

Happy buyers in Acton on-line auction

On-line Acton auction generated hundreds of dollars for items destined for charity shops and scrap

Without the help of an on-line auction company, Acton's Bob Duby would have turned several animal traps into scrap metal and donated some snowshoes to charity – instead those items sold for \$540 in a recent on-line auction of the contents of his parent's Bower Avenue residence.

Faced with disposing of 52 years worth of household goods after moving his mother, Doris Duby, into a retirement home, Bob Duby chose to have an on-line auction because it was efficient, even though it lacked the excitement of live bidding.

The Duby's used the services of rapid-sell.ca, owned by veteran Guelph auctioneer David Moore, and are "really pleased" with the on-line process to clear the home. "They showed us what to get rid of and helped us donate it to charity, grouped items into lots, photographed it and then put it on-line," said Bob Duby on Saturday as successful bidders collected their purchases.

Duby said bidding was fierce in the last hour and everything sold, and even without knowing the bottom line, rapid-sell.ca was the "best way to go." "There were a couple of things that I was going to pitch out – I was going to get rid of the animal traps for scrap metal and they sold for \$330. A pair of snowshoes went for \$220 and I would have given them to charity," Duby said.

Mark Blaze of Oakville won the bidding for the animal traps. "They are unique. They don't sell them anymore, and you get caught up in the bidding," Blaze said as he packed up his purchases, including dishes, framed pictures and furniture.

Duby said he was surprised by the \$220 winning bid



ON-LINE AUCTION: Oakville's Mark Blaze was pleased with his purchases in an on-line auction of the household goods of Acton's Doris Duby, who daughter-in-law Mardelle and son Bob, said selling on-line was an easy and convenient way to clear out the Bower Avenue house. Former Acton teacher Patti Tufford bought snowshoes - some to decorate her Hanover log cabin and some to use. – Frances Learment photos

for some snowshoes he would have donated to charity if Moore's staff hadn't intervened. Former McKenzie-Smith Bennett teacher Patti Tufford bought those snowshoes and will hang some as decoration on the walls of her Hanover log cabin, and will use some of them. Tufford said on-line auctions save time, are efficient and offer great deals.

Auctioneer David Moore said the advent of the internet led to on-line auctions – and although there isn't the drama of a live auction to generate interest and drive up bids – there often is a lot of "cyber sniping" – people jumping in with last-minute bids as the auction closes,

to keep things interesting.

Moore said on-line auctions offer convenience, ease for buyers and a lot less fuss for the people getting rid of belongings. He said for the Duby auction, they had one potential buyer bidding from Hawaii where they were on holidays. He also said they had 40,000 lot views of the Duby estate – people clicked on catalogued items that many times as they shopped from the comfort of their own computer. Moore was unsure which system – live or on-line auction – generated the most money, but the on-line system is much easier for everyone involved.

Halton launches social media for sexual health

The Halton Region Health Department is launching the first phase of Sex Healthy Halton; a social media campaign to promote safer sex, healthy relationships, raise awareness, and reduce sexually transmitted infections. The site is www.facebook.com/sexhealthyhalton

"The landscape for today's youth is constantly changing and evolving and we need to ensure the youth are able to get trustworthy, reliable and accurate information and services," said Regional Chair Gary Carr in a press release issued Monday. "The Health Department's approach

to service and education is reflecting these changes."

The Facebook page is the first phase. A YouTube channel with videos of Public Health Nurses answering frequently asked questions and discussing current and local topics will be launched later this fall.

In Halton, Chlamydia

rates increased 173 per cent between 2001 and 2010. In 2011, a total of 833 Chlamydia cases were reported compared to 454 cases in 2007. Social media and networking sites are quickly gaining popularity as a medium to deliver health promotion messages.

"There are a lot of

false information, myths and misconceptions about sexual health and sexuality," said Dr. Bob Nosal, Halton's Medical Officer of Health. "We hope to provide a safe and trusted environment for youth to ask questions and seek answers. Social media will never replace one-to-one services or counselling, but this will open the door

for discussions and education."

Youth will be able to ask questions (publicly or privately), search for answers, connect with a Public Health Nurse, and find information about clinic locations, times and services.

For more information, visit and "like" www.facebook.com/sexhealthyhalton, dial 311 or call 1-866-442-5866.

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