

KC NEWS

Boutique Top Floor | Kid Cents | KC Estate Services

Still Excited!

We're happy to be sharing these newsletters and, as always, we welcome your questions or ideas for future issues at info@kidcents.ca :)

Designer Handbags

Each one is a handcrafted piece of art to suit your individual style, a very personalized artisan piece.

For Sellers

Is buying a luxury handbag an investment? Good question! Read all about them in this month's issue.

Boutique Top Floor pays top dollar for high end handbags - Chanel, Hermes, Louis Vuitton, etc - up to 90% of the selling price. It might be time to clean out your handbag collection!

For Buyers

Come on in and browse our beautiful selection of handbags - book an appointment if you are a serious handbag collector.



Handbags

When you purchase a high end designer handbag, you are buying an item that was not mass produced, never to be targeted to the discount shopper. They are made from luxurious fabrics and textiles, often with gold and diamond hardware to match.

Only a limited number are handcrafted each year, so the demand is high and the supply is low - this means the prices are determined by what the consumer is willing to pay. Each year these couture handbags increase in price point. If you've got the budget, you can buy a one-of-a-kind handbag from the label of your choice.

Hermes was established in 1837 and became one of the most exclusive handbag brands in the world. Their most notable bags are the Birkin and the Kelly, ranging anywhere from \$12,000 – \$200,000 but the price is not the problem for elite fashion lovers, it's the hunt. The store runs on a first come first serve basis... though there's a rumour of a waiting list. Each bag is handcrafted by a single French artisan from fine leathers such as ostrich, crocodile, and alligator. Their most expensive bag was the white Himalaya Birkin, handmade Niloticus crocodile with more than 240 diamonds on its 18-karat-gold hardware, auctioned off at \$379,261 USD!



Fun Facts

The oldest known purse dated back more than 5000 years and was a pouch worn by a man named Otzi the Iceman.

Men's purses were revived by designers in the 1970's in Europe. Since the 1990's, designers have marketed a more diverse range of accessory bags for men, calling them *man bag*, *man purse*, and even *murse*.

According to the type of handle, handbags are categorized as: Tote, Cross-body, Sling-Bag, Shoulder Bag, or Clutch.



Burberry recently streamlined their brand: They discontinued their lower end lines, such as Burberry London and Burberry Brit. Their new creative director also banned both the use of real animal furs and the burning of unsaleable product. This means a higher price point, so when you are searching for a new Burberry you must be willing to part with more than a few dollars.

Coach has been a classic and stable handbag brand for many years, and the company has gone back to their roots. As of last year they have been officially deemed a luxury handbag brand again because they went back to producing their own leathers. Did you know that Coach has introduced an in-store cleaning service for their leather products? What a great idea for keeping your treasure in perfect condition!

Buyer Beware!

There are many faux designer handbags on the market. Buy only from reputable sellers with guarantees. A good consignment store is worth finding and paying a few extra dollars to ensure the authenticity of your handbag. They will guarantee it's a genuine label handbag or your money refunded. Be aware that not all stores authenticate their products, especially online retailers. eBay and Amazon are not trusted or reliable methods of purchase - did you know that the seller on eBay can indicate "no returns"?! So if they say the product is real and you find out otherwise, you are out of luck.

Boutique Top Floor prides ourselves on authenticating handbags - if we don't know it's the real deal, you won't see it for sale in our store.

Know Your Handbags!

Miniadiere: Small rectangular evening bag, usually hard bodied. Sometimes held inside a soft fabric bag that serves as a sleeve.

Muff: Winter bag of real or faux fur, wool or velvet with zippered compartments & slot for hands.

Pocketbook: Small purse, rectangular in shape

Pouch: Small bag such as a pocket, teabag, moneybag, sporran etc.

Saddle Purse: Shaped like a horse saddle, may have equestrian motifs & hardware.

Satchel: Soft sided case, usually of leather.

Tote: Medium to large bag with two straps and an open top

Trapezoid: Shaped as a trapezoid, usually made of stiff materials

Wristlet: A small handbag with a short carrying strap resembling a bracelet