

Honouring a mother's memory

ON THE STREET

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Charlene Walker is honouring her mother's memory with a new store downtown that not only outfits women in the latest fashions, but educates them on ovarian cancer — a disease that will claim an estimated 1,700 Canadians this year and be diagnosed in 2,400 more.

The nurse-turned-entrepreneur has opened **Sweet Nancy's Timelessly You Boutique**, a higher-end women's fashion and accessory store named for her mom. She also distributes books, pamphlets, CDs and newsletters on ovarian cancer from the store.

Walker hopes to build the business at 618 Broughton St. to the point where she can donate 10 per cent of her earnings to **Ovarian Cancer Canada**.

Walker's mother, **Nancy Candelora**, a homecare nurse who dedicated her life to helping the elderly, died four years ago at age 57, leaving a massive hole in Walker's life. "She was a wonderful lady — passive, kind and sweet," said Walker.

Sweet Nancy's was a way to channel the grief.

"It changed me when I lost her to a point where I didn't want to stop grieving," said Walker, a 31-year-old mother of three. "What's left? Everyone's getting tired of me talking about losing her. So how do I celebrate her? Well, I thought this is it."

The retail concept of classic clothing in a 1950s-designed store reflected how Walker viewed her mother. "I decided to open a store that would make all women look and feel beautiful from the inside out. This wonderful opportunity is allowing me to raise awareness of ovarian cancer in honour of my mother who taught me the true meaning of inner beauty."

Walker hopes to launch clothing-club meetings in which small groups would enjoy a private shopping experience after-hours in the store and she would distribute educational material on ovarian cancer. Walker is also raffling off merchandise monthly with proceeds going to the cancer agency.

Walker, who moved to Victoria from Edmonton in June, opened the store in part to escape the stress and burnout



Charlene Walker has photographs of her mother decorating her women's clothing store called Sweet Nancy's.

Debra Brash/Times Colonist

of being an emergency-room nurse.

She carries labels such as **Ellen Tracy**, **Anne Klein** and **ABS** by **Allen Schwartz**, as well as other high-end clothing and jewelry lines.

Call 995-2745.

Paradiso Di Stelle, a popular coffee place in **Bastion Square**, is opening another location in **Mayfair** mall next Thursday in time for the Christmas shopping rush. The temporary lease, which runs until Jan. 31, is located across from **Ben & Jerry's**. They may keep the café open if owners **Italo** and **Charmaine Porcella** can negotiate a long-term lease with management at the **Ivanhoe Cambridge**-owned mall. The couple have operated **Paradiso** in **Bastion Square** for nine years.

AXYS Technologies Inc., which has deployed high-tech data collection buoys around the globe, has announced its first sale to Argentina. The privately held firm based in Sidney has signed a deal with **Subtronic SA** to deploy its **Watchkeeper** oceanographic and meteorological buoy off Argentina's coast to support offshore oil and gas exploration. The solar-powered buoy is equipped with several sensors that monitor sea temperature, waves, currents, wind speed and direction, relative humidity and air temperature. Data is

sent ashore via satellite. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

After more than a decade of working for other companies, **Roy Major** is striking out on his own with **RC Millwork**, a home-based custom cabinet and carpentry business in the Triangle Mountain area. A journeyman craftsman since 1993, Major makes bookcases, home and office furniture, kitchens and bathroom vanities, wall units and entertainment centres designed to fit new televisions. The Alberta native, who moved to Victoria two years ago, can be reached at 889-5511.

Daniel Arias, a former restaurateur in **Market Square** who once owned the **Tally-Ho** horse and buggy business and **Pilgrim's** taxi company, is the new owner of **Five Star Limousine Service**. He has two stretch Town Cars that hold eight and 10 passengers, respectively, and a licence for another vehicle to cater to weddings, graduations, wine tours, sight-seeing trips and other special events, including Christmas lights tours. He's at 213-2726.

Jason Zailo and **Cohen Oatman** are new brokers at **Terry Martin's Mortgage Centre — Pacific Properties** in the **Royal Oak Shopping Centre**. Zailo is at 588-9917, and Oatman

can be reached at 661-6939.

Mike and **Shellie Gudgeon**, owners of the **Fifth Street Bar & Grill**, are marking the 10th anniversary of the popular Hillside Avenue eatery by donating all the proceeds from tomorrow's sales to five charitable organizations. Staff and management picked the beneficiaries — **Project Lifesaver**, **The Q's TLC Fund For The Kids**, **Big Brothers Big Sisters**, **The Mary Manning Centre** and **Quadra Village Enhancement**. You can make reservations at 380-4600.

Chefs from the **Hotel Grand Pacific** were grand prize winners, while a team from the freshly-minted **Oswego Boutique Hotel** in James Bay took home **Chef's Choice** and **Critic's Choice** awards this week at **The Grand Marnier Dessert Challenge**. The event, using the popular liqueur, raised more than \$9,000 for the **Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation**. The **People's Choice Award** went to **Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort** in Parksville. **Media Choice** winners was the **Bear Mountain Golf Resort and Spa**, while **Chef's Choice** second and third places went to **Murchie's Tea and Coffee** and **Lure Seafood Restaurant and Bar**, respectively. There are details and photos of the creations at www.gvef.org under the 'news' tab.