

Geckos International provides new market in downtown Rockwood

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY
The New Tanner

Rockwood and area residents have their very own international market in the heart of town.

Solid teak furniture from Indonesia, rosewood and lacquer furniture from China, sarongs from India, hammocks from Mexico, masks from Nepal, kites from China, jewellery from the Mediterranean, and plenty more besides.

Mark Griffiths moved Geckos International from a Guelph location to Rockwood's main street in the summer because of several things including free customer parking right in front of the store. Of course, being able to buy the building which offers living quarters above, good storage space and room to set up his darkroom behind the actual main floor retail area were probably more important, but that free parking is icing on the cake.

In Guelph he was constantly listening to customers gripe about

The Rockwood MILLER



having to run out to feed a parking meter before they had time to finish browsing, let alone seriously consider purchasing something. He feels the city is driving merchants out of town.

Rockwood, on the other hand, is a "neat little place." He finds it interesting enough so that with work it could grow into a tourist attracting community like Elora or St. Jacobs.

For his own business, the secret is time to grow. All he has to do is catch the eye of those driving past so that one day they decide to stop and investigate that interesting looking store.

Griffiths's real passion is his own photography. Travelling to select his foreign merchandise affords him opportunities to take

pictures. He figures those photographic experiences compensate for the cost and frustration of importing his stock. While the store pays his bills, the pictures soothe his creative side.

Of late he has been busy setting the store up and organizing the minutiae of running his business in a new location. But he's itching to get that darkroom going again. He frames his own prints and has won some awards as well as had some encouraging sales of his work.

"I'm not interested in commissioned work," he says, "like a wedding photographer. I just want to do my own pictures and working on them in the darkroom takes a lot of time. That's how I'd like to earn my living, but to be practical, the store pays the bills."

While Griffiths was open daily as Christmas approached, he figures on



INTERNATIONAL GOODS: Mark Griffiths of Geckos International sits with a bamboo gamelan from Bali. He also carries a hammered brass version of the same instrument. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

cutting back, probably to three or four days a week over the winter. Out-of-town customers might want to call him at 856-1378 when they feel inclined to drop by.



Baaah Humbug

To the editor,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, to all the stores and folks who still believe in tradition and Christmas.

To the stores, owners, politicians, and all others who are afraid to say so, and have worked so hard to substitute the joyful and heartfelt wishes of "Merry Christmas" and to otherwise neuter, spay, sanitize and melt down 'the reason for the season', a politically incorrect 'baaah Humbug.'

B. Carius
Rockwood



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REAL ESTATE



2003 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE REGISTRATION/NOMINATION

This notice is for anyone proposing to be a candidate in the municipal election on November 10, 2003 for the Town of Halton Hills for the offices of:

- Mayor
- Regional Councillors
- Municipal Councillors
- School Board Trustees
- Regional Chair

Candidates may file a registration/nomination form during regular business hours after January 1, 2003 with the last day for filing being September 26, 2003. A prescribed fee which may be refundable, in the amount of \$200.00 for Mayoral candidates and \$100.00 for all other candidates payable by cash, certified cheque or money order, must accompany the registration/nomination form. Candidates must not spend or raise funds for their election campaign until their registration/nomination form has been filed.

The registration/nomination form will be available from the office of the Municipal Clerk. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Clerk's office of your local municipality.

Town of Halton Hills 905 873 2601 ext 2331

Dated this 26th day of December, 2002.

Élections Municipales 2003 Mise en Candidature

Avis aux personnes intéressées à déposer une mise en candidature aux fins de l'élection municipale du 10 Novembre, 2003 dans la ville de Halton Hills pour le bureau:

- le Maire
- Conseiller Régional
- Conseiller Municipal
- Dépositaire Écolier
- Siège Régional

Les candidats peuvent déposer le formulaire de mise en candidature, pendant les heures d'ouverture du bureau à partir du 1 janvier, 2003 jusqu'au 26 septembre, 2003 dernière journée de déclaration de candidature.

Il faut payer les frais de dépôt de 200\$ pour le Maire et 100\$ pour les autres candidats, en espèce, par chèque certifié ou mandat-poste.

Jusqu'à ce que vous ayez présenté votre candidature, vous ne pouvez pas dépenser de fonds ou recueillir de fonds dans le cadre de votrecampagne.

Le formulaire de mise en candidature sera disponible au bureau municipale de votre localité. Si vous désirez obtenir des renseignements supplémentaires, communiquez avec le greffier de votre municipalité.

Ville de Halton Hills 905-873-2601 x 2331
Le 26 décembre, 2002

1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills,
905-873-2601

Rockwood railway...

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even carry a few hand knit items and some collector's knives.

Derabbie's experience with trains evolved over the past seven years when his elder brother received a train set for Christmas. He bought his own on Boxing Day and the two men now have a 23foot by 13 foot layout at his brother's home.

"My brother got his first train for Christmas when he was 11," Derabbie explains. "I was two and I broke it. He always wanted another one but he didn't get it until seven years ago."

People who are not into trains don't realize what a huge hobby revolves around them, he says.

A lot of elderly buffs come looking for items or to have work done which they can no longer do for themselves as their hands become unsteady. The really young fans get trains that are manual rather than electric.

"There really is no age limit. They come from the really young ones right up to their 70s and 80s," Derabbie says.

The store is open week-ends, Thursday evenings, half days Friday, all Saturday and part of Sunday.

Happy Holidays from Country Depot Georgetown

At this time of year Friends, Family and Acquaintances are close in our Thoughts.

We would like to take the time to wish every one of you a very Happy New Year!



Present this coupon at Country Depot Georgetown to receive \$1.50 off any Heritage Acers Bird Feed or \$2.00 off 50lb bags of Oiled Black Sunflower seed. Valid at Country Depot Georgetown Only 12/27/02 to 1/05/03.

Not valid with anyother offer, one item only.

Our Store Hours for the Holidays are:
Dec. 26 CLOSED

Dec. 27 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Dec. 28 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Dec. 29 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Dec. 30 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Dec. 31 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Jan. 1 CLOSED

Jan. 2 8:00 am - 8:00 pm



13515 Hwy. 7 West (Between Acton and Georgetown)

905-702-1833