

Lesley says goodbye to beloved shop

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were women without all their hair. I said to my husband 'I just can't stop here.'"

That'll be good news to all the women who have called Green Ginger begging Ms Goertzen to reconsider letting go of the dream everyone said was too big for this town. An upscale design store in Milton?

"Two gentlemen who were very prominent in town at that time came right out and said 'I'll give you three months,'" recalled Ms Goertzen. "It made me feel like a piece of garbage. But I proved them otherwise. I said to myself, 'they don't know me very well.'"

Instead the store thrived. The fashion show that played for an audience of 60 that

first year drew a throng of 420 in 1997.

Ms Goertzen herself thrived, being voted business woman of the year in 1993 and spending 12 years as a member of the Milton DBIA trying to sell her idea of a grand Milton to the doubting populace.

"I spent 12 years trying to make a difference," said Ms Goertzen, who before her bout with cancer helped raise money for Milton District Hospital, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's among other causes.

Now, though, it's time for the woman who came to Toronto from Manchester, England as a nanny before finding her way to Milton to slow down a little.

"I've been offered a part-time job that I can't talk about yet but I'd like to do, and

we've just a bought a cottage," said Ms Goertzen. "We've got a granddaughter now. We spent a lot of time talking about this."

Ms Goertzen will keep the Green Ginger name for the fashion show and to do a little personal shopping for customers.

It's hard not to expect that the woman who bounced back from cancer won't end up working as hard as she did when the store was open.

Still, she's already got her first week off pinned down.

"I'm going to clean the house finally," she laughed. "Then we're going to the cottage to start work on a sun deck."

Great staff, patrons key

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Longtime owner/manager Roger Mason said its a combination of great staff and the best clientele he could ever hope for that has kept the Dickens in business while so many other local restaurants have come and gone.

In addition to food and drink, the Dickens also serves up annual support for various sports groups, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Cancer Society.

"So many of our customers are involved in volunteer organizations and when they ask for assistance we're happy to step up and help," added Mr. Mason.

The recipient of the award will be announced during a gala evening at Halton Hills Place Saturday, April 4.

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