

The Calico Kitten

Hobby now business for area woman

By DENISE McDONALD
Cindy Schwarzli won't have to go far from home to do her Christmas shopping this year.

Just over one year ago, the Boyer Street resident officially opened her own handmade crafts boutique, The Calico Kitten, in the rear of her family residence.

"It was something I always wanted to do, but it wasn't until a friend finally convinced me it was a good idea, that I decided to try it," she said.

According to Mrs. Schwarzli, she's been interested in crafts "for as long as she can remember," a trait passed down from her mother.

"My family all made their own Christmas presents and always exchanged homemade gifts," she said.

However, it wasn't until her daughter Heidi and son Robert were born, she seriously took up the hobby.

"With babies you can't go out as much because you're kept to such a routine," said Mrs. Schwarzli. "Because I was at home, I needed the recreation."

As well as being encouraged to open the Calico Kitten by her friend, she claimed the idea was also prompted by her five-year success selling her handiwork at her place of business.

"It was one of those things where you always wonder if it was meant to be," she said. "Everything just sort of fell into place."

When asked why she chose The

Calico Kitten as the name for her business endeavor, Mrs. Schwarzli said: "When I was growing up my parents always had calico cats on the farm. They were always my favorite and the traditional white with orange and brown stuck with me."

Although she said she has taken a number of craft classes, Mrs. Schwarzli claimed many of her talents were "picked up along the way."

"Crafts are funny," she said. "One just leads into another. You can be sewing something and all of a sudden it evolves into a doll."

Included in The Calico Kitten's ample list of inventory are cross stitch patterns, sewing, folk art, decorator brooms, wreaths, bottle mice and much more.

However, her favorite item offered is her handmade chocolate, ranging from red roses to Santa on a stick.

"I don't remember how I picked it up, I just saw some handmade chocolate somewhere and decided I could do that," she said. "It's a matter of using a process of elimination. If I really goof it up, I just put it back in the pot and remelt it."

Mrs. Schwarzli also said she will be offering craft classes for the Christmas season, featuring both complicated and simple crafting techniques.

The Calico Kitten is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday and can be reached at 640-3969.



It wasn't until her daughter Heidi was born that Boyer Street resident Cindy Schwarzli became serious about her crafting abilities. Today, she successfully owns and operates her own crafts boutique, The Calico Kitten, at the rear of her family residence. —Denise McDonald

First store opens in enclosed mall

Whitchurch-Stouffville's first major department store officially opened for business today.

Bargain Harolds, one of 155 similar outlets in a Canada-wide chain, will secure a leading position within the newly completed Main Street enclosed mall, occupying over 8,000 square feet in the west end.

Described by representatives as "similar to a department store," Bargain Harolds will now provide Stouffville shoppers with easy access to all types of merchandise, from health and beauty aides to clothing and grocery items.

John Gamble, a two and a half year veteran with the company has been secured to manage the outlet, with an approximate 10 to 12 full time and 20 to 25 part time employees expected on staff today.

Nominations are filed

The nominations are in and filed, giving residents in Pickering's Ward 3 four candidates from which to choose a new regional councillor.

Lee Jenkins, Rick Johnson, Beverley Morgan and Enrico Pistrutto all filed nomination papers before November 9, the last day to do so.

The byelection for the seat was called when former regional councillor, Norah Stoner, was elected to the Ontario Legislature in the recent provincial election.

Mr. Johnson, a Brougham resident, will be making his third run for political office, while the other three are all first time candidates.

Ms. Morgan lives in the Rougecrest Developments, at the corner of Brock Road and Finch Avenue, while Mr. Pistrutto lives on the Fifth Concession, near Whitevale and Mr. Jenkins resides in Thornhill, but has operated a business in Pickering since 1974.

The byelection will be held Monday, Nov. 30 with advanced polls opening Saturday, Nov. 21.

Have your say:

What do you see as a solution to the housing crisis in Whitchurch-Stouffville for medium and low-income families?



PATSY MIMEAULT

"Maybe some kind of assisted housing to help people with their rents would be a good idea. The rents in this area are really high."



WENDY WEAVER

"I certainly agree there's a problem and would help if people weren't so interested in making a huge profit on rents, and showed more concern for those needing a place to live."



JOYCE NAILER

"A lot of church groups are trying to help out where they can. Our church is studying the issue. The problem is affordable housing, not just low-cost housing, and something has to be done about it."



TERESA MCKENZIE

"I think more housing for younger people is needed. If it takes the form of government subsidies, that's fine. It's so expensive around here that it's impossible to rent, and also try to save money for your own home."