



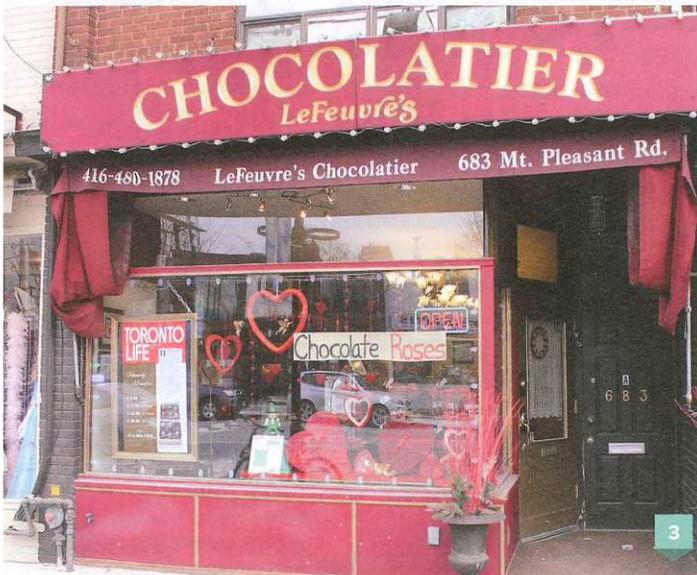
HAPPENING
SHOP LOCAL



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Brick and Mortar

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD,
YOUR NEIGHBOURS

BY LESLIE SINCLAIR

1 SUMMERHILL FLORAL BOUTIQUE

Open for two years now, Summerhill Floral Boutique is the proud third family of the Summerhill Market team. "The cooler is the most beautiful part about this shop," says lead designer and manager, Sarah McDonald. "You can walk right in and pick and choose whatever you like, people really like doing that because it's more interactive. They can be involved in what they're making." Although Summerhill Floral Boutique will be offering a dozen red roses for \$30 for Valentine's Day – a feat almost impossible at this time of year – Sarah suggests an even better option is their European Hand Ties. Starting around \$50, and designed in-hand, they include a selection of hydrangeas, exotics and other filler flowers, roses included. "You're not going to get in trouble if you don't bring home twelve red roses," says Sarah. "It might actually get you some bonus points if you can think outside of the box."

1057 Mt. Pleasant Road, 647-748-0777 summerhillfloral.com

2 STONEROSE HAIR STUDIO

In the mood to pamper yourself for Valentine's Day? Check out Stonerose Hair Studio, which specializes in hair cutting, colouring and extensions for both men and women. The studio, conveniently located at Yonge and St. Clair, represents personal transformation for owner and stylist, Mike Goncalves. Mike lost everything after being hit by a car on his motorcycle but it was his rehabilitation that inspired the name of his new salon, which he launched in 2013. "The doctors at Sunnybrook were always calling me a stone because my recovery time was quite fast," Mike says. "And they said, 'You find your rose at the end of your journey.'" The mission of Stonerose is to expose the beauty and confidence of its clients through the art of hair dressing. Mike describes their style as solid but classic, like the rose. Consider a blowout package for yourself or your loved one this Valentine's Day: Five blowouts for \$150.

1504 Yonge Street, 416-922-0085 stonerosehairstudio.com

3 LE FEUVRE'S CHOCOLATIER

Founded by Fred Le Feuvre in 1927, Uli Blankenhorn and his wife have now owned Le Feuvre's Chocolatier for 21 years. All of Le Feuvre's products are made by hand in small batches from natural ingredients and premium Belgian chocolate. "This year we are going to focus on the traditional chocolates," says Uli. He notes that for some time traditional chocolates have been replaced by truffles, but that now he sees a trend back toward buttercream and fruit cream based chocolates. Lactose-intolerant? No need to worry, Le Feuvre's offers lactose-free creams. This Valentine's Day, stop by Le Feuvre's for premade boxes of creams and caramels starting at \$10.95, and long-stemmed chocolate roses for \$4.95. But buttercream isn't just for romantics. "For St. Patrick's Day, we have a product called Irish Potatoes which is a buttercream with chopped walnuts rolled into a ball and tossed in cinnamon – they look like little potatoes," Uli says.

683 Mt. Pleasant Road, 416-480-1878 lefeuvres.com

LESLIE SINCLAIR is a freelance writer in the St. Clair West Village.
Leslie loves to write about people and subculture.