

Flower power root of good times at mall



KELLY DOODY
Page Six



Patty Kilgallon and Emma MacIsaac of the Children's Cottage Society and Patty Tuttle from Miles Display and Design at Market Mall's Avant Garden.

Making other malls jealous from Bassano to Balzac, Market Mall unveiled a spring garden display to rival the best North Pole shopping centre setup you've ever seen on Wednesday. No fake Santa or sweaty elves here, just a mirage of bright, whimsical colours, flowers, scents and songbirds that only a shopping centre in Calgary would dare pull off. We are, after all, a bit of a mall-loving, stroller-pushing, credit card-wielding group.

And while welcoming shoppers inside with fresh flowers and wishing wells is one thing, commissioning an artist from Sweden is another altogether. But that's exactly what Market Mall did — hire world-renowned illustrator **Stina Persson** to come up with three original water-colour paintings that would capture the essence of spring having sprung in the sprawling mall in Calgary's northwest.

Calling it Avant Garden, the effort wasn't lost on Wednesday's shoppers. Throwing coins into the big flower wishing well, admiring the centre court garden oasis and ogling the carefully placed retail products injected into the displays, one elderly passer-by exclaimed it to be "a very inspiring blessing" on the city. (Still not convinced Calgarians love their shopping malls?)

In addition to showcasing some art and soothing the winter-weary souls of a population desperate for a few blades of green grass to poke back into their life, the Avant Garden event is also a fundraiser for Children's Cottage Society.

Executive director **Patty Kilgallon** was on hand to express her thanks to the mall for finding a way to incorporate their charity alongside the yellow chrysanthemums.

"We're so excited that Market Mall would do this," Patty told Page Six.

"The event will help launch spring both in Calgary and at the Children's Cottage."

All the money raised over the next

two months of Avant Garden will go towards freshening up the yard, grounds and landscaping at the multi-service family facility.

"We're making sure that children in vulnerable situations can have a safe and enjoyable time, enjoying a new spring beginning." If you can't make it down yourself, toss a virtual coin and make a virtual wish at MarketMallWishingWell.ca. Cold, hard cash donations are also accepted.

Egg on my face

My sincerest apologies — on Wednesday I told you to head to the Calgary Zoo with your little chocolate fiends in tow for a very Cadbury-friendly weekend.

Problem is, the zoo's annual Easter Eggstravaganza takes place not on Saturday and Sunday, but from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Scavenger hunt, egg-decorating, cookie-eating, live comedy, magic, music and theatre still apply.

And that, my friends, makes not for an April Fool's joke, but a really Good Friday and egg-cellent Saturday.

Thong song

This just in from my Page Six pal **Gerry Forbes** at CJAY ... His lovely and talented morning show cohorts **Kelsey Moore** and **Jodi Hughes** have

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been working their butts off to get toned and taut for April 1, only to have their efforts earn them the title of Babe of the Day at cjay92.com

Now according to **Forbes**, the pair has agreed to pose in a thong.

Something I thought deserved a poorly written rhyme and a song.

And if you think on April 1, Gerry would never steer you wrong.

It's time to start making your coffee more strong.

Soliciting sprinkle advice

Blowing a little breeze back into Safeway's sails is what we'll be doing from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Easter Seals Celebrity Cookie Decorating Event on this pre-Easter Thursday.

I will happily accept any decorating tips from passers-by at the West-hills Safeway as sprinkles, icing and baking of all kinds are far from my forte. Judging takes place at noon for best cookie creation!

Eco-friendly gift-giver

Ah, another April, another Earth

Month. A few of this year's top eco-friendly gift ideas for everyone from the dinner party hostess to the global warming-denier on your list:

■ **Bamboo dinnerware** — perfect for picnics, outdoor concerts and trendy summer musical festivals;

■ **Seed paper postcards** — ideal for sending a 'wish you were here' note home from the picturesque oil sands;

■ **Shower timer** — prevent fights with your kids while promoting water conservation and bad hair days for your teenage daughter;

■ **Recycled tires jar opener** — if it works as bad as it sounds, it's a perfect present for the hoarder-of-ridiculous-things on your list.

Heated grilled cheese-off

In addition to blue cheese, goat cheese, smoked cheddar, buffalo mozzarella, cave-aged gruyere, double cream brie, Emmenthal, gouda, gorgonzola and chevre noir, the ingredient list of the more than 60 entries into Janice Beaton Fine Cheese's Hot Cheesy Goodness grilled cheese contest is rather unbelievable.

Additions such as truffle oil, lob-

ster meat, wildflower honey, champagne jelly, sweet horseradish, fresh thyme, sliced pear and shaved roast beef are but a few of the items contestants are hoping will be the piece de resistance for voters.

And with such carefully crafted recipes and serious sandwich name such as The Manwich, Black Gold Bleu Pig and The Prairie Pleaser, it fair to say that for the dozens of Calgarians vying for the win, Hot Cheesy Goodness is no joke.

Voting began on Thursday and continues until April 4.

See the complete list of entries posted on JB Fine Cheese's Facebook page, in the cheese shop or on Farm website, and then cast your vote via e-mail to contest@jbfinecheese.com or in the 16 Ave. S.W. cheese shop.

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