

# The gift of warmth and light

BY DOUG DAVENPORT  
Special to the Record-Eagle

Irish tradition calls for lighting a candle in a window on Christmas Eve and letting it shine throughout the twelve nights of Christmas. Always a popular symbol for light and warmth, candles are a holiday decorating favorite and make wonderful gifts as well.

For 35 years, **The Candle Factory**, at 301 Grandview Parkway in Traverse City, has offered a wide selection of traditional and custom candles and accessories. From votives to pillars you'll find lights by Colonial of Cape Cod, Pacifica, A.I. Root, Yankee Candle, and Bullfrog Candles of Charlevoix.

Store Manager Soren Teichman says favorite scents of pine, balsam, cranberry, and bayberry will be available in red, green, and white holiday candles.

"Tapers are our specialty, and bayberry tapers are always popular," said Brian Strickland, their longtime candlemaker.

Candles shaped like evergreen trees provide a winter touch for any room. Give a gift of holiday light with a 14.5 oz hollyberry candle jar from Yankee Candle (around \$18.75). Pillar candles and tapers in coordinated holiday colors proclaim Merry Christmas to all.

At **Annie's**, on Front Street in Traverse City, store owner Kim Schmitz (along with husband Peter), explained, "The major retailers have all the traditional Christmas candles. We wanted something unique, and we loved the softer scents of the Pacifica line."

She also cited these envi-

ronmentally friendly soy candles from Oregon as clean burning, safe candles that produce significantly less soot.

"I love the exotic scents like Zanzibar Cinnamon Almond and Mountain Temple," she added. Votives, perfect for bathrooms and guest rooms, are \$2.50, or \$4.95 in a glass holder. A small glass jar candle is available at around \$12.

For a special sensory treat, visit **Ravenwood** on Front Street in Traverse City. Lisa and Mike Berry have created a timeless apothecary style shop that exudes a peaceful spa-like ambience.

"Our goal is to heal, enhance, and uplift peoples' lives through the use of high quality aromatherapy products," Mike said. "Our hand poured candles, made with the finest essential and fragrance oils, are designed to promote health and well being."

You won't find traditional holiday candles at Ravenwood; the products here are meant to be much more than decorative.

"Scents evoke particular responses," Berry said, "Aromatherapy is about experiencing those responses to relieve tension and revitalize the spirit."

Inspiration cubes, priced around \$16.50, are popular with many customers. Their scented blends of fragrance oils are designed to uplift. Feng Shui candles (approx. \$13.50) promote the use of color and fragrance as aids to curing unfavorable conditions in life. The Ravenwood 16 oz. ginger jar is long burning and comes in favorite fragrances like Patchouly Rose, Lavender, and Sweet Grass.

About three years ago, Ravenwood developed a line of cherry scented body, bath, and candle products in keeping with the Traverse City location. The candle line includes round pillars and candle tins. A favorite gift item is the 2 oz. Cherry Scented Flower Fairy candle tin, priced under \$5.

Watch for the Grand Opening celebration of the new Ravenwood shop on Dec. 24, just in time for late shoppers.

**Kim's Korner Hallmark** in Tom's East Bay Plaza, on Munson Ave. has holiday candles by Yankee Candle. Kim Kierczynski, store owner, loves the new Hallmark electrically light-ed ornament collection known as Illuminations. The store Christmas tree is topped by the Illuminations Tree Star. Priced around \$50, this snowflake patterned light projects festive designs on ceiling and

walls. Hanging colored balls come in boxes of 3 at \$25 and throw their soft glow on the branches and other decorations.

Yankee Candle jars are a seasonal favorite at Kim's Korner. This year the list of holiday scents includes Cranberry Peppermint, Balsam and Cedar, Mistletoe, and a new limited edition called Snow Angels. Small and large jars range from \$18 to \$21. A decorative ceramic lamp shade is available for each size jar. The Nature's Sketchbook collection, a group of winter theme tea light lamps, priced at about \$20, makes a festive seasonal gift of light.

**Doug Davenport is a local freelance writer.**

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Doug Davenport

**The Candle Factory** features pine, balsam, cranberry and bayberry candles as well as red, green and



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12/1 - 12/19: Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm; Sun 11 am - 5 pm  
12/20 - 12/23: Tues-Fri 10 am - 10 pm  
Christmas Eve: 10 am - 5 pm  
Christmas Day: Closed

*\*Please call these stores for extended holiday hours*

**Family-friendly shopping, just around the corner!**