

The Oakville Beaver

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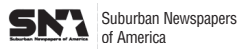
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CLEAN-UP CREW: The Beavers from La 12e Les Aigles d'Oakville (the local French-speaking scout group) got a start on spring cleaning by visiting Sedgewick Park, which the group adopted last year, and rolling up their sleeves to work. Community cleanups will take place at more than 30 nature sites this Saturday, April 16 as the Oakville Centre for Peace, Ecology and Human Rights hosts the 20th annual Clean Up of Nature Sites from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, contact 905-849-5501; info@oakvillepeacecentre.org or www.oakvillepeacecentre.org.

Guest Column

Halton is open for business

Gary Carr, Halton Regional Chair



Gary Carr

In January 2011, Halton Region opened a new Employment Halton centre in Oakville. This new centre offers a comprehensive range of programs and services to anyone who is searching for a job or interested in training for a new career.

Employment Halton also provides extensive services to employers in Halton in support of their efforts to recruit staff.

As a service provider for Employment Ontario, Halton Region is part of a network of providers in Halton who are committed to providing integrated, customer-focused services making access to the system seamless.

Employment Ontario programs include apprenticeship opportunities and programs such as Second Career, which provides participants with financial support to assist them as they re-train for a new career.

Employment Halton staff can help you search for a job, access programs to train for a new career, prepare your resume and cover letters and prepare for interviews.

As of March 2011, you can also access any of the job search or career workshops we offer. Our employment resource centre features a library complete with business directories, newspapers and books to support your job search.

Similar to our centre in Milton, this new employment resource centre is designed with adjustable workstations to accommodate mobility devices and software including TextNET, Jaws, Zoom Text, Kruzwiell and Guide to make our services accessible to people with disabilities.

In addition to the services offered onsite, job seekers and employers benefit from the free online job posting board operated by Employment Halton. Our staff is working closely with employers in Halton to help them meet their hiring needs. If you are an employer in Halton you may be interested in the services Employment Halton can offer you. We offer personalized services that include: screening and matching services to help you select the best qualified candidate, reference checking and education verification service, training incentive programs to offset the cost of training and hourly wages and access to our annual job fairs.

If you are looking for a job, interested in a new career or are an employer in Halton who wants to learn more about what we can do for you, contact us by dialling 311 or 905-825-6000, toll free: 1-866-442-5866, or visit www.halton.ca/employmenthalton. Our Employment Halton office is located in Bronte Village Mall, 2441 Lakeshore Rd., Oakville.

As always, feel free to e-mail me on regional programs and services at garry.carr@halton.ca and visit our website at www.halton.ca.

Does a disastrous honeymoon indicate a doomed marriage?

Most married couples have a honeymoon story they like to share at dinner parties. For some, that story is about a dream-come-true, romantic, fairytale getaway. For others, it's a nightmarish tale of Murphy's Law coming to life ("whatever can go wrong, will go wrong"). For others still, the honeymoon story is a little like marriage itself, a memorable mixture of the good, the bad and the ugly.

There's a theory held by innumerable otherwise rational people that the success of a couple's honeymoon foretells the future of their marriage. A miserable honeymoon indicates a miserable marriage while a heavenly honeymoon makes for years of wedded bliss.

Personally, I think that's total nonsense — my honeymoon ended up in the emergency ward of a hospital in Long Beach, California, crammed between a moaning gunshot victim and a casualty of a knife fight.

That said, if this porous theory does indeed hold any water, poor Stefan and Erika Svanstrom of Sweden are in for a rocky ride. The Svanstroms recently returned from a four-month honeymoon. Happy to be home. Lucky to be alive.

The couple, and their baby girl, left Stockholm on Dec. 6 and were promptly stranded in Munich, Germany. Grounded by one of the big-



Andy Juniper

Cairns. As Stefan recalled, "We escaped (the cyclone) by the skin of our teeth. Trees were being knocked over and big branches were scattered across the streets."

At that point, a lot of newlyweds — particularly those traveling with an infant — would have packed up and headed for home sweet home. Instead, the Svanstroms jetted to New Zealand.

Just before their arrival, the country was struck by a 6.3-magnitude earthquake. And after they arrived, they could feel the distant force of the earthquake that devastated Japan.

"The trembling was horrible," Stefan said, "and we saw roof tiles fly

gest snowstorms to assault Europe in ages. Ah, but what's a little pelting snow? The Svanstroms then flew down under, just in time to experience the wrath-of-god devastation of a cyclone in Australia. And once-a-century flooding in Brisbane. Oh, and brutal brush fires in Perth.

One night of their honeymoon was spent on a cement floor in a shopping mall, along with 2,500 newfound friends, after they'd been evacuated from the ravaged city of

off the buildings... entire buildings were swaying back and forth."

From New Zealand, the newlyweds traveled to China where, given how disaster seems to follow them — Stefan in particular, who had already survived the tsunami that ravaged southeast Asia in 2004 — they were fortunate that the Great Wall did not collapse on them.

So, does Stefan think his calamitous honeymoon dooms his marriage?

Nope. He thinks that marriage is about enduring trials and, he noted: "I think we've already been through most of them."

Precisely what I told my new wife all those wonderful years ago as she waited to be examined by a doctor — crammed between two victims of violence, a bladder infection driving her to the feverish brink. I also said that our marriage was way more likely to mirror the drive we took down California's breathtaking Pacific Coast Highway prior to her falling ill.

And it has.

Granted, with a few emergency room visits tossed in here and there, just to add some marital spice.

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