

Consumer advice from the Better Business Bureau

# Should you buy used parts?



'AR, ME MATEYS!

Long John Silver's ship docked at the Georgetown library last Wednesday and a crew of young pirates boarded the children's activity centre for a full-scale take-over. Youngsters made masks from paper plates and crepe paper and then watched pirate movies as the library celebrated "Pirate Day".

(Herald photo)

**Herald Special**  
You turn the car's ignition key, but the starter won't crank. The silence is deafening. The garage says the battery's okay, but the starter is shot. Rebuilding is out of the question.

At this point, says Paul Tuz, president of the Better Business Bureau, you may have a choice: buy a new starter; buy a rebuilt starter; buy a recycled starter. The new one is \$150. The rebuilt unit is \$100. The recycled buy is \$35. The recycled one probably would be your last choice. But it could be the best bargain of the three!

"Used" or recycled auto and truck parts don't necessarily mean "used-up" or "worn-out" parts, advises Mr. Tuz. Many parts are dismantled from wrecked autos and recycled by professionals who clean, test, and mark the parts for application and mileage so the consumer knows what she/he is buying. For example, a rear-end wreck doesn't affect the starter or other parts under the hood of the car.

Many recyclers also offer a warranty on parts that is equal to or better than what you will find on new parts. Ninety-day - and longer - warranties are not uncommon.

If the mechanic looks blank when you mention used or recycled parts, a phone call to a recycler in the area will solve the problem. Look in the telephone advertising pages under "auto parts, used"; "truck parts, used"; "auto wreckers".

Used auto parts are more plentiful than you might think, Mr. Tuz said. Many dealers specializing in recycled parts now use computers to keep an inventory of thousands of parts, including those for cars 10 or more years old. And, if the local dealer doesn't have the part in stock, open telephone communications can put this dealer in touch with hundreds of other recyclers in the area. The part usually is in your hands in 48 hours - or less.

**HOW TO GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH:** When buying recycled auto or truck parts that a mechan-

ic will install or that you will install yourself, it is important that you deal with a reputable or licensed salvage yard, Mr. Tuz added.

A growing number of recyclers are committed to running their businesses in a modern and professional manner. It's easy to spot the difference: while both kinds of yards have wrecked cars and trucks out back, the one you want will have a clean and orderly salesroom, helpful and knowledgeable salespeople and a variety of parts on the shelf ready for sale. If you are in doubt about the retailer, contact the BBB for information about the retailer's reliability in the community.

Mr. Tuz also suggests that you:

1. Have an experienced mechanic diagnose the problem, if you don't know what it is. With this information you can buy the right part at the outset.
2. Get a history of the part, if possible. This will include the number of miles on the part and whether the part has been cleaned and tested.
3. Get a receipt for your

purchase.

4. If you are buying an electrical part such as an alternator or starter, make sure the part has been "bench" tested. Ask if the part is under warranty. Many are, but ask. And, according to recyclers, many parts are warranted for more than 90 days. Some are for a year.

5. If you are buying an engine or transmission replacement, you must know the size and model number of your car. Again, ask about a warranty.

6. Take the old part to the salvage yard if you

can. You may need the old part for comparison purposes. The retailer might give you a credit on the old part.

Finally, Mr. Tuz says that in comparison to new parts, recycled components can save you from 30 to 80 per cent - and sometimes more!

## Sharing a commitment

Sharing the Georgetown Kinsmen Club's commitment to fighting cystic fibrosis, the Kinsmen of Fort Erie and Stoney Creek have financed a new record album by 17-year old CF patient Kevin Denbok, which will be distributed nationally by the club. One of the largest fund-raising ventures undertaken by Kinsmen in over 30 years will see the Collingwood youth's self-penned songs on "People Like You" help spread the message across Canada. All proceeds go to the fight against CF. Watch The Herald for details about local distribution.

## Firms burglarized

An air screwdriver, an electric drill and other tools were stolen from the Twin Windows firm on Mountainview Road North in Georgetown. The break-in occurred overnight Wednesday and Thursday and it's unknown how thieves entered the shop. The missing tools are valued at \$400.

There was also a break and enter at another Georgetown business overnight Friday. Vandals smashed several small windows at Malcolm Black Ltd. on Mountainview Road North.

Police are looking for thieves involved with a break-in last week at Georgetown's Photorama outlet on Guelph Street.

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Crossword Puzzle Answer on Page C5

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ACROSS

1. Road
2. Asks, as for food
3. American Pres.
4. Fudge
5. Heraldic band
6. Arrow poison
7. The Sun
8. Bottles
9. HAH
10. Ropes
11. Cheesecake
12. Slipped
13. Russian epithet
14. Aftermath
15. Plant juice
16. Steamship
17. State of mind
18. Hidden
19. Wild ass
20. Poem
21. Founder of Philadelphia
22. Agreement
23. Tropical plant
24. Twisting
25. Wander
26. Small fish
27. Happen
28. Exterior
29. Small island
30. Hide in
31. Japanese plant
32. Optimistic

DOWN

1. Gone
2. Cooking smell
3. Ability to stand
4. Bag
5. Sea slug
6. Mirror-like
7. To place
8. Gaped for (fish)
9. Blackberry, cuckoo
10. 12 in. measure
11. Hardy herb
12. Prayer
13. Sounder mentality
14. Chiffon pie
15. Librarian
16. Falfalied
17. Fall flower
18. Wite
19. Fish sauce
20. Impudent
21. Recreative
22. Spicy
23. More curious
24. Medicinal plant
25. Travel
26. Heavenly body
27. Group of three
28. Rodents
29. Region
30. Unclothed
31. Famous English school
32. Green letter