

LIVING

FOR SALE

One family's junk is another's treasure

BY BRUCE STAPLEY
Correspondent

Sue Edlin walks toward her car with the wooden frame of a decades-old deck chair slung over her shoulder.

"I remembered that my grandmother had one," she said of her impulse purchase from a yard sale being held by Markham seniors Pat and George Beatty. "I'll cover it with canvas and use it at my house."

Edlin is typical of many people for whom yard sales are a way of life on a Saturday morning. Her Markham home has long been the destination of an endless assortment of items picked up from sales through the years.

"My house is filled with garage sale things. My kids have grown up with yard sale stuff. I buy everything from toys to antique items."

While some yard sale faithful are simply out to spend a dollar or two on a kitchen gadget, a used videocassette or whatever else pops up, others go with a specific goal in mind.

"I look for things like furniture, or antique things, stuff that's expensive but you wouldn't go out and buy at stores," said veteran yard sale patron Silvana Mykijewicz as she studies a selection of antique glass.

Others see yard sales as the perfect place to pick up quality used clothing for their children in an age when designer labels have rendered kids' clothes unaffordable for many.

"Clothes are so much cheaper at a yard sale," according to Diane Wannop.

Wannop, who claims to have decorated her entire house with furnishings purchased at yard sales, said you have to be organized to take full advantage of what's available. "We go through the paper looking for yard sale ads and make a route map. You see the same people, the regulars, all the time."

Her mother, Rosemarie Wannop, also sees yard sales as an inexpensive outing for she and her grandchildren. "I come with my grandkids to see them have fun and get them little toys."

For some parents, the yard sale provides an ideal classroom for teaching their young chil-

dren the value of money.

"Will you pay 10 cents for that horse?" a woman asked as her preschool daughter admires a plastic toy.

While the average shopper is simply looking for items for personal use, a growing number of yard sale patrollers are using these sales to buy stock for their own yard sales, or as a cheap means of accumulating inventory for their business enterprises.

Stouffville's John Carrigan has been finding a market for his yard sale purchases for years, sometimes selling the items at the Stouffville Country Market.

"If I see a sale going on as I drive by I've got to go back," Carrigan said. "It's in my blood."

Don Dumond, another yard sale regular, suggested there are huge profits to be made buying and selling goods purchased at yard sales. He said he's come to know who the dealers are, pointing to a man who has just bought two storm doors at a yard sale on Stouffville's South Street.

"He takes them for \$20 and sells them for \$50," Dumond scoffed.

Dumond, who is president of the Ballantrae and District Lions, said he often uses yard sales as a way to find inexpensive items for needy people in the area.

Most people making purchases at yard sales understand there's no going back once you've made your purchase. But there is the odd exception. A man examining an industrial grade sewing machine with a \$10 price tag at a yard sale in Aurora just can't make up his mind.

"He wanted to take it home for a week and try it out," said Tom Norwell.

Others are simply hesitant. A shopper makes three trips back to a yard sale at Markham's Rouge Haven Way before finally agreeing to shell out \$15 for a set of weights.

Norwell and his neighbours on Catherine Avenue and adjoining Fleury Street have combined to hold a street sale.

See BARGAIN, page 22.



Centre: Francis Kelly examines a turntable. Above: Barb Slattery decides it's time to toss out her old albums.

PHOTOS/SJOERD WITTEVEEN and CHERYL JOHNSON



LAWN SALES CURBED

Looking to hold a yard sale on your residential property? There are few restrictions, provided the sale is a one shot deal and is not a front for a full-time commercial enterprise.

While most York Region towns ask their residents to limit yard sales to a reasonable number throughout the year, Whitchurch-Stouffville restricts the sales to two annually, per location, insisting the duration of the sale not exceed two days.

Neither Newmarket, Markham, Richmond Hill nor East Gwillimbury cap the number of sales per residence. But most municipalities draw the line at what they consider to be an excess of sales.

"If they're holding them every weekend then we'd look into it," said Debbie McCullough of the East Gwillimbury bylaw enforcement department.

"It can't be continuous," said Rick Magee of the Richmond Hill bylaw office. "It's OK as long as they show normal good will, like holding a sale every spring to get rid of junk."

Whitchurch-Stouffville's Keith Saunders said he's always on the look out for those who would turn yard sales into a business venture. "Some people are pros. They go out and buy up stuff from other yard sales and auctions then sell them at their own sales."

There is no obligation to charge sales tax at a yard sale. Nor is a vendor's permit required, according to Christian Bode of the Communications Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Finance. "You're okay as long as there's only an occasional sale of household goods." But it's a different story for someone who is holding a yard sale every weekend in the summer. "It would then be considered a commercial enterprise."

SEE NATURALLY WITH YOUR OWN EYES IN SEVEN DAYS!

Just as in many other fields of endeavor, Eye Care is not what it used to be. There have been enormous strides made in the area of control or reduction of nearsightedness. Nearsightedness is when your eyes can see by themselves at near distances and it is blurred when you look far.

A remarkable breakthrough for people with nearsightedness is the science of Advanced Orthokeratology. For people with the appropriate amount of nearsightedness and astigmatism, a custom fitted pair of semi-

rigid, gas permeable contact lenses, can improve your sight dramatically. Enough improvement within hours or a few days, usually LESS than seven days, to be able to see clearly in the distance, even while driving with NO glasses or contact lenses AT ALL! The lenses need to be worn only at night for a few months, depending upon the severity of your problem. After about 3-6 months, the lenses may be worn less often, such as alternate nights or less, again depending upon the degree of your nearsightedness.

The first major advantage of Advanced Orthokeratology is that one can see very well usually without any glasses or contact lenses

ALL DAY and not have any contact lenses bother you in the daytime. As any contact lens wearer will tell you, contact lenses, whether soft or hard, can often get very dry, gritty, blurry, etc. during their waking hours. With this program, you do NOT have to wear any eyewear and still see 20/20 or nearly as well without any glasses or contact lenses.

Another significant advantage of Advanced Orthokeratology is that this is an entirely NON-SURGICAL program. This means that you cannot permanently suffer from a surgical result gone wrong! As the eyes age, they inevitably change. As this change continues, you continue to wear these lenses

as retainers to prevent deterioration in your nearsightedness. The frequency of wearing the retainers varies directly with the severity of your nearsightedness.

Since Advance Orthokeratology produces the best results with low or moderate amount of nearsightedness, it is highly recommended that this program commence when you first start to wear eyeglasses, if at all possible. Children are usually well suited to this program since that is when one usually starts wear eyeglasses. Orthokeratology is also very well suited for adults with the low or moderate amount of nearsightedness.

Dr. H.H. Walji • 471 EYES (3937)

