

Inside story

She fills tanks not tummies

By VICKI BURLOCK
Champion Reporter

Helen MacLeod is a woman whose hard work and entrepreneurial skills have netted her a lifetime of experiences — and a steady income.

Ms MacLeod sold Mountainview Restaurant recently, at the corner of Derry and Bronte roads, after a decade-long deal with her daughter. She subsequently bought a gas station only to refurbish it and consequently sell it.

Although it may seem like she does not know what she wants out of life, Ms MacLeod is a woman who loves a challenge and a good day's hard work and has chosen to be the saviour of wayward businesses.

"When my daughter was eight years old I bought Mountainview and promised I would sell it when she turned 18," said Ms MacLeod. "Her birthday was in July and I closed the deal to sell on May 6 and vacated in August."

"It was a good business, and I enjoyed it very much but I decided I wanted a change and I had to live up to my promise to my daughter."

The restaurant has been in existence since 1950 and was first licensed as a gas bar and variety store. When Ms MacLeod purchased the building it was run down and needed renovating. She changed the downstairs living quarters into more seating for a restaurant and business picked up with regulars including local police, businessmen and car dealers.

Many well-wishers gave Ms MacLeod dollar bills when she first opened the restaurant and patrons continued the trend while she owned the eatery. Bills were collected from all over the world and when she closed her doors, after 10 years of home-cooked meals, Ms MacLeod had acquired more than two picture frames full of money.

"The money has such a sentimental value that I have never counted it to see how much there is," she said.



Helen MacLeod, former owner of the Mountainview Restaurant, pumps gas at her new business, Helen's Sunoco. She has owned the gas station for three months but has already sold it to a mechanic. After working for many years, she plans on taking a much-needed vacation to Australia.

An apartment above the restaurant was home to Ms MacLeod and her two children, Millie, 18, and Jerry, 22, for the 10 years she owned it. Jerry recently moved to Australia and her daughter has just left to surprise him for a visit.

Now the owner of Helen's Sunoco on Guelph Line at Derry Road, she has added a gas pump and cleaned the office as well as the house which is on the two-acre property and included in the business.

"The station is operating full service now and I have sold it to a mechanic who will be able to utilize it better than I could."

"When I bought the gas station I wanted a challenge, but I never thought about how cold it would be pumping gas in the winter," she joked.

Of her many regular customers to the restaurant, Ken and Betty Lean, of Brampton, boast of being her most faithful.

"There isn't a better cook in Halton County," said Mr. Lean. "Ever since I first tasted Helen's

cooking, this has been my favourite restaurant."

The work at the gas bar involves long, hard hours, but Ms MacLeod is accustomed to working hard and said she doesn't mind the 12 hours a day she puts in seven days a week.

"Doris Grant has come over to help me many times and so has Linda Sacilotto who worked with me for nine years at the restaurant," said Ms MacLeod. "If you are nice to people, they return the favour some day."

Although she says it has been a good learning experience, Ms MacLeod is looking forward to a vacation after her many years in the workforce.

"I am looking forward to taking some time off. I might go down to Australia and surprise my kids for Christmas."

"But I'll be back. I would like work in the restaurant field again because I love to cook and I might as well do something I'm good at. I might even start up another restaurant."

Milton leaves hunt up to council

In all its wisdom, Milton Council has decided to leave the issue of the proposed four-day deer hunt in Halton's agreement forests in the hands of Halton Region.

In a rare decision which satisfies everybody, councillors decided Monday against altering its bylaws which specifically would permit a four-day deer hunt with shotguns and a two-month archery hunt.

Despite the lack of approval, council has in effect permitted the hunt.

A seven-year-old bylaw permits landowners in Ward Three to allow hunters, in season, onto their property for hunting purposes. All hunters must be invited by the landowner. Since Halton Region owns the agreement forests, it can post signs prohibiting hunting during those periods it doesn't want the hunt and then take them down during the four-day period it will allow it.

Halton Region had asked Milton to amend its bylaws to accommodate a hunt in the agreement forests. A change in the bylaw would shift the

Council briefs

responsibility for policing the hunt from the region to Milton.

Ward Three councillor Don McMillan summed up the feelings of most councillors when he said, "they didn't ask us last year when they prohibited it. Why should we do it now?"

Hunting is permitted in Milton only in Ward Three in season. It's banned in Wards One and Two. This inconsistency came about through regional government and the consolidation of former Milton (Ward Two), Trafalgar (Ward One) and Nassagaweya (Ward Three) bylaws. Nassagaweya had always permitted hunting.

Councillor Brian Penman has become adamant that Milton should retain control of its rightful half of

Ninth Line. Last week, councillors decided against entering into discussions with neighbouring Mississauga concerning the eventual passing of entire control of the boundary road from a shared basis to Mississauga.

Mr. Penman then expressed concerns that a planned housing development on the Peel side (entailing more than 600 homes) could cause drainage problems on the Milton side. He wanted to ensure Milton had input into the redevelopment of the road from two lanes to four.

These fears grew, he said, when he visited the area last week.

He said plans for the subdivision, as written on a poster in the area, show the redirection of a watercourse across Ninth Line into a ditch which comes close to impacting on farms on Eighth Line.

"I don't think we should build the Great Wall of China," he said, "but if those farms on Eighth Line are affected by an increase in floodwater, we should be sitting on the border

Court briefs

Beer store robbers convicted

Daniel Simon, 23, of 56 Fulton St., Milton and Christopher Norland, 23, of McMurchy Ave., Brampton were both found guilty in Milton District Court Criminal Division last week of robbery with the use of a firearm.

The charges stem from a robbery at the Brewers Retail store on Millside Dr. on Dec. 14.

Mr. Simon and Mr. Norland were convicted before a judge and jury. They are awaiting sentencing in the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre.

Thursday Sept. 25 is the date set for their sentencing.

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