

# Dressing dry and staying fly

► Wet-weather retailer and umbrella merchant both on a mission to conquer Vancouver rainy-day blahs



► Shanda Jerrett tries on gumboots at her Kitsilano boutique, Gumdrops.



**KRISTIN THOMPSON**  
@METRONEWS.CA

## RAIN CITY

Do you remember when puddle jumping was fun? When rainy days weren't a deterrent but an invitation to go outside and explore a new, wet world?

Shanda Jerrett never forgot. And when the 31-year-old Australian moved to Vancouver and saw how "miserable and depressed" everyone was, she said she was determined not to let the grey make her blue.

She fought back by opening Gumdrops, a wet-weather fashion boutique in Kitsilano that sells colourful and trendy rain accessories.

"Gumdrops was born from an idea of finding a solution to a problem," she said. "I was sick of being soggy."

Noticing that fun galoshes for grownups were hard to come by, she stocked her shelves with colourful and trendy alternatives to boring black boots.

Her footwear comes in a

variety styles, like knee-high field boots, patent-inspired ankle boots with wedge heels, sneakers and ballet flats.

She even sells water-repellent Emus.

Rather than making galoshes a necessary evil, she suggested that we think of them as fashion statements.

Jen Zurowski, 32, was equally motivated to find the silver lining in the rain cloud when she moved to Vancouver from Calgary.

"(My first winter) I went through I can't even count how many umbrellas," she said. "They seemed to disintegrate. I wanted something cute and all I could find were plain (umbrellas)."

So she started her own brand of durable, fun brolires called Cheeky Umbrellas, which sell in more than 100 retailers across Canada.

### Soggy shopping

Funky wet-weather outlets:

- **Gumdrops**  
2029 West 4th Ave.
- **Caça** 2571 West Broadway.
- **The Umbrella Shop**  
Four locations, including Granville Island.
- **Cheeky Umbrella** available at stores around the city, including Gumdrops and Fine Finds.

Most of her umbrellas have a saying on the outside and a splash of colour on the inside.

Sayings include "I prefer umbrellas in my cocktails," "I sizzle in the drizzle" and "When does it start raining men?"

"Be well equipped (for the rain)," Zurowski said. "It's a fact of life here, (so) just get out and rock it."



What's your essential rainy-day item? Tell us on Twitter (@metrovancover) or on the web (metronews.ca).

### Style File

**WITH KIM ELBO**

VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA



## RAINY-DAY JACKETS

The fall military-jacket trend has shown its staying power this season by introducing the definitive army-green colour and style to rain jackets. Look out for this popular coat in a lengthy and windproof style. One that falls past the waist and hips for full upper-body coverage. An interior waist drawstring will trap the heat in and give you a defined shape. If you want a quality jacket that can withstand extreme downpours, ask around for DWR (durable water repellent) and Entrant DT. Both are breathable fabric treatments that help keep the rain and moisture out.

### from Kim:

Gore-Tex is popular for rain and snow gear. Make sure you regularly wash this fabric, as it can

get polluted. Perk up the fibres in the dryer to restore the fabric's water-proofing resilience.



1

#### THE CROPPED CASUAL

Shop: Pacific Boarder  
Location: 1793 West 4th Ave.  
Price: \$109  
Brand: Element



2

#### THE SHELL

Shop: MEC  
Location: 130 West Broadway  
Price: \$145  
Brand: MEC



3

#### THE PARKA

Shop: The Bay Downtown  
Location: 674 Granville St.  
Price: \$119  
Brand: VeroModa

## RAINY-DAY BOOTS

Don't get stuck in the rain rut with soggy socks and shoes. This season's popular rain-boot looks aren't the usual bright wellies. Rubber boots that look like leather riding boots, cowboy boots and lace-up boots are popping up everywhere. They look good, they're durable and you can wear them in the rain!

### Tips from Kim:

1. Make sure the boot you buy is insulated. It'll keep you warm and double up as a snow boot for

the winter months.

2. Walking the city streets and forest trails can wear and tear your rubber boots. If you spend a bit more on your boots, a protected warranty should always

accompany the purchase.

3. Lace-up boots or those with an elastic stretch at the back ensure that you'll be able to easily take off your boots after a long walk in the rain.



1

#### THE LACE-UP

Shop: The Bay Downtown  
Location: 674 Granville St.  
Price: \$255  
Brand: Chloe



2

#### THE COWBOY BOOT

Shop: Spank  
Location: 856 Granville St.  
Price: \$75  
Brand: DAV



3

#### THE RIDING BOOT

Shop: Gentile Alouette  
Location: 227 Carrall St.  
Price: \$110  
Brand: DAV