

J.C. Duff Ltd. selling company

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

After three generations in the sand and gravel business, the Duff family is getting out of the aggregate industry.

Limehouse based J.C. Duff Limited is selling its sand and gravel company to one of its customers - Canadian Building Materials (CBM) a division of St. Marys Cement Inc (Canada), effective January 2006.

Along with the Limehouse operation, the Duff's sand and gravel pits in Hillsburgh and Markdale will be sold. All of its 30 employees - 20 in Limehouse - will keep their jobs, according to Duff president Ian Duff, who joked the only people who will be out of work will be himself and his sister, co-owner Janice Gee.

Duff said the time for the sale was right.

"We're one of the last family businesses in the industry that has - it's a different industry nowadays. I think larger corporations are the ones that are able to continue to serve the public with aggregates, and still meet all of the stringent requirements that are out there in terms of environmental concerns," Duff said on Friday when asked why the company said yes when Canadian Building Materials/ St. Marys came calling.

Duff said after speaking to their parents, he and his sister

determined the offer like the one from a CBM/St. Mary's, a well managed, community minded and respected company, did not come along every day, and should be accepted so the Duffs could "peruse other interests and take stock in life."

Duff said CBM/St. Marys is impressed with the way Duff is running the business, and will continue to use the Duff name. He said he's confident CBM/St. Marys will maintain and enhance the strong relationships they've enjoyed with existing employees,

truckers, customers, neighbours, suppliers, industry colleagues and government officials.

The Duff family business began when John Cameron Duff used his 1925 GMC dump truck and Model T truck to haul gravel for County of Wellington road work.

By 1947, with son James McEwen (Mac) Duff, the company was incorporated and operating a crushing plant in Peel. The business grew over the years to include five other sand, gravel and crushing operations and in

1965, J.C. Duff opened its Limehouse operation.

Mac Duff was president until his retirement in 1995, when the third generation, his son Ian Duff, took over. The most recent expansion was in 1989, with the purchase of a pit north of Hillsburgh.

J.C. Duff Limited is a founding member of the Aggregate Producers' Association of Ontario, formed in 1957 to improve the aggregate industry, and has been supplying sand and gravel in the Greater Toronto Area for the past 58 years.



SHARING&CARING: Starlight Café cook Abbi Carriere (left) holds one of the many gifts donated to the Acton BIA Christmas Sharing Tree program, now in its fifth year under the guidance of Santa's helper, BIA co-ordinator Josey Bonnette. The gifts donated at trees in five other Acton locations will find their way to a needy recipient through the Acton Christmas Hamper program. - Frances Niblock photo

Quiet week for cops, firefighters

A tanker from the Acton station turned back when it was determined it was not needed at a rural Georgetown chimney fire at 7:15 on Monday morning.

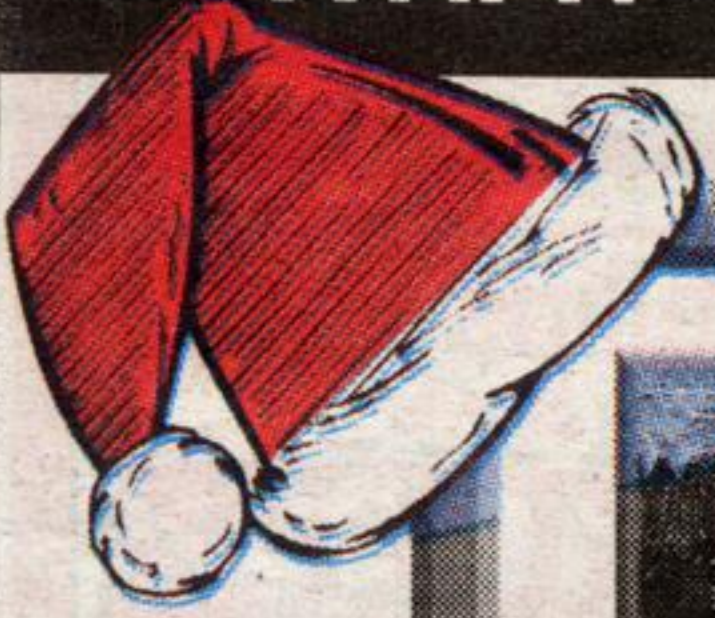
Just after 12 on Monday, a call from an alarm company sent Acton firefighters racing to a house on 32 Side Road, east of Highway 25.

A defaulty detector was to blame.



SHAGGY THANKS: Mayor Rick Bonnette traded a pat for a certificate of appreciation from HH-DOG - Halton Hills Dog Owners Group - members Halle, and master Gord Wallen, on Monday in the council chambers as plans for a second leash-free zone in Cedarvale park were approved. - Frances Niblock photo

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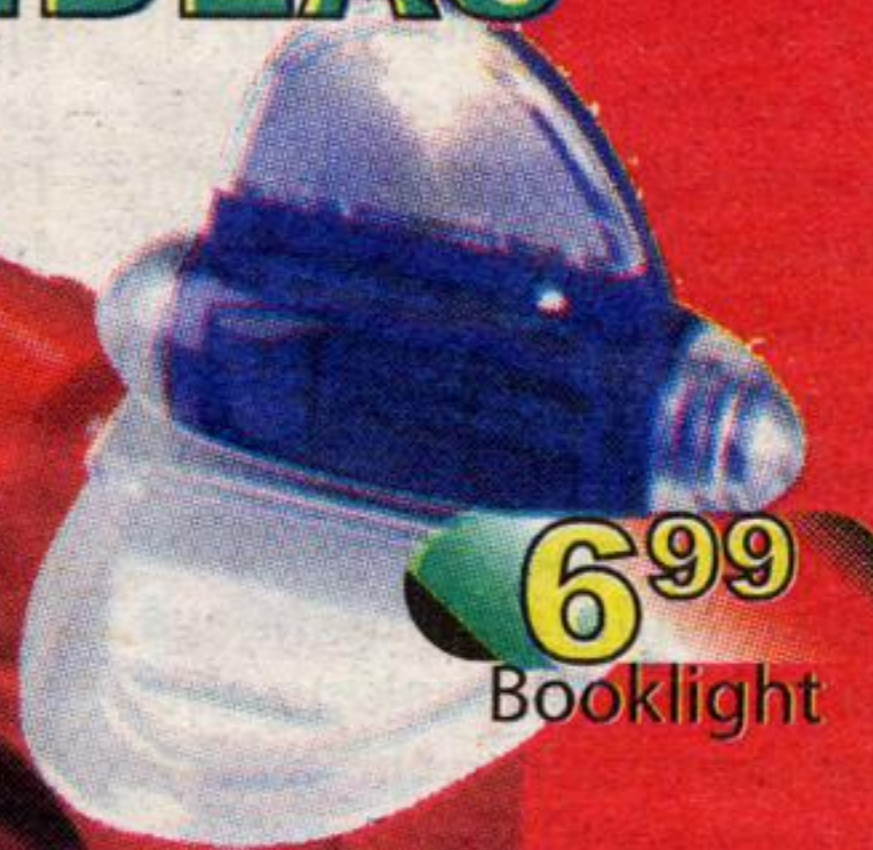
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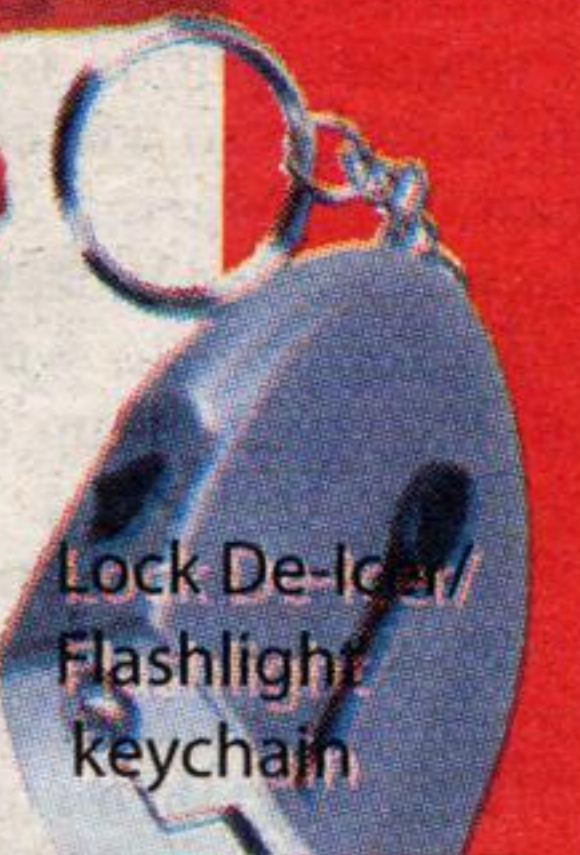
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