

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Robert A. Leadley, C.A., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Leadley Gunning & Culp International Corp.,™ (LGC); Michael and Jennifer Coté, South Central Ontario Regional Directors are pleased to announce the appointment of:

**SHARON RICHARD**  
490 York Road  
GUELPH, ON, N1E 6V1  
Bus: 519-821-7192  
Res: 519-853-2348  
as local practitioner  
in the GUELPH area.



MS. RICHARD joins 80 other LGC affiliates across Canada, and is experienced in personal and corporate income taxes as well as in accounting and financial planning for small and medium sized business.

Leadley Gunning & Culp International Corp.™, is Canada's largest franchised and fastest growing accounting firm. It's head office is located in St. Catharines, Ontario. LGC is a public company trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "LGG". Together with its strategic partner, CIS Asset Management Corporation, LGC/CIS affiliates provide a variety of financial services including accounting, tax and financial planning, mutual funds, GIC's and insurance products.

## New downtown store offers low prices, customer satisfaction

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Asif Masroor wants Actonites to stop their drives to Georgetown and Guelph for clothing and other everyday necessities.

And the new owner of Bargains Bazaar, located between Power Entertainment and Mr. Mugs, has backed up his request with three reasons: better quality, lower prices and customer satisfaction.

"It will take a little time, but soon people will realize they can buy items from here for a reasonable price. There's not a lot of walk-in traffic in Acton, but I'm confident the store will survive if we have the right items, low prices, quality items and quantity," says Masroor, who owns a similar "dollar" store in Brampton.

Masroor, who says some stores items will exceed \$1, wants to provide casual, everyday items for kids that are affordable. Available items range from jogging suits, winter coats, school supplies and a baby line to a wall-and-a-half full of assorted toys, books and children's video cassettes.

Bargains Bazaar also carries many household items, cosmetics, adult clothing, flower baskets (\$1), photo albums (\$3), audio tape cassettes (package of 3 for \$3), \$10 wrench sets, bathroom supplies and party essentials, to name a few.

"We're going to provide quality items and low prices and if people are satisfied they won't have to go anywhere else," says a convinced Masroor, 45. "People won't drive 30 minutes if they can get the same items here for the same price.

"We're going to cut our profit-margin to keep lower prices, but we won't be cutting on quality."

Masroor buys most of his merchandise in Toronto from surplus stores — he uses the example of Simpson-Sears — that are going out of business or bankrupt. This allows him, he says, to sell a sweater that costs \$25 or \$35 at a luxury store for just \$4 because he's buying it at a low rate.

Masroor expects business to start slow, because he hasn't done much advertising of his arrival to town.

Before entering the retail business world, Masroor spent 10 years working in research and development at U.S.-based Burlington Industries in Brampton, where he continues to reside. Prior to this, he spent 13 years in school getting his Ph.D from the University of Western Ontario in genetics engineering.

However, he couldn't get any grants from the government and was subsequently laid-off.

"I spent 13 years in school and no one wants a Ph.D anymore. It's not worth it. I'm happy what I'm doing, but I miss being a doctor," he admits. "Some day I would like to work independently, doing my own research work for my own satisfaction."

However, priority No. 1 for the father-of-one and his two full-time employees is customer satisfaction.

"All sales are guaranteed," Masroor confirms. "If someone isn't happy about a product, they can bring it back. We exchange or refund anything.

"Now it's really worth the drive to Acton."

Bargains Bazaar is open seven-days-a-week — Monday and Tuesday from 9:30 am to 7 pm; 9 am to 9 pm Wednesday to Friday; 9 am to 5 pm on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am to 6 pm.



**PROUD OWNER:** Asif Masroor shows off some samples of merchandise that Acton shoppers will find in Bargains Bazaar.

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## Mail fraud

Criminals often regard older persons as easy targets for many kinds of crimes. Every elderly person should be aware of these crimes and how to prevent them.

**Consumer frauds:** Beware of contests which require you to put up money to win, even if there is a guarantee that you will win.

**Home improvement offers:** Beware of tempting home improvement offers, made through the mail or on-the-spot. These offers are a popular type of swindle.

**Chain-referral schemes:** These schemes offer a commission for buying one item and selling additional ones to friends. The products are usually over-priced and difficult to sell.

More tips next week!

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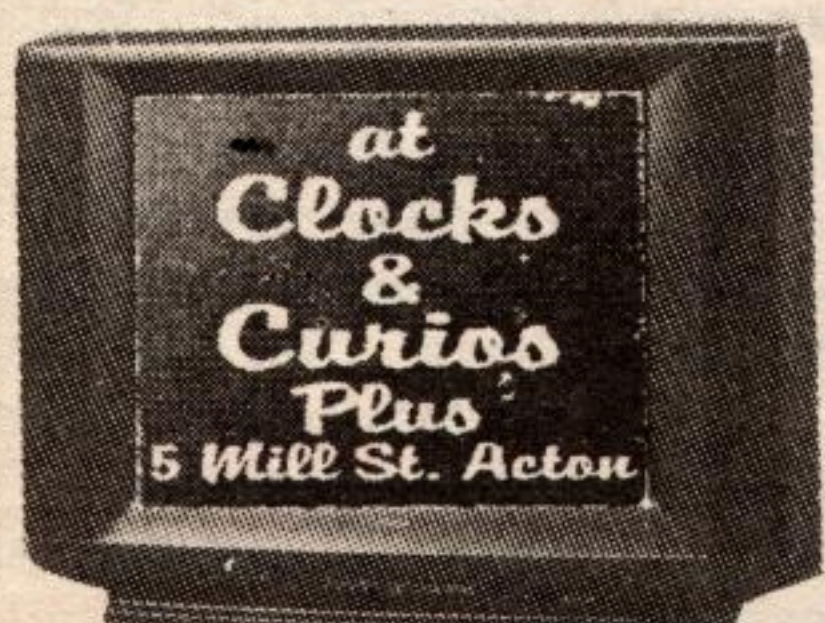
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