

# Born To Shop

Deb Bodine Champion



## Flea market has bargains for everyone

I have made a discovery that is destined to become my favorite weekend activity, even surpassing the other mind-blowing experiences that crowd my scintillating Saturdays and Sundays — like laundry and watching Mr. C snooze on the couch.

I can only assume that it has been a carefully calculated cover-up contrived by Mr. C that I haven't previously discovered the Big Flea Market at Stouffville Sales Barn. He knows me too well.

Everything from whoopee cushions to fine oak furniture, party dresses to pet supplies can be found at discount prices at the Big Flea Market. Vendors crowd the building, upstairs and down, with the best they have to offer (a depressing thought in some cases, but there is definitely enough to make the adventure worthwhile).

One vendor was selling good quality party dresses for children at \$13.99 for the wee ones and \$20 to \$23.99 for the older girls. Included in the selection were velveteens and laces, perfect for the holiday season. A plaid lace-trimmed cotton dress I bought for my daughter in a moment of weakness was also available — at half the price I paid. (Even I blow sometimes. But don't tell you-know-who.)

Velveteen suits for infants, complete with bow tie and vest are \$15.99.

A walk through the barn reveals a long list of bargains. Socks for men, women and boys are just \$9.99 for a dozen pairs. Oversized Mickey Mouse sweatshirts sell for just \$8 each. Cotton shorts with a Mickey Mouse print are just \$10.

An oversized (rather anorexic-looking) mechanical Mickey Mouse sits in a chair and captivates the tiniest visitors to the sales barn by chatting with them and offering them a lollipop.

Lurking in the shadows of a clothing rack in an adjacent stall is the source of Mickey's voice speaking into a microphone.

(Truly a man of vision and good taste, he approached me as I perused his racks and asked "Have you always been this gorgeous?" to which I replied an emphatic "Yes".)

At one booth I found a nice selection of children's books, including Beatrix Potter hardcovers, such as The Tale of Jemima

Puddleducks, for just \$2.49, suggested list price \$5.95. The Treasury of Literature for Children, a large colorfully illustrated anthology, was \$8.99.

Christmas albums, by many leading recording artists, can be purchased for \$6.99. I even unearthed an album that I had when I was a small child, with performers such as Red Skelton, Gene Autry and Captain Kangaroo crooning the tunes. (Not quite antique, but painfully close.)

Unpackaged new toys are a terrific buy. Large Care Bears are \$8, and Care Bear Cousin Cubs are \$5. Pound Puppies start at \$5 for the newborn size to \$25 for the barking model. Huggabunch dolls (boy only) are \$10.

For the Star Wars aficionado, action figures from the various movies are just \$7.75 each, or 10 for \$5. Play tents that sell for \$42.99 in a current catalogue are just \$24.95.

For \$12.95 you can purchase a personalized storybook. Using a computer, the text in a variety of storybooks can be custom designed to include the names of people you know. Titles include My Christmas Wish and The Magic Dreidel.

Home decorators will find a myriad of items to choose from: silk floral arrangements, placemats, chair cushions, lace curtains — even stereos. An attractive camel-back sofa, loveseat and chair ensemble in a floral with dark grey background is just \$995. A rectangular oak table with four press back chairs is \$799.

Adjoining the barn itself is a National Sports Centre outlet, featuring many good buys on sports equipment, and activewear. 1986 skiwear is currently 50 per cent off, bringing jackets that normally retail for \$224 to \$112. Sweatshirts featuring the store's logo are just \$9.99, as are the children's sweatshirts with the Coke logo.

Selected mens' and ladies' track pants are reduced to \$14.99. Ladies nylon fleecewear is just \$9.99 each piece. Dolfin reversible sweatshirts are currently \$14.99, regularly up to \$44.99, and will drop to \$9.99 in the Christmas Big 40 Sale Dec. 8, 9 and 10.

All this, and I never even went upstairs.

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 Kraft peanut butter smooth and crunchy 500 g jar <b>1.69</b>	 E.D. Smith garden and tomato clam cocktail 28 oz. jar <b>.99</b>	 Ontario fresh pork side ribs lb. <b>1.89</b> kg 4.17	 Brandt's kielbassa sausage lb. <b>3.69</b> kg 8.14
 Nabob Tradition and Summit ground coffee 369 g package <b>2.69</b>	 Hostess potato chips 200 g bag <b>1.49</b>	 Mr. Citrus citrus punch 2 litre kg <b>1.29</b>	 Brandt's assorted cold cuts kg 8.79 <b>3.99</b>
 Italpasta domestic pasta 500 g bag <b>.79</b>	 Uncle Ben's converted rice 2 kg bag <b>3.59</b>	 Fresh Sealtest cottage cheese 1%, 2%, 4% 500 g lb. <b>1.59</b>	 Danish mild havarti lb. <b>4.54</b> kg 9.99
 McCormick's puffs and pudding puffs 400 g bag <b>1.99</b>	 Hunt's tomato sauce 28 oz. tin <b>1.19</b>	 Plk-A-Fresh frozen peas, corn and mixed vegetables 1 kg bag <b>1.49</b>	 Canadian old cheddar lb. <b>3.99</b> kg 8.79
<p>SAVE 30¢ WITH THIS COUPON</p> <p><b>Philadelphia</b></p> <p>plain cream cheese                  250 g package  <b>1.49</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Special price without coupon...\$1.79 Limit one per customer Only at Coupon expires Dec. 5/87</p>	<p>SAVE 30¢ WITH THIS COUPON</p> <p><b>HUNT'S</b></p> <p>Thick and rich spaghetti sauce                  28 oz. tin  <b>.99</b></p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Special price without coupon...\$1.29 Limit one per customer Only at Coupon expires Dec. 5/87</p>	<p>McCain's french fries                  straight, crinkle and julienne                  1.5 kg bag  <b>1.99</b></p>	<p>Fresh Longo's own homemade Italian style pork sausage (hot and mild)                  lb. <b>2.26</b> kg 4.99</p>