

The anticipation is keeping me waiting

Georgetown Cruise Night will be missed, laments Ted Brown

There's an old song by Carly Simon, entitled Anticipation.

The chorus goes "Anticipation, is makin' me late, is keepin' me waiting."

Throughout the winter, I've been in a state of anticipation.

Late last summer, The Sidekick and I took the bold step and acquired a Mustang GT. Since we didn't get it until late July, the summer was more than half gone.

We had dreams of cruising around town and beyond, but before we knew it, we were into October, the date when the car is parked for the winter.

And so, I've been in a state of 'anticipation' since then.

By the time you read this, the Mustang will be back on the road.

But my 'anticipation' doesn't stop there.

Having a muscle car involves being able to show it off at local cruise nights. It's a collection of like-minded gearhead car enthusiasts gathering every week to eat, sleep and breathe cars, listen to '50s, '60s and '70s music, and enjoy a hamburger or slice of pizza.

There are a plethora of cruise events surrounding Halton Hills, in Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington and Milton.

Our very own Thursday night cruise night, held weekly at Nashville North parking lot in Norval, spans almost two decades.

All winter I've been anticipating the opening of that cruise night in mid-May.

But last week I received an email from longtime organizers Mike and Lynne



TED BROWN
Column

Boyd in which Mike explained Bill and Sharon Gower, two of their main helpers, had decided to step down. Mike said without their help, he and Lynne didn't feel they could continue.

WHAT????!!

Man, I had been hanging onto that Thursday night event since the first snowflake hit the ground last year - and it was done?

I understand there comes a time when we have to step back. We get tired, we get overwhelmed, and we have to say "I'm done."

I get that.

Let's face it, an event like that doesn't just happen. The Thursday night portion is only the tip of the iceberg. Behind the scenes there are sponsors to be approached, door prizes to be picked up and a host of other tasks that need to be attended to.

Over the years I've been a casual visitor to the cruise. When I was at the Independent & Free Press, I'd cover the opening night in May, and later cover the cheque presentation in September. Oh, you didn't know about the cheque presentation?

Well, the group not only had fun, but they raise a whack of money which was annually donated to Georgetown Hospital.

Since the beginning of the cruise from 2000 to 2017, they've raised a total of \$49,503.

Not too shabby for a handful of gearheads having fun.

I have nothing but praise and appreciation for Mike and Lynne and all those others who have helped along the way.

"Without Bill and Sharon Gower's help, the current cruise would have ended in 2013," said Mike, "They were instrumental in securing sponsors and arranging the Toppers Pizza food sales."

When the Gowers retired, Mike and Lynne decided that they couldn't continue with the cruise in its present form.

'So what would it take to carry on?' I asked.

Mike said six volunteers would be great, and he would gladly help show them the ropes until they were comfortable.

Then Mike and Lynne, as well as the Gowers, could follow in the footsteps of other volunteers like Lee Martin, Glenn and Marlene Rae, Richard Frazer, Sharon Harrison, Rick Thompson, Mike Adams and Scott Moore (deceased) seeing what they have created carry on.

So what do you say? Are there a half dozen volunteers out there who love cars, '60s music and the addictive sound of dual exhausts?

If so, drop Mike an email at mboyd12@cogeco.ca

It's time for someone to 'take the torch' from the Boyds.

- Ted Brown is a freelance columnist for the IFP. He can be reached at tedbit@hotmail.com.

Humboldt column was insensitive: reader

RE: Veronica Appia's online column, April 13.

Recently, you wrote a column implying that our community's, and thus by extension the nation's, response to the Humboldt tragedy is self-serving.

I disagree. No one is expecting a pat on the back or a stroking of his or her ego. We are coming together as a nation to grieve. Through sharing, there is a sense of community, support and shared grief.

Through sharing social media posts and photos, we are raising awareness and letting others know of initiatives happening in attempts to support those directly affected.

Putting out sticks, wearing jerseys, donating money, donating blood, and registering as an organ donor are small gestures people are doing in an attempt to relieve even a tiny amount of grief being experienced through this tragedy.

Instead of assuming selfish intentions, I wish you would highlight and appreciate how far reaching the support is for those affected. Nowhere in your article did you offer sympathy or provide information on donating blood, money or registering as an organ donor. Instead of leaving a bitter taste in your mouth, a response of this magnitude should evoke sympathy, compassion, sensitivity and pride from you.

You have chosen to put a negative spin on a beautiful, heartwarming show of support and solidarity brought about by a terrible tragedy.

As a writer, you have the platform to share all the support and tributes. Perhaps people were reaching out to you because you had the means to publish and broadcast these heartwarming gestures meant to offer condolences and support.

Instead, you chose to assume selfish intentions. While I realize your piece was your opinion as is mine, yours was an opinion of negativity with an unsettling view on humanity.

I am sad, first and foremost, for all those grieving from this accident. I am further saddened that you not only view the community's response as self-serving, but that you put your negative views in writing and were given a platform to publish them.

There can be no positive impact from your article. What good can come from discouraging the sharing of condolences and tributes?



Metroland file photo

Column missed the point, says reader.

Why cause people to censor their posts and second-guess their good intentions?

I say keep posting and sharing. Let the Humboldt community know we stand with and support them. A like or a retweet is not for the individual posting.

It is to know that it has been shared and may be one step closer to reaching someone who needs support and make an impact.

Instead of healthy dialogue, promoting a sense of community, and a way to grieve together, you have tarnished the goodwill of well meaning people. This incident was an unimaginable and tragic accident.

Your words were intentional and unfortunately have the power to hurt, chastise, criticize, judge and spread negativity. In an already gut wrenching and painful time, you called the intention of our actions into question and attempted to minimize the power and pride that come from responses such as these. You have created division rather than fostering solidarity.

I am not a writer and I do not come from a hockey family, but I am a mother, a Canadian and human.

To answer your question, "Whom are we doing this for? Is it truly for Humboldt?"

Yes, we are truly doing this for Humboldt and those grieving.

For you to imply otherwise is truly disheartening.

Kristen Miller

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