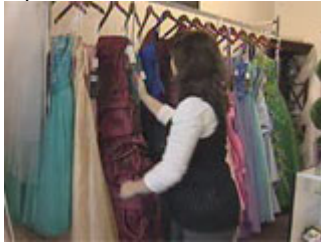




Stocking the shelves at Kolos Grocery in Morden



Kolos Grocery store is set to open its doors Nov. 21, 2008



Anastasia's Bridal Boutique in Morden

European businesses hot in Morden

Updated: Thu Nov. 20 2008 17:52:18 (ctwinnipeg.ca)

What do you do if you're a small Manitoba city and are worried that you don't have enough small homegrown businesses?

We'll, if you're the City of Morden, you ask the newcomers to take care of that.

Natalia Buchsmann came from Kazakhstan only two years ago. She's settled here, but often misses a taste of home.

"Our people love marzipan," said Buchsmann.

She calls it her little slice of Europe and that if you're looking for a slice for yourself, you can find it in Morden at Kolos Grocery store.

"I think a lot of immigrants if they came to Canada if they get food they know like at home they feel a little bit like at home," said Buchsmann.

Buchsmann and another immigrant couple are opening their own business in Morden called Kolos, which is Russian for a strand of wheat.

"We will try to make Morden like Kazakhstan," said Kolos co-owner Elena Sharapov.

The isles are packed with European goodies, even German bread, frozen, flown overseas, and ready to bake here.

In the last five years about 500 newcomers have arrived in the Morden area, mostly from eastern European countries, many interested in opening their own business and the town believes that's not just good for Morden, it helps newcomers adapt to life in their new home.

"We would like to create a European destination mall where Morden could become a destination in south Manitoba for the immigrants to come," said Morden Community Development Officer Cheryl Digby.

Slowly that vision is becoming a reality. Last month Swetlana Dirks opened a dress shop called Anastasia's Bridal Boutique.

"In this area there is nothing for wedding or graduation or evening dresses and I hope that it's a good idea for the people here," said Dirks.

As a business-woman Dirks is in this to make money, but she also gets a chance to practice her English and meet more of the people who make up her new community.

With a report from CTV's Stacey Ashley

