at their stores say Beuhler and McNeil. Both stores carry brand name children's clothing that you'd find at big box stores. But you don't pay full price at their businesses.

At *As We Grow*, Oshkosh overalls sell for \$12 before tax - and that's in mint condition. At Sears that price would be more like \$30. And \$75 for a pair of jeans at Gap can translate into five days worth of clothing for the same amount of money at *As We Grow*.

Beuhler says frequenting a re-sale store can help people focus on other priorities - things that have real value to her customers. One of her customers told her that all the money she saves at re-sale stores she uses on education, vacations and just "frivolous fun." "It gives you more recreational money by shopping re-sale," says Beuhler. "And you are still getting quality and fashion on a minimal budget."

As We Grow is located at 365 Main Street East in Milton. Beuhler can be reached at 905-876-3311. *Snails 'N' Pails* is situated at 221 Main Street East, near Delacourts. The phone number is 905-693-1117.



Above: Gayle Roehrig (left) and her daughter, Kim McNeil, opened their children's clothing store in Milton earlier this year. The store specializes in new and gently used brand name children's clothing, toys and equipment.



Left: Sandi Beuhler, owner of *As We Grow*, displays some of the many re-sale items on sale at her store in Milton. Beuhler carries new items such as rain covers for double strollers but primarily what she sells is used children's clothing. All sorts of different people shop at her store looking for bargains and many of them are repeat customers. "Moms shop here and then when their kids outgrow the store they are shopping here for their grandchildren."