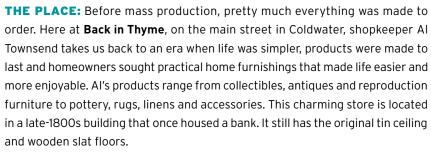




PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX



THE STYLE: Back in Thyme offers an eclectic mix of new, rustic, antique and upcycled products and furnishings for your home or cottage. "I cater to a demographic looking for a certain style or a certain item," explains Al. Think country havens or nostalgic cabins in the woods or on the water. Al's wares have a place in every home, especially today when decorating trends include a high/low mix of new, old and vintage. Clients come looking for certain pieces. A jukebox at the back of the store carries a sign that reads: "Sold to a great customer."

WHAT'S HOT: Braided rugs with matching linens, hard-to-find collectibles, candles and accessories. "Candles sell like crazy," Al says pointing to his incredible









selection. While we visit, shoppers come in looking for Coca-Cola collectibles and Al directs them to a display at the back of the store. Reproduction furniture is sought after, along with vintage glass, porcelain figurines, earthenware and new, hand-painted dishes and serving pieces.

FAVOURITES: Al's freezer is a destination in itself. It's packed with Mamma Rosa's frozen Italian entrées. People come from near and far for a taste of the best. Entrées like lasagna and cannelloni are made with fresh tomato sauce and handmade pasta – all from scratch with no additives or preservatives. Another favourite is the vintage lighting made from punched recycled tin.

SEASONAL: Local craftsmen bring in their latest creations. "I like to support the local guy," Al says. He has a very neat bench made from an antique bed frame and a flower bin made from an old set of drawers. Frames made from recycled wood are charming and beachy. Hand-carved birds by Coldwater's Marc Degagné are popular too.

GET THERE: 14 Coldwater Rd., Coldwater 705.686.3493, www.backinthyme.on.ca **oH**



