

# Bruising the male ego is a fact of life

*A simple mug of root beer can ruin a date, writes Ted Brown*



**TED BROWN**  
Column

Driving through town recently, I noticed a young guy having car problems. He was pulled over with the hood up on the car - the universal signal that the car is dead in the water.

As he was peering under the hood, I thought looking under the hood without the benefit of a dealership computer was pretty much useless. Maybe it's a guy thing, but being stranded with a car that refuses to run can be a major embarrassment, especially if it happens in an area where the most of your friends pass by. Face it, for a guy driving a car makes you cool.

And when that same car refuses the run, it can bruise that male ego. I sympathized with him and was reminded of some of my own less than memorable automobile exploits from my teens that still cause me to want to crawl into a crack in the pavement.

My rock-bottom experience was the first time I ever visited an A&W drive-in, back in the days when waitresses came out of the restaurant, and served customers their orders on trays attached to the side window of the car. The A&W in question was located on Queen Street in Brampton. This was long before there was an A&W located in

Georgetown.

As a young male out on the town driving the family four-door sedan - accompanied by a young lady - I was doing my damndest to impress her and the world. After taking our order, the waitress returned with our food, complete with two large mugs of A&W root beer balancing on the tray. She hooked it on the driver's side window of my dad's 1966 Pontiac Parisienne. I pulled the food into the car, and rolled up the window to keep out the cold, leaving the two mugs of root beer outside on the tray.

At that time, Brampton A&W was THE place to watch and show off the hottest cars in town, as they rumbled through, for all to peruse with envy. As my date and I devoured our Teen Burgers, I watched a great set of wheels back into the parking spot beside my dad's car. I can still see it - an impressive 1969 bright red SS396 Chevelle with massive tires that rumbled and shook as it parked beside us, meekly seated in the family sedan. The

driver glared in my direction. Drivers in fire-breathing muscle cars had that right - they were allowed to glare at anyone who made eye contact. Being somewhat sociable I decided to chat, so I rolled down the window and forgot all about those mugs of root beer. You know, there's nothing as sickening as the crash of two glass A&W mugs hitting the pavement beside a car. The driver of the SS396 Chevelle made it clear he was not happy about the shower of root beer that dripped off the side of his car.

As they swept up the glass, I crept out of the A&W, trying to remain cool. I beat a hasty retreat back to Georgetown, far from the smirking glances of the patrons at the A&W.

I don't think I ever took Dad's car back to Brampton, opting to wait until I owned my own. And I'm absolutely certain that was the only date with that girl - she saw to that. Yup, that embarrassed kid with his stalled car certainly brought back memories for me. But he should count his blessings - it could always be worse.

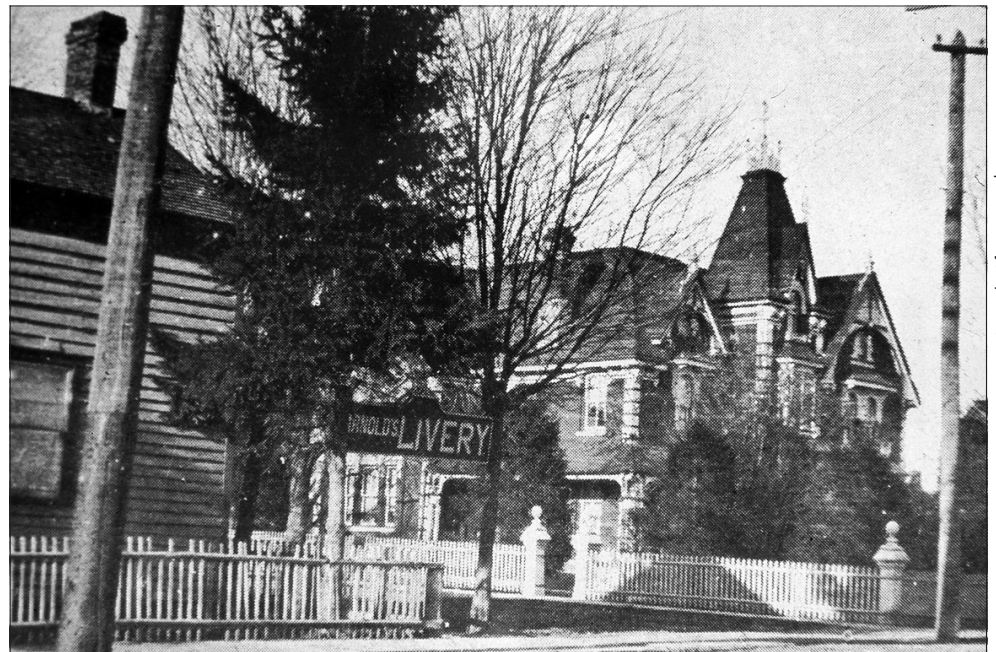
After all, he didn't splash root beer on the super-cool car next to him. And the best part - he didn't have a girlfriend with him.

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Then Photo/Esquesing Historical Society

**Sunderland Villa erected in 1879-1880 by William H. Storey around 1900. Storey was a local glove manufacturer and Acton's first reeve. Currently the site is a funeral home.**



Now Photo/Amy Douglas

## Checking in on police checks

RE: Public comments on police 'street check' law

Two things are relevant to the public discussion on street checks or "carding".

First, do the new regulations permit the practice as the public understands it and, second, is carding a useful tool for law enforcement in the fight against crime? If the answer is "yes" to both it seems that it should be done.

The concern that some groups are "unfairly targeted" is a weak argument. The most dangerous demo-

graphic cohort in Canada is young males (those under the age of 30) who are unmarried and often unemployed. So, by definition, the police are "targeting" some group more than others. Unfortunately, within this cohort are subcategories of individuals identified by race and ethnicity.

Is this fair? No, probably not. But consider that hundreds of people across the country accused of serious crimes are held in remand and deprived of their liberty for months and

even years before their cases come to court. This even though the principle of innocent-until-proven-guilty is at the foundation of our judicial system.

What are judges to do? They would be remiss in their duties not to detain accused individuals who are either a flight-risk or pose a threat to the public.

Law enforcement and the judicial system: it is what it is. The best way to avoid any of this is to be a law-abiding citizen.

**Grant Moore**

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