

Better Business Belleville



Small business owners talk about the benefits and challenges of what they do

By Megan Voss

Over the past few years, small businesses have come and gone. Thriving and flourishing or fading and crumbling, the Belleville and Quinte region has seen it all. Businesses that have been around for years go out of business, only to have the rental space be replaced by a new one, and have that one die out as well, only sooner. Newer ones accompany the old, classic favourite stores in the downtown core, some having more success than others. One thing that connects them all is their love for what they do, what they sell, and being able to run their business how they please.

There are several businesses that have been a fixture in the downtown core for many years. Scalliwag Toys, run by Richard and Karin Belanger, opened the doors to their toys and games shop in 1985. Over on Bridge Street, Paulo's Italian Trattoria has been open since 1995. The owner of the restaurant, Paul Dinkle, says that he has always been attracted to the historical atmosphere of downtown.

On the other hand, new businesses also have their place in the Belleville area. Kris Daji has been running Your Shoe Store & Repairs for

about three years and says that he likes being able to set his own rules.

"It means that my success is my own, and my failures are my own."

Like Daji, Andrew Goodsell is a young business owner. He has owned Goodsell Collectables for almost a year, and says he enjoys the freedom to come in late, be his own boss and provide an atmosphere for his customers to come and hang out.

Further out in Stirling and on the other end of the age bracket, Mandy Webb is a 46-year-old business owner of A Little Taste of Paradise. On a whim, she opened the bakery and café at the beginning of November. The motivation for starting a business varies from person to person, and for Webb, it was the need for a change from her regular job and wanting to move up.

At the end of the day, business owners wouldn't change a thing about what they do.

"It is hard work," Colin Conroy, owner of The Grind Café, says.

"Sometimes I think I would like to have a job where someone else paid me, but I like the flexibility and pride of ownership that comes with owning your business."

Top left: Rick MacDonald and Jeff MacDonald, a father and son duo take a break during their day at Campbell's Auto Shop that they run together in Belleville. Someday, Rick hopes to take the business over from his dad, Jeff. Photo by Jessica Corriveau.
Middle left: Shane Tyrer is the owner of Shane's Auto Service in Belleville. Photo by Michelle Cochrane.
Bottom left: Paul Dinkle is the owner of Paulo's Italian Trattoria in Trenton. Photo by Rachel Cohen.

Centre: Andrew Goodsell is the owner of Goodsell Collectables in downtown Belleville. Photo by Sarah Schofield.
Top right: Monique Addy is the owner of Pure Honey in downtown Belleville. Photo by Sarah O. Swenson.
Middle right: Kris Daji is the owner of Your Shoe Store & Repairs in downtown Belleville. Photo by Rachel Pstuka.
Bottom right: Sheila Fernley is the owner of RoseHips Weddings Events Studio in Trenton. Photo by Kristen Haveman.

