

Search for new A&P sparks trip down memory lane

I felt kind of silly. I went to get some groceries at the new A&P and couldn't find it. Duh.

Can't find something in Milton? That used to be a standing joke: "Well, if it's in Milton, it shouldn't be hard to find."

I went to a newer section of town along Derry Road and thought it'd be there. It wasn't. Or at least I couldn't see it.

I kept going, it had to be there somewhere. The Christmas lights in the residential area were spectacular, which makes sense — new houses need new Christmas lights. I didn't recognize the street names, though, which made me feel kind of disconnected. I remember a time when I knew the names of every street in Milton. Somebody could name one and I'd at

least know the specific area.

I did find Rabba's Fine Foods on Derry Road, which I had never been to before. It was pretty good, and best of all they had chicken salad. I haven't found that

in a grocery store since Quality Greens. I used to go there just for that, but it was a nice store to go to anyway because you didn't have to book vacation time to shop. In and out in about five minutes. Personal attention if you needed it. Same friendly faces all the time. Very nice.

You can't blame grocery stores for super-sizing. The whole idea of having a business is to maximize profits. If you can sell more, you make more profit. Now there's a superstore



On the loose

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coming and who knows what else.

That doesn't mean I have to like it. I get lost in those big stores, and since I never remember everything on my first pass, I end up having to go back and forth across the store. It's good for exercise, but not so good for my sanity.

I don't need a million choices for everything. It's like potato chips. I remember when they only had plain, salt and vinegar, and barbecue. Pick one of those, it's easy. Now, you can spend 20 minutes figuring out which kind you want. Do I feel like yogurt and green onion chips today? Do I feel like them any day? It could be worse. In Argentina they have lamb flavoured potato chips, and in England they have yeast extract. Why don't they just have vomit flavour?

Anyway, thinking about the smaller grocery stores such as Quality Greens, also reminded me of another old store I liked a lot. Remember Jackson's Barn? It was a no-frills type of store, which was cheap and good. I don't remember why it was shut down, it seemed to be busy all the time.

So, driving around a new section of Milton, reminiscing about old sections of Milton, new grocery stores, old grocery stores, it made me wonder if I was just getting old and just liked the way things used to be. Maybe I should embrace new things more. But, then I thought that wasn't quite true. I could certainly embrace a new flat screen LED television.

It's more like seeing things getting too big and getting away from me. A smaller grocery store — like a smaller town — is easier to handle. I'm not sure exactly what it is, but maybe I'll let you know. Maybe after I find the new A&P.

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