

February 22, 2007

Moving, uplifting tale

By RITA DEMONTIS

I recently moved offices here at the Toronto Sun, from one end of the building to the other, but I was faced with the overwhelming task of packing up more than 30 years of my life here at the paper.

It was daunting, to say the extreme least. So Sun building operations uber-gal Sue Selby promised to get me help -- and help she did.

She contacted Halton Region's Two Men And A Truck home and business movers and I thought the marines had suddenly appeared -- a bunch of really good-looking guys showed up, all nicely dressed in black (ninja movers?), and very carefully packed, wrapped and hauled boxes upon boxes of my stuff.

Even their moving boxes are neat (I took one home and my cat has now made it her own personal condominium).

They supplied boxes and packing supplies and the movers are trained and in uniform. They set up my furniture, unwrapped delicate pieces of my favourite stuff, moved hundreds of books -- and did it all the while smiling, laughing, joking, in record time, and without leaving behind a mess.

No request was too little or too big, and I was truly sorry to see them go. I asked if they'd come over and vacuum my home!

No move is too big or too small, says general manager Wendell Costello, and the company can move anywhere from anywhere.

The spirit of the company is the "Grandma Rule," says Costello -- treat everyone the way you would want your grandma treated. The company prefers to do free in-house quotes so that they can determine the client's exact needs, and then provide instant quotes via a portable software program.

The process documents everything, with a point-by-point breakdown.

When I called Wendell to get more information, I spoke with his trusty office staff manager Audley Martin, who actually joined the company "after I hired them when I moved from my own home. I was so impressed with how they handled the furniture and everything else, including how they treated my family, that I offered to pitch in and help around the office.

"I came from 35 years in the computer industry -- and I'm having a great time here."

Two Men And A Truck is a franchise operation, independently owned and operated, and we dealt with the Oakville office.

- Two Men And A Truck, 2140 Winston Park Dr., Unit 22, Oakville, ON, 905-635-3035, wendell.costello@twomenandtruck.ca.

I thought I was having problems with my eyes. The problem was with my car -- and the months of winter gunk clinging to it. No matter how much windshield fluid I used, everything was a big blur.

I swear I thought I heard my poor Altima whimpering in pain, so I sought relief -- and fast -- at my local car wash. The good folks at Crosstown Kingsway Car Wash on Bloor St. W., to be exact, a neighbourhood institution since 1952.

I opted for the inside and out package, vacuuming included, for around \$20 (more, if you include wax and some other details).

My car was just beaming -- and I could see through the windows again. Plus, the sight of all these men swarming my car with cleaning rags is like a fantasy come true. I wonder if they do housework?

Crosstown Kingsway specializes in full-service, including scotch-guarding, simonizing, interior shampooing, motor shampooing and more.

And the best news is Crosstown, like other reputable car washes, works with environmental groups to ensure the used water is cleaned (dirty water drains into sanitary drains) and recycled. Not true when we wash our cars on our driveways.

(You have to ask yourself where does all the dirty water go after you finish hosing off all the dirt? It flows back into our creeks, rivers and lakes. This should help remove any nagging guilt you may have about getting someone else to clean your car!)

- Crosstown Kingsway Car Wash, 3005 Bloor St. W. (at Royal York Rd.), 416-231-8908, Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Second location at 1467 Bathurst St. at St. Clair, same hours and prices.

It's simply called the Warehouse Outlet and the company specializes in thousands of books, software, music, video and computer games plus tons of audio/video and computer accessories -- and even jelly beans! (There's a 1 kilo bag for only \$2.) Video games as little as \$5, VHSs for \$1, boxsets around \$10 and so much more.

The company recently had a grand opening and it's a great place to spend a couple of hours browsing through everything as there's something for everyone.

- Warehouse Outlet, 1330 Eglinton Ave. E. (at Dixie Rd., near the Scotia Bank), 905- 629-8117, Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. -Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. bookandsoftwaresale.com.

Hickory Farms is the delicious name in gift basket goodies and the company's have a major clearance sale -- up to 80% -- on everything from gift baskets and boxes to pantry items, meats, salmons, jams and jellies, beverages, candies, cookies, dried fruits and snacks and much more. Some items have a shelf life date coming up fast, so you'll want to get out and get in on the goods. Plenty to choose from, and some sale items are also available on the online service order.

- Hickory Farms Clearance Sale, 107 Corstate Ave. (Jane and Rutherford area), 1-800-625-6612, Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., closed weekends.

And the big The Giant Warehouse Sale and Action Inventory is coming to an end this weekend, offering major savings on everything from toiletries to cosmetics, tools to shower heads, coffee makers to the famous Swiss Army watches and Victorinox cutlery. The sale's on today to Sunday

- Giant Warehouse and Action Inventory Warehouse Sale, Feb. 22-25, 555 Denison St., Markham (off Esna Park Dr. and Steelcase Rd. area), giantwarehousesales.com, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

We're coming to the end of the big Blowout Extravaganza Clothing Warehouse Sale in Mississauga. Major savings on name brands like Juicy Couture, Parasuco, Buffalo, Guess, Vintage Soul and much more for both men and women.

Great door crasher specials and still plenty to choose from. Sale's on until Feb. 28.

- Blowout Extravaganza Clothing Warehouse Sale, 6970 Edwards Blvd., Mississauga (off Derry Rd., east of Hurontario), Mon.-Wed. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thu.-Fri. 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Speaking of clothing, I can't think of a nicer thing to wear than a ball cap and T-shirt supporting our troops. Very smart looking (see picture on this page), the items --the cap is only \$9.99 and the T-shirt is \$12.99 -- not only tell the world we're supporting our troops, but a portion of the sale of each item goes directly to Morale and Welfare programs that benefit Canadian Forces members and their families.

The items are available at all Sears retail stores across Canada. Wear your clothing proudly!

For more information, visit cfpsa.com/supportourtroops.

Got a shopping tip? We'd love to hear it! E-mail me your finds at rita.demontis@sunmedia.ca. Listen for further deals weekend mornings at 8:50 a.m. on the John Donabie Show, CFRB 1010, cfrb.com.