



Rita, Darlene, Terri and Marge (in front).

bits & pieces FOR EVERYONE

PHOTOGRAPHY JASON HARTOG



THE PLACE: When Marge Smith and Rita Wagner, owners of long-time furniture refinishing and restoration business The Strippers, started to realize their customers were looking for an avenue to help them sell their good quality furniture to a new home in addition to refinishing favourite pieces, they decided they could be the ones to provide that service. "We saw a real need for a furniture consignment store in Kitchener-Waterloo," says Marge. "So in 2001 we opened **Bits & Pieces Furniture & Décor Consignment** store on Gage Avenue right across the street from our refinishing shop!" Not only that, but "We were the first furniture consignment shop west of Toronto consigning quality dining furniture, sofas, loveseats, bedroom furniture, lamps, art, carpets, décor – basically anything you would have in your home except appliances," adds Rita.



THE STYLE: "We are 100 per cent consignment from sellers only," says Rita. Bits & Pieces only sells clean, sturdy, good condition furniture and décor, from antique to contemporary – and since they opened 15 years ago, styles have certainly changed. "Buying antiques in general has declined in popularity with the exception of buying an antique because of its style and usefulness," says Marge. "All buyers want to take their new items home and use immediately – no fixing up required!"

WHAT'S HOT: The Bits & Pieces team has found that teak furniture, dark wood, neutral paint colours, retro styles and the straight lines of mission-style furniture are very popular – and leather furniture is always in style. Smaller pieces appeal to people moving into apartments, condos or smaller homes. As for finishes, chrome, bronze and high-end brass are in demand. "In keeping with the minimalist trend, décor that is multipurpose for colour and usefulness sells well," says Marge.

SEASONAL: For winter, Bits & Pieces accepts and consigns electric fireplaces and fireplace accessories. Carpets,



lamps and other décor items for cosying up at home are also welcome, as are Christmas decorations for a limited time.

FAVOURITES: Although many consignors take items to Bits & Pieces to clear space at home, some people truly feel like they hit the jackpot. Marge and Rita have a favourite success story: "We got an old ceiling fixture the client had replaced with a new modern light. It was around 100 years old, hand painted, and had coloured glass tear drops. It sold for over \$600 – much to the consignor's delight!"

WHERE: 408 Gage Ave., Unit 3, Kitchener 519.742.4033 | bits-and-pieces.ca **OH**

