

Acton library looseleaf



"Christmas day in the backwoods is not like Christmas day in merry old England, for the heart of the emigrant yearns for his Motherland and for the old familiar friends that were wont to meet around the fireside, for the home of his childhood that he has left, perhaps never to look upon again."

"Our Christmas meetings are at best but a melancholy imitation of those social hours, and their chief charm arises from the retrospect of the past, and from the long train of affectionate remembrance that crowd thick and fast upon each other, and because we know and feel that we are not forgotten, and that as often as that season returns, there will be kind voices to name our names and sigh that our place is vacant in the family circle."

The foregoing is an excerpt from The Backwoods of Canada by Catherine Parr Trill, youngest of a family of nine, six of whom carved niches for themselves in English literature. Born in 1802, Catherine was the daughter of Thomas Strickland who died when she was sixteen. Fourteen years later, she married Thomas Trill, an officer in the Royal Scottish Fusiliers. Succumbing to the lure of Canada, Trill and his young wife sailed from Greenock in the Brig Laurel in July of that same year. They reached Quebec on August 15, and Montreal two days later, at the height of a cholera epidemic.

By the end of August, the couple resumed their journey, to Prescott by stage and to Coburg via a paddle-wheel steamer. Travelling in a light wagon, they headed for Peterborough en route to their government grant of land, all virgin bush on the shores of Lake Katchewanook, in the Kawartha district. They stayed with Catherine's brother Major Strickland until their log-house was built in a clearing. Moving on December 12, 1833, the Trills celebrated their first Canadian Christmas in the isolated home where they spent seven happy years.

The Backwoods of Canada is a series of letters written by Mrs. Trill to her mother and friends in England. The letters covering a period of almost three years (1831-1833) were not written for publication, but an enterprising publisher, Charles Knight acquired them, and added them to his series under the general title Library of Entertaining Knowledge.

Catherine's nostalgic description of a backwoods Christmas could have been inspired in part by her personal anguish over the Mackenzie rebellion. Her soldier husband whom she referred to as "Mr. Trill" left home, December 9, "in good spirits" to join volunteers being recruited to stop William Lyon and his rebels. Thomas was back again three days later unhurt, after having got as far as Port Hope where the party's colonel, Alex MacDonnell received a dispatch countermarching further progress. He left December 14 to attend a meeting of volunteers "planning to go on an expedition in search of the traitor."

A fall from his horse put Thomas out of action, and he made it home December 16 "so hurt as to require assistance to dismount from his horse."

Small wonder on that particular Christmas that Catherine's thoughts were of her former peaceful home in England. For the most part though, her letters are full of vivid descriptions of her adopted land, people, climate, flora and fauna. Her encounters with friendly Indians were happy, and Catherine must have impressed them favourably because they named her Petawanooka - "red cloud of the dawn."

Catherine Trill was 98 when she died, after a full busy life. She raised nine children, but still found time for authorship and botanical studies. Eight of her 17 books were published after she came to Canada. Her sister Susannah, also a gentle immigrant "wrote the famous Roughing It in the Bush."

Also on the library shelves is Canadian Wild Flowers, painted and lithographed by Agnes Fitzgibbon, with Botanical descriptions by Catherine Parr Trill.

Christmas is a time for remembering. Remember the bell-silver sleighs and carts of another era? The Sleighs of my Childhood (Les Traineaux de mon enfance) by Carlo Italiano, although Montreal-based strikes a chord in Ontario memories. Italiano has produced 24 paintings of adult sleighs in full colour, plus 34 drawings of children's sleighs and childhood scenes. "Horse lovers will think Carlo drew the horses for them."

A cold and hungry mouse that invaded the organ loft of the church of St. Nikola in the Austrian town of Oberdorf near Salzburg was responsible for the composition of Holy Night. The mouse, out and stirring on the night of Dec. 23, 1818 gnawed a hole in the bellows of the old pipe organ. With the organ mute and no repairs possible until spring, church officials faced a Christmas Mass without music. Temporary assistant-priest Joseph Mohr and organist Franz Gruber collaborated on a solution.

The story of Silent Night by the inimitable Paul Gallico is delightful reading at any time of the year.

Among other books in our library's Christmas display are: Nora Loft's How Far to Bethlehem, and A Christmas Book by Elizabeth Goudge. Each of these writers is unique, with no mimics worth listing.

The late William Kurelek has painted the Christmas dreams of a prairie boy in Northern Nativity. For readers with a taste for Miss Read's England, there is Village Christmas. And what Christmas would be complete without re-reading of hearing again Charles Dickens Christmas Carol?

From head librarian, Mrs. Betsy Cornwell and Acton Library staff (including a newish batch of beastie puppets) best wishes for a joyous Christmas.

And happy reading to all in the quieter moments of this festive season.

Obituary

Charlotte Holmes funeral Saturday

A life-long resident of Acton died in Guelph General Hospital on December 7.

Charlotte Isobel Holmes, wife of Halton Hills fire chief Mick Holmes, 47 Brock St., Acton, died at the age of 59. She was born on September 21, 1918 in Acton, and attended public and high schools in the town. She was married October 19, 1940. Mrs. Holmes belonged to the Friends-In-Deed group and was especially interested in the Canadian Heart Foundation.

She had been an active member of Knox Presbyterian church for many years and was a member and past president of the Heather Club.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Holmes is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Julie Brace, of Rockwood, two grandchildren, Phillip and Sherry,

two sisters, Anne, Georgetown; Ella, Acton, and five brothers, Bob Marshall, Acton; Bill and Jim Marshall, both of London; Gord Marshall, Dundas, and Allan Marshall, of Toronto.

The Rev. A. McKenzie officiated at the funeral in Acton on December 10. Over 40 members of the fire departments of Halton Hills attended and formed a guard of honor. Pallbearers were: David Butler, Acton; Milton fire chief A. E. Clements; former Acton firechief Jack Newton, Weston; Terry McKee, North Bay; assistant fire chief Robert Hyde, Georgetown; and district chief Bern Van Fleet, Acton.

Interment was at Fairview Cemetery, Acton. A helpful, interested and cheerful person, Mrs. Holmes will be missed by many friends as well as her family.

Orton Yahoos

Great Canadian Tragedy far from tragic—it's good

by Gordon Murray
Orton Yahoos, first album, The Great Canadian Tragedy, is anything but a tragedy. With the exception of a few numbers and the chatter between tunes the album is delightful and in spots really good.

The Yahoos are much like the popular and successful Ozark Mountain Daredevils and with a little luck could someday be just as big.

Like the Daredevils the Yahoos can handle a melodic ballad, country rock or bluegrass with equal ease. Great Canadian Tragedy has a lot of good toe tapping, knee-slapping music to help keep the listener feeling warm on chilled winter nights.

Preferring bluegrass this reviewer found Little Maggie and Alberta Bound particularly pleasing. Al Patrose's work on the banjo and Maggie McFadden's fiddling are well displayed and appreciated on these cuts.

The Yahoos are well known in these parts and for purely parochial reasons. Redneck is enjoyable since that friendly place to the north, Hillsburgh, is mentioned in the lyrics. Redneck may put Hillsburgh on the map like "Oke From Muskoka" did for the Huntville, Bracebridge and Gravenhurst.

From the rest of the first side Servin' Time is a nice ballad and Trucker is also fun country rock.

One wouldn't buy the album for the lead cut, The Rabbit, or for the minute and six second interlude in the middle which is talking with weak music in the background.

The group has tried to disguise a studio production with the kind of chatter which takes place among musicians between numbers. This chatter is presumably supposed to give the album the warmth live recordings sometimes have but more often than not don't have. In this case the Yahoos come in far behind even the weakest live albums. Without crowd response on the tracks the chit-chat becomes an annoyance and makes the players sound unprepared for the studio.

John Ellis's voice is terrific on Friend of the Devil, lead cut on the flip side, and the song itself is one of the finest on the record.

Keep Me From Blowin' Away, with Don Kobelt singing, is a lovely song and Yahoos instrument it well. Kobelt puts a lot of feeling into his work on this number.

Midnight Bus is a fine little tune to get the blood running and Play it Again Sam is an excellent windup tune, if only it was the windup.

After Play it Again Sam is Thank You which isn't necessary and two interludes on the second side are a waste of time.

Cocaine Bill and Through The Bottom of the Glass are alright but by no means standouts.

Overall a good first effort for the Yahoos since more than half the album is excellent. Only a part of the remainder is poor.

Singing and instrumentation is superb but material selection could have been better.

The album won't likely launch the group to stardom. None of the numbers is likely to end up being pressed as a single and played on top 40 radio, almost a necessity for commercial success. This is fortunate for the listener but no break for the band.

Canadian content requirements set down by the Canadian Radio and Television Commission could result in several cuts receiving generous FM play which would help the group gain valuable exposure.

The band is well known in this area having entertained at both in Glen Williams and Acton on Canada Day and at the Hillsburgh Bluegrass Festival.

Halton '76 farm roll

A livestock and poultry census in Halton in 1976 gives a good idea of how extensive agriculture really is in the region.

The survey showed 352 farms with 5,735 cows and heifers (of which 3,039 are being milked); 446 farms with 14,808 beef cattle; 127 farms with 15,639 pigs; 61 farms with 1,701 sheep; 191 farms with 616,316 poultry; 14 farms with 160,732 turkeys; 42 farms with 578 geese; and 80 farms with 1,442 ducks.



ORTON YAHOOOS have released their first album, Great Canadian Tragedy.

Region seeks markets for resource recovery

Halton Regional Council is pursuing more information concerning a market analysis for products from resource recovery plants before making any commitment to what type of resource recovery plants they want to have in the region.

A recommendation before council Wednesday urged the region to get on with preliminary design of a resource derived fuel system.

Halton Regional Chairman Ric Morrow said the initial study had been biased in favor of a plant that would generate a resource derived fuel (RDF).

The chairman said he attempted to bring all of the most recent information before council but he noted that it is difficult because of recent statements by Minister of the Environment George Kerr. Kerr recently indicated

that plants processing waste and generating steam for known markets would be eligible for the same subsidy that RDF plants are now eligible for.

Because the provincial funding is necessary if the region is to move towards resource recovery in any form, the recent indication has dramatic implications for Halton.

Since that meeting Morrow and regional officials have been rethinking their positions and the Von Roll process used by Dominion Bridge is now being considered more seriously than before.

Morrow said he is planning a half day seminar in January or early February to discuss the region's position in terms of future landfill accommodation in Milton.

Pope, Starrett & Co.
Chartered Accountants
16 Mountainview Road S.
Suite 304 GEORGETOWN 877-6984



BEAVER

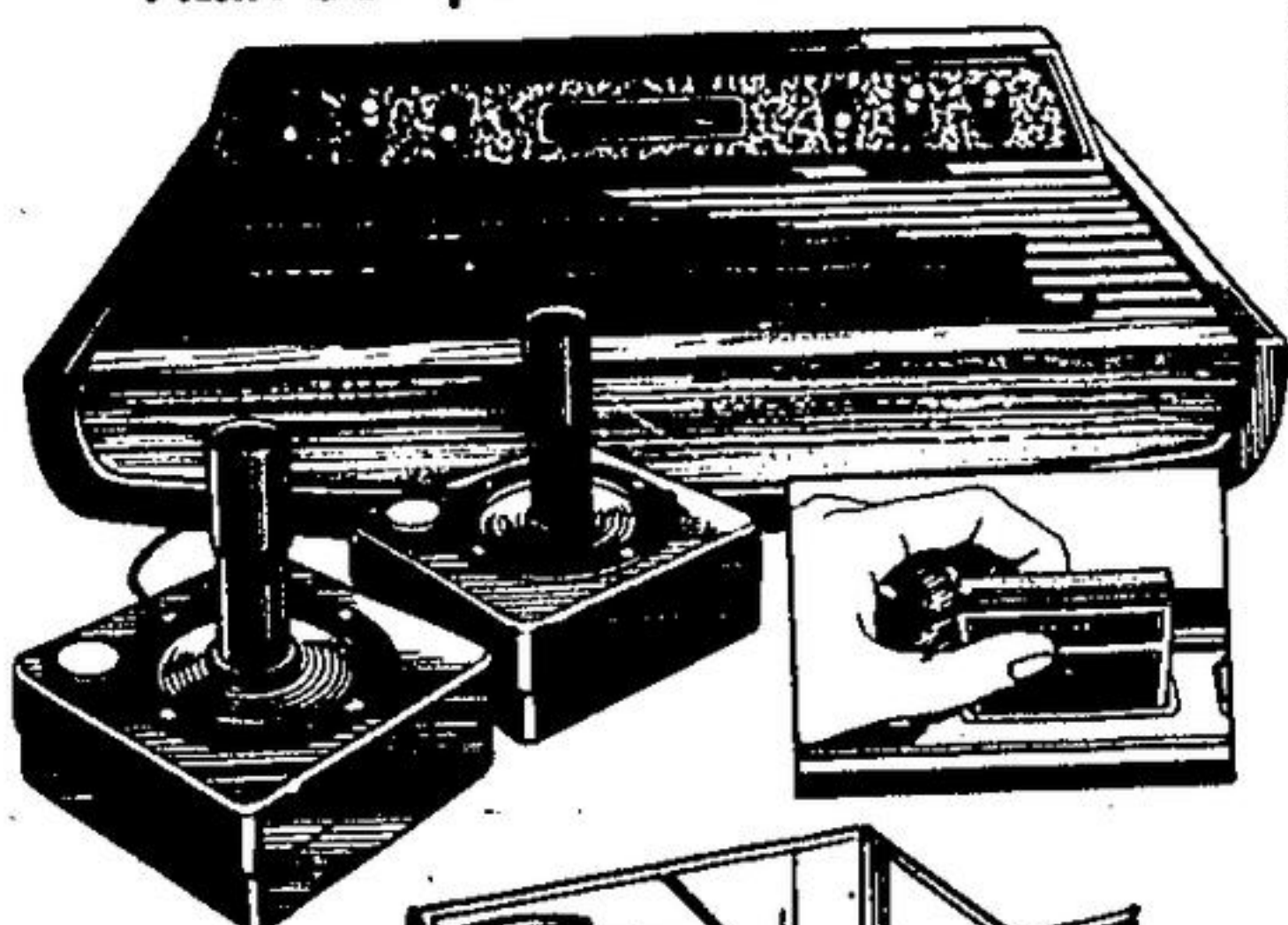


GIFT IDEAS

Gifts for you and your home

Fun for the whole family

Big Game Hunting? See Beaver First. Atari Computer Video Console



A fantastic game the whole family can play. Turns your television into a combat field with a combat cartridge included. You will be able to play 9 variations each of tank, bi-plane and jet fighter. Other cartridges can be bought for further variations. Batteries extra. Has two separate controls. Treat someone to ATARI this Christmas.

219⁹⁵
Beaver's Reg. \$279.95

5/8" Table Tennis

Has a 5/8" thick playing surface with 3/4" x 1" plywood apron. 2" casters. Folds for easy storage. Steel corners for protection. Green surface.

49⁹⁹
Beaver's Reg. \$4.95

3/4" Frikon Ping Pong Table

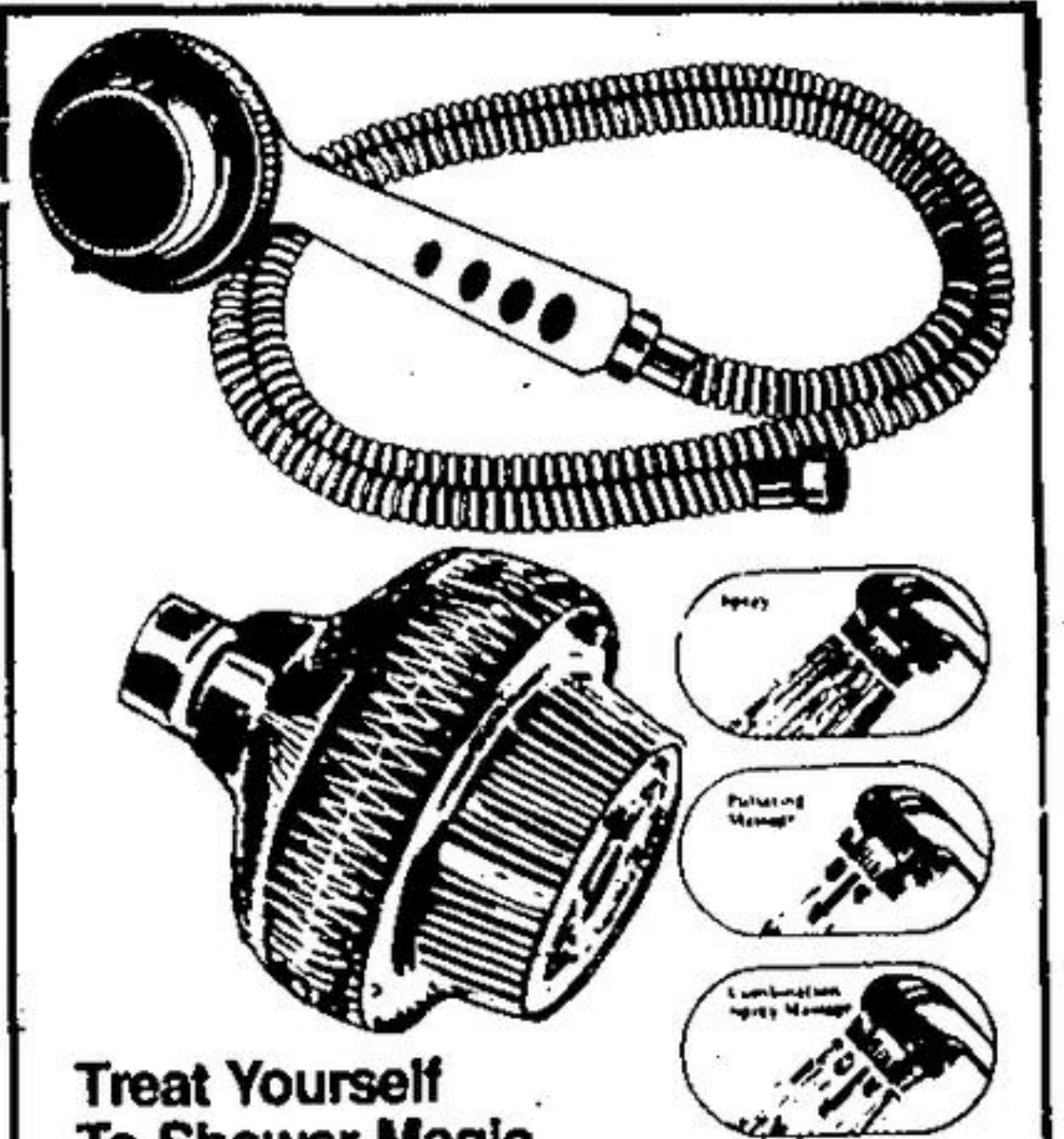
Folding table made from rugged steel. Has an excellent playing surface is coated with non-skid Acrylic paint. Regulation size.

59⁹⁹
Beaver's Reg. \$9.99

4' x 8' x 3/4" Pool Or Snooker Table—A Great Gift For The Family

A super pool table that will undeniably promote family fun! The playing surface is made from 3/4" sturdy particle board. Molded plastic corners. 8 levers under playing surface. Comes complete with 2 cues, chalk, rack and set of snookerballs.

299⁹⁹
Beaver's Reg. \$399.99



Treat Yourself To Shower Magic By Lido

The Shower Magic allows you to pick the shower you want. Choose from spray, pulsating massage or combination spray and massage. It massages and relaxes you while you shower! Gives your skin a vigorous and healthy feeling. The head can be adjusted for spray, spray massage, pulsating massage. Shower with a friend—shower with a Lido shower Magic.

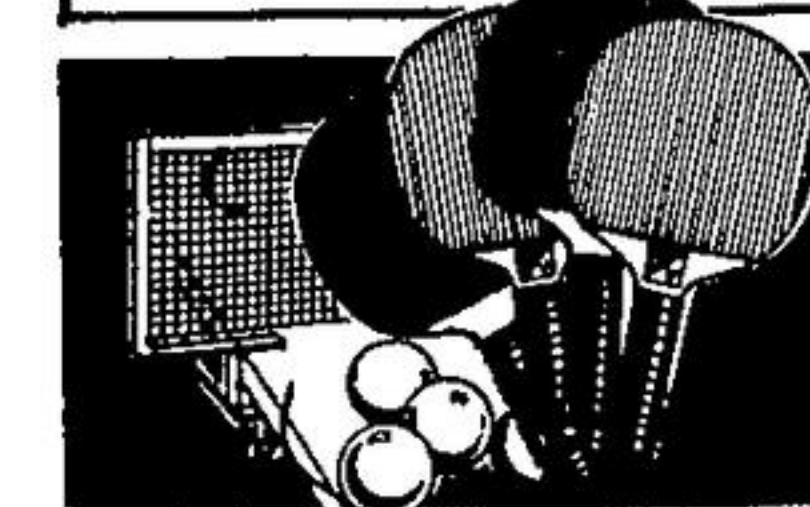
888
Wall Shower Head

1666
Hand-Held

Coleco Arcade Pinball Champ

An all electric action game the whole family can enjoy! Same features as commercial machines—even tilts. Steel support legs and decorated panels.

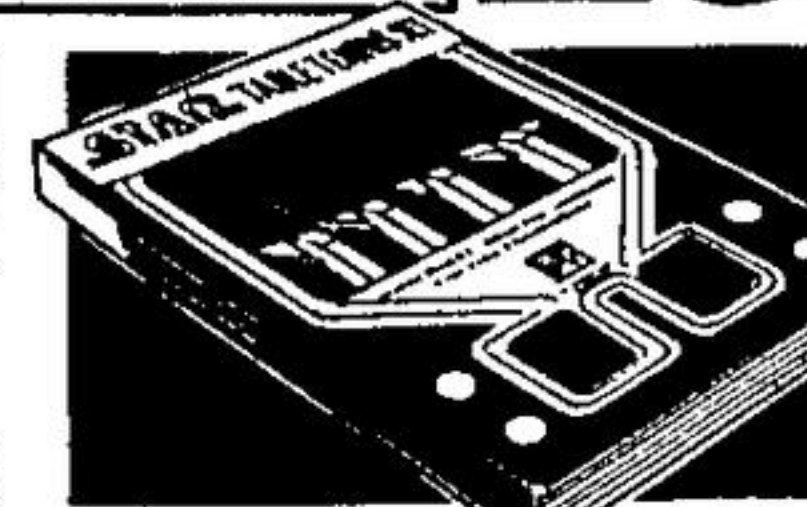
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Ping Pong Set

A four player set with 4 rubber-faced rackets, 2 metal extension posts, 5" x 66" net with metal ends, and 4 regulation balls.

995
Beaver's Reg. \$11.95



Better Quality Set

Four player ping pong set which includes the same items as set at left. See Beaver a wide variety of Christmas Games to play.

1495
Beaver's Reg. \$19.95



Super Sled-Toboggan

A sleekly designed toboggan. Molded in tough, bright red poly for durability and speed. 32" long and 16" wide. Runs smoothly.

777
Beaver's Reg. \$8.98



Coleco Shoot 'N' Score

It's like having a real shooting gallery. Realistic pump action rifle. Moving targets make noise as they are hit.

5995
2 speed control.



NEW STORE HOURS

Effective Friday, November 11th Until Christmas
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday thru Friday
Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
316 Guelph Street East, Georgetown — 877-2234

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Beaver Charge
Accounts
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