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REAL LIFE

LATEST NEWS AT CALGARYHERALD.COM/LIFE

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VITALS

Say goodbye to unwanted facial hair

PRODUCT • Ladies with unwanted facial hair know two things: a) it's a drag, and b) it's a pain to get rid of.

To help women battle those pesky hairs, Jennifer MacDonald, owner of Quorra Apothecary stores in Calgary, is now selling a cool little gadget called Twist-N-Roll Tweezers.

Based on the concept of threading, this U-shaped tool is designed to grab hair at the roots and pull it out — all with a simple twist of the handles.

Apparently the tweezers are big with beauty bloggers and have been around for a while; this is the first time MacDonald has imported them.

Based on a trial run, we were impressed with the results.

The claim that it will work on both peach fuzz and coarser hairs is true.

As for the "ouch" factor, much like any hair removal system, the tweezers cause a slight stinging but the pain isn't bad at all.

It may take some time to get used to rolling the tweezers up and over your face; the idea is to turn the handles outward so that your thumbs come closer together.

Sound tricky?

It's not.

Twist-N-Roll Tweezers come with easy instructions and any Quorra salesperson can give you tips.

But remember: stay away from your brows.

The product is designed for less precise removal and can be used on your cheeks, upper lip, chin and neck.

Head to one of Quorra's locations to pick the tweezers up for (a reasonable) \$15 apiece.

See quorra.ca for locations.

Calling women with style, inner beauty, achievements

CONTEST • Every woman does not look like supermodels Gisele or Kate.

And that's why Fashion Has No Borders is hosting its Everyday Woman competition, one that "is dedicated to removing perceived barriers in the fashion industry," according to the site, everywoman.fashionhasnoborders.com.

If you want to nominate someone, or even throw your name into the hat, you have until Feb. 15.

The qualities the judges will be looking for?

"Inner beauty, personal style and achievement."

Head to the website to find out more or to nominate a friend or yourself.

The judging will take place Feb. 20 at CrossIron Mills, with the non-traditional runway show happening in March.

Buy a T-shirt; help rebuild Haiti

FUNDRAISER • Jacob, the retailer we turn to for stylish and affordable work and casual wear, is now selling T-shirts to raise money for Haiti.

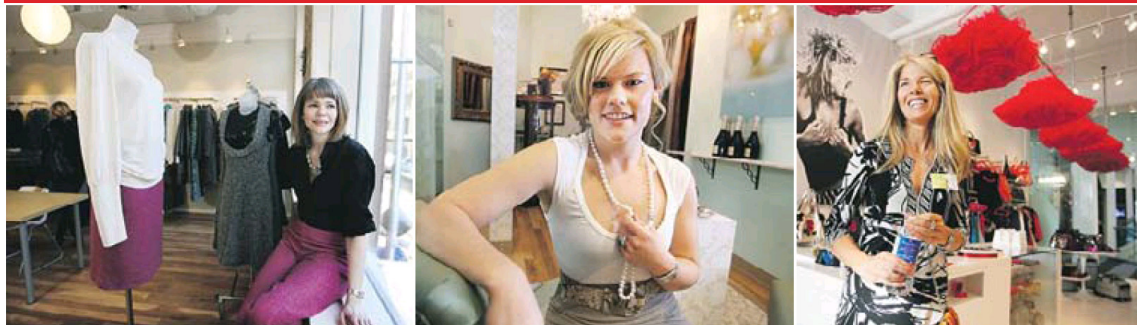
Every bit of money raised with the \$15 "Let's rebuild Haiti together" tee will be given to Oxfam.

Head to a Jacob or Jacob Connexion store to grab yours.

— Compiled by Michelle Magnan, Calgary Herald



Deanne Matley took a closer look at a dress in Echo Evening, one of the shops in the newly opened Fashion Central.



Calgary designer Lara Presber's creations are available at her chic new store at Fashion Central.

Kaviar South Sea Pearls owner Kristin Richard features her jewelry, for sale at Fashion Central.

Fashion Central's leasing representative Jodi Opsahl shows off the stylish new boutiques.

A HAVEN FOR FASHION LOVERS

Fashion Central opens in Calgary

MICHELLE MAGNAN
CALGARY HERALD

Last Thursday, after years of renovations on the buildings at the corner of Stephen Avenue and 1st Street SW, Fashion Central opened its doors.

And good news: what's inside is very, very pretty.

Chic evening wear.

Pearls hand-picked from around the globe.

Gorgeous everyday clothing. You'll find this — and much more — under the roof of Calgary's latest fashion hotbed.

A slew of boutiques showcase both local and international designers.

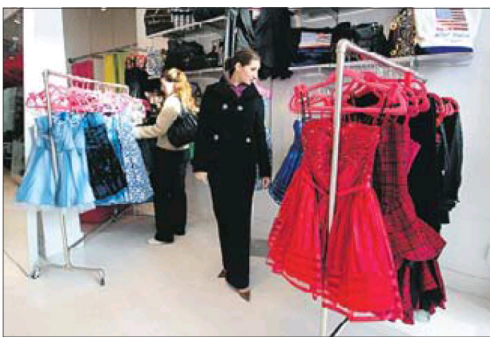
Some stores are open now, such as Murale (Shoppers Drug Mart's higher-end beauty store) and Echo Evening, an evening wear store for women, while plenty of others, such as Wolford, the hosiery experts, are expected to open in coming months.

In the meantime, just stepping into Fashion Central makes you feel a touch more fashionable.

The digs are modern and the space is filled with natural light from the skylight overhead.

"I see Fashion Central as a bright little star on the corner that's so accessible to everything," said Jodi Opsahl, Fashion Central's leasing representative.

"I want it to be like a fashion community, where men and women will come in to shop, hang out and drink coffee."



Photos: Colleen De Neve, Calgary Herald

Friends Jacinta Schneider, left, and Caroline McMahon check the dresses at the Betsy Johnson store at Fashion Central.

The coffee part is ready to go, with deVille Luxury Coffee and Pastries serving up goods on the main floor.

The menswear part, however, is in the works but details are slim.

Opsahl said "an international men's store" will open June 1, "at the very latest" and an eyewear store that's coming soon will appeal to both sexes.

For now, women have plenty to choose from.

Nu Form Apparel will outfit you with a custom-fit bra, Motek Clothing will alter or repair your clothes and Beauty Land will arm you with crystal jewelry in all forms.

There are more boutiques, of course, but you'll have to stop in to check them out yourself.

Perhaps what's best about shopping at Fashion Central is that you'll often find the designers on hand, ready to talk about their designs and to

■ Kristin Richard, owner of Kaviar South Sea Pearls, is a pearl specialist who travels the world to select her gemstones. She designs her own jewelry and also sells loose, single pearls.

Wearing a strand of her pearls, Richard, 25, was proof enough that women of all ages can rock the look.

"Everyone has this stigma, like 'Only my grandmother wore them.' They're the most organic gemstone and they become a part of you. They warm up to your body temperature and they absorb your scent," she said.

"I think they should be worn all the time with everything, except for in the gym and in the shower."

■ Justin Barrington-Foote, manager of the colourful and quirky Betsy Johnson store, says that women of all stripes flock to the store.

They come for the feminized rock 'n' roll look, he said.

"We really do have a bit of something for everyone."

The store opened before Christmas and, according to Barrington-Foote, has seen great interest.

"Word is spreading quickly," he said, adding that he's seen plenty of the store's signature pink bags around town.

And if you head into the store, you'll see a huge black-and-white shot of the fashion goddess herself hanging on the wall behind the till.

"We keep images of Betsy around to remind us of her zest for life," he said.

"And just to remind us, you know, how cool we can all be."



For a photo gallery, visit calgaryherald.com/life

answer questions. To wit, here are a few tidbits of conversation taken from our visit on opening day:

■ Lara Presber, she of The Lara Presber Flagship store, is an architect-turned-fashion-designer.

Her lovely, wearable womenswear is geared toward those ages 30 to 60.

As for opening her first store, she said she's really excited.

"There are a lot of designers in Calgary and we didn't really have one central starting point," she said.

"Now that we have this, it's going to be a real anchor for fashion in this city."

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