

GRAPE VINE

Bargain Seller is brand-new!

By the time you read this, Acton's newest retail store should be open for business.

The Bargain Seller, owned by Brampton residents Peter Doucette and Paul Nesbitt, has moved into the old Main St. Miracle spot in the IGA plaza.

Peter and Paul, who presently own a similar store in Bolton, will offer a variety of items (some 90 per cent will sell for a dollar or less). There will be toys, stationery, health and beauty products, party supplies and housewares in stock.

We spoke to Peter yesterday (Tuesday) morning, and he was almost ready to remove the paper from the windows and unlock the door!

First-rate flag

Soon after our town's successful defense of our "longest line of red noses" title, organizer Jack Carpenter dropped by the *Tanner* office Monday to show off the new *Lighten Up, Canada!* flag.

The flag, which you can buy for around \$50, has been designed by Kennedy's in Erin, and it really is an impressive banner.

Why not order your flag now, so you'll have it in plenty of time for next year? You can call Kennedy's at 1-833-9306.

Spring will soon be here

The Acton Horticultural Society's next meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday evening at Knox Presbyterian Church. Christine Cole, from Tuitman's Garden Centre, will address the gathering, which convenes at 7:30 pm.

A Horticultural Society get-together is a sure tonic for a long, cold winter, so be sure to mark it on your calendar. For more information about this meeting or the Horticultural Society, call Mary at 853-2626.

I Love Books!

February is "I Love Books" month at the Acton Public Library.

Each week for the whole month, the library will be handing out special surprises to children who visit. There'll be a different surprise each week, so don't forget to ask for yours at the Information Desk.

While you are visiting, remember to enter the exciting February contest. All you have to do is fill out an entry form.

Blue Box payment

MPP Noel Duignan has announced a payment of \$110,537 to Halton Region's Blue Box program. The payment will help pay for the operating costs of the program.

Duignan stated Monday that "today, more than three million households in Ontario use the Blue Box to recycle materials that once went directly to landfill sites."

Duignan's press release explained that "the provincial Municipal Recycling Support Program helps develop and operate local recycling initiatives."



TALKING HEADS: St. Joseph's teacher Mrs. Halk is flanked by her two public speaking contest winners, Sarah Venema, left, and Monique Hawkins. Venema, a Grade 6 student, recently won the school's Junior category, while the Grade 7 Hawkins took Intermediate honours. Hawkins is heading to St. Peter's Separate School for the Halton finals on March 10. (Doug Harrison photo)

Tax musings stifle business

I wish Paul Martin would keep his mouth shut.

You've probably read how he is travelling across the country "consulting" with Canadians about what he should put in the upcoming budget. If he doesn't know, he's the only one in this country who's unaware that the majority of people want him to slash spending and hold or reduce taxes. Instead he talks about reducing spending and raising taxes.

I don't understand why this expensive P.R. exercise is necessary. If he wants to know what people want, why not ask the Julian Reeds' of the world. Surely, the mood of the electorate has not been forgotten so soon after the election.

If he's still unsure, I'm pretty sure Jean Charest, Kim Campbell and TV reporter Garth could bring him up to speed pretty quickly.

While the cabinet brain-trust may think they're being so clever with this charade, they are causing some real damage out here. Recently, I had the misfortune to experience some of the fallout from the latest round of adventures-in-taxation.

The Way I See It

With Mike O'Leary



Our company exhibited at the largest gift show (in attendance) last week. It costs us thousands of dollars for a booth and takes over a week to organize and set up. The show itself runs five days. These are usually 13-hour days, nine of them on your feet. I'm not looking for sympathy here but rather am trying to give you some insight into the financial and human resources that go into this effort.

We had some "hot products" and came out of the show with reasonable sales. Generally, however, most exhibitors suffered a substantial (up to 40%) decline in sales. There were lots of retailers there, but they were buying very cautiously.

The overriding concern: the upcoming budget. The entrepreneurial class doesn't have any more

money for tax. And all we hear from governments is how they need to raise taxes.

If you need further proof that PR and economics don't mix, consider this: Last Friday the stock exchange fell almost 2.5%. Some experts have determined that the finance minister's musings on interest rates and lowering RRSP levels contributed to the drop.

Last week, 54 Agnew shoe stores closed their doors. Consumer confidence is at the bottom of the barrel and MPs are beating at it with a stick.

We all need some hope, some expectation that we're going to get a break from onerous taxes. The purchasing power of our salaries has gone down while we're asked to pay more by government. This recession/depression is going to continue until the tax spiral is broken.

It's one thing to lose business over what I have or have not done. I hate losing business over what someone says during a P.R. exercise. Mr. Martin, during the war they said "loose lips sink ships." This is still true, so please — shut up!!

HEY! Should McKenzie-Smith and M.Z. Bennett be joined?

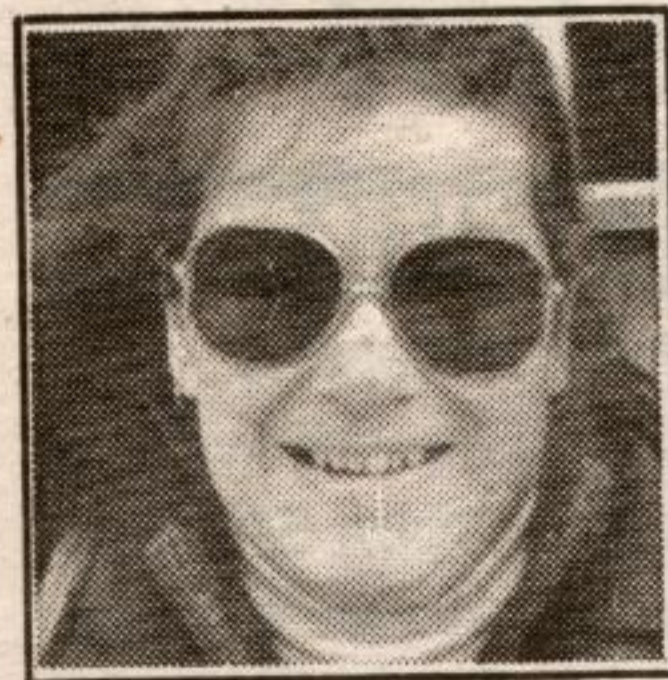


"I don't think so. The younger kids look forward to going to a middle school. Having the schools split is better for the younger kids because the older ones can be nasty. Grade 7 and 8 students can be hard on the kindergarten and Grade 1 kids."

Julie Moon, Danville Avenue

"I think it's a good idea. It's common sense fiscally and tax-wise. I went to a kindergarten to Grade 8 school like a lot of people did in this town. Having two set-ups is a duplication of services."

Steve Goy, Coles Court



"Yes, if it's a cost-cutting measure and allows the crossing guards to go back to work at lunch. Safety should be the priority. If you take it away, our kids are in jeopardy."

Sue Roberts, Meadvale Road

"It sounds like a good idea. Why not have the kids in one school? I could never see separating the schools anyway. Everyone was in the same school when I went. Maybe it will save money in the long run."

Frances Crooks, Church Street East

