

## SWEET'S FOOD MARKET ENTERS A NEW ERA



1940 WHEN RAY SWEET WAS THE OWNER

The year was 1938 when Ray Sweet decided to leave his farm in Sweet's Corners and buy a store in Seeley's Bay. He purchased the building from Mrs. Edwin Putnam who, since 1902, had operated a bakery and then a grocery store and ice cream parlour with her husband.

Mr Sweet owned the store for only a few months when a disastrous fire destroyed almost the entire building. He rebuilt it and continued selling groceries until 1945, when he sold the business to his son, Ralph, on his return from the navy.

Ralph and Helen Sweet remodeled the store in 1947. In 1948 they added a frozen food locker plant and an apartment. The store became self serve in 1955 and was remodeled once more in 1961. They continued to operate the business until 1967 when George and Erma Roantree became full time managers.

Effective January 1, 1989 another change has taken place. George and Erma Roantree are retiring and Allan Roantree has become full time manager. Peggy Sweet-McCumber has assumed the position of



SWEET'S FOOD MARKET TODAY

Secretary-Treasurer. Allan and Peggy are both grandchildren of Ray Sweet "the third generation".

Ralph and Helen Sweet would like to officially thank George and Erma for managing the store for the past 21 years. The Roantrees are both staying involved until the transition is well in place.

The Sweets would also like to thank the residents of Seeley's Bay and surrounding area for their patronage during the past 40 years and hope that the store will continue to serve their needs.

Dear Editor,  
I am writing in behalf of the Child Care Resource Centre and Mobile Toy Library which is a program of Family Focus/Leeds and Grenville.

The Child Care Resource Centre runs a Child Care Registry. Parents or caregivers can call us or drop by the office at any time. The registry provides parents in need of child care with information on child care and the screening of potential caregivers, plus a list of names of potential informal child care providers. We try to link people in terms of location, age of children, number of children, hours per day and week, and in-home or take-out care. We are not able to screen the care providers who register with us, so we send each parent an information package designed to help them select a caregiver who will offer quality care to their children. We stress this responsibility to parents. We provide each caregiver with information on important aspects of child care such as safety, nutrition, discipline and scheduling. This free service is available at Family Focus in Brockville by calling 345-3792 and from any other location in Leeds/Grenville at 1-800-267-4406.

In addition to the registry, the Child Care Resource Centre provides free drop-ins for caregivers, babysitters and parents of pre-school children. We hold a Friday morning drop-in at the Family

Focus office at 32 Wall Street from 9:30 till noon. We have a variety of toys available to children from large climbing and riding toys to puzzles, blocks and baby toys. We also provide paints and easels, playdough, and an assortment of craft items, musical instruments and activities. Adults and children enjoy the informal atmosphere over coffee and snacks. We are available to discuss child-rearing concerns at any time and offer support and information on problems or issues concerning children. Workshops are scheduled throughout the year on diverse topics. We welcome input from caregivers and parents on subject matter for these, as needs change with the age of the children. A drop-in is also held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at St. John de Bosco Church on Windsor Drive in the north end. The Church has graciously welcomed caregivers to meet every Tuesday at that location if they so desire, although our workers cannot be there to supervise on these alternate Tuesdays.

Play is the work of childhood. With this in mind, a Mobile Toy Lending Library has been created. This is a service for rural Leeds/Grenville and currently stops in nine communities: Athens, Cardinal, Prescott, Gananoque, Toledo, Kemptville, Westport, Elgin and Seeleys Bay. There is a nominal fee of \$3.00 per year which helps pay the cost of maintenance and repair on toys. We categorize our toys under such functions as discrimination, co-ordination, expression, fun and games, activity toys (tricycles, stilts, etc.) and baby toys. We also have records, tapes and resource books for parents and caregivers. Our catalogues describe each toy and its value and age group, and we've tried to provide a picture so that parents can make a selection that will be appropriate for the child. Here again we prefer to maintain a casual drop-in atmosphere where members can chat, play with the children or discuss child related concerns with us. Members may borrow a toy for each child in their care and a book for their own use. Stops are once a month in each community. We have built up a file of free pamphlets and information sheets on various aspects of child care and

development for members to take home.

Our aim is to support those who care for children in their home, whether parent or caregiver. Our program of drop-ins and toy stops contributes to the self-esteem of care providers. Child care is a vital service. The majority of the service is being provided by the informal market (80-85% in Canada). We want to acknowledge that fact and provide informal caregivers with support so they can in turn provide the best possible service for our children.

The Leeds/Grenville Child Care Resource Centre is guided by the Early Childhood Advisory Committee. We welcome new members to the committee and would like to have representation from all areas in Leeds/Grenville. Anyone interested in children and child care programs can join. Call Debbie Nesbitt-Munroe at the Child Care Resource Centre, Family Focus - 345-3792 or 1-800-267-4406.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Nesbitt-Munroe  
Co-ordinator  
Mobile Toy Lending Library  
/ Resource Centre