

northern made

Soapbox Derby

Bev Gray is in a lather — and loving every minute



IF YOU CATCH A DELIGHTFUL SCENT on the Whitehorse breeze, it might be the heady smell of a Yukon summer. But check again. You might have just walked past Bev Gray's shop, Aroma Borealis, home of her line of soaps, salves, creams and massage oils that feature local flora such as fireweed, poplar buds and wild roses.

Part village wise woman and part white-coated scientist, Gray is steeped in Yukon lore about the benefits of healing plants. She grows much of what she uses in the greenhouse and half-acre garden at her wilderness home outside the Yukon capital. As a chartered herbalist, Gray develops her products in a lab organized into wet and dry working areas.

Gray's products contain mostly natural, organic ingredients. She shops carefully for the items she does not grow or gather, attending to their provenance and organic status. "I try to support small companies," says Gray, who's also completing her certification in aromatherapy through Vancouver's Douglas College.

Gray started Aroma Borealis from home a few years ago with her partner, Mike Bailie. It's now grown to include a downtown Whitehorse shop with a staff of three, including manager Debbie Zwozkey. Having a staff has freed Gray to do more work in research and development. That suits her just fine. "I'm better at managing plants than people," she says. ☞

For more information, call at 867.667.4372 or visit www.yukonherbshop.com.

Photography by Cathie Archbould



▲ Gray's line of shampoos and conditioners contains such ingredients as grapefruit and lavender, geranium and rosewood. Relax in a bubble bath of clary sage and lavender or get energized with bubbles of mint and lime.



▲ The Girls-Night-In kit contains six invitations and enough cleanser, mud mask, tea and other fun stuff for you and some friends to wile away an evening.

▶ Gray has a line of massage oils and bars formulated for baby's skin, romance, sore muscles, and aching joints. They feature made-in-the-Yukon solutions.



▲ Arctic teas to soothe or lift your spirits. Homesteaders' Blend brings together many plants that grow in the Yukon, such as stinging nettle, chickweed, rosehips and fireweed.

