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The face of downtown Milton is changing—for the better. Recent improvements to the streetscape have made it a more attractive place to shop, and several new retail shops are coming to complement the good mix of existing stores. Milton's charming town core boasts a variety of goods and services, friendly clerks and comparative prices. Each week on this page, we invite you to meet and learn a little more about the background and philosophy of the individual stores, their services and their people.

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MILTON GREENHOUSES
 By Linda Kirby
 Perhaps one of the first things you notice when entering Barry Burne's flower and gift shop at 228 Main St. is that there is a lot more to his business than just sweet smelling, pretty flowers.
 Wicker baskets, furniture, cute stuffed animals and baby novelties decorate the large store in addition to an extensive line of domestic and tropical plants and flowers.
 What store owner Barry Burne aspires to offer to his customers at Milton Greenhouses is a complete gift service suitable for any occasion.
 "Over the years people have wanted something more than just flowers," he explained.
 "And I have always had an idea in the back of my mind for a gift service."
 His interest in the plant business developed when he worked part-time for the previous owner of the shop, Bob Brown, while attending high school.
 Once out of school, his interest in the job prompted him to consider a career in the greenhouse business and he enrolled at Guelph University for a related course.
 After working several years for a Guelph instructor, he bought Milton Greenhouses from Mr. Brown.
 In the last 10 years he has slowly changed the image of the shop in an effort to keep up with the requests of his customers for additional novelties.
 But that does not mean he has strayed from his original goal to offer a first class showing of plants and flowers for all occasions.
 The plants, including some trees come from many exotic lands including South America, South Africa, Portugal, Hawaii, Florida and Italy.
 Many of the smaller household plants originate from local growers.
 He also offers a line in silk roses, flowers and dried flower arrangements.
 There is an endless display of flower pots, plant holders, containers in almost every imaginable shape, color and material, from porcelain or glass rose vases to copper and wicker plant holders.
 Among his more popular novelties are the stuffed animals. They are a natural gift idea for children, but adults don't think twice of buying them for each other, he said.
 Barry Burne offers much more at Milton Greenhouses, Flower and Gift Shop than just pretty flowers.
 And a collection of oil paintings produced brisk business when he introduced them last fall.
 The shop actually offers the individual a range of interior decorating hints.
 But it is not only the variety of stock that builds the reputation of Milton Greenhouses.
 Personal service is a very important part of his business, said Mr. Burne.
 "Especially when someone comes in with an idea, we have to try to imagine it and come up with what they want."
 Three of his five staff members are university trained and the entire staff including Mr. Burne frequently attends weekend seminars on the various aspects of the flower and greenhouse industry.
 Mr. Burne is also a member of United Flowers by Wire and Flowers Transworld Delivery.
 Born in Montreal, he has lived in Milton since 1946.
 He is married to Carol and the couple have one son, three-year-old Ryan.

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