



## CITYSCAPE

What's new, hip or just plain fun to do around the block.

Words **Kate MacLennan**

**GLAD BAGS** Consider that “what to get your sister for Christmas” dilemma solved. At Roots you need but close your eyes, reach out and pluck the first purse your hand hits from the wall of buttery leather handbags. You're guaranteed to leave with something that looks luxe and only improves with wear. Those who want to be a bit more involved in the purchase should consider the new patent Uptown bag (from \$138), which looks like a million bucks over a cozy, belted winter coat. Since you're here, might as well cross a few others off your list with Roots yoga and active wear, especially if they wear your size. *790 Park Royal North, 604.925.2166, www.roots.ca*

**BLOOMIN' OVERSIGHT** The pavement in front of Special Moments Flowers & Gifts is well-pounded thanks to the hordes pulled by tractor beams towards their morning cup of J.J. Bean. But walking past is a serious mistake. We popped in for some tulips – perky and brilliant despite being way out of season – and stayed for 15 minutes perusing the shop, no small feat when you consider the whole store is about 250 square feet. Owner Jennifer Sullivan's eye for arrangements hits perfectly between minimalism and warmth, and her orchids practically wink at you as you walk by. Best, she won't wrap your flowers in drab, mauve floral paper. *Park & Tilford, 333 Brooksbank Avenue, North Vancouver, 604.986.8783, www.smflowers.com*

**MOUSTACHE ON THE MOVE** The only moustache we believe could actually improve a blind date is picking up and moving to the Lonsdale area. Although he's leaving behind that cute little house on Marine Drive, Chef Geoff Lundholm promises the new culinary address will have your old Moustache Café favourites. The French and Mediterranean dishes will just be served in a fresh, new space. Stay tuned for more. *129 West 2nd Street, North Vancouver, 604.987.8461, www.moustachecafe.ca*

**NOT POPPY COCK** Chances are you know Finnish textile triumph Marimekko's iconic poppy print, even if you don't recognize the name. Next time you're downtown it's well worth swinging by Yaletown to check out Canada's first Marimekko concept store. You will find the almost 60-year-old company's cheery aprons, bed linens and modern home accessories in trademark bold prints. You'll also find charmingly refined clothing collections for men, women and children. *1233 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, 604.609.2881, www.marimekko.com*

**MORE THAN MINI MART** We love a neighbourhood grocer that offers more than sugar and trans fats. At newly-renovated Olympia Meats Delicatessen, there's an impressive selection of oils, vinegars and olives, organic beverages and pastas. Offerings behind the meat counter such as competitively-priced chicken and beef, and pre-made and

marinated lamb kebabs make you grateful we can barbecue all year long. No juicy tabloids line the counter, so you won't know what Brad and Angie are up to. But then, you're never standing in a lineup long enough that you'd need to open one. *120 West 3rd Street, North Vancouver, 604.988.8100*

**PURE CONSCIENCE** Unless your taste is entirely Canadiana-inspired or modular, there aren't a lot of options in eco-friendly furniture departments. Until now. Enter PURE by Ami McKay. The Emily Carr graduate, HGTV host and furniture designer's new line is billed as sustainable, healthy, soft home furnishings, a reputation McKay backs up by using natural materials, FSC-certified wood and highly renewable latex rubber. Every piece in the four lines (PURE Earth, Fire, Water and Air) is inspired by the elements, has carefully considered lines, and, bonus, happens to be comfortable. Each collection includes a lounge chair, love seat and sofa, all available in organic wool. You just have to pick the colour. *Available at Smart Design, 925 Main Street, The Village at Park Royal, West Vancouver, 778.280.3610, www.m-smartdesign.com*

**DIY DESIGN** Award-winning West Vancouver design company Interior Solutions Design Group has just made it possible for your do-it-yourself makeover to masquerade as a professional job. At the new boutique design centre, clients custom create looks to their own tastes by choosing from a display of hand-selected designer pieces usually

only available to industry professionals. Need your hand held, just until you're warmed up? Designers are available for hire by the hour, either at your home or in the showroom, to discuss colour selection, budget realities, or how to prioritize your renovation. *1405 Bellevue Avenue, West Vancouver, 604.922.8311, www.interiorsolutionsdesigngroup.com*

**CLOTHES CALL** Calling Michael Kors fans! Jack & Jill Clothing's new Ambleside location has you in mind. This is where to score knit dresses and kimono-inspired tops from the legendary designer's Michael collection (read: runway-inspired, beautifully tailored), not to mention stylish logo-print Wellies that say “I know it's raining, but that doesn't mean I have to look like a logger.” It's also the only place in town to find Montreal designer Iris Seilakwe's modern takes on classic pieces. The high-waisted party skirt in taffeta-like polyester is perfect for a holiday soirée when paired with Seilakwe's crisp, high-collared white blouse with puddle cuffs. Just add a chunky red bead necklace, and don't forget to take your hostess flowers. *235 17th Street, West Vancouver, 604.922.2701, www.jacknjillclothing.com*

**SPORT SWAP** It's okay to admit that you shouldn't have bought those beautiful Pucci parabolic skis last time you were in Whistler – especially post après. There is someone out there, however, who will give those babies a good home. Maybe they'll even swap you a kayak for them. It's worth a shot at Mountain Equipment Co-op's free online gear-swap service. *www.mec.ca*