

# Arts & Ideas

## Three environmental laws

Two months ago I wrote a column that was entitled "Mankind must become caretaker of the planet."

This column drew a greater response than any of my others. Some people wrote to me and some approached me in the street and in stores. They asked me what one could do to become a caretaker. Of course I am far from having all the answers. But I know that if we are concerned about the environment we have to ask ourselves if the way we live is sensible.

Isn't there a better way, a less wasteful one? There sure is. I have three environmental laws I try to live by. Here they are:

Law No. 1 - Try not to use a machine where muscle power will do.

Law No. 2 - Try not to put in the garbage what might be beneficial to your garden.

Law No. 3 - Try to recycle as many things as possible.

If you take some time to think about these three laws you will, I am sure, be surprised how many things you could do differently. Take law No. 1, which is, in many ways, the most important one, since muscle power is something we all have more of than we need, yet we use it less and less.

Law No. 1 will change your life the most. It means that you should try to use cars, motorcycles, motorboats, dishwashers, dryers, anything with a motor in it, as little as possible or not at all. In order to walk or bicycle to stores and friends, it's better to live within a settlement, not miles away in the country.

Strictly speaking, only farmers have any business in the country, all others should try to live in villages, towns and cities. The closer we live together the better.

Canada is a multicultural democracy. For that kind of system to work we have to trust each other. To live in splendid isolation, behind walls, somewhere in the country, is anachronistic, to say the least. Isn't life much nicer if you have a community around you?

Dishwashers and dryers make sense if you have a huge family. The so-called nuclear family of mother, father, child, doesn't need them. How fresh smell garments, for instance, that have been dried in the open air. And nothing is more educational for children and men than household chores.

To law No. 2 I have this to say: The trees on your property give you a huge gift every fall: their leaves. If you accept the gift and turn it into compost, the compost will fertilize your garden naturally and far less expensively than artificial fertilizer could.

What every garden needs is an area behind a hedge where the compost pile is located. You don't need expensive chemicals to decompose leaves, grass cuttings, and kitchen leftovers, just plenty of water and some lime. You need a bit of muscle power to set and sift your compost pile every year but it's better for your health than jogging.

Finally to law No. 3: Everything that's manufactured, uses up energy and raw materials in the process. Therefore we should try not to throw away what has still some

### Poetry readings

Poet Ray Jones will lead the Halton Peel Branch, Canadian Authors Association Poetry 'N Coffee Evening, Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m. at Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy St., Oakville.

Poets both professional and beginners are invited to read their poems. Ray Jones, who will conduct a reading of his own poems, is a Toronto poet who has just taken a year's absence from his work as a business analyst to pursue his creative writing.



**John Sommer**  
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

use in it. Paper, glass, metal is already returned for recycling, but whole buildings are demolished for no other reason but that a new company has decided on a different corporate image.

Thousands of service stations that were built in Canada only 25 years ago have all been torn down, carted to the dumps, and been replaced by others of a different design. What a waste of energy and material!

If newspapers and businesses are sending huge amounts of paper in the form of advertisements and junk mail into our homes, should they not also be responsible for removing and

recycling them? Do we need daily newspapers? In the age of radio and television isn't a newspaper once or twice a week often enough?

Do we have to cut down whole forests for these thick bundles of paper that we hardly ever look at and quickly throw away? Stores like the Salvation Army are my favorite stores. Almost everything I need in the way of clothes I will find there.

Only at the Salvation Army do I have the feeling that I get value for my money without adding to our garbage problems, because I re-use what somebody else had no use for anymore.

These are some of my ideas on how we could live simpler and take care of our planet better. We got into the habit of demanding more and more in goods and services.

Isn't it time that we say we want less? Isn't there a lot we can do for ourselves, without the constant demand on the governments for more services? Wouldn't it be splendid to pay fewer taxes on fewer services and live in a world that is not endangered?



### Acton artist

Acton artist and Czechoslovakian native Mark Kalous will be showing this acrylic painting entitled *Majestic Birds* and several of his other works at the Cultural Centre in Georgetown from Nov. 27 to Dec. 17. This is the second exhibition and sale Mr. Kalous has held at the centre in two years. The show's reception, during which the artist will be in attendance, is Nov. 27 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mr. Kalous said he will also be at the show every other day during the afternoon. (Herald photo)

## Elvis lives— at York U.

TORONTO - Elvis Presley is alive and attending York University.

Well, not really, but that was the rumour around campus last year. And that in itself is important, says Carole Carpenter, Director of the Ontario Folklore Centre at York.

"It says that York has become such a big institution that somebody who is as great a celebrity as Elvis Presley could be here anonymously," says Carpenter, who teaches folklore courses in the university's Division of Humanities.

The centre, founded four years ago and incorporated as a non-profit charitable institution in 1988, documents and preserves Ontario folklore. Folklore consists of cultural artifacts which are passed on by word of mouth, observation and imitation and with which a group of people identify and are identified by others, Carpenter says.

One of the most interesting things about folklore is that, while it reflects our differences, it shows us how much we all have in common, Carpenter says. For example, in 1989 the centre, on contract with the Archives of Ontario, documented people's stories, including some from Ontario. Approximately 450 people from a wide variety of backgrounds were interviewed.

"The themes (which emerged from the interviews) were essentially the same despite differences in culture, gender, race and language," Carpenter says. These themes include such topics as the first person who was friendly to them in Ontario, mistakes they made while learning the language and a sense of suffering, usually combined with a memory of someone crying.

The project's results will be published in a book that should be out within a year, Carpenter says.

Unfortunately, Canadians, especially those living in Ontario, don't recognize folklore as the important cultural matter it is, Carpenter says. "We identify culture as being the great works of literature, the arts and high music. We think culture is what elevates human beings above the beasts," Carpenter says. "We don't see ourselves as being the active possessors of it."

This situation is very different from that in the United States, where culture is perceived as those factors which distinguish a particular way of life, she says. "They have a richer sense of their having these traditions, of having Americanness."

### Christmas Fiesta

The Halton County Radial Railway located outside Rockwood is holding the Ladies' Annual Christmas Fiesta Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Santa Claus will arrive to see the children at about noon and leave at 2:30 p.m. He will see all the children in his own room aboard old car 107, an interurban electric car built for the Montreal and Southern Counties Railway in 1912.

The car has been decorated for the season and will run over the miles of scenic property while children talk to Santa.

All children ride free on this day: adults at \$4.50; students at \$3.00; and seniors ride for \$2.25.

Ladies of the association will display special food, gift and books, and a bake table. There will be homemade chili con carne and rolls will also be made available.

To get to the Radial Railway from Hwy. 7, turn off Wellington Rd. 44 then go south for about 5 km.

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### THE CORPORATION OF THE Town of Halton Hills

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### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO CLOSE PART OF A PUBLIC HIGHWAY

This advertisement is to notify the public that the Council for The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills has made Application to the Ontario Court (General Division) for an Order closing part of the unopened road allowance designated as Charles Street in the Town of Halton Hills (Norval). The part of the road being closed measures approximately 227 feet in length, includes the full width of Charles Street as shown on the village plan of the Village of Norval, and is located immediately northeast of the intersection of Charles Street with Guelph Street (Highway No. 7). This Application is made in accordance with the provisions of the Registry Act.

The Application will be heard on Thursday, December 6, 1990 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, at the Court House, 491 Steeles Avenue East, Milton, Ontario L9T 1Y7.

This advertisement is made pursuant to the Order of Mr. Justice Speyer dated Thursday, November 1, 1990.

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