

Compton's I.G.A. - Family says Thank You to community, and goodbye to store

To our Friends, Customers and Staff, past and present.

It is with mixed emotions that I write this open letter of Thanks. By now, you probably know that after 59 years of the Compton Family serving this great community, Karen and I have decided to make a career move and accept an offer to sell the grocery business to Sobeys. This huge decision was made over many months, after much soul-searching and many discussions with some close and special people.

To them, we say Thank you. My head and heart are finally at peace with each other.

As a young boy growing up in small town Bradford, my dream was always to follow in my father's and grandfather's footsteps, and become "Mr. I.G.A." In 1974, at 12 years old, my quest officially began, working Tuesdays after school at the store with my Dad.

As a young adult, a Professor once told our class that if we started our own business we would have a 75% chance of surviving 3 years. Taking over a second-generation business, the odds would be

about 50%, and a third generation, 3%. As a member of the latter group, I knew I had to work even harder to reach my goals. In 1993, with my wife at my side, I took over the family business and set out to beat the odds.

In 1997, the dream of building a successful new store, as both my Dad and grandfather did, became my mission. In November of 1999, this too was accomplished. With the help and hard work of many people over the last 3 1/2 years, we have taken the store to #1, with back-to-back 5 Star Awards for Excellence.

But time moves forward and things change. Over the last 10 months, this has been the case for Karen and me. It was time to look at alternatives.

I have always believed that if you can't lead with enthusiasm, positive thinking and passion, it is time to stop leading. Anything else would not be fair, to our employees, our customers, our creditors, my family or myself. I step aside with no hard feelings, no regrets, and no doubts about the future.

I am truly proud of the team that we have

assembled over the last 10 years, and also of the special few employees that I inherited from my Dad and grandfather. Thank you for having the confidence in me, and allowing me the time to fill some pretty big shoes.

Over the years, we have also had the privilege of seeing hundreds of boys and girls blossom into confident young adults, better prepared to take on the world. I hope I have done

Danube Seniors Leisure Centre

The Danube Seniors Centre has recently started a fitness program for men, held on Fridays at 11:45 a.m. It's a great way to help meet cardiovascular needs, and get in shape for the golf season! Come on out to the Danube Centre, 715 Simcoe Rd., or call 905-775-0612, for information on this and other activities.

COMING EVENTS...

A Free Seniors Health Seminar on Thursday, June 12th - on **West Nile Virus**, presented by **Yen Phan**, Public Health Nurse with the Simcoe County District Health Unit. Starts at 11 a.m. Learn more about this timely topic. Lunch will be available for \$3, following

my part to help them realize their own dreams. The only time I felt I was getting older, was when I would hire a student that I had known since he or she was a baby, shopping with their parents.

To the thousands of loyal customers, many of whom have witnessed my journey over the last 30 years, again we thank you - and thank you to the hundreds who took the time to share kind words and memories. Some

the presentation, which will provide a general overview, info on protection and prevention. All welcome.

A Tribute to Elvis, Roy Orbison and others... with Terry Chisholm, Sat., June 14th at 7 p.m., and Sunday June 15th at 2 p.m. Tickets \$10 - reserved tickets must be picked up by noon on June 5th. Come out, and hear "The Voice"; makes a great Father's Day gift.

Birthday Luncheon on Thursday, June 19th at noon - an outdoor BBQ, weather permitting. Only \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members. If Mother Nature doesn't co-operate, luncheon will be served indoors.

made us laugh and some made us cry; all made us very proud. It has been a pleasure to serve you all.

I have no doubt that the staff and the new ownership will continue to provide Bradford with the best shopping experience for groceries. We truly wish everyone all the best in the future.

As for my future, well... First, I will take this summer to golf, see the East Coast, find this thing called

"the long-weekend", finish the house list, and enjoy my family. After that, who knows? My grandfather was 43 in 1944 when he needed a change and saw a "For Sale" sign in the window of a small grocery store on the main street of a small town in Ontario. Almost 60 years later, we all know how that decision worked out.

Thank you all.
David and Karen, and
The Compton Family.



Brian Beeston, left, and Garry Fry do the carving at Newton Robinson United Church Pig Roast, May 24.