

COMMENT

Letters to the editor Gellert staff worthy of many laurels

If you are looking for customer service superstars, look no further than the staff at the Gellert Centre.

Our Kiwanis Club runs Lobsterfest there every May.

We have 250 people in attendance and we cook live lobster and barbecue steak in the parking lot.

We can't say enough about the staff there. There are a million details and nothing is too much trouble for them.

From manager Joanne Wilson, who volunteers as a server when her

workday is done, to Sue Baekart who arranges everything for us with a giant smile on her face, to the guys who set up the tables and help us clean up (instead of simply watching us work).

We are treated like valued customers that they can't wait to serve.

No wonder the Kiwanis Club loves to help our community, with partners like these Town of Halton Hills staff.

Bravo, Gellert people.

Georgetown Kiwanis Club

The Way We Were



Known as much for his toughness on the ice as his skills, former NHL defenseman Carl Brewer is pictured giving instructions to a group of young players at the Georgetown Hockey School in 1967. By this time, Brewer had left the Toronto Maple Leafs in a dispute, and spent several years playing for Canada's national team and in Finland before returning to the NHL with the Detroit Red Wings in 1969.

Learn more about Heritage Halton Hills at www.haltonhills.ca/committees/heritage.

Photo courtesy of Esqueving Historical Society/text courtesy of Heritage Halton Hills

Finding that home sweet home parking spot

Okay, it's an established fact that I am a car guy.

Not a fanatical, obsessive car guy, whose last breath is attributed to an automobile.

But I do enjoy cars.

One of the most difficult things for a car guy to endure is to see damage done to a nice, shiny, well cared-for car.

The Sidekick and I were in Ottawa last weekend to visit her father and eldest brother.

This trip was her turn to drive in her nearly new Ford Escape.

She bought it last fall, and she keeps it pretty nice.

Having a new car is nice, but having to park that new car in an underground parking lot is nothing short of terrifying.

As The Sidekick pulled into the darkness of the underground lot, I felt cold chills run down my back.

I convinced her to park beside one of the parking posts. At least one side is somewhat protected.

I knew it was going to be a sleepless weekend.

Over the years I've had conversations with some of my colleague/car guys about parking vintage (or brand new) cars.

As I recently chatted with a friend, I expressed my fear of The Sidekick's car being marked in the parking lots.

Oh, I know what you're talking about, he confessed. I'm always worried that my car might be hit with a car door, stone chip, or something.

We started listing the places we will and will not park our cars.

It's tough to find a safe place for our babies.

We agreed if you find a parking spot between a BMW and a Mercedes, you're in good hands. No owner of one of those cars will ding your car. It's a prestige car owner creed. I've heard they have to sign an oath too, written in blood.

However, parking between two prestige cars

is only safe as long as they stay parked there they could drive away you know.

He also agreed, the post, or wall, fence etc., in any parking lot gives you pretty good protection on one side. But the other side is fully exposed.



TED BROWN

My colleague says he's in better physical shape from being a car guy. More often than not, if he and his lady are going somewhere in the date car, he parks it in the parking spot the farthest from the action.

That way I know the chances are remote it will get dinged, he said.

And it helps accumulate the Fit Bit steps too.

Parking anywhere near a shopping cart corral is simply irrespon-

sible, and we wouldn't even consider parking remotely close to a pick-up truck with countless dents in the body if the owner cares for the truck like that, he's just *waaaaay* too much of a hazard.

Having said all that, no matter how careful one is about selecting a parking spot you can still get nailed.

The worst mark on my car happened that very way.

One day while driving the Li'l Red Rocket, I stopped at an intersection waiting for the traffic to clear. The guy beside me was mowing his lawn well, it was more of a gravel lawn.

Suddenly, I heard one helluva bang, as a rock from his mower hit the door of my car.

I jumped out of my car, marched up to him, and confronted him.

It wasn't my mower, he said, and turned to walk away. Probably off a truck, he said over his shoulder.

I said a few choice words in return.

So no matter how hard we try to protect our babies, if fate is against you, it's gonna get dinged. But that doesn't stop us car guys from trying our best to protect them.

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