



## 2 Businesses - One Caring Couple

Operating out of a shaded, shared building, tucked away against the urban forest not far down the road from Parksville's distinctive orange bridge, are Lady's Mantle Boutique, and A+ Auto Glass — a pair of businesses run by a couple that cares.

Tim Andres was fresh out of University in 1978 and just "shopping around for a job" when he picked one up at Trans Canada Glass in Manitoba (which later became Speedy Auto Glass). Already promoted to the position of manager by age 24, he further expanded his role by developing business and training staff in surrounding communities.

Tim transferred to Vancouver Island in 1997, where he would manage stores in both Nanaimo and Courtenay, before starting his own glass business in Qualicum in 2001, and opening a second shop in Parksville in 2008. He is a recent recipient of Qualicum Beach's Business of the Year Award.

"Business of the Year," says Tim, "It has real prestige."

Tim's wife Donna looks after the business's books, and also runs her own store — Lady's Mantle Boutique — right next to Tim's Parksville glass shop.

In 2009, a year after Tim's second shop had opened, Donna noticed how much extra space there was, and left her career in the medical field to open a "store that has everything."

As a young mother, Donna (in addition to running the family's hobby farm) made many of the clothes her children wore, and over the years developed a flair for design, often being called upon by friends and neighbors for advice about clothes, event decoration, and home and garden decor. Lady's Mantle was a natural progression.

"Turning 50 was a catalyst," she says. "You take a chance!"

Named after the dainty flower (and Donna meaning 'Lady' in Italian) the shop's shelves and hangers are loaded with clothing, hats, jewellery, ornaments, sunglasses, purses... the list goes on, as does the list of community organizations that the couple are active in.

Donna is president of Oceanside Return On Your Investment, a board member of the Oceanside Women's Business Network, director of the Parksville Chamber of Commerce, director of the Parksville Community and Conference Centre, a member of the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce, an organizer of the Orange Bridge Market, and an organizer of the What Women Want event.

Tim, meanwhile, is a member of Oceanside Return On Your Investment, a member of the Parksville and Qualicum Beach Chambers of Commerce, and a member of the Qualicum Beach Rotary.

He also stops by regularly to play his guitar for the residents at the Parksville Seniors Drop In Centre, a 25-year-old institution offering art, exercise and gaming programs to the community's older residents. He has also brought his welcome talents to entertain residents of Stanford Place, Qualicum Manor and Trillium Lodge.

It had been a long-term desire of Tim's to move out west (the couple hails from Manitoba, where Tim excelled as an auto enthusiast and Donna in athletics), and once their children were all in high school, that dream was made a reality.

Donna credits their strong work ethic and sense of civic duty to their small-town Manitoba beginnings, but has no regrets about their westward ventures.

This couple also hosts the weekly Orange Bridge on location on Saturdays from June 15th until the end of September. Stop by and shop for local fruits, veggies, bread, delectables, crafts, jewelry and flea market items.

The couple loves the work they do and the community in which they live.

"We chose this place because it's the best place in Canada to be," says Tim, adding, "I don't ever want to retire."

The pair welcomes any and all passing by 716 East Island Highway to pop in and say hello. They'd love to meet you, and you'll be glad you stopped in!  
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