

Column 0080410

We stopped into the new Verona Drug Mart for some much-needed sundries and a chat with owner Hany Girgis. He's busy planning April 19th Grand Opening celebration, which will feature in store specials and probably a BBQ with proceeds to the Verona District Medical Services Committee. Hany told us about a number of Drugmart services: they accept all major drug insurance plans – a boon to people who've had to save up receipts and send them to their insurance company for reimbursement. They can deliver in the Verona area – a boon to all kinds of transportationally challenged or to the just plain too sick to drive. And Hany showed me a "dosette" package. For people who have several medications to take at different times of day, the Drugmart will package those prescriptions just like one of those pill minder boxes so you know exactly which pills to take when. Not only that, on the dosette package your pills are described by colour and shape so you can double check your dosages. This is a serious help to people who for whatever reason may be confused about whether they've taken their medications. The Drugmart is open from 9 – 6 Monday through Friday. For the present, it's closed Saturdays, but Hany reminds people that he can deliver on Friday to people who might not be able to get out. Drop in and say hi to Hany and to Judy Sparling, who's happy to take your suggestions for stock and technician Tasha MacDonald.

What an array of talented people live in our area. Last week Jennifer Bennett's *Requiem for Bronwen Wallace* featured in the Queen's School of Music's Polyhymnia concert at Grant Hall. Jennifer is well-known for her writing talent (her book *The Northern Gardener* continues to be a trusted reference) but she is also an award winning composer. In the requiem she created a stunning musical setting for some of Bronwyn's poetry. Featured in the performance was Parham's Anne Archer, and in the audience were director Annabelle Twiddy with most of the Trinity United Church choir, who had been given the night off rehearsal to attend.

Then there's Wilma Kenny. Readers know her as a *News* reporter, but among her other talents is a wonderful facility with fibre art. You can see her work on display upstairs in the Kingston Public Library as part of the Kingston Fibre Artists' Association show throughout April.

And some of our local residents have talented grandchildren. Eileen Manson tells us that grand daughter Brooks (daughter of Scott) and her partner Carly McCagherty came first in the duets competition at the Kingston Competitive Swim Meet last week. Brooks & Carly will be representing the Oshawa Durham Swim Club at the Nationals in Edmonton next June.

For a look at some more local talent, head to the next Lions Music Night. The heavy winter weather put some brakes on these evenings, but now that the roads are passable (we're holding off on a declaration of spring) the cheilidh is back on track. Organizer Ken Willis invites all you pickers and singers to come to the Lions Hall for an open stage session on Friday, April 18. Bring all your music lovin' friends along for the fun because not only will they have the pleasure of the open stage, but musical wizard Roger James will close the evening with his blend of comedy and virtuoso banjo, guitar & bodhran playing. Friday April 18, 8:00 – 11:00. Admission \$5.

Sisters By Heart's next gathering is "The Wrinkle Free Woman" (ironing out the wrinkles in our lives) with special speaker and music by Rhonda Spurrell. Monday April 14 at 7:00 in the Verona Free Methodist Hall. \$5. Bring a friend and enjoy the fun. Evelyn Snider promises some surprises.

Are you working on your design? Don't forget the the Verona Community Association new logo competition. It should be black and white and suitable for stationary. The winning entry will receive a \$50 prize compliments of the Verona branch of the Bank of Montreal. Send a jpeg of your entry to inie@sympatico.ca by the end of April.