

## My Sister's Closet

By DONNA DANIELLI

Bargain savvy fashionistas have long been aware of the deals to be had at *My Sister's Closet* in Milton. The clothing resale store has seen budget conscious shoppers flock through its doors for over thirteen years since Betty DeBoer and sister Renee first opened for business.

"We only placed one ad in the paper and within two days we had the store three quarters full of clothes," says an astonished Renee.

Several years ago, Betty took over the management of the store, and with the help of long-time friend, Alice Buchanan, continued creating the excellent reputation the clothing resale store holds today.

"I've always loved the store," says Betty. "In my other career, years ago in Toronto, I shopped in these sorts of stores and loved them."

Now, after over a decade of providing stylish and affordable wardrobes for their many customers, Betty and Alice are ready to retire. "I've loved it and I love the people, but I'm ready to turn it over," says Betty.

"The work is becoming too much and I want to travel while I'm still healthy enough to enjoy it." When searching for the right buyer, Betty needed to look no further than long-time customer Heather McDonald-Crider.

"She's easy to talk to, she's friendly and approachable," says Betty of *My Sister's Closet's* new owner. "You have to love clothes in this business and Heather really does. I feel confident that Heather can continue the care of the store and make a go of it."

For Heather, buying *My Sister's Closet* is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. "This is the perfect job for me," says enthusiastic Heather. "I've been doing this for years for friends. It was meant to be."

One of things that attracted Heather the most to the store was its commitment to friendliness and customer service. "A lot of people come in and as a result, you share in

their happiness and in their sorrows," explains Betty. "So many of the customers have become fabulous friends and that's been the toughest part." Betty and Alice are both quick to express their thanks to their customers for their many years of patronage.

"I'm a people person and I'm really looking forward to the social aspect of the store," says Heather, who will be on hand full time after she takes ownership of *My Sister's Closet* on February 15. "It's a comfortable place to be and I'll be offering the same great service, smiles and satisfaction that the store is known for."



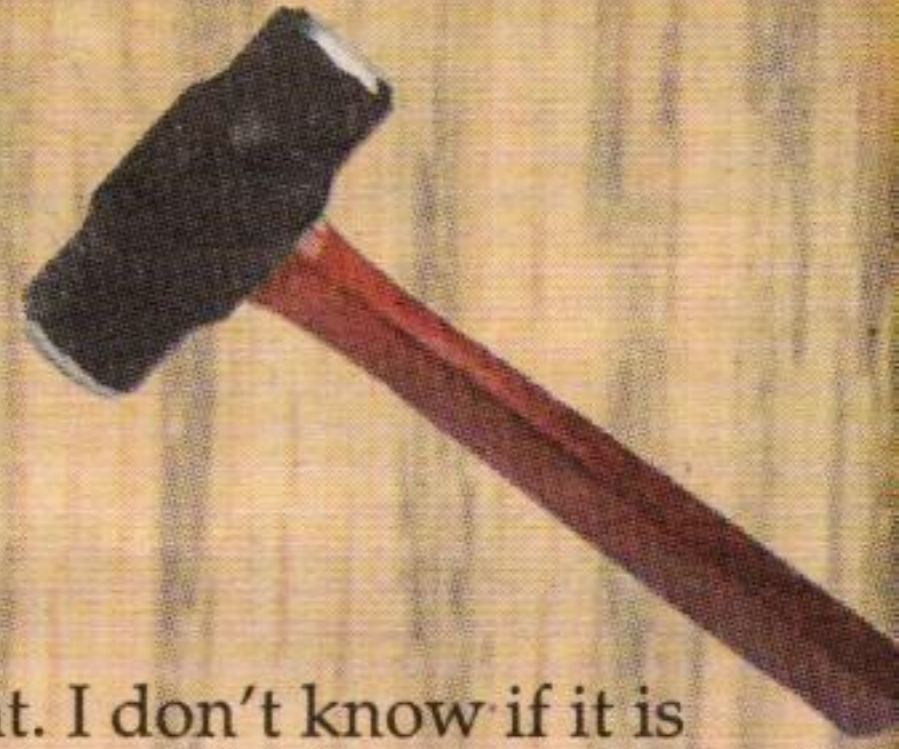
Betty DeBoer (left) celebrates the sale of her popular resale store "My Sister's Closet" with new owner Heather McDonald-Crider. "I'd especially like to thank all of our customers and friends, they've been very dear to us," says Betty of her thirteen year ownership of the store.

# board & batten

ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME & GARDEN

## Contractor's Corner

WITH RICK THOMAS



Dear Mr. Contractor

I have a question about renovating my basement. I don't know if it is better to use wood or steel studs. My neighbour says that steel is the way to go, but I thought I should ask a professional.

Also, I would like to know if there is a significant price difference between steel and wood studs.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

Tom T.

Hello Tom

I would have to agree with your neighbour on this one. Wood studs are only slightly more expensive than steel, however steel is much less labour intensive. It is lightweight, easier to carry, and will not warp. This translates into easier installation and time saving for you.

A major benefit of using steel is that bulkheads and walls stay true (perfect for a basement application). I'm not sure if you intend to do this project in stages or all at once, but with steel studs the walls can be framed now, and six months down the road they will still be straight. Wood studs will warp if the job is not completed right away.

We suggest 3 5/8" for exterior walls. Please be advised, however that steel studs are not to be used for load bearing walls.

Good luck with your renovation project, and if you have any more queries simply email me at [askacontractor@yahoo.ca](mailto:askacontractor@yahoo.ca), and I will do my best to assist you.

Contractor's corner will run again on March 11th.



# kitchen kapers

COOKING UP A TREAT WITH GLENDA BENTON

January was a great month for soups and casseroles and as usual both were on our menus. I gather from those who have spoken to me, many others like them too. So often it only takes one change to turn an old favorite into something different. The steak sauce and parmesan cheese does just that in this oldie.

## Easy Stacked Dinner

1 lb. ground beef or leftover lean roast  
6 medium potatoes, peeled and sliced  
3 large carrots, sliced  
1 large onion, diced  
1 medium green pepper diced

1 can (16oz) whole tomatoes (I used my frozen ones)  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1/4 tsp. dried basil  
3 tbsp. steak sauce  
1/4 cup parmesan cheese

Crumble cooked ground beef (or diced roast) in a casserole dish. Layer potatoes, carrots, onions and green pepper. Pour tomatoes over the layers of beef and vegetables. Sprinkle the pepper and basil and parmesan cheese over the tomatoes. Cover with a lid or aluminum foil and bake at 350 °F for 45 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Serve hot from the oven.

Our bi-weekly euchres have started again at Limehouse and I am always looking for new recipes for squares. Any euchre players reading this column will get to taste these in February.

## Jam Squares

1 cup shortening  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 egg

1 tsp. vanilla  
2 cups all-purpose flour

Spread evenly on cookie sheet, 1/4 inch thick. Bake at 350 °F for 12-15 minutes. Cool for about 5 minutes. While still hot, spread with jam (cherry, strawberry or raspberry). Sprinkle 1 cup chopped nuts and sift icing sugar over the top. Cool and cut into squares.

Incidentally our next euchre will be February 17 and every two weeks thereafter until the end of November. If you so desire the alternate Thursdays you can play at Ballinafad.

## Giving You the Dirt

By SEAN JAMES, N.P.D.,  
PRESIDENT OF FERN RIDGE LANDSCAPING

## Crocuses – A Burst of Spring!

One of the nicest treats in the winter is a pot of forced bulbs on the kitchen windowsill. The process we call 'forcing' is causing a plant to bloom out of season. We trick them into thinking winter has passed by chilling them for a number of weeks and then bringing them inside. While there are many different candidates for forcing, Crocuses are one of the most rewarding.

Forcing can be an involved process unless you're lucky enough to find bulbs, which have been pre-chilled and therefore are ready to bloom. The secret to prolong flowering is to keep them in a cool window until they bloom. The warmer the conditions, the sooner they will be finished blooming. Water them like you would any houseplant but never leave them sitting in water. Bulbs generally do not like their roots too moist.

Eventually, they will be finished flowering. No plant can keep up that kind of show forever. The beauty of forced Crocuses is that, after enjoying them indoors, they can be planted in the garden and will flower every year. Keep watering them as the flowers finish and leaves will grow for a few weeks. Wait until they turn yellow. Then set them in the basement or some cool dark place. Leave them there until spring. When the soil is thawed enough to dig, take them outside and plant them.

Put them somewhere at the front of

the flowerbed where they'll be visible. Since Crocuses are fairly delicate and tiny I would probably have them near the front door or within sight of the kitchen window. They can even be planted underneath another plant such as a Hosta or Blue Rug Juniper and live in harmony.

When you plant them, don't just plant the pot as is. Take them out of the pot and break them up into the individual bulbs you'll find near the top of the soil. Don't worry – you won't hurt them. Dig a 10cm deep hole perhaps 30cm wide. Spread them evenly in the bottom of the hole with the pointy end up. Gently fill in the hole with the excavated soil and wait until next spring. You might wish to mark where you planted them so you don't dig them up by accident when you plant something else. You'll enjoy them for years.

Sean James N.P.D.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind is selling Crocus for forcing again this year to help support the 3,900 clients, (in Halton & Peel Regions), who suffer from visual impairment and blindness and help them to live independently in a sighted world. One pot sells for \$4 and three pots sell for \$10. Call 905-275-5332 ex 57 to order. Your plants can be picked up from Sean's house in Milton. After you place your order and get details on timing, you can call him at 905-876-4852 for pick up information.