

PARADISE IS ALL ABOUT PERSPECTIVE

OVERSEAS TRIP OFFERS NEW-FOUND APPRECIATION FOR HOME, WRITES ILOTT



STEPHEN ILOTT
Column

Hello again. Did anyone miss me? I've been away. We've been away, my wife and I - gaining perspective, realizing we live in a paradise.

I've now driven in traffic in New Delhi, India - and survived. I am now at peace with Toronto traffic where only random drivers insanely zip line across your path, not everyone, as a

rule, honking wildly along with an oddly choreographed scattershot menagerie of pedestrians, wild dogs, goats, camels, horses and the odd elephant.

I look around our Canadian city streets and now see clean and neat - ones I used to think needed more tending. My mind isn't shocked by a phantasmagoric swirl of plastic trash camouflaging every tree, hill and ditch.

We've spent days in Beijing and Shanghai searching the ochre skies for less

acid air to breath where cheap coal fuels a rampant grab for more money at all cost including the environment, popping endless plastic bottles for drinkable water, remembering that back home we can - wait for it - drink out of the tap.

We avoided the bathrooms and the urge to snack on live scorpions on a stick and sidestepped smiling hustlers gravitating toward us like magnetized Styrofoam peanuts.

We've been reminded in cities like Tokyo, Hiroshima and Osaka that even though the sheer numbers of humans perambulating down every street is staggering, how humour, respect, culture and feeling safe can be mixed together to produce a wonderful sense of, "I want to go back there" - something I see reflected in Canada, my home.

A home we think is crowded but at any time you can marvel at the fact you are the only person walking down the street. Our vast area is sparse. We've got room to manoeuvre. Look at a stranger enjoying what we have and think, "Welcome to here."

I tell you we live in a paradise here and at this moment in time, in our lovely, lovely Canada. It may even be a bubble of wonderful. We all need to get perspective to appreciate it, safeguard it.

If you're only worried about a bit of clutter at home, get out of the house, go for a walk. Love your Canada.

It'll bring a little therapy to your home.

Stephen Ilott is a home organizer and author of The Domestic Archaeologist. Visit www.decluttering.ca.

GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL'S WALK OR RUN EVENT BREAKS ATTENDANCE RECORD

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The annual Walk or Run for Georgetown Hospital broke records for fundraising and attendance.

The event raised over \$60,000 for the hospital, with more than 320 people attending - the highest attendance to date for the event.

"We are so thankful to all the participants, sponsors, donors, volunteers and vendors for helping make this event such a success this year," Betty D'Oliveira, volunteer chair of the event's committee. "Our communi-



Georgetown Hospital Foundation photo

The annual Walk or Run for the Georgetown Hospital is aimed to raise \$55,000 for the purchase of six new patient beds.

ty's record-breaking turnout at this event will have a positive impact on patients at our community hospital for years to come." Funds raised during this year's event will support the purchase of new patient beds, including a special wound-surface bed. The new beds have upgraded technology, including integrated alarms that will reduce the possibility of patient falls.

More information about the annual Walk or Run for Georgetown Hospital is available at GeorgetownHospitalFoundation.ca.

Don't be a LitterBug! Please keep our community clean.



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