

## New Drake Apothecary in Bolton soothes your heart and soul

By Mark Pavilons

Have you ever felt like cuddling up with a good book and a cup of herbal tea, in someone else's living room?

The operators of Drake Apothecary in Bolton are offering just that, and much more.

What started in Michelle Marino Drake's kitchen, has led to this quaint storefront on Chapel Street in historic downtown Bolton.

Drake, a master level Reiki practitioner, offers hand-made, aromatherapy and custom-made products of all descriptions. From Drake's own brand of Lotion Potion to a cornucopia of teas, soups, spices, personal care products and fashion accessories, stepping into the Apothecary is like plopping on your favourite sofa.

And that's exactly what Michelle was aiming for. It was a long road, filled with plenty of hard work, but the long-time Bolton residents are thrilled with their unique store.

Along with the bounty of products, as well as home decor and creations from local artisans, Drake Apothecary is home to a well loved library of classic and antique books. There are literally hundreds of years of history on the shelves of the store that beckon to be relived by customers.

Some customers have done just that ? taken their shoes off, put down their bags and relaxed with a good book.

She's been an avid book hunter since she was a child, and she's still on the lookout for these gems. She makes it affordable for customers because their ultimate goal is to get a book in people's hands.

Books really do speak volumes. At the entrance to the store is a display of items found inside some of these books ? a rose, tickets, newspaper clippings, photographs and love letters.

They want artisans and those who sell at seasonal markets to drop in and make their products available to the public. The store is an outlet for local artisans and it's a win-win scenario.

Bolton's core just got a lot more interesting.

They're located at 10 Chapel St., next to the Coin Laundry. For more visit [www.drakeapothecary.com](http://www.drakeapothecary.com) or <http://trilogybooks.ca>



Helping with the ribbon cutting at Bolton's Drake Apothecary last Saturday were Councillor Annette Groves, Rob Spence, Mayor Allan Thompson, Michelle Marino Drake and Councillor Rob Mezzapelli. Photo by Mark Pavilons