

Pelitis family celebrates 25 years in business

By **MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY**
The New Tanner

The Pelitis family has been operating Achilles Mazda in Acton for 25 years and plan to carry right on into the future.

A trained professional by the age of 25, (Achilles) Les Pelitis came to Acton with his wife Litsa in 1972. They didn't plan on settling here but they have no regrets about the decision.

Pelitis was the mayor of his hometown of Thessalonki, Greece, and comfortably established in the car business when he decided he wanted to explore what North America had to offer. He brought his wife with sufficient money to look around a little and planned on going to the United States after a stop in Toronto.

By chance he met up with a bus driver from Tyler Transport who happened to tell his boss about this visiting Greek with all this automotive experience.

Ted Tyler and his father went to meet Pelitis and offered him a job as a fleet mechanic. They brought the couple to Acton for a look around and the Pelitises decided they liked what they saw.

"Ted even took me to im-

migration," Pelitis recalls. "I promised to work for him for a year. But he knew I wanted to be on my own."

At the end of the year Pelitis bought the existing service station at the corner of Highway 7 and Churchill Road and set up his own business. His wife worked by his side handling the books and sharing his difficulties.

They stuck to operating a garage at first, gaining sufficient reputation to be offered the opportunity to service the fleet for the newly formed Halton Regional Police.

Pelitis looked after all the police vehicles for eight years, giving it up only when he became so busy with his Mazda dealership that he couldn't handle both roles. By that time he was servicing more than 300 cruisers.

But he picked up the Mazda franchise in 1976 and as the dealership grew, it demanded more and more of his mechanics' attention.

The cruisers had to receive number one priority but he couldn't guarantee that as his Mazda customers required more and more attention too.

"You can't carry two watermelons in the same arm," Pelitis explains. "You're going to drop one. And I didn't want that to happen."

He received a plaque from

the force in recognition of his work.

Pelitis decided to sell Mazdas because that company, like himself, was just starting out in Canada at that time. He saw a chance to grow with the firm and he decided to pursue it. Since that time he has earned every prestigious award the company has to offer its Canadian dealers.

The couple still lived in the apartment over their garage when their only child was born. Achilles, or J.R. as he gets called to distinguish him from his father, has worked in the dealership since he was a teenager. He was a licensed salesman at 16 and began studying automotive marketing and business management at Northwood University in Midland, Michigan two years ago. He will graduate in 2000 and plans to return to carry on the family business.

His parents proudly share those plans, hinting that they will retire when J.R. can take over.

"We sent him to the best school to prepare him for the year 2000," Pelitis says. "We started the business and our customers have been very loyal and good to us. We want to build a bridge so our son could carry on into the future," he says.

Waiting for baby...

Continued from page 4
unconcerned about the panic she had raised.

My Nelson knew more about trouble than both his sisters combined. He was the one who at three set a chair on Julia's head, then sat on it and killed one of her front teeth. Don't ask why she let him do that. We never did straighten that out.

He was also the one who, at five, got into the neighbour's yard with another neighbour and threw everything but the barbeque and redwood chaise lounge into the swimming pool. Seems Glenn and Adrian were picking on Nelson and Rick so when the elder pair went to soccer practice, the younger boys got back at them.

Of course, by the time Glen and Adrian's parents came home another neighbour's daughter and Jess were standing in their pool fishing stuff out - lawn

chairs, shoes, towels, bathing suits, a tent, pure wool postage stamps that used to be blankets... you get the picture. The neighbours were unhappy to put it mildly and I was none too joyous myself. When they started making vicious noises I reminded them of the law requiring fencing around swimming pools and suggested they should be glad the boys didn't drown since their gate obviously wasn't locked. Rick's dad, a volunteer firefighter, supplied a fire hose to drain the pool, and Nelson didn't sit for a week.

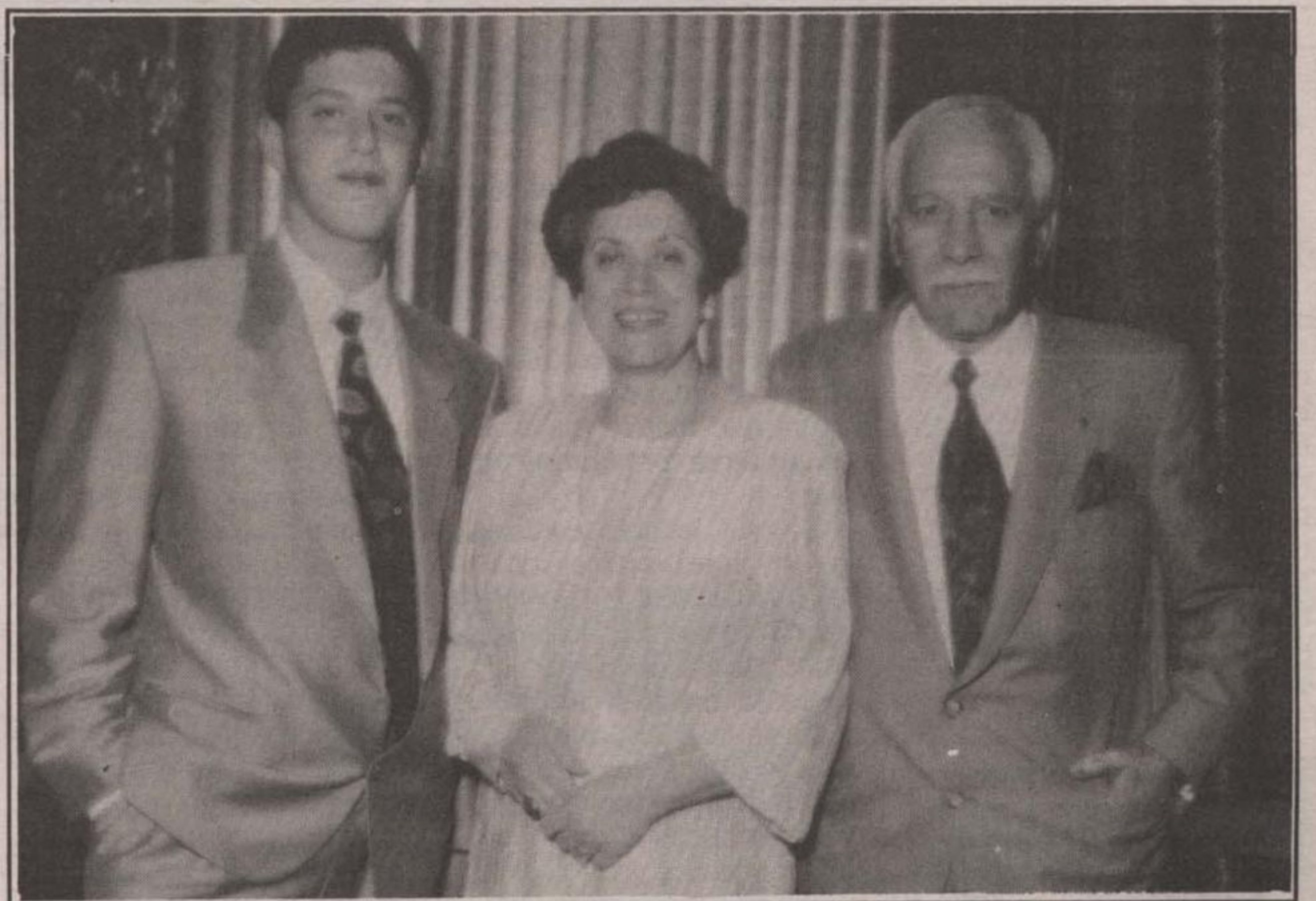
Nelson was also the one who fell out of a tree on Canada Day and broke his arm when he was eight. I thought it was just dislocated and straightened the "bend". Don't ask. The damage wasn't permanent and he does speak to me - sort of, sometimes.

When VasyI and I married

none of our children had started their families yet. Indeed, only one of the then-married kids is still married to the same partner. We've been Grandma and Grandpa together for the whole younger generation. That's 20 now, all under the age of 12 and only five boys in the bunch. Just as well. I never did know how to cope with males as my son and his father would both agree.

You'd think the excitement would wear off by this time. Somehow it doesn't. Maybe it's because this is Alex's first child. He's my baby step-son and almost as close as my own kids. Maybe I'm just a sucker for babies.

Or maybe it's because I am only the emergency sitter when all else fails. Maybe that's how I manage to keep glad to see them all. They never arrive without their parents and they (almost) always leave with them.



The Pelitis family, well known Mazda dealers, are celebrating 25 years in business in Acton. "Les" (Achilles) Pelitis started in business shortly after coming to Canada from Greece. Left to right, son Achilles, Litsa and Les.

www.haltonhills.com/achillesmazda www.haltonhills.com/achillesmazda

ACHILLES MAZDA

Presents

Lease from \$169*



Lease from \$179*



Lease from \$289*



Lease from \$349*



1998 Mazda B2500 SX 4x2 Truck
with convenience package
Lease from \$169* per month/24 months
\$1,500 down or purchase from \$15,324
-1998 AJAC Best New Pick Up Truck Award Winner
-Driver and passenger-side air bags with passenger-side cut off switch
-all new suspension with 350% stiffer frame
-Power assisted rack-and-pinion steering
-Rear wheel anti-lock brakes
-AM/FM stereo cassette

1998 Mazda Protege SE
with convenience package
Lease from \$179* per month/24 months
\$1,500 down or purchase from \$15,135
-AM/FM Stereo with CD
-14 inch wheels with full covers
-60/40 split rear seat
-Driver and passenger-side air bags
-Tilt steering

1998 Mazda 626 LX
Lease from \$289* per month/24 months
\$1,800 down or purchase from \$22,575
-Automatic Transmission
-Power windows and door locks
-AM/FM Stereo with CD, clock and 4 speakers
-Driver and passenger-side air bags
-Air Conditioning
-Cruise Control

1998 Mazda MPV 4x2 All Sport
Lease from \$349* per month/24 months
\$3,000 down or purchase from \$28,698
-All Sport appearance package
-Captains Chairs for front and middle seating
-Power windows and door locks with keyless remote entry
-AM/Fm Stereo with CD
-Driver and passenger-side air bags
-Dual Air Conditioning (Front and Rear)
-Swing out doors

College Graduate Program Available

*Offers available on new 1998 Protege SE, 626 LX, B2500 SX 4X2 Truck and MPV 4X2 All Sport models from participating dealer's stock from Jan. 8, 1998 for a limited time only. Supply and stock may vary by dealer. Purchase price includes dealer incentives. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Mazda Personal Lease rate: offers available on retail leases only. All leases based on 24 months. Down payment or equivalent trade-in, first monthly payment and security deposit due on delivery. Offers O.A.C. Protege SE (model #D4XJ5B0P00) down payment \$1,500, security deposit \$250. 626 LX-14 (model #F4LS78R000) down payment \$1,800, security deposit \$300. MPV 4X2 All Sport (model #U4L478CB33) down payment \$3,000 security deposit \$450. B-2500 SX 4X2 Truck (model #X8B058R000) down payment \$1,500, security deposit \$250. 20,000 km mileage restrictions apply to all model leases. If exceeded 8 cents per km applies. Lease and purchase prices do not include freight and PDE of \$495 for cars and \$1,135 for trucks, license, insurance, taxes. See participating dealers for details.

It is worth the drive to Acton




Achilles Mazda
SALES • SERVICE • LEASING
The Place for Unbeatable Prices and Service
357 QUEEN STREET EAST, ACTON
(519) 853-0200 (905) 453-8965

FINANCING, EXTENDED WARRANTIES, RUST PROTECTION AVAILABLE

tech talk

with  **BRYAN & DAN**

Send your Tech Talk questions to Bryan & Dan at The New Tanner, 59 Willow St. N. or fax to 853-0052

QUESTION: I have a 1991 Crown Victoria with a 5.0 litre engine and 102,000 km. If my heater control is in the vent position and I accelerate hard or go up a hill, my airflow goes to defrost and blows on the windshield. Why does this happen?

ANSWER: The airflow control doors on most Fords are controlled by engine vacuum. In the event of a vacuum loss or a malfunction, the failsafe mode goes to full defrost. Vacuum is low during heavy engine load. To compensate for low vacuum conditions, there is a vacuum check valve and reservoir canister under the hood. We would suspect a defective check valve or a leaking canister. The canister looks like an apple juice can mounted to one of the inner fenders. Quite often these canisters rust through, leaving no vacuum reserve for the controls, causing them to go the full defrost.