

Old Editions bookstore reopens (and a world of treasures awaits)

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

Interim Tribune Editor

Old Editions Book Shop & Gallery, one of Western New York's largest and most renowned bookstores, is ready to begin a fresh, new chapter in its storied history. Last week, the store reopened its doors for the first time since closing in April due to the pandemic.

In celebration, the store will feature recurring outdoor book sales in its parking lot (weather permitting) on various days throughout the remaining summer season.

Founded in the late 1970s by owner Ron Cozzi, Old Editions was a beloved staple in the Buffalo community for nearly 40 years. Eventually deciding it was time to move to a more manageable one-story location with better parking for customers, in 2018, Old Editions found its new home at the old Platter's Chocolates building at 954 Oliver St., North Tonawanda.

For customers entering Old Editions for the first time, the tagline on its website, "No ordinary bookstore," will quickly reveal itself to be wholly accurate. Even before the comforting book store smell (that familiar, vanilla-like aroma of aged paper, which thankfully penetrates even the thickest cloth safety mask) can settle in the nostrils, it becomes apparent that the unassuming storefront outside is home to a true world of wonders inside.

The store itself unfurls like a captivating book, with a simple, but engaging beginning. The front area is positively stuffed with secondhand books; each available in remarkably well-kept condition (and at fair prices to boot). From paperbacks to comic books, old classics and soon-to-be favorites, casual readers and bibliophiles alike will likely find everything they need — and more — right here.

However, as the first room gives way to the second, the first glimpse of Old Edition's truly unique treasures come into view. Like any good story, the store compels readers to venture further.

As one of the largest antiquarian bookstores in the U.S., the store is positively filled to the brim with offerings one will find nowhere else. With a jaw-dropping collection of collectible books, fine artwork, historical documents, autographs, collectible magazines, postcards and other memorabilia spread throughout Old Edition's 12,000-square-foot frame, there's guaranteed to be something to pique anyone's interest.

Walking through the showroom, as it's called, is truly a remarkable experience. Beyond the rows and rows of first edition printings for nearly every subject imaginable, the walls, the shelves, the tables; everywhere is simply alive with history, local and world. One could easily spend a week inside and barely scratch the surface of what the store has to offer. It's like shopping in a museum and Cozzi is the curator.

He effortlessly recalls details about some of the showroom's endless offerings: turn-of-the-century-paintings, early American maps, a painting of the Buffalo Yacht Club by Dr. Roger Lalli, and a President McKinley banner from shortly before he was assassinated in Buffalo.

Just past the collections of vintage train magazines and sought-after World War II service edition books, he casually reaches into a bin, which is simply sitting on a table, and produces a small, pristine map of India dating back to the 1700s.

Elsewhere, beyond the selection of vintage collectible sci-fi paperbacks (each individually wrapped in plastic and in mint condition), Cozzi thumbs through a rack of collectible prints and movie posters.

"If you're into this stuff, you love it," he says, smiling.

Yet, for all of the amazing antiquities and artifacts found in the showroom, the store saves perhaps its most remarkable finds for last. The rare book room, located near the store's rear, is simply astonishing. Tomes of history — some centuries old — meticulously organized, wall to wall. There's an Indiana Jones-esque feeling of discovery in here.

Matt Alexander, who helps manage the store, produces a pair of immaculately kept antique Bibles, something that Cozzi specializes in. The first, a so-called "Gun Wad" Bible, from 1776, was the first version of the Bible to ever be printed in American typeface. During the American Revolution, when the British were occupying Philadelphia, British soldiers stormed the printing house and began tearing apart the Bibles and using the pages for their gunpowder (hence the name.) As such, very few copies survive today.

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Automated trash pickups coming to Porter

STAFF REPORTS

Town of Porter residents can look forward to some changes in their garbage services as a result of a new refuse arrangement between the town and Modern Disposal Services Inc.

According to a letter from Modern over the past week, residential properties throughout the town will soon be receiving new, 96-gallon wheeled trash carts to allow for weekly automated trash pickups.

"The Town of Porter is improving the garbage and recycling collection residents receive," the letter said. According to the mailer, the new system will see:

- Long-term cost containment for the town residents;
- A new wheeled trash cart provided by the town;
- Convenient curbside collection of three bulk items each quarter; and
- The availability of disposal solutions for town residents requiring additional service.

The new program will utilize automated side load collection of the special trash totes by Modern on a resident's regular garbage pickup day and eliminate the actual pickup of streetside garbage bags by Modern's collection crews. Loose garbage bags will no longer be picked up.

Modern currently collects 64-gallon totes for biweekly recycling pickups.

"The new program will not impact the current every other week collection schedule," the Modern letter said.

Modern spokesman Joe Hickman said the Town of Porter contracted with Modern to provide the town its garbage disposal services through a formal bid process. He said the practice of municipalities utilizing automated trash pickups is becoming increasingly common throughout western New York state.

"The town specified service requirements in their a bid document; Modern responded with (its) automated collection of carts," he said.

Hickman said Lockport has been utilizing automated trash pickups since 2010, and six additional Niagara County communities — including Cambria, Pendleton, Newfane, Summerset, Barker and Middleport — are now considering automated collection services.

"It's moving throughout the county," he said.

Porter Supervisor John "Duffy" Johnston said the change to automated trash pickups continues to 2026. He said Modern and the town had been discussing the move to carts for some time and both saw mid-year as the opportune time for

the change to carts.

"The biggest reason (for this change) is because of COVID and the oil prices dropping. The carts went from \$56 to \$42.50. So we saved \$23,000 on (acquiring) the carts" at this time," Johnston said. "We saved \$23,000 by buying the carts early. We saved almost \$50,000 by moving this up" (to mid-summer, versus January 2021, as originally planned).

Hickman said that, starting the week of Aug. 24, the company the town purchased the new totes from will start distributing new, 96-gallon wheeled trash carts, coded for the individual property for disposal of the resident's trash. Residents can begin using them as soon as they receive them.

Pickups of individual trash bags placed streetside at residences will discontinue, with all pickups to be done solely via the automated system.

"It has to be in town-issued carts," Hickman said.

Johnston said each residence would be furnished with one 96-gallon trash tote at no charge, and that additional containers for larger families would be available at a cost of \$55 per unit from the town. The new offering will be available for single-family residences, duplexes and triplexes. Residential properties of four or more units (apartment buildings) would be deemed commercial and are not eligible for the 96-gallon trash carts.

Hickman said that, for larger families who may have extra garbage for pickup on their collection day, the town will have "additional capacity tags" at a cost of \$5 per tag for residential users. The resident will place the tag on the extra trash and Modern would pick it up.

Those who may be in need an additional 96-gallon cart, as well as those desiring the additional capacity tags, should contact Porter Town Hall at 745-3730 for more information, Hickman said.

With regard to bulk trash pickups, Hickman said the 2020 fourth-quarter bulk collection will be Saturday, Dec. 12. For the balance of August, residents would be able leave bulk trash on their respective pickup day, he said.

For more information on the town's new solid waste and recycling program, residents should visit the Town of Porter website at www.townofporter.net or contact Town Hall at the above number. Information can also be found at Modern's website, www.moder-corporation.com, or by calling its local customer service department at 800-330-7107.

In other news from the town:

• Following a public hearing this week that saw limited comment,

the Porter Town Board approved an amendment to its property maintenance law covering residences. Under the title of "Weeds and Grass" the measure states, "Premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds and plant growth in excess of 10 inches in average height. Noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation other than trees and shrubs, provided, however this does not include cultivated flowers and gardens."

It further says property owners found in violation of the measure would first be served a notice to comply and then be subject to prosecution — including payment to the town for addressing violations.

Upon failure to comply with the notice of violation, any duly authorized employee of the jurisdiction (town) or contractor hired by the jurisdiction shall be authorized to enter upon the property in violation and cut and destroy weeds growing thereon, and the costs of such removal shall be paid by the owner or agent responsible for the property to the Town of Porter. The fee for the remediation of overgrown weeds and grasses shall be established by the Town Board and amended from time to time.

Town Building Inspector Peter Jeffery explained, "Our current property maintenance law doesn't specifically say that the town has the authority to go in mow properties that have become overgrown after they have been noticed appropriately."

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Backpack Concerns

As the old adage states, "As a tree is bent, so it grows", this is true of our children too. An increasing number of them are beginning to complain of pain in the neck, back, shoulder and arms from the weight of their backpack. The top of the shoulder, where the straps of the backpack rest, has many nerves and blood vessels that serve the head, neck, arms, hands and back. An additional problem is the way some children carry their packs, slung over one shoulder. To complicate the matter, many are looking down at their phones for extended periods of time, adding undue stress to the upper back and neck.

Students should carry only 10% of their body weight in their backpacks, but typically carry up to 30-40%. As a result, a student's growing and developing spine and body are susceptible to any or all of the following ailments: *strained muscles, worsened posture (forward head/rounded shoulders), neck spasms, tingling hands, headaches, dizziness, numbness in hands and arms, shoulder and lower back pain and aggravated curvature of the spine (scoliosis).*

Be alert to these warning signs that indicate your child needs to be checked by a chiropractor. Regular spinal checkups and the right backpack can mean the difference between a healthy spine or a lifelong battle with chronic pain and poor posture.

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is a natural health care practice located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call 754-9039 for complementary spinal exam for your child (Valid until September 30, 2020).

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WILLIAMSVILLE
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LOOK FOR OUR NEXT AD WEEK OF 8/24/20

HARD ROLLS
\$1.50 off
A Dozen

Limit 4 Dozen

Coupons may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Expires August 31, 2020.

Italian Bread
Regular Loaf - 50¢ Off
Double Loaf - 75¢ Off
Hand rolled, hand formed, split & slowly hearth baked

Coupons may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Expires August 31, 2020.

Donuts
\$1.50 off
A Dozen

Old fashioned, large donuts, made fresh daily

Coupons may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Expires August 31, 2020.

LOOK FOR OUR NEXT AD WEEK OF 8/24/20

Dessert Cakes
7" Round • Gold • Chocolate
Banana 1/2 & 1/2 • German Chocolate
Black Forest

\$1.50 off
All 7" Cakes

Coupon may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Expires August 31, 2020.

Classic Pizza

• Mozzarella Cheese
• Romano Cheese
• Pepperoni
• Mushroom
• Broccoli

\$3.00 off 1/2 tray
\$5.00 off full tray

Coupon may not be combined with any other offer or discount. Expires August 31, 2020.

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