



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

In May 2011, **Bayshore Hobbies** in Hamilton, Ontario celebrated its 30th anniversary. Owner, Rose Kriedmann, describes the time when she started her business as “the good ole days” when she “had time to dust the product and the shelves, spend more time with customers and read the paper.” Since then she has continued to grow her business one step at a time, adapting her operation over the years by evolving her cash register to point of sale and engaging her customers with social media. The business continues to grow primarily by word of mouth by offering a wide selection of products, at the best price possible, backed by outstanding customer service. Check out Bayshore Hobbies' website at www.bayshorehobbies.ca.



Rose Kriedmann, Owner, Bayshore Hobbies.

RECOGNITION

Gurvinder Bhatia of **Vinomania** in Edmonton, Alberta has spent the past 16 years working to introduce undiscovered, under-valued, and hard-to-find wines to the Canadian market. His motto, “Great Wine Made Easy” reflects a desire to make wine accessible to Canadian consumers. Bhatia has also established himself as an expert in the wine industry as a contributing editor to a leading wine and food magazine and as the wine columnist for CBC Radio Edmonton. Check out Vinomania's website at www.vinomaniawines.com.

Calhoun Sportswear in St. Catherines Ontario has been in business for 38 years. It began as a screen printing operation to service rock bands performing in Toronto, and later began to manufacture their own t-shirts and other active sportswear styles. The company was active in its community as the host of the Calhoun Catfish Derby from 1973 to 2003. - one of the largest free fishing derbies for children in the Niagara Peninsula. The retail store has been located at 150 Bunting Road in St. Catharines for over 30 years. Calhoun Sportswear's current focus is the development of their retail website, www.calhounstore.com.

Lovie Wesolowski of **Nature's Health Centre** in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan was recently featured in an article in *Canadian Health Retailer* magazine. The story highlighted Nature's Health Centre's history as well as Wesolowski's passion for her store and her customers. Visit Nature's Health Centre's website at www.natureshealthcentre.ca.



Gurvinder Bhatia, Owner, Vinomania.

RECOGNITION

Nancy Spiker, owner of **Passion for Fashion** in Midland, Ontario, has much to celebrate. The store was the first ever recipient of Retail Council of Canada's Ambassador Award in 2004, and Nancy was recently honoured on March 22, 2011 as the Meridian Credit Union's "Business Woman of the Year 2011". The store was also chosen in the *Mirror's* Reader's Choice Awards this past fall as "Favorite Ladies Clothing Store" and with their long history of community involvement and fundraising it is not hard to see why. They have been organizing major fundraising fashion shows for the past 15 years for recipients such as The Hospital for Sick Children Foundation, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and the Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation. They recently put on their biggest show to date on April 15, 2011, for Community Living Huronia Foundation which raised \$20,000. Nancy explained that her passion for community support stemmed from the birth of her two children, one who was born with a rare heart disease, 22q micro-deletion syndrome and autism. She wrote, "His challenges opened our eyes to a whole new world of life saving surgeries, compassionate staff and a caring community wanting to help. It gave us the strength and also the will to work hard and give back." For more information about A passion for Fashion, visit the store's website at www.apassionforfashion.ca.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

The Party Monkey is a Langley, British Columbia-based online party supplies store carrying a large and unique selection of products. They recently launched their website www.thepartymonkey.ca which is enjoying some success as Canadians check out the site and purchase cool themed products. The company is also working on a resources section for its website that will include eco-party tips. The Party Monkey's current focus is to bring in a larger selection of eco-friendly products as they try to become more environmentally sensitive whenever possible. The company uses Forest Stewardship Council certified copy paper, printing only when absolutely necessary, using a copier with an eco-mode and a newly renovated warehouse that has upgraded insulation, compact fluorescent lights, and programmable thermostats for the offices. All equipment is plugged into power bars that can be turned off for further energy savings. Visit the Party Monkey's website at www.thepartymonkey.ca.



Decorative part plate found at The Party Monkey.

STORE EXPANSION

Freeman's Winemaking & Brewing began serving home brewers throughout the Quinte, Ontario Region in 1986. In 1995 the store relocated to the north end of Belleville to better serve the entire region and the store was expanded to offer winemaking on premises services. Freeman's is well recognized in the industry as a leading winemaking supply store and has been regularly celebrated by *The Belleville Intelligencer's* Reader's Choice Awards. In 2010 Freeman's purchased *The Winemaking Shop* in Kingston and are now in the process of establishing the Freeman's name with home brewers in the greater Kingston area. Visit the store's website at www.freemans.ca for more information.



William Goneau, President, Freeman's Winemaking and Brewing