

Pine Orchard General Store Serves rural hamlet

PINE ORCHARD — Is the village store a thing of the past? Has it become an anachronism in this age of super markets and super highways?

Art Halbot, who has two, one in Sharon and the other in Pine Orchard, says no. Not with all that much conviction, however.

It's been nearly three weeks now since he moved into his new store in Pine Orchard and he admits that business has been "pretty slow." As a result, store hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., instead of from 9 to 9 as he had originally proposed.

What business there is, is mostly cigarettes, milk, bread, chocolate bars and pop, items purchased on a casual basis and not enough to jam a shopping cart with.

Not that the Pine Orchard store has that great variety of either the big markets, or the old village store, with its endless bins full of everything from hazel nuts to hardware. But he does carry the essentials, and advertises his milk as being at the same price as the super markets.

There are also "farm fresh eggs" in the cooler. "I think there's a future," says owner Halbot. He said the old store disappeared three years ago, but all the indications before he moved in were that a new one would be welcomed.

The store itself is bright and spacious, located next door to a beauty salon, one of two businesses in the two-unit complex. It's also at the far west end of the village, and, as Halbot says, not everybody is aware of it as yet.

A check with some people in the area, revealed that, although they had yet to visit the new store, they knew it was there and would be using it.

"We've been in the habit of going to Newmarket," said one resident, less than a mile away down the road from Halbot's, but we feel the need of a store here.



Art instructor wins acclaim

Stouffville artist, John Roberts, shows a copy of the painting that has been selected for showing in Ontario and Quebec. See story, page A7.

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PASCAL CORRECTION To This Weeks FLYER

On page 1 of this week's flyer, Natural finish birch stools should have read: Varnished maple stools.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

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I am delighted that Fran is actively involved in assisting our residents with their real estate needs. Please call Fran at any time. Res. 640-1142. Bus. 640-3131. Gerry Meharg Ltd., Realtor.