



FINE FURNISHINGS

BY JIM FOX // PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

THE PLACE: Shaw's Interiors is a spacious shop on the main street in the village of Elmvale and has been a long-time destination for homeowners looking for fine furniture. New owner, Ruth Charbonneau, an interior decorator from Calgary, took over operations last August. After initiating extensive renovations, Charbonneau is thrilled with her new venture. "In the shop I get to decorate every day," she says. "I get to do what I'm passionate

about, which is to make people comfortable in their own homes and help them create their own vision of what they want in a home."

THE STYLE: Charbonneau elaborates on her shop's dominant style: "I see our designs as transitional," she says. "Some (designs) are contemporary and some are more traditional, but all are comfortable pieces for the home. Our offerings appeal to a broad spectrum of tastes and style." From furniture to lamps and bedding, the focus at Shaw's

is on quality. The store offers furnishings in solid wood by Kincaid and Highland House as well as Canadian manufacturer, Ferretti.

WHAT'S HOT: Charbonneau dismisses trendiness for its own sake. "Whatever is hot is what the customer likes," she says. "People's palettes change with the food they eat. Likewise, people's tastes in décor change over the years. They may go from a French country look to contemporary to a more comfortable family style." Whatever a customer's taste, Charbonneau is eager to share her expertise and work with each client to pull everything together to achieve the look they want.

SEASONAL: For summer, Shaw's Interiors is offering sophisticated tones in teal and fresh lime green. This season, the trend is towards different fabrics in warm colours on a single piece. Customers can

browse the store's extensive selection of fabrics and shades to attain their own look in custom upholstery.

FAVOURITES: Shaw's offers a unique selection of lamps and bedding, including linens and towels made from soft, durable bamboo textiles. Shaw's also carries a variety of mirrors, artwork and accessories. Charbonneau's excitement about new and different styles is infectious. "I love all the new styles for different reasons," she says. "I wish I had 10 different homes so that I could try them all!" Charbonneau genuinely enjoys meeting new customers and is willing to work with clients on colour and space planning to meet their home decorating needs.

PLACE: 22 Queen St. W., Elmvale
705.322.1961, Shawsinteriors.com, shawsinteriors@bellnet.ca **OH**