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UREPORT

St. Paul's students win History Awards

Natalie Hall, Isaac Caldwell, and Nikha Jinosh, all Grade 10 students at St. Paul Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga, were announced as winners of the 2017 Government of Canada History Awards.

These three secondary students, along with more than 172 others from across Canada, were recognized for their original writing submissions that examined specific topics in Canadian history.

Ms. Hall's short story, Mr. Caldwell's essay, and Ms. Jinosh's website demonstrated the critical thinking, research, and analysis skills valued in both the study of history and in the 21st century workplace.

For their creativity, effort, and engagement with



St. Paul Catholic Secondary School photo

Natalie Hall, Isaac Caldwell, and Nikha Jinosh (left to right), Grade 10 students at St. Paul Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga, were announced as winners of the 2017 Government of Canada History Awards.

Canadian history, each student will receive a certificate of achievement and \$1,000 in prize money from the Government of Canada History Awards.

Country Charm Mennonite Furniture in Streetsville specializes in hand-crafted and live edge pieces

by Laurie Wallace-Lynch
photography by Steve Uhraney

There's a popular saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words" –in other words, every photo tells a unique story at a glance. The same can be said for every piece of hand-crafted furniture at the new Country Charm Mennonite Furniture store in Streetsville. The intriguing shop is filled with one-of-a-kind solid wood furniture pieces including live edge, reclaimed barn board and tables with wood burls or markings left intact to create a dramatic design statement.

"I am in love with unique pieces," says Wayne Datema, owner of Country Charm Mennonite Furniture which celebrated the Grand Opening of their Streetsville location at 220 Queen Street South on April 6th. "Every piece of our furniture tells a story. It is made from solid wood, hand crafted by Mennonite or Amish artisans, and built to last a lifetime."

Wayne points out a stunning 10-foot walnut dining table that's crafted from one solid piece of wood. There are interesting markings in a specific pattern on the table. Wayne tells the story behind it: "In the 1940's and '50's Hydro used to put insulators on poles and sometimes on trees, and on this table, you can see the bolt pattern right in the wood. We



also have an incredibly beautiful table with burls. Many customers want a special table as a centre piece for their entrance or foyer. Each piece is unique and creates a big wow factor as soon as you walk in the door!"

Country Charm Furniture carries a wide selection of solid wood furniture for the living room, dining room, bedroom, home or office, along with lighting and decor elements. This is a second location—the original store in Owen Sound has been in business since 1996.

Live edge furniture is on of the most popular decor trends and Wayne estimates he has about 50 live edge pieces in stock at any one time, including dining tables, occasional tables, entertainment centres, headboards, desks, chairs and book shelves.

"We use only domestic woods; maple, walnut, cherry, oak, ash, elm, and some butternut



which is sourced from Southwestern Ontario and made by Mennonite and Amish artisans," says Wayne. "Live edge pieces fit into any decor; we've put pieces into rustic cottages to ultra modern homes to condos in the city. Our furniture is on the cutting edge in contemporary design, style, colour and functionality and you'll find something to suit every taste from transitional to contemporary to traditional."

Wayne points out a unique "waterfall" table where the table-top cascades over the end, becoming part of the base. "We do custom work, like colour-matching to antiques or existing furniture, and we can also create repros to match chairs or other pieces," adds Wayne. "We offer custom, made-to-order furniture so you can customize your furniture in terms of the size, type of wood, colour and the base. If

you have been looking for a specific piece but can't find it, bring in a photo and we'll try to find a similar one or make it for you."

Another popular trend involves buying sustainable, long-lasting quality furniture, as opposed to "throw away" pieces, says Wayne. "People are looking to invest in quality furniture that stands the test of time and our furniture is built to last a lifetime. We add a sealer and a lacquer top coat that's very durable and warranty our products for as long as the customer owns them. We back that up with a lifetime guarantee."

Country Charm Mennonite Furniture delivers anywhere in Canada or the U.S. The showroom/stores are located at 220 Queen Street South in Streetsville and 317680 Hwy 6 and 10 in Rockford (Owen Sound), www.ccharm.com

