

## Former pig barn goes green

By PAUL PICKREM  
Mon. Sep 22 - 5:23 AM

Carla Emin and Jim Dale have converted their pig barn into an eco-friendly business called the Green Barn. (Paul Pickrem)

**GRANVILLE CENTRE** — The owner of a newly opened eco-friendly retail store in the Annapolis Valley has big plans to tap into the growing green revolution.

Carla Emin held the official opening of the Green Barn in Granville Centre, near Annapolis Royal, this week.

The two-storey converted pig barn on her 14-hectare property was renovated last winter. It features an attractive blend of old and new items that promote sustainable living.

The items include antique fixtures and furniture to be reused in home renovations and redecorating, as well as handbags made from recycled materials and locally grown organic produce.

Shoppers can have a cup of organic fair trade coffee and browse a reference library of books promoting learning about various environmental issues.

"I have always been passionate about recycling and restoring and bringing the old back to life rather than shopping for mass-produced things made from plastic at the big-box stores," Ms. Emin said in a recent interview. "And we want to support local business. We want those people to still be in business 10 years from now."

"The Green Barn provides, under one roof, an ever-expanding collection of sustainable living products," said Jim Dale, an environmental ecologist who is Ms. Emin's partner.

"Sustainability means we learn to respect the limits of nature and not over-consume the resources of this planet. An antique dealer is the ultimate recycler, really."

Future plans for the new business include expanding the product lines as well as developing large community gardens for people in the Valley who don't have access to soil to grow food.

The business will also create climate-controlled root cellars so growers can enjoy locally grown food year-round.

"This is part of the food-production revolution, which is a grassroots movement spreading across the planet," Mr. Dale said.

"We want people to experience getting back to the land to grow their own food and not having to buy imported food during the winter, which is expensive because of high transportation costs and (is) harmful to the environment."

They hope schoolchildren will be able to visit the site to learn more about the environment.

The couple also plans to organize workshops on topics such as how to plan a decorative and edible organic garden and alternative energy options for homes and businesses.

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This fall, shoppers will be able to buy green products online when the finishing touches are made to a new website.

"We have got to start embracing alternative energy sources right now," Mr. Dale said. "We are playing Russian roulette with our planet and all the life on it."

The pair wants the Green Barn to evolve into a recognized centre that disseminates knowledge about how to live sustainably.

"If anyone has ideas about new sustainable living products, let us know," Ms. Emin said.

More information is available by calling 532-3066.

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