

LITTLE SHOP OF WONDERS

BY JIM FOX
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BONNIE FOX



THE PLACE: In a 100-year-old building on Highway 26, a few kilometres east of Collingwood, owner Dana Burns has created a unique business called **The Little Furniture Shoppe**. The classic name and two-storey location suggest the delights that the tastefully restored store possesses. "Primarily we furnish new country homes being built in the area," Dana says. "We also create pieces that people put in their homes in the city. I buy antiques that can be updated. We add neutral tones and new hardware, adding refreshing style and colour to older pieces and reproductions to give them contemporary charm."

THE STYLE: Dana's focus on breathing new life and style into classic wood furniture is accomplished with the professional expertise of cabinetmaker Michael Ellinger and experienced top finisher Brenda Fish, working in a separate large shop on the premises. In fact, when asked, Dana says, "I think what sets us apart is our staff – our salespeople and those who work behind the scenes. Pricing is also important. I don't buy expensive antiques. Once the pieces are customized to meet our customers' needs, savings are passed on to our clients." *Continued on page 56*





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WHAT'S HOT: Dana feels people are no longer looking for dining and living room furniture that has a strictly matching look. "For a dining room, for instance, I may use three different suppliers to provide a coordinating look among the pieces: a hutch from Quebec, a table from Elmira and Wallenstein Mennonite chairs," says Dana. The shop offers conversation and wow-factor pieces like an antique flat-screen, lift-top cabinet, industrial works of rustic wood and metal as well as media centres created from repurposed reproductions. Customers always have the unique ability to choose custom paints and finishings for the classic furniture of their choice.

SEASONAL: Summer porch rockers and fine textile rugs will enhance any modern country home. Likewise, the store provides a varied selection of home décor items, including candles, coffee and side tables, lamps and apple ladders.

FAVOURITES: You may share Dana's favourite aspect of her business. "What I like best is shopping," says Dana. "Finding a find. Finding classic furniture that I can envision turning into a piece of beauty." Entering Dana's shop, you will be wonderstruck by the beauties you behold.

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