

BEST OF TORONTO

CRITIC'S PICKS STYLE

Best word-of-mouth skin care

SWEET SUSKIND

www.sweetsuskind.com

Check this: In New York City, all-natural skin care line **Sweet Suskind** is carried at über-hot boutiques and plugged in *Vogue* and *Allure* by the likes of actress/model Shalom Harlow. But here on T-dot turf, everyone (except us, of course) is sleeping through this story of hometown talent! Be the first to name-drop and get the goods straight from the source, creator **Samantha Campbell**.

Best retail time travel

STICKS AND STONES ANTIQUES

1854 Queen East, 416-699-9611,

www.sticksandstonesantiques.com

As with all journeys, time management is key. Be sure to allocate a satisfying amount of shopping hours on your trip through the decades at **Sticks and Stones Antiques**. Just cruising the retro jewellery counters can take days. Looking for the real fashion deal, as in original Pucci? This is your place. Antique furniture? Ditto.

Best Botox alternative

FONG WANG COSMETIC

ACUPUNCTURE

16 Pendrith, 416-530-4195

Cosmetic acupuncturist **Fong Wang** can stop time. Not only by minimizing your frown lines, but by erasing any thought of the day's pending schedule. Western esthetic techniques and Eastern acupuncture combine for a

prime meridian of inside-out beauty and stress relief.

Best cool clothes for the coin-challenged

H&M (HENNES & MAURITZ)

1 Dundas West, 416-593-0064, and others

Better watch your back, Le Chateau. Now that H&M's scored a prime slice of Eaton Centre real estate, it looks like it will be the retail ruler of disposable clothing. With three floors of impossibly low-priced goods and of-the-second stylings, there's clearly no competing with this international 57-year-old mega-brand. Look for a new store set to open October 28 at 15 Bloor West.

Herbal retail high

STUDIO BOTANICA

1616 Queen West, 416-533-8803,

www.studiobotanica.com

With an organic garden out back and sweet-smelling herbal remedies in the front, **Studio Botanica** operates as a modern-day apothecary, minus any actual drugs, of course. An awesome selection of ingestible and topical products, many organic, proves that living chemical-free is not only possible, it's easy.

Best calf-accommodating boots

ROTTERING SHOES

545 King West, suite 408, 416-596-9854, www.rotteringshoes.com

Canada is boot country. But what do you do if your calves don't fit off-the-