

# Weekend Living

TORONTO STAR

SECTION L  
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## ETHICALLY SPEAKING

Trip to fantasy land over for pot-dealing son, L7



## STYLE CZAR

Cutting-edge ateliers invade Bathurst and Dupont, L4

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# Think local

They're made close to home and sold in city shops. Our made-in-the-GTA gift guide offers unique presents, L12



MARY VALLIS  
TORONTO STAR

If eating locally grown food makes you feel good, why not extend those good vibes to holiday shopping for locally made gifts?

To help you get started, the *Star* presents a selection of made-in-the-GTA gift ideas — jewellery, clothes, toys and home decor.

It's not only about feeling good — shopping locally is about looking good, too, says Laura-Jean Bernhardson, founder of the Fresh Collective, a designer-run boutique that sells local wares.

"Beyond the ethical reasons, you get a unique product," Bernhardson says. "This is special stuff that's really different and unique. The products speak for themselves."

Fresh Collective's two locations — one on Queen St. W and the other in Kensington Market — are staffed by the designers whose jewellery and clothing are on display. So a customer's request to have a necklace lengthened or a hem shortened can easily be accommodated.

Upcycling old goods into new ones is a popular trend among local artisans, who turn tired bicycle inner tubes into belts, sew old fabrics into new skirts and felt old sweaters to create soft purses.

Locally made means presents come with personality: Check out the gorgeous cushions designed by Toronto artist Alex Jowett of Atelier 688, featuring original balloon silk aviator maps.

These were originally issued to British aircrews during World War II to help them evade capture if their planes were shot down. Jowett, whose uncle died in the war as a Royal Australian Air Force bomber

pilot, has a local seamstress hand-stitch the maps into pillows.

Of course, opting for local gifts for ethical reasons isn't a bad idea, either.

"We believe in supporting local business since buying local supports the Canadian economy and creates jobs," says Katie MacDonald, owner of The 100-Mile Child, a new boutique on the Danforth.

"Many of the people who supply our store are local mompreneurs," she adds.

Ecojot manufactures its earth-friendly notebooks and journals at a small factory in Scarborough. It's a family affair: Mark Gavin runs the business side, while his sister, Carolyn, is the artist behind the company's hip designs.

"We've got great people, so it is possible to make this product here," Gavin says. "We're positioning ourselves as a company with a deeper purpose."



## LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD CAPE, PATOUCHE \$80

Kessa Laxton designs in her studio at the Toronto Fashion Incubator. Local artisans make the capes, working with Canadian melton wool and a Japanese print of Little Red Riding Hood's walk through the woods. Available at Baby on the Hip, 969 Queen St. E.; Kol Kid, 674 Queen St. W.; and [www.patouche.ca](http://www.patouche.ca)

## GRADE EH DESIGN FROM \$10

Sara Deacon sews her cottage-themed line of organic throw pillows and cotton creations in her East York home. Available at [www.gradeehdesign.ca](http://www.gradeehdesign.ca).



## FOOD

# Sorry, Canada — that's just the way the cookie crumbles

Mallomars, chocolate-covered confections sold only in U.S., but made right here in Toronto

ALLISON CROSS  
STAFF REPORTER

Mark Hoops can determine the freshness of Mallomars with a single bite.

"I start by grabbing it by the base

and biting it with my front teeth at the top of the crown," says Hoops, 55, who lives in Hopewell Junction, N.Y.

"And if the chocolate breaks off and pulls away from the marshmal-

low, that is an ultra-fresh Mallo-mar."

Hoops is a self-proclaimed Mallo-mars fanatic. "They're the perfect food," he says.

He's not alone. Love of the Nabisco cookie, a coupling of marshmallow and graham cracker covered in chocolate, verges on religious devotion in parts of New York state.

But here are two peculiarities:

First, Mallomars are available on grocery shelves only between October and April. Second, and perhaps stranger, is that Kraft, which owns Nabisco, makes them right here in Toronto — and yet they aren't available anywhere in Canada.

MALLOMARS continued on L10

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