

Ron White Shoes carries a selection of ultra-stylish boots and killer heels: stealth shopper

A mission to find Frye biker boots turns into a shoe-and-boot-trying frenzy



Ron White Shoes at Yorkdale Shopping Centre carries a selection of ultra-stylish boots and killer heels.

By: [Rita Zekas](#) Special to the Star, Published on Wed Sep 12 2012

I am on a mission at [Ron White Shoes](#). I have a clipping in hand from the New York Times style section featuring a photo of a [Frye](#) biker boot with harness and faux animal print advertised at \$448.

I must have a pair and Ron White carries the most Frye boots in Canada.

However, I am immediately distracted by a pair of penny loafers with corrugated rubber soles and poster art pattern (\$345) that have my name all over them.

Literally. They are called “Rita.”

A staffer takes the wrinkled piece of newspaper to check the Frye boot’s availability.

Meanwhile, I am waited on hand and feet: I am handed a bottle of water, given a foot massage and have my feet measured. I haven’t had my feet measured since I was shopping with my mom for back to school shoes.

My left foot is slightly bigger than my right but I already knew that.

The “Jenna” Frye studded, buckled biker boot for \$478 is tempting but not as seductive as a pair of tan lace-up riding boots with side zipper. They are a heady \$965, made in Italy, “like butter” and part of Ron White’s signature line.

A huge fan of Oxfords and/or brogues, I try on a pair of “Dianne” navy suede brogues with satin ties (\$385) and it is love at first step.

I can’t stand it — they are also available in black patent and leopard.

My inner hippie is all over the 7 For All Mankind (exclusive to Ron White) grey, fringed suede boots with stacked heel for \$365.

I feel compelled to test drive a pair of White's legendary All Day Heels, stilettos designed to allow you to endure more than two hours of wear.

They can't be cool if they are good for you. They must be frumpy, like the disastrous haircut you got that your mother loved.

Wrong. I slip on a pair of vertiginous "Bonnie" faux croc peep-toe heels (\$445) and they feel like flats. They have built-in platform and state-of-the art padding and a whole bunch of other blah blah blah design features which are explained to me but my attention has strayed to a pair of "Tiana" onyx/faux fur chinchilla boots. I can't get them on over my high instep. Just as well; they are \$695.

Next up: a pair of tuxedo, kitten-heel pumps in black patent leather with raspberry stitching and tassels. They are called "Blythe," priced at \$465 and ever so slightly subversive, they would kill with jeans as well as dressy duds.

A pair of burnt-orange suede "Deandra" high-heeled moccasins with crepe soles are ridiculously comfortable and a reasonable \$385. The Cole Haan teal blue suede booties are fun and only \$298. The store carries the [La Canadienne](#) line (also advertised in the New York Times) including riding boots in black or red pearlized patent leather that are \$345, waterproof and not at all old-ladyish.

They promise to call me about the Frye biker boots. I've almost forgotten about them because I am lusting after the \$965 tan lace-up riding boots. Oh well, there is always the end-of-season sale.

Ron White Shoes

Address: Ron White Shoes, Yorkdale Shopping Centre, 3401 Dufferin St.

Intimidation factor: Low.

Number of salespeople on floor: Half a dozen, but I have two enthusiastic attendants.

Response time: Immediate.

Vibe: Town meets Brown's Shoes.

Price range: From \$185 for ballerina flats to \$965 for a pair of Italian lace-up riding boots.

Rating: Four pairs of Frye boots out of four.

ritazekas@rogers.com