

Grampa's Attic Grand Opening Saturday, October 29th, 2005

Good afternoon and welcome to the official Grand Opening of Grampa's Attic. First off, I would like to express our special thanks to the following people for taking the time to join us today. With us is are Mayor, Mr. Paul Holbrough, along with Cheryl Buchner and Katheryn McColloch – Business Consultants from the Oxford Small Business Support Centre.

To me, this grand opening would not have been possible without Margaret Scott – Programs Officer from Services Canada, working in partnership with the Oxford Small Business Support Centre. Margaret, Cheryl and Katheryn have presented Carla and myself with an opportunity and the resources necessary to start our very own business. But for us, is not just a business; it is an extraordinary dream come true. Without there help, Grampa's Attic would not have left the ground floor. Thank you.

This ceremony marks many achievements but most of all it has shown me what can be done by working together. I'd like to take advantage of this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of so many friends, family and suppliers. Your support, suggestions, and desire to help us make improvements, is to be commended and I would like to thank you for your generous contributions. Those people are:

- Phil and Michelle Soden from the First Page Book Shop for sharing your store, knowledge and experience.
- Annette and Trish Kelly for your advice and helping to setup the store.
- Stacey Culbert for help setup the store and your Dodge Ram truck.
- Jim & Sandra Holden for helping with the sign - and your Chevy truck
- Heather and Jeff Coleman for making sure the ladder was steady and the sign was straight.
- Jeff and Diane Tinlin for your advice, encouragement and helping out today.
- Sandra DeGraff from the Woodstock Small Business Enterprise Centre for your initial help and guidance before I was accepted into the OSBSC program.
- Lisa McRenolds from Services Canada for steering me away from a career in Dance. (it's a long story)
- Doug Strickland & Wendy Deschenes from RBC Financial Group – for working hard to get my business account in order.
- Paul & Christine Parkinson for your friendship, advice and accounting expertise.
- Patti Frost – from Web Frostings – for your tireless hours on setting up our website. www.GrampasAttic.ca and www.webfrostings.com
- To our local suppliers; Bob and Mary Jakeman of Jakeman's Maple Products and.
- to Jeanne and Mike Bankert of Grey Gables Herbal Soaps.
- And to all our friends and family that helped me break in my new cash register that first month. Forgive me for only giving you 2 % off. It was really meant to be 20. You will be happy to know that the problem has now been fixed as I no longer run the cash register unsupervised.

One of our goals (other then to break even) is to give you the customer a unique gift experience along with exceptional customer service. It is our hope that, in time, the mention of Grampa's Attic will conjure up childhood memories of nostalgic gifts filled with wonder, imagination, creativity and magic. Memories that not only take you back to a simpler time but bring back to life the child in all of us.

With the universal fascination of flying, railroading and sailing, many of our items reveal compelling story's behind some of the world's most famous ships, trains and aircraft. Grampa's Attic appeals to the child in all of us, young and old alike.

Finally, I wish to thank my wife Carla, whose shared vision, understanding and commitment, would have never allowed me to transform this idea into the reality it now embodies. Together, you and I, along with the wonderful efforts of our friends, family, and all of you assembled here, now begin the real work of building this vision into a successful business.

Thank you so much for attending today, we hope you enjoy what's inside Grampa's Attic.

Tom F. Smith