

Customer outpouring saves beloved Main St. bookstore

By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

An outcry from Milton's faith community and a 'godsend' from Toronto are being credited for keeping the Gospel Lighthouse bookstore's doors open after it came very close to shutting down earlier this month.

Former store employee Debbie Leon said once the word got out that the downtown business could be closing, there was an outpouring from faithful customers who didn't want to lose the unique Christian store.

"It was quite amazing for a little community," she said. "We just had a stream of people coming in expressing how sad they were the store was closing."

Marna Mudford, who owns a small chain of the Lighthouse stores, said she'd planned on closing the Milton location because her two employees that operated the business during the week quit and were both leaving at the same time. Ms Leon noted they left for personal reasons.

Ms Mudford said when it came time to give the building's owner notice of their plans to vacate and announce the closing sale, she just couldn't go through with it.

"Debbie contacted me to say how sad everyone was that the store was closing," she said.

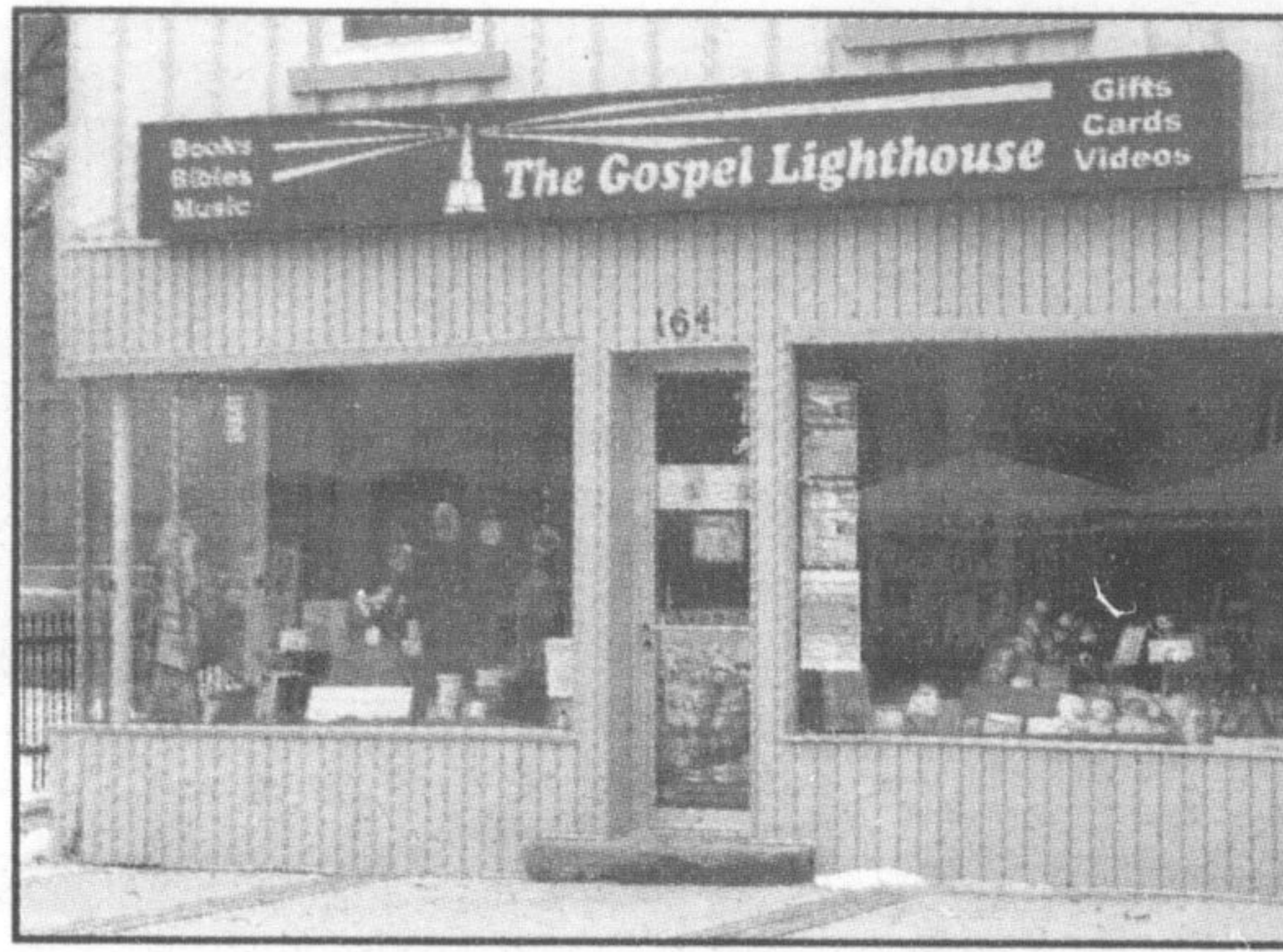
But then Ms Mudford said her prayers were answered by Joan Rogers, a woman from Toronto who came along and wanted to work at the bookstore.

I have always had a desire in my heart to get involved with a Christian bookstore," Ms Rogers said. "God did a great miracle to bring me here."

Ms Rogers said she was visiting a friend in Campbellville recently when the local Christian bookstore came up in a conversation.

"She (my friend) was saddened because she found out it was going to be closing," Ms Rogers said.

So the pair went to visit the store and shortly thereafter, Ms Rogers was working there and living in



Customers are thrilled the Gospel Lighthouse bookstore is staying open on Main Street.

Milton.

Ms Leon said when customers heard the store wasn't closing, they were thrilled.

"I still think it was just amazing how the community pulled together," she noted.

It was customers' reactions to the store's potential closure, combined with Ms Rogers showing up that Ms Mudford said were the deciding factors for her to keep the store open.

Ms Leon and Ms Mudford both agreed that people's prayers also played a role in making sure the bookstore kept operating.

"It worked out perfectly," said Ms Mudford. "We're pleased because we just feel it's a real advantage to have a Christian bookstore in the downtown area. We meet a unique need in the community."

Ms Rogers said she's enjoying living in Milton and has had a lot of positive feedback from those that stop by the store.

"Customers have been really glad that the store has stayed open," she noted.

Melanie Hennessey can be reached at mhennessey@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Wallace

ADIL

IT'S SHOW TIME

2005 Buick Allure

- 3.8L 200-HP V6 Engine
- 4-Speed Automatic Transmission with overdrive
- 16" Wheels
- 6-way driver's seat
- Quiet Tuning™ Accutical Enhancement Package
- Standard Onstar™ Safe and Sound Plan for 1 Year

SMARTLEASE
\$277*
 PER MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
\$24,988

2005 Pontiac Montana SV6

- Montana SV6 RWB R7D
- 3.5L 200-HP V6 Engine
- 4-speed automatic transmission
- 4-wheel disc brakes with ABS
- CD/MP3 player
- Remote keyless entry
- A/C, Power locks/windows/mirrors
- 50/50 fold flat rear seat
- Deep tinted glass
- 5-year/100,000km GM Powertrain
- Warranty with \$0 Deductible*

SMARTLEASE
\$238*
 PER MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
\$20,998

2005 Pontiac G6

- 3.5litre-HP V6 Engine
- 4-Speed Automatic with Overdrive
- Remote Keyless Entry
- Air Conditioning
- Cruise Control
- 4 Wheel Disc Brakes
- 16" Twin 5 Spoke Aluminum Wheels
- 6 Speaker CD Stereo

SMARTLEASE
\$258*
 PER MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
\$24,988

2005 GMC Sierra Nevada Crew Cab

- Vortec 5300 295-HP V8 Engine
- 4-speed auto with overdrive and tow/haul mode
- Full crew cab with 5'8" box, Deep tinted glass
- Autotrac automatic 4WD, 4-wheel ABS
- Locking differential, Dual zone A/C, Fog lights
- Tilt, cruise, power windows, locks with keyless remote, power mirrors rear defroster
- AM/FM/CD Player
- 17" 6-spoke Aluminum wheels

SMARTLEASE
\$348*
 PER MONTH PURCHASE PRICE
\$37,798

PONTIAC
BUICK
Cadillac
GMC

WALLACE PONTIAC
BUICK CADILLAC LTD.

Wallace

PONTIAC • BUICK • CADILLAC

905-878-2355

TOLL FREE 1-888-979-2354

**801
MAIN ST. E.
MILTON**

MON. - THURS.
9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
FRI. & SAT.
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

LaRose

Fresh Bread and Buns Baked daily 7 days a week!

Italian Bakery and Delicatessen

Bakery Specials

Fresh... Baked Daily!

Hot Cross Buns \$1.99

6 FOR...

Vienna Stick Bread 69¢ ea.

Deli Specials

Black Forest Ham \$3.99

lb. OR .88/100g

Brandt's Cooked Roast Beef \$3.49

lb. OR .77/100g

Genoa Salami Mild or Hot \$4.99

lb. OR 1.10/100g

Balderson Marbled Cheddar Cheese \$4.99

lb OR 1.10/100g

OPEN GOOD FRIDAY

(Fri. Mar. 25th) 9am-6pm

OPEN EASTER SATURDAY

(Sat. Mar. 26th) 8am-6pm

CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY!

Fill Your Easter Baskets With Goodies From La Rose!

Specialty egg breads and buns baked fresh all week. Fresh cakes and cookies made on premises and hand decorated for Easter! Imported Easter chocolate eggs, Colomba Easter cakes from Italy and gift baskets, ready to go!

Produce Specials

Product of Chile - No. 1 Grade

Fresh... Sweet... **Red Plums** 99¢ lb.

Product of Ontario No. 1 Grade

Fresh... 8 oz. Cello Pack **Whole Mushrooms** \$1.29 ea.

Product of U.S.A. No. 1 Grade

Fresh... **Cantaloupe Melons** \$1.49 ea.

Regular Store Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am - 7 pm
 Friday 8:30 am - 8 pm
 Saturday 8:30 am - 6 pm
 Sunday 9:00 am - 5 pm

SPECIALS IN EFFECT FROM TUES. MAR. 22ND TO MON. MAR. 28TH 2005.

327 Bronte Street S. • White Oaks Plaza

905-875-0303