

Ariana Turner

TURNER RESTORATIONS
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When one of life's doors closed on Ariana Turner, the window she opened led to a kitchen and her own restoration business.

Ariana started Turner Restoration in 1999 after she lost her job of eight years without any notice. Although she could have found employment with another furniture company, she decided she "didn't want to be at anyone else's mercy again."

While she had thought about starting her own business three or four years earlier, Ariana says it took six months after she lost her job to actually launch her own business. "I was a single mom on Employment Insurance and had no savings," she says. "I approached six different banks and they all laughed at me. The only avenue available to me was Women's Enterprise Centre. I approached them to apply for a loan and they helped me out with the business plan and what was required. Once I had it together, I submitted it, they approved it and Turner Restorations was born."

Today, she is the only refinisher in Victoria who works on kitchens and one of a small handful of women who own their own restoration companies. "I will pretty much

refinish anything made out of wood and repair anything regardless of the age of the piece." Ariana gets calls from all over the Island now to come and refinish people's kitchens. "I've never had an unhappy customer," she says.

Her success in business has allowed her to buy her own home. "I have a comfortable life," she says. "Today I am more confident and less fearful than I was when I started my own business nine years ago. I know now that I can get the job done and overcome any problems that may occur during the process."

Her original vision for the business hasn't changed much. "One day I hope not to have to work so hard at it," she says. "Eventually I would like to have people around me to run the business and keep my involvement to part time."

"I've gotten the business to a point where most of the clients come to me through referrals."



Paul Jacobs

“I admire the women in my family. I admire my mom’s compassion and the will, strength and independence of my sister”