



AUCTIONING AL AND AL'S: Auctioneer Donald Reinhart holds up the next item to bid during the auction sale at Al and Al's Red Brand Meats last Saturday. The store was filled to capacity with interested buyers and well wishers to Al Cunneyworth who is closing the store to take over the meat department at Acton Foodland. (Karen Wetmore photo)

Red Dog Café, Bath win business awards

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

The hope of success by entrepreneurs starting new businesses in Acton has been subject to criticism in recent years.

Red Dog Café partners Carol Brunelle and Michelle Perry hope a new trend began on Thursday when their Mill Street business was named 1995 Entrepreneur of the Year at the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement awards dinner in Georgetown.

"Any of the candidates - *The Acton Tanner* and Edmund Fry and Co. - are worthy of this award. But we've worked hard the last year and a half to make Acton a wonderful place to dine," chef-manager Brunelle told a large gathering of Chamber executives and members at the North Halton Golf

and Country Club.

In September 1994, the Victorian structure that is the Red Dog Café was converted into a charming, yet unpretentious café.

"We have learned by trial and error. We have had a lot of criticism, but a lot of support," commented manager Perry.

Added Brunelle: "The whole attitude in Acton is pessimism. When you start a business here, people automatically think you're going to fail ... I'm satisfied with the business we've done."

D.D.H. Distribution Services Ltd. was named Business of the Year, while Connie Bath took Employee of the Year honours for her work as deli manager at Acton IGA. The Civic Pride award went to Sheridan Nurseries.

Bath knows she's worked hard to get where she is - she spent almost six years learning the deli business in Halifax - but was shocked to be recognized by outside business people.

"I am surprised, pleased and honoured that you have chosen to acknowledge me," delivered Bath in her acceptance speech. "I thank the fellow nominees - Halton Flour Milling's Al Becker and Robert Marrow of Ann's Cartage and Piano Movers - for making this a difficult choice."

After this week, Bath, 32, will be away from IGA for about six months as she awaits the birth of her first child.

"This is a nice way to finish for the next 23 weeks," said a tired Bath. "I'm ready for a break, but I'm looking forward to going back."

"IGA is a good business to work for. I've known the Manes family since I was a kid, so I've had to prove myself. I get a great deal of personal satisfaction working in my own community."

Bath worked at IGA as a cashier and part-time deli hostess before being promoted to deli manager. IGA management report increased sales yearly because of her "dedication and guidance."

Included in the six-person deli team at Acton IGA is Maria Frost, better known as Bath's right-hand.

"She helps me with all the food trays. If it wasn't for her, I probably wouldn't get this award."

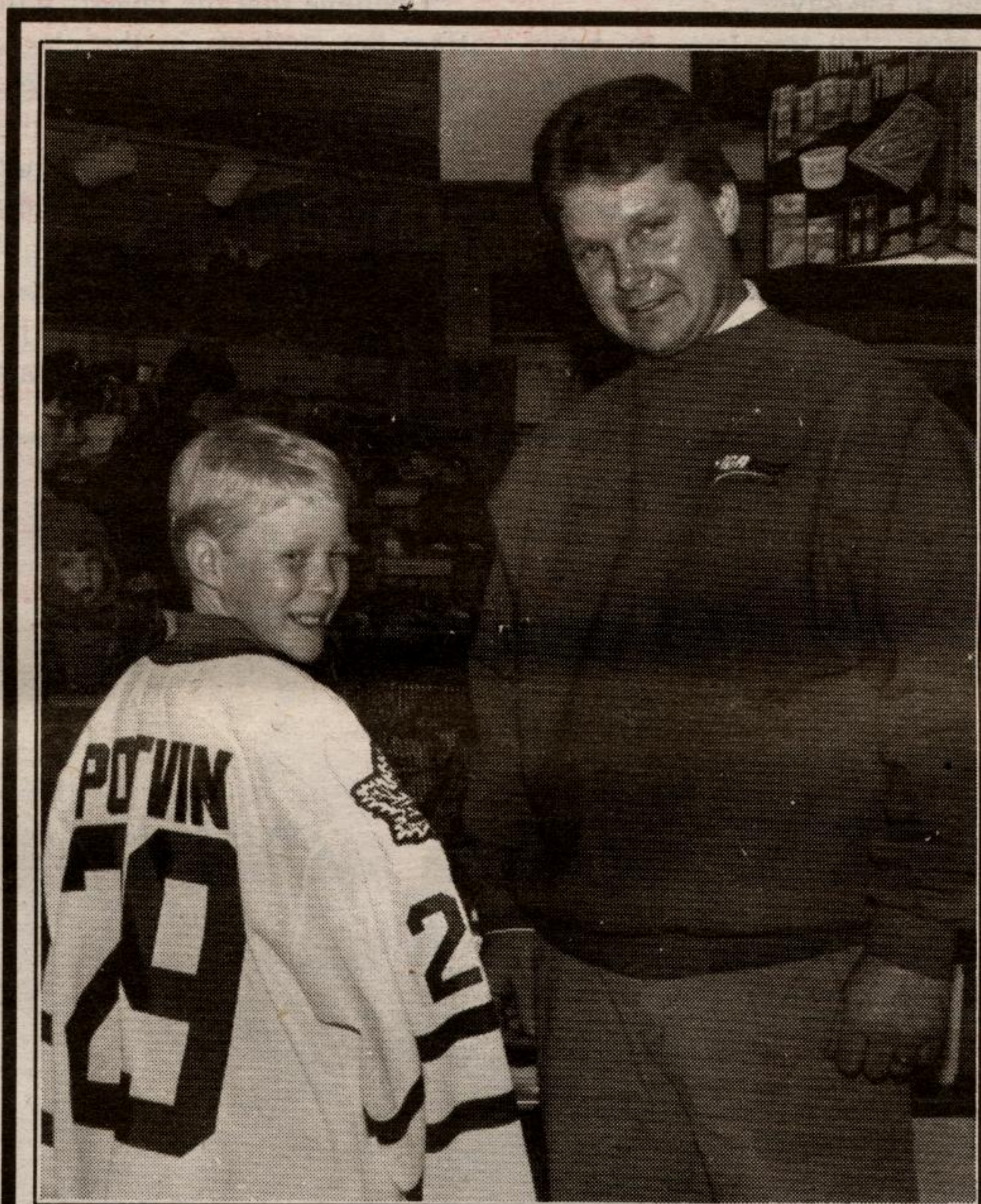
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I believe that the layoffs will affect the students in the classrooms. Staff moral will be damaged and that could emulate to the students."

— Linda Glover, Board of Education chair, Front Page

DID YOU KNOW?

Our thoughts are powered by minute electrical charges in our brain. About 60,000 heads could power a flashlight bulb - making true the statement, "He's not very bright, is he?"



LUCKY WINNER!

Ten-year-old Matthew Dayman had his name chosen in a recent draw at the Acton IGA and won a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey, autographed by goalie Felix Potvin. IGA manager Kelly McArthur presented the prize to an excited Matthew at the store. (Karen Wetmore photo)

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