

# Curious, serious bidders flock to farm auction

Everything including the kitchen sink

Such was the myriad of items placed row on row at an auction sale Saturday on the property of Walter and Marie Brillinger in Gormley.

With farm acreage now at a premium, serious bidders and curious onlookers descended on the site, anxious to buy and behold whatever the auction had to offer.

Added to this was the fact many possessions had been handed down through several generations, making the event all the more appealing.

The original owners were Peter and Adeline Brillinger, followed by Roy and Ida, then Walter and Marie.

Walter, 80, is one of seven children. Three sisters, Vera Hall, Milly Sider and Velma Brillinger, all live in Stouffville. A brother, Eldon Brillinger, resides in Old Gormley. A sister, Jean, and a brother, Ross, are deceased.

Walter attended S.S. No. 7, Public School, Markham. After Grade 8, he stayed home to help his father on the farm.

Marie (Vanderbent), received her formal education at German Mills Public School and Richmond Hill High. They have two sons, Stephen in Gilford and William in Hawaii, and a daughter, Shirley (Davisson), in Indiana. There are nine grandchildren.

Of interest is the fact Jean (Muirhead) Deverill, now of Stouffville, taught all four Vanderbent children, including Marie, at German Mills.

When progress, so-called, came to Gormley, Walter and Marie found themselves in the centre of an advancing juggernaut called Hwy. 404 and the Gormley bypass.

The farm house was moved and the barn was demolished.

Walter and Marie resided for a time in the re-located house, then in a new five-bedroom home built by Marie's brother, Bruce Vanderbent, on the site where the sale was held.

A new Alliance church is proposed for part of this property.

In 1967, the house, where the Brillinger family was raised was badly damaged by fire. The structure was eventually demolished. Several items sold at Saturday's sale were saved.

Although Walter and Marie retain possession of the Gormley home until May 31, they've already moved to Parkview Suites in Stouffville. They attend Oak Ridges Brethren in Christ Church.

The sale, by Gary Hill Auctions, began at 10 a.m. and concluded shortly after 5 p.m. Two rings were required.

Many unique items passed over the auction



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

block including a Heintzman pump organ, originally sold by the Bell Organ Company in Toronto. The purchasers were Lee and Ann Winger of Kitchener. Their bid was \$110.

A hand-hewn cradle, crafted by Josh Horner of Richmond Hill, brought \$70.

A pedal-operated Singer sewing machine sold for \$30.

Five signboards from the Oak Ridges Brethren in Christ Church went for \$2 each. A church pew brought \$150.

The larger of two John Deere tractors brought \$11,200; the other, \$3,600. A riding mower sold for \$2,700 and an antique John Watson bag cart brought \$220.

A Massey-Harris walking plow sold for \$200 and a John Deere two-furrowed plow brought \$625.

A six-drawer dresser sold for \$1,000 and a wicker chair for \$240.

A dining room chandelier, badly damaged in the 1967 fire, was purchased by a Port Perry man, intent on repairing and installing it in his refurbished church home.

A total of 1,198 items were sold by auctioneers Gary Hill of Port Perry, Clair Whetham of Aurora, Norm Webster of Georgetown and Tom Green of Uxbridge.

The Brillingers looked on intently as memories, retained over several decades, passed into mostly foreign hands.

"It's been difficult for my wife," Walter said. "But we don't have room for everything."

Both Walter and Marie are held in high regard by long-time Gormley residents and former neighbours, including Willis Wideman, now of Kurtzville, near Listowel.

"You couldn't do business with a better guy," he said.

On a nostalgic note, a small wooden plaque lay virtually unnoticed on a display stand, amid other miscellaneous items. The inscription read: "God has allowed us to share something beautiful together"

It sold for \$2. Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

## OUR SHEPHERD'S PIE

From our frozen section this week, we're featuring our Shepherd's Pie, which to some is comfort food at its finest. We use sauteed Spanish Onion, our medium ground chuck and freshly peeled Idaho or P.E.I. potatoes — mashed.

You just need to warm it. Reg. \$10.95 ea. Serves 3-4

25% OFF THIS WEEK

## FINI BALSAMIC VINEGAR

This is a great all-round Balsamic that's a good seasoning as well as being great in salads. It is one of about four types that I have in my cupboard at home; this one's for salads and dipping, the squat gold-labelled bottle is a condiment, the angular red wax-topped bottle is for my little girl and me when we have steak, and the small bottle of 35-year-old is for when it's just me.

250ml size. From Modena. Reg. \$10.95

25% OFF THIS WEEK

## CURRIED CHICKEN SOUP

When you read the ingredients of this soup, you'll get hungry — and that's when it's still frozen in the container. Wait till it's warm and locking at you right in the eye.

Reg. \$5.99 Serves 3-4

25% OFF THIS WEEK

## COLDWATER SWORDFISH FROM NEW ZEALAND

Like the warm-water variety, it has a firm, meaty texture, perhaps a bit lighter in colour, and a similarly mild flavour.

The big shipment arrives Friday.

19.95 LB. THIS WEEK

## WHAT'S NEW IN! PRODUCE!

It's the second week of the local Asparagus season, all looking good, including the purple variety. It's too early for cherries yet, we wait for the Bings as a rule. The Packham pears from Argentina are presently really good. Perlette grapes are just starting, in both red and green, Haden mangoes are in peak form, and nice West-Coast potatoes are in. Did I mention the apricots? They're good! Peaches and nectarines need a bit more time. All in all, good times!

## WHAT'S HAPPENIN' OUTSIDE!

We've received our first lot of Mandevillas in both pink and white, a few hanging baskets as well, some Passion Flowers, a few Clematis, and hopefully by Friday some Hibiscus standards and bushes.

We've begun the hanging fibre baskets of mixed flowers in both 12" and 14" sizes, Bacopa and Scavola and a smaller size of Lobelia.

The really large shade hangers come on Thursday, as well as Fuschia hangers. Patio pots have arrived in force (and colour), some window boxes for sun or shade, and the first shipment of Kong Coleus has come.

More large Rosemary pots and a refill of Elf Hydrangeas are in and a good assortment now of the smaller plants for you do-it-yourselfers.

A shipment of Kimberly Ferns arrives to-day — in either 8" or 10" pot size.

— It's all good out there!

## OKTOBERFEST SAUSAGES

We'll be making lots of these beauties this week. What makes them beautiful? All sausages have a certain component of water, some more, some less. For these, we use beer, and a few robust spices that collectively make them great.

Reg. \$3.99/lb

25% OFF THIS WEEK

## HAAS AVOCADOS

These are our usual 'size 12' avocados which have lots of 'meat' to them. If you're planning to use them this weekend, get them early and ripen them ahead of time — they're usually on the harder side when you get them at our store.

From Mexico.

1.29 EACH

## AN UPGRADE!

We are changing over our cash desk equipment to an updated version with easier-to-read receipts — and probably faster service.

## WHAT'S BAKING THIS WEEK

We've turned our bakery upside-down this week — but truthfully it's hard to tell the difference given the usual commotion and bustle going on there. We'll be making .....

• **UPSIDE-DOWN CAKES** — there will be five types available. First, the original and ever popular pineapple (fresh cut) with maraschino cherries; sour cherry with a hint of almond; wild blueberry that's been sparked-up with a twist of lemon; raspberry, good on its own; and peach that's been elevated with a touch of orange zest.

We make these in two sizes ..... \$13.95 & \$19.95 ea.

• **— AND SINCE APRICOTS ARE NOW IN SEASON** we'll be making some of our Frangipane squares with fresh apricots — over-the-top good!

Regular ..... \$9.95 ea.

All these items will be featured at ..... 25% OFF WHILE THEY LAST

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

Hours:

Mon. 11:00-7:00 - Tues. Thurs. 9:00-7:00 - Fri. 9:00-8:00

Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

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