

**Figure 2.10**

The line and shape controls in the Visual Basic PowerPacks section of the toolbox, with some sample controls on the form.

Properties of a line include `BorderStyle` (Solid, Dot, Dash, and a few more), `BorderWidth` (the width of the line, in pixels), `BorderColor`, and the locations for the two endpoints of the line (`X1`, `X2`, `X3`, `X4`). Of course, you can move and resize the line visually, but it sometimes is more precise to set the pixel location exactly.

The properties of the `OvalShape` and `RectangleShape` controls are more interesting. You can set transparency with the `BackStyle` property and the border with `BorderColor`, `BorderStyle`, and `BorderWidth`. Set the interior of the shape using `FillColor`, `FillGradientColor`, `FillGradientStyle`, and `FillStyle`. You can give a rectangle rounded corners by setting the `CornerRadius`, which defaults to zero for square corners.

### Drawing Lines

In addition to using the `LineShape` control for a line, you also can draw a line on a form by using the `Label` control. Set the label's `AutoSize` property to `False`, the `Text` property to blank, and the `BorderStyle` to `None`, and change the `BackColor` to the color you want for the line. You can control the size of the line with the `Width` and `Height` properties, located beneath the `Size` property.

Another way to draw a line on a form is to use the graphics methods. Drawing graphics is covered in Chapter 13.

### Using Smart Tags

You can use smart tags to set the most common properties of many controls. When you add a `PictureBox` or a `TextBox` to a form, for example, you see a small arrow in the upper-right corner of the control. Click on the arrow to open the smart tag for that control (Figure 2.11). The smart tag shows a few properties that you can set from there, which is just a shortcut for making the changes from the Properties window.