

comfort zone



TIME IS ON YOUR SIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX



THE PLACE: Before mass production, pretty much everything was made to order. Here at **Back in Thyme**, on the main street in Coldwater, shopkeeper Al Townsend takes us back to an era when life was simpler, products were made to last and homeowners sought practical home furnishings that made life easier and more enjoyable. Al's products range from collectibles, antiques and reproduction furniture to pottery, rugs, linens and accessories. This charming store is located in a late-1800s building that once housed a bank. It still has the original tin ceiling and wooden slat floors.

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
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