

Independent Shorts

2017 CBHFM membership drive

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Please fill out directly online at baseballhalloffame.ca/shop-2/membership. All levels of membership receive a partial income tax receipt among the many other benefits as outlined on the form. Please note that the Grand Slam membership level offers a corporate opportunity.

Please contact us at 519-284-1838 or [baseball@baseballhalloffame.ca](mailto:baseballhalloffame.ca) if you wish further information and thank you in advance for your 2017 membership.

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Business of the Week

Lyric Flowers

By Dan Rankin

Our Business of the Week is the nationally recognized and locally loved destination for unique floral designs for all occasions, giftware, interior décor and more, Lyric Flowers, owned by Jay Harrison and Landon Hoare.

Lyric Flowers originally opened in 2011, moving to its current location at 123 Queen Street East in St. Marys last year. In their new space, they have about three times the amount of work space in the back of the shop, as well as a back-door entrance. "We can do more work, take on bigger weddings, and have more space to place vases somewhere else when we're done with them," Hoare said. As of last May, Harrison, originally from Napanee, has been working in the floral industry for 20 years. However, Lyric Flowers offers a lot more than flowers. Brands carried throughout the store include chocolates by Ma's Kitchen, Brickstone Fine Foods condiments and sauces, and Greaves jams and marmalades. They also offer interior décor items, with regularly rotating displays. Christmas items are beginning to be found around the store. "Red, white and green are still the most popular looks, but gold is the new gold," said Hoare, noting that, for a while, "silver was 'the new gold'."

"The woodland outdoorsy look, and bringing the outdoors inside, is the biggest trend right now," he added.

When it comes to ordering flower from Lyric for the big flower-giving holidays, Hoare advises customers to place their orders as soon as possible. "For delivery at Christmas, right now

is not too soon to order your centrepieces to be guaranteed what you want to get," he said.

More and more people around St. Marys and beyond have begun to recognize Lyric Flowers as the destination for unique event floral design, particularly for weddings. 2016 has been "booked solid, and is still going," Hoare said.

When it is all said and done, they will have worked on 85 weddings during 2016 and, thanks to bookings already made in 2017, they'll soon have 400 weddings under their belts since 2011.

"We've been to Cambridge, and to Guelph a lot," Harrison said. "We're going Grand Bend, and we're in London. The core is still in St. Marys - but we are reaching further."

When planning their wedding's flowers, couples can be sure that they're getting Harrison and Hoare's undivided attention during consultations in their in-store bridal suite, designed by frequent collaborator Kim Foster of Above & Beyond Event Design & Decor. They can also rest assured that their wedding's flowers will be like no one else's.

"We don't do cookie cutter designs," Hoare said. "It's designed to the individual. I won't recreate bouquets from someone else's wedding."

Beginning next week, Lyric Flowers begins hosting Christmas design workshops, that will lead guests in the creation of floral urns, centrepieces, lanterns, and wreaths. More information on those and other events, such as wine and cheese pairing events in conjunction with the Cheese Shoppe, can be found on Lyric Flowers' Facebook page.



Pictured alongside the sensational Kristine Fink-designed Poppy dress in their storefront Remembrance Day display are Jay Harrison, left, and Landon Hoare, owners of Lyric Flowers.

One major upcoming event of note is the open house scheduled for the evening of Thursday, Nov. 24 at Lyric Flowers and five other downtown local businesses. "There's lots happening for the open house because it's also our fifth anniversary," Harrison said. "There's a passport program. If they go to all six of the local businesses taking part, there are three \$200 gift packages, from all six of us. We're also giving a free gift to the first 100 people."

The young at heart will be able to pose with

Santa for photos taken by local photographer Nina Polidoro, he added. "We have our chocolates for sampling, as well as cheese and refreshments," he said. "It's a big night for us. There were over 300 who went to all the businesses taking part last year and we had over 400 come in here alone."

Lyric Flowers is open from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday to Friday, and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturdays. For more information, call 519-284-0808 or email FloralArt@LyricFlowers.com.

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