



Storeowners Paula and Dave Conning



WHERE QUALITY MEETS BEAUTY

BY JUDE WAYLAND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX

THE PLACE: When Dave and Paula Conning moved to Collingwood for lifestyle reasons, their timing was perfect. As luck would have it, an iconic Collingwood store, in operation since 1977, was up for sale. “We came up to have a look because we feared it might be our grandmother’s attic,” says Paula, “and then we walked into this beautiful space.” It was exactly what the Connings were looking for. They purchased the store stock and learned the ropes from the previous owners, added a splash of their own style and colour, changed the name to **Clerkson’s Home Store**, and embarked on their new adventure.

THE STYLE: Casual, quality home décor. From solid wood, Quebec-made harvest tables to a wide range of Brunelli and Revelle bedding and linens, from gift soaps and custom home signs to whimsical nautical accessories (a nod to Collingwood’s rich marine history), the store offers something for everyone, at every price point. The atmosphere’s friendly and laid back. “We want people to browse to their hearts’ content,” says Dave, “sort of like a treasure hunt. We’re here if they need our help.”

SEASONAL: As the seasons change, so too do the smaller décor items and accessories, rather than the larger pieces of furniture. In the summer, the bedding’s bright and bold; in the winter months, warm earth tones prevail. Throughout the year, wall décor items, including metal art pieces, local photographs, as well as an eclectic assortment of colourful contemporary and original works are also changed up. Dave, an artist himself, even has a few of his oil paintings for sale.



WHAT’S HOT? Tea towels, linens and throw pillows are always popular. As is the Canadian-made upholstered furniture by Statum Designs Inc. People come from far and wide just to purchase the unique Indian-made rugs. “Customers also love our exotic mango wood tables,” says Paula. “They’re imported from India, and so well designed.” Good design is important to the Connings. That’s why they’ve introduced a line of George Jensen items, as well as stunning “Georgian Bay” blue tartan throws, table runners and scarves.

WHERE: 85 Hurontario St., Collingwood
705.445.1988, www.clerksosn.com **ON**

