It's Your **Business**

JANE MULLER

Not doing our Sunday best

If we weren't preoccupied with vacations, gardens and beaches we just might be in the grocery stores and shopping malls. We just might realize that they're now actually open Sundays.

Roll the calendar ahead a few months to December and this newfound shopping day could be as popular as "green" products. Perhaps timing is not the issue. After winning the right to shop on the seventh day, could it be that shoppers are battle weary or bored with the concept?

Be it lack of awareness, lack of money or ambition, the bottom line is that shopping on Sundays just isn't popular ... yet. Grocery store chains, the front line fighters for Sunday openings, aren't experiencing a stampede of grocery carts. The managers I spoke with said it's no problem getting people to work the tills, in fact they enjoy the slow pace.

But, "it's not the slowest day," says Ray Andela, manager of the local

He admits it's "hard to get a handle" on the popularity of the new shopping day because of the time of year. His "play it by ear" attitude is shared by other managers whose stores have been open the past two Sundays. There are customers and that's enough to keep them open.

Pete Casa of the IGA on Bronte Street is sure business will build when summer is over.

Quality Greens on Main Street and Jackson's Barn on Mill Street haven't jumped on the Sunday shopping bandwagon. Like many downtown businesses, Quality Greens is family-run and the owners refuse to work seven days a week.

Sandy Martin, manager of the Downtown Business Improvement Area said downtown merchants haven't changed their minds since voting 89 per cent against opening Sunday in a poll taken two years ago.

"They're not interested in working seven days a week," said Ms Martin. The Comic Express, a dealer in used and new books, was exempt from the old Sunday closing laws and applied to be allowed to open.

"Our customers asked us to be open," says Eric Walton, owner of the Main Street shop.

Opening Sundays is not new at Campbellville Country Market. The grocery store is located in a tourist area and has enjoyed a booming business throughout the weekend since it opened more than a year ago.

The doors of Milton Mall were open last Sunday and 23 of the 60 mall merchants followed suit. There were sales made, according to mall manager Maryanne McDougald, but the mall wasn't exactly crowded.

"We're the only mall in town and we like to offer the service. You can't deny the right of people to open. It's not the best time of the year to be initiating a new concept and there hasn't been enough time to educate the consumer," she explained.

We'll have to wait and see if Sunday is ever the right time.

The Goal

Paul Henderson's reaction to his winning goal in the 1972 Canada-Russia hockey series is captured in a limited-edition print by Rocco Baviera. The original, from which 1,250 prints have been produced, has been selected to hang in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

The prints can be ordered locally from Dan Tielemans. His brother Tony Tielemans is promoting the prints through his TRIAD Publishing company in Nevada. He was in town recently to get some local ink and left the local distribution to his brother. Dan can be reached at the family business, Tieleman's Interiors, 878-3435 or at home, 876-2578.

Tax bite is unacceptable: Krantz

 from REGION on page 1 He's a strong advocate of keeping

the tax increase near the "provincial rate of inflation, which right now is about five or six per cent."

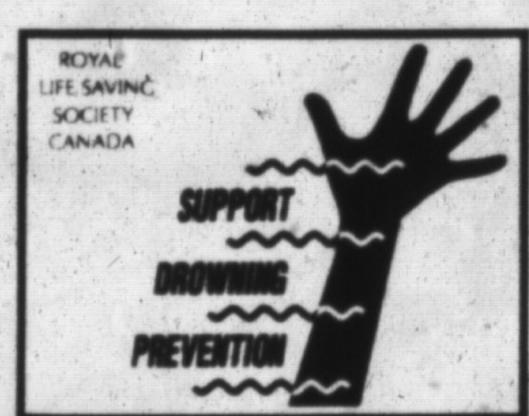
The staff report outlines areas where financial impacts will likely be felt next year.

A more detailed report will follow in about a month with a recommended target to be used by staff in preparing next year's budget.

Last year's budget increase of 10.7 per cent caused a small tax revolt when regional council balked at the Halton Region Conservation Author-

ity's request of 17.6 per cent increase. Although council had no jurisdiction to alter the authority's budget, it decided it would only pass on an 11 per cent incréase because it felt the Province was responsible for the rest.

That dispute between Halton and the Province is still not settled.





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