

# niagara life

getting down  
in **UPTOWN**  
ridgeway



john hall's **WHISKY** risk | slicing and dicing at the **POMEGRANATE**  
digging in to **COMMUNITY** gardens | chrome **DIVAS**: not your average biker chicks



Floral silk shirt dress with a tuxedo top by Mac and Jac, accented by a pink Brittoli purse.



Open weave vest from Cartise, Spanner top and shorts.



Allison, left: Black pleather jacket from Renoir, pink crossover front shirt from Spanner, black and white leopard 3/4 length pant from Spanner, and Brittoli umbrella. Sarah, right: Hot pink jacket from Revel, notched neck black top from Revel, Zippered front black and white skirt from Spanner.



Top from Jon and Jayne, Spanner cotton twill, Bermuda shorts.

Turquoise blue open-weave sweater from Cartise, white tank top from ACDL with white Spanner Bermuda shorts.

Summer is all about getting outside and enjoying the warm weather. With heavy coats tucked away for the season, every outing is an opportunity to make a fashion statement. An infusion of bright colours and interesting cuts in your wardrobe can help to make this summer your most fashionable yet.

around  
**town**





From left, Sarah - Blue, purple and ivory sequined column-neck top by Cartise; Rachel - Off the shoulder, cut out gathered blouse by Cartise.; Allison - White frilly tied self-belted shirt by Cartise.

Right-From left: Ferris - Black jersey knit short dress from Tricotti, featuring removable embellishments around the collar accented by a yellow and black snake print Brittoli purse; Allison - Fun pattern dress from Mac and Jac featuring elasticized sides. Purse from Brittoli; Sarah - Floral silk shirt dress with a tuxedo top by Mac and Jac, accented by a pink Brittoli purse.



# around town

## CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Three Ferrises Fashion,  
Accessories, Gifts  
311 Ridge Rd N, Ridgeway

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Precious LaPlante Photography  
Port Colborne

## MODELS

Allison, Rachel, Sarah, and Ferris

## THANKS TO

Ridgeways Restaurant & Catering in Ridgeway  
for welcoming our models into their Ridge  
Road Restaurant with open arms.

Shoppers who want a quick and tasty bite can stop by the Latte Kaffe & Eatery.



Ferris Beck-Stone, owner of Three Ferrises Boutique, where visitors can expect one-on-one attention.

## getting down in UPTOWN ridgeway

BY MELINDA CHEEVERS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY PRECIOUS LAPLANTE

In a world of strip malls, chain restaurants, and mega stores it can be hard to find something truly unique.

That's what makes Ridgeway, a Fort Erie community nestled between Thunder Bay and Crystal Beach, one of Niagara's truly hidden gems. The main road, Ridge Road North, offers up a number of shops and businesses with an atmosphere that can only be described as charming.

It's almost as if the shopping district knows it can't compete with major malls in the area like the Pen Centre, Seaway Mall or Niagara Square so the business owners don't even try. Instead, the shops and boutiques on Ridge Road North offer visitors something completely different: a unique experience.

There's something for every taste in the business district; spas and barbershops, cafes and restaurants, clothing stores and gift shops line Ridge Road North. Foodies can pop into Heritage Cheese or Izero in on the Cupcake to satisfy their palates and from May to October they can pick up fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, jams and bread at the enticing Ridgeway Farmers' Market to make their own delights at home. From pet-lovers to crafters, young moms to seniors, one will find something in which they can indulge.

Even film-lovers can escape for a few hours at The

Boutique Movie Theatre, a small independently owned cinema that shows new, classic and foreign films. Unlike the large cinemas operating in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland, The Boutique Movie Theatre offers an intimate theatre experience in its two screening rooms that each seats 40 people in large reclining chairs, offering up plenty of leg room. Owner Heather Bauer said she tries to vary the movie choices from the ones viewers might find in larger cinemas.

"I pick movies that haven't necessarily played in the area, we don't need to worry about playing the blockbuster films that are going to make a lot of money. I try to pick movies that have played at film festivals or foreign films, good quality movies that are different than the ones you might normally see at a cinema."

The movies usually screen three to four months after they've been in larger cinemas, but before they're released for general sale. However, Bauer has been known to play the classics as well. Movies like *Singing in the Rain* and *The Beaches* tend to draw a crowd. The theatre - which opened in December 2009 - has quite the following.

"We have people from all over. They come from Buffalo, St. Catharines, and quite a few from Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Bauer. "It's a different experience. We play movies that aren't offered anywhere else and there's not a bad seat in the house."

Those hoping to catch a bite to eat in Ridgeway have plenty of options available to them. For the early risers there's Goe Golly's, a retro diner at the corner of Ridge Road North and Hibbard Street. Step back in time and into the greasy spoons eatery that's only open for breakfast and lunch. It's the perfect way to start a day on the town.

Ridgeway's Restaurant & Catering down the street is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and more. The menu offers a wide variety of items, including homestyle favourites like burgers and fish and chips as well as more artisanal foods like crab cakes, pear and spinach salad, and a white pizza that's to die for. Later at night, once the dinner crowd shuffles away, the restaurant hosts live entertainment in the lounge. When the warm weather hits, there are front and back patios perfect for people-watching on a nice summer day.

Shoppers who want a quick bite to eat can swing by the Latte Kaffe and Eatery. Open seven days a week, it's a nice place to grab a coffee or smoothie and something quick and delicious to eat. Most of the items offered are both organic and fair trade.

Shopping on Ridge Road is an experience all its own. At Three Ferrises Boutique, there's a difference between being dressed and well dressed and with the one-on-one

attention offered in the store women of all ages, with varying tastes have the opportunity to discover that for themselves. Ferris Beck-Stone, owner of the New York-styled boutique set out to be different right from the start. After working as a retail buyer in specialty fashion stores for more than 25 years, she decided to branch out on her own. It was her passion for fashion and a desire to help women look - and feel - the best they could, that inspired her to open her own boutique. For the Fort Erie resident, it was the ambiance of Ridgeway that guided her decision to open the store in the fall of 2009, featuring exclusive fashions, accessories and gifts.

"We only carry a limited number of each item," explained Ferris. "The idea is not to have women see-

"When the warm weather hits, there are patios perfect for people-watching on nice summer days"



Flowers now  
replace the scenes  
of construction  
in beautiful  
Ridgeway.

ing each other wearing the same out-  
fits all over town."

This exclusivity of quality lines like  
Spanner, Cartise, Not Your Daughters  
Jeans, Linea Domani, and Tricotto has  
helped Ferris develop a loyal follow-  
ing that carried her through a difficult  
spring, summer and fall last year. As if  
operating a new business wasn't dif-  
ficult enough, during her first year Ferris  
- like all of the other business owners  
on Ridge Road North - had to endure  
months of construction on the main  
strip, diverting traffic from the road and  
acting as a deterrent to customers.

Ridgeway BIA's event coordinator  
Dena Sahis says it was a difficult time  
for all business owners in the area. But  
now flowers have been planted and  
plans for the annual Summer Festival,  
taking place July 9 and 10, are well  
underway. In its 21st year, the event  
is a free family-oriented event that  
features delicious food, street dances,  
car shows, fun for kids and more. In  
October, the BIA also puts on a Fall  
Festival to coincide with the closing of  
the Ridgeway Farmers' Market and in  
the winter there's the charming Spirit of  
Christmas event that harkens back to a  
more traditional era with a Dickens-style  
theme complete with horse-drawn car-  
riage rides.

For more information on Ridgeway  
visit the BIA's website at [www.ridge-  
wayont.ca](http://www.ridge-<br/>wayont.ca). **nlife**

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that matter most...*



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