

Soap and Water, Elbow Grease and Bit of Red Paint

Imagine! Who would have thought that slapping a little bit of red paint on an empty store front would create the domino effect that it has. I am sure that some of you might argue that the painting of the old location of Sullivan's Ladies Wear candy apple red and all the recent renovations to store front locations are nothing more than coincidence. I am more likely to believe that these events are not coincidence at all. But rather, people had the chance to see first hand how soap and water and little bit of paint could dramatically change the look of a run down empty building. The best part is that it did not take a lot of money to create a huge impact.

Joanne Woollings and a crew of eager beavers with paint brushes were on a mission. They chose a sunny Sunday and within a few hours the old building was a shiny new red. Cars were stopping people were hollering "what a great job it looks good. But, they also were asking lots of questions. Why are you doing that? Is something new coming? What's going on? People were talking and the best thing was they were talking about positive things. It created a stir, a sense of wonder, and with a color like candle apple red, it stopped people in there tracks, made them look and ultimately peaked their curiosity.

That same Sunday only a few blocks away the hobby shop was given a fresh coat of paint as well. A few weeks later Sean from Hoggarth's Interiors painted his old location green, giving it a much needed face lift for free!

We have seen siding and new windows being installed where Lefebvre Electronics Express view is currently located. Dr Yade has refaced his building giving it a more modern look. Claude's last stand has a new sheltered patio that will keep his customers a bit warmer as the colder weather approaches. On The Run looks absolutely beautiful with its benches, hanging flower baskets and planters. Have you noticed that the LaSalle Theatre? It too has been given a fresh coat of paint. .

The Mile of Gold is not the only street that has seen some much needed improvements Lets take a stroll down a few back roads and take a look around. Hoover Meats on Kirkpatrick Street has been busy adding a bit of color to their location. They are now outlined in red and certainly ready for business. Hudson Bay is a bit brighter with Goldland Billiards sporting a new and shiny silver coat.

Downtown Kirkland Lake has certainly seen its share of negative lately and sometimes it is hard to focus on the positive. But, let us not forget that positive things have been happening here in Kirkland Lake. Now tell me! Are all of these

renewal initiatives just a coincidence or the fruits of a woman with a vision and the courage to lead us paint brush in hand? Thanks Joanne for showing us that a few cans of paint, some elbow grease, soap and water, and a bit of ingenuity can go along way. I think maybe she started a trend. What do you think?