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Melody Wren | Wed Aug 10 2011 | 0 Recommend

## Did you know about these places in and around Guelph?

I am not part of any secret club that gets business updates, but by talking to people, and being very curious and just plain nosy, I sometimes find out about new places before others. I find myself frequently telling friends about somewhere new opening up and I'm surprised when I know something they don't.

So, this column is going to be a lot like the game, Guess who? But I'm calling it, "Did you know?".

There is a new eatery across from the General Hospital , the Delhi Street Bistro at64 Delhi Street. It is a "farm to fork" bistro and every single morsel is so delicious. Locally owned, it is open for breakfast and lunch, and is a short walk from downtown.

Knapp's country market on Eramosa Road, just past Guelph Lake has been renovated with a huge addition. I hadn't been until recently and was very impressed with the range of offerings, with local fresh produce and a café with a water view offering a buffet at lunch and dinner. I haven't tried it, but when I perused it, and everything looked appetizing. They also have a bakery, ice cream parlour, general store and a nursery .

Planet Bean has opened a third location on Gordon Street South near Brock Road Garage, with café seating. And they now serve gelato.

I can't go to my new favourite farmers' market this Saturday in Aberfoyle (Saturdays at the Puslinch Community Centre from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and was concerned about where I would pick up local fresh produce. Then I recalled the two midweek markets — both worth checking out — the neighbourhood market at 126 Norwich St. E. on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to7 p.m, and Victory P.S. market, at 135 Exhibition Street, Wednesdays, 3 to 7p.m.

The West End bakery is now back in the main thrust of downtown. They moved into the space where Wyndham Lane shoes were (sigh) and have a café as well as all their regular baked goods.

Wellington Cakes is opening in early September across from the Red Brick Café on Douglas Street. specializing in custom designed cakes, specifically elegant wedding cakes and unique special occasion cakes all made from scratch with fresh high quality ingredients. They will also have a café featuring gourmet cupcakes and teas and coffee. Anne Forestell, the owner, was born and raised in Guelph and says, "it's really nice to see the downtown area revitalizing and I'm glad that I can be a part of it. I am extremely excited to be opening a bakery that is very different from what is already available in Guelph."

The multiculturalism of Guelph is reflected in the newer, ethnically diverse eateries opened by independent local owners — many of which seem to be off the beaten track (my favourite kind of place).

Portugese Marios, at 471 York Road, has scrumptious takeout home cooking. It's my prime fallback when I need a break from it all.

I haven't been to the following two places, but hear rave reviews from fellow foodies, so they are on my radar for visits soon:

Senõr chipotle, at 500 Willow Road at Westwood, has authentic Mexican food, and is shockingly inexpensive

As well, there's Los Abuelos, a tiny Chilean restaurant with only four tables, at 447 B Elizabeth Street. It's hard to find, but apparently it's worth the search. It's in-between Saul's Auto body shop, and J & D Barbershop, just past Rocky's (a Guelph icon). It has genuine Chilean food and is also incredibly inexpensive.

I struggled with whether to include the following information on new stores as they are parts of a chain, but they will be employing locals, so it makes a difference to our community.....and I am really excited about both of them.

Homesense is coming to Guelph. (Whoop hoo!) It's really pathetic how excited I am about this, but I would prefer to shop locally. It is being built beside WalMart and will be open in November

Target , jokingly pronounced "Tar-Jay" for those in the know, is coming to Guelph and will replace Zellers on Eramosa Road. It's also extremely embarrassing how pleased I am about this. It is due to open late fall.

If I have missed out something new coming up, or you have a new favourite discovery, let me know: [melody.wren@sympatico.ca](mailto:melody.wren@sympatico.ca)

Read about other discoveries I find during my travels on my blog: [www.melodywren.wordpress.com](http://www.melodywren.wordpress.com)

Melody Wren is a member of the Guelph Mercury's community editorial board



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