

people  
easy  
CHRISTMAS  
shopping

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MCKENZIE BROWN  
AND BONNIE FOX

Wrap up your all your gift giving this season at shops nearby. These incredible retailers offer a personal touch, great ideas, excellent service and all the trimmings to make your holidays extra special.

Dianna DiLapo  
Seasons 'N Style

TELL US ABOUT SOME GREAT GIFT IDEAS: I

recommend Woodwick Candles that crackle like a fire as they burn, Whiskey Stones to chill your drink without diluting it, jewelry box mirrors to store your jewels and boot socks with fur tops that trim your boots for a new look.

WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST FOR A HOSTESS GIFT? We have a full range of wine accessories, including a Corkcicle to chill your wine without having to use an ice bucket. For the ladies, scarves in many colours and styles. For the men, we have a new a beer and barbecue section.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? I can't wait to start decorating five trees and every room of the house. I enjoy the shopping and love gift wrapping and look forward to all the visiting and get-togethers with friends and family. *Continued on page 64*

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## Leanne George

Fresh by Leanne

### WHY IS CHRISTMAS A PERFECT TIME TO GIVE OR RECEIVE FLOWERS?

You get the full enjoyment of the flowers. Christmas is a time of entertaining, being home for the holidays and what better way to decorate a room than with fresh flowers!

**WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND FOR A CHRISTMAS BOUQUET?** I use long lasting greenery like Carolina sapphire, boxwood and cedar combined with white Fujis, Star of Bethlehem, red Hypericum berries - guaranteeing a full helping of floral to last through the holidays.

**YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS GIFT EVER:** Ummm? Flowers, and a beautiful deep red purse my son personally picked out for me.



## Al Townsend

Back In Thyme

YOU'RE KNOWN FOR UNIQUE GIFTS.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR WARES.** I have rustic furniture, antiques and primitive style wares that are unique, interesting and unusual.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL ON YOUR LIST?** I would suggest something useful they can enjoy all year long.

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO FIND UNDER THE TREE THIS CHRISTMAS?** Peace and happiness.

*Continued on page 66*





## Kim Melchiorre

**Sienna Home Decor & Gift Gallery**

**WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN SELECTING GIFT IDEAS FOR YOUR STORE?** I look for unique items you won't find anywhere else. My preference is to buy quality Canadian-made and fair trade products. I am mindful of affordability and buy things I love and it brings me great joy when my customers love them too.

**WHAT'S NEW FOR THE HOLIDAYS?**

We have funky metal, Canadian-made Christmas trees for your table tops, our ever popular sterling silver meditation rings and beautiful silk scarves from Cambodia.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE GIFT TO GIVE?** I love to give warm alpaca scarves in an array of fantastic colours.



## Brothers Leigh and Adam Clarke

**Full-Line Electronics**

**WHAT PRODUCTS ARE ON EVERYONE'S LIST THIS CHRISTMAS?** I think that Santa's Elves will be busy with Apple products and large screen televisions.

**WHAT'S NEW AND IN DEMAND?** With the capabilities of smart phones, wireless audio technology is much improved, especially products such as Sonos, and Bose.

**DESCRIBE YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?** We look forward to unwinding and spending time with family and friends.

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**Michelle Ertl**  
**Anchique**

**WHAT DOES ANCHIQUE HAVE IN STORE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?** Our artists are constantly discovering unique ways to reinvent vintage furniture and home décor items. Frames become magnet boards, vintage globes become spherical chalkboards, and outdated furniture becomes fresh and updated.

**WHY DO YOU YOU RECOMMEND TAKING AN ANCHIQUE WORKSHOP?** Most people are surprised to learn that refinishing furniture isn't as difficult as it used to be. No more stripping and sanding! The products our workshopers use make it easy to reinvigorate a piece of furniture, taking it from shabby to chique!

**HOW WILL YOU SPEND CHRISTMAS DAY?** The best part of Christmas Day for me is spending time with family. Children are back from school, friends drop by, relatives come in from out of town and for one day we can celebrate the things that are most important.



**Paula Lynn-Meredis**

**Saturday Afternoons**

**WHY IS CHRISTMAS SUCH A SPECIAL TIME AT SATURDAY AFTERNOONS?** I started my business selling handmade Christmas décor at small craft shows and church bazaars, so Christmas at my store is special because it's a time of great reflection. Almost 25 years later, I still have those same first customers. That's special.

**WHAT'S NEW AND EXCITING IN STORE THIS SEASON?** Flicker candles are exciting this year. The flames look real but are not. Brilliant!

**HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR HOLIDAYS?** I spend Christmas with my family in Midland. I am fortunate to have most of my family close.

*Continued on page 70*



people

## SUSAN BENOIT, LPPO

Photographer, Diffusion Photographics

**WHY DO PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS MAKE GREAT GIFTS?** Professional photographs make amazing gifts. For most, family comes first and this is an amazing way to stop time, harness a stage of family development and keep the spirit of that time alive. They are also perfect for someone who has everything - the gift that lasts a lifetime.

**WHY ARE YOUR PHOTOS UNIQUE?** The photos that I create with each family, usually environmentally, illustrate the connection of family members in a relaxed, honest way. I take the time to craft the light and I provide exquisite wall art that will be valued for generations. And of course, it's great fun!

**WHAT IS YOUR WISH THIS CHRISTMAS?** As always - the health and safety of my family, and I really hope that Christmas Cheer has enough support to provide for every applicant family in the area so that they too can experience the magic of Christmas. And maybe some new boots. I'm a boot girl. **OH**

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