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Seniors for the future

By Joan Scannell

There's an old saying which we've often heard, and that is, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Well, I'll have you know that this old dog has learned to use a microwave oven, program a VCR, get results from a serger sewing machine, and can work a computer to a certain extent.

I won't say it wasn't a brain strain, but what I find more difficult is trying to break old habits. Now there are good habits and bad habits, and then there are just...habits.

One Saturday morning when I

was at the supermarket, waiting to go through the checkout counter with my shopping buggy full to overflowing, I glanced over and saw my daughter-in-law waiting in the next aisle. She waved to me, and as we made our way together to the exit, she said to me in her forthright way, "I hate it when retired people do their shopping on a Saturday."

Hmmmm...I thought to myself, why do I shop on a Saturday? Of course, it all goes back to more than forty-odd years ago, when my husband got paid on a Friday night, and I would leave the children with him on a Saturday morning and do my week's shopping in peace. And now here I was, with not only six, but seven shopping days, cluttering up the aisles for those who have only one or two days to shop. I had just never thought of changing.

Then I thought of the washday habit. Who invented Monday as washday anyway? I used to hate coming home from school on a Monday, especially in the cold weather. The kitchen would have lines strung across it from the ceiling, with all sorts of damp clothes hanging down, ready to slap me in the face.

My own experiences with washdays were easier, of course, but I'm coming or going."

still, it entailed using a wringer washer and a set of rinsing tubs. It became a sort of competition, not only to get the washing out on the line before your neighbors', but to get it even whiter and brighter than

Everybody washed on Monday, and if one of the neighbors did not have anything on her line that day, we knew that she was either sick or lazy. (Who says we don't have a class system?)

Sometimes I would cheat and do the wash on a Sunday night, but of course I didn't dare hang it out until Monday morning.

Friday was the day I would bake, and clean the house for the week-

So after almost half a century of sticking to these habits, I am making a conscious effort to change

It's been nine years since my husband retired. (I can't see my own retirement in sight yet.) Breaking these habits has not made life any easier... in fact, I've become quite disorganized. We often run out of bread and milk, I forget whether it was this week or last week since I changed the bed linen, and I often hear the cry "I have no clean socks left.'

I won't mention the layers of dust. In fact, another old saying that haunts me now is "I don't know if

Referendum vote uncertainty

By Wendy Long

One thing is clear: many Halton Hills citizens don't have a clue how to vote in the October 26 Referendum.

An independent poll conducted by Halton Hills This Week revealed a plethora of "I don't knows" a handful of "No" and not

one potential "Yes" vote.

Citizens acknowledged that despite being bowled over with media information on the Charlottetown agreement, they still don't know enough, at this point, to make an informed decision.

Here is a sampling of what citi-

"I need simple information that I can understand, information that's in my language," said a store clerk.

Many said, "I haven't had time to read it over.'

"I don't know and I don't care," said a senior.

"I haven't studied it that much. Nobody seems to really know any-

thing about it." "I'm voting no. I'm tired of being blackmailed.'

"I don't trust the politicians. Especially since it hasn't been finally written up yet legally."

"Don't you think that's a private

"I haven't read over my thinga-"You don't know which is the

lesser of the two evils." "I don't understand all of it."

"People are just too confused."

"I haven't paid much attention to it yet. I don't care about Quebec. If they want to go, let 'em go. They've been dictating to the rest of the country for too long as far as I'm concerned."

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