



Photo by Michael Niggel

Tim Camisa in his eco-friendly store - Vermont Organics Reclamation Inc. - in the University Mall, South Burlington.

Local resident opens new eco-friendly store in U-Mall

St. Albans entrepreneur Tim Camisa has been working to solve the "clean-up" issues of Lake Champlain for nine years. Now, he has brought part of that vision to life with the opening of Vermont Organics Reclamation, Inc. (VOR) in the University Mall, South Burlington.

"The number one priority is to reduce the huge amount of phosphorus going into the lake," explained Camisa. "One way is to use plants that will control soil erosion and stabilize areas near streams that are susceptible to pollution."

Camisa sells *Tiarella cordifolia*, 'eco-friendly' plants dedicated to stream bank restoration, which help to control soil erosion that causes pollution in Lake Champlain. Customers can give the 'Gift of Ecology' this holiday season and make a direct impact on water quality in Vermont's watershed.

These plants were selected to bloom early in the year and provide food when other flowers are not yet available, restoring the beneficial insect population in Vermont. For each *Tiarella* purchase, VOR will plant another in the spring of 2010 on Rugg Brook, an impaired watershed in the Lake Champlain Basin, and a portion of the proceeds from plant sales will be donated to Vermont dairy farmers.

Also available is a broad range of 100% certified organic cotton clothing. The organic t-shirts come in a wide variety of graphic designs displaying themes such as clean water, clean air, recycling, wind and solar power, and soil and animal conservation. The cotton used to produce the clothing is farmed without the use of chemicals and pesticides.

Conventionally grown cotton represents 10% of world pesticide use and 25% of world insecticide use which epitomizes the worst effects of chemically dependent agriculture. The purchase of organic clothing helps to protect the health of the planet by reducing the amount of toxic chemicals that ultimately end up in the ground, air, water and food supply.

Vermont Organics Reclamation, Inc. (VOR), a locally owned agricultural business, is the developer of a patented manure management system designed to reduce the amount of phosphorus found in manure. VOR removes excess phosphorus and undigested feed from the manure on local farms and uses it to create potting media and other organic byproducts.

VOR plans to open a state of the art plant nursery in St. Albans in 2010 to operate its manure management system.