

Quilt auction features Mennonite-style originals

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It was the mother of one of her Mennonite friends who taught her traditional quilt-making, a skill which was complemented by her background in interior design. "While I was working at the bank I was also doing that and she and I started out designing together."

Marton-Wiles now creates her own blueprints and employs 250 Mennonite women to make the intricate and unique quilts which have become her trademark. "Traditionally women worked in quilting bees of six to eight, but sometimes it's difficult for different people to create the same-size stitch, so I have a single person working on each quilt from start to finish."

The quilts are hand-stitched, with eight to 10 stitches per inch. "We use the finest of cottons and we con-

sider the quilt should last from 50 to 100 years - it's a three-generation heirloom." The cost for materials alone is about \$300 and a single quilt can take years to complete. "The value of the ones at the auction will range from \$600 to \$2,500 and there is no reserve price on any of them," she noted. "A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to children's charities."

Marton-Wiles now works full-time designing and selling her quilts and other traditional Mennonite goods, and will be a regular vendor at Stouffville Country Market from next April. "I am one of only five Canadian quilt designers who do this on a full-time basis," she noted. The quilt auction takes place Saturday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the Stouffville Country Craft Show at the

market. The show will feature the work of more than 75 crafters and runs Nov. 29

from 4 to 9 p.m., Nov. 30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking

and admission are free and youngsters are invited drop by and meet Santa.

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James McKellar
March 10th, 1995

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Stouffville Furniture and Accessories celebrates second anniversary in town

At Stouffville Furniture and Accessories patrons are offered a wide array of fine quality pieces for every room in the house.

This year marks the store's second anniversary and owners Ville and George Papas have made the town their home as well as their place of business. "We've really become part of Stouffville," Ville says. "We moved our family here, our children go to school here and it's a pleasure to offer a service to friends and neighbors."

The duo offer such well-known names as Future Chair, Decor Rest, and Lexington Furniture amongst many others. Sofa-sets come customized to suit every taste and decor and Ville provides at-home consultations for those who

"Going the extra mile is just part of what we do," Ville says. "And we are known for not marking up items an exorbitant amount. We keep prices fair so we can pass on savings to our customers and that's part of why we're still here."

Friendly, attentive service as well as one-stop shopping are also key to their longevity, as well as providing unique choices in everything from bedroom furnishings to living room sofa sets to draperies.

"We encourage anyone who walks into the store to take their time and browse in order to get ideas," Ville adds. "We realize that once they make their decision it's one they'll have to live with for quite some time. Our job is to help them



Owner Ville Papas showcases the variety of styles available for every room in the house at Stouffville Furniture.

require it. In addition, a shuttle service is offered to seniors to further accommodate their needs.

The 5,500-sq.-ft. store has built up a following due to the fact that they cater to their clients and that means bringing in items they don't necessarily carry in their lines, specifically for one customer

make the right decision by giving them the information they need, choices and good prices.

Presently the store is offering a wide range of Christmas specials on everything in the store. Visit Stouffville Furniture at 5402 Main St., Stouffville. For more information call 905-642-6828.

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