



Independent retailers are the lifeblood of Canadian communities, contributing not only to the health of the country's economy, but to the health and wellbeing of the citizens that they serve. To celebrate the contributions made by independent retailers, Indie Buzz features all of the news, announcements, anniversaries and everything else that make Canadian independent retailing great. Check out what your fellow independents are up to...



## ANNIVERSARIES

**James McTamney & Co. Inc.** in Toronto, Ontario celebrated its 150th year in business in 2010. Well known in the city for its selection of vintage, new and custom jewellery, the store dates back to 1860. A family operated business since James McTamney bought out his partners in 1908, the store marked the anniversary by hosting a "then and now" celebration which showcased the "now" in the store while guests enjoyed refreshments, and a "then" marquee tent where décor, entertainment and refreshments reflected the Gold Rush days of yore. The store also sponsored a design competition for students enrolled in jewellery design at George Brown College in which a piece was designed to commemorate the anniversary of the store as well as the five generations of family who have operated the business through the years. The winning design, by third-year student Kristine Chou, is now being sold with a portion of proceeds going to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

**Vitahealth Fresh Market** in Winnipeg Manitoba is celebrating a milestone 75th anniversary this year. The store is marking the event with seven different parties - one at each store for seven consecutive months. Vitahealth also hosted a contest for their staff in which each employee submitted their ideas with respect to ways to celebrate the store's anniversary. Margaret from the Osborne store proposed that they create displays that communicated their history from 1936 to the present. Vitahealth rewarded Margaret's creativity with a cruise!

**The Merchant of Tennis** in Toronto, Ontario is celebrating 19 years in business. In 2008 The business became the official retailer and stringer of The Rogers Cup. It continues to support the event and have taken on a new role in creating and retailing official merchandise of the event. Merchant of Tennis proudly supports the Toronto Tennis Junior League and has an ongoing partnership with the Doug Philpott Inner City Children's Tennis Fund which provides free tennis camps to over 5,000 kids each and every year.

This past summer Tim & Kathy Dyer, owners of **White**



**Squall Paddling Centre** on Georgian Bay in Ontario celebrated a milestone 25 years in business. They marked the anniversary at their annual paddle party and open house with a musical performance by Canadian artist Fred Eaglesmith.

**Violets & Dahlias** in Kleinburg, Ontario is celebrating 15 years in business with a new brand, a new look and a new store. Owner, Delia Virgilio targets women with the motto, "Styling You & Your Home". She focuses on continual reinvention and has recently launched a website to promote her business.

Marion Klinnert of **Private Moments Lingerie & Ladies Wear Inc.** in Port Credit, Ontario is excited to be celebrating her 26th year in business. During her 26 years, Marion has been active with her local BIA and helped launch a shop-local button campaign that was very well received within her community.

Another member celebrating 26 years in business is Blair Howkins of **Blair's AtWork Office Furniture** in Woodbridge, Ontario. The store has marked this special anniversary year with a move into a brand new showroom where the focus is on commercial office furniture.

Phil McHardy of **McHardy Vacuum** in London, Ontario is celebrating his store's 65th year of business and continues to serve his customers just as his father Mac did when he started the business in 1946. The guiding philosophy for the business is "do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

## RECOGNITION

Tompkins Jewellers Ltd. in Lethbridge, Alberta was awarded “#1 Jeweller in Lethbridge” and with their history of charitable work it is easy to see why. Tompkins donates 100% of the proceeds collected for single watch battery replacement to organizations in support of Canadian troops, including The National Wall of Remembrance and The Canadian Forces Personnel Assistance Fund.



Antica Tile and Stone in Toronto, Ontario was awarded a silver award for booth design at the 2011 Toronto Interior Design Show. The award recognized the effort, energy and attention that Antica put into their booth design.

## OPENINGS

In April 2011 Ron White shoes will open its newest flagship location at Yorkdale Mall in Toronto, Ontario. The store will celebrate with its new spring merchandise. With the warm weather come adorable peep-toes, beautiful ballerinas and an update of Ron's All Day Heels®. The newly launched signature collection was unveiled at the Golden Globes in January.

