

# Winter Travel

We all have our breaking points. That moment in time where our capacity to endure stress has reached defcon 4 and we must take a holiday. For me that moment was July 17th. Unfortunately we weren't able to get away until December 31. You guessed it, I have been an absolute treasure to be around these past 6 months, just ask the editor.

Winter travel in particular can be a curious animal. Some folks opt for ski holidays. Something I've done but never really understood. I'm of the belief that if you spend as much of the year in the snow as we do, a winter getaway should be about climate change. The idea of dropping 3 or 4 large ones on a January vacation that still includes a parka and toque is not what I call "getting away from it all". But hey, I'm happy if it works for you. That just leaves me more room at the swim up bar.

For those who just want to plunk themselves down somewhere and avoid all forms of heavy lifting there really are only two choices: the all-inclusive and the cruise. All-inclusives can also be broken down in two ways: adult-only and really loud. Couples who have kids might disagree but that's because they're immune to the noise. For us childless folks the presence of young'uns reduces, dramatically, the opportunity for true rest and relaxation around the pool or beach. Don't get me wrong, I love the sounds of children playing, but when you're on vacation a couple hours of "Marco" followed incessantly by "Polo" is about as comforting as Celine Dion at 78 speed. (wow a turntable reference, I am getting old)

The problem and blessing of an all-inclusive is it's a '7 day max' type of holiday. Anything after a week and most people get a little stir crazy being confined to a compound, ah, I mean resort. The upside is how rested you seem to be after only 7 days. The endless parade of drinks named after mystical gods and tropical storms will do that to you. All-inclusives have evolved for the better over the years. The first one we went to was a Club-Med in the early 90s. I came home from that more stressed than when I left, what with the French GO's constantly badgering me into beach volleyball or some lame conga line. "Hey Francois, here's 10 bucks, go swap that sling-shot for a decent bathing suit and knock the enthusiasm back a notch."

The cruise on the other hand is Satan's holiday. For someone who is as anti-social as me, boarding a cruise ship is like the Dalai Lama jumping into a mosh pit. Let's just say it's not my cup of tea. Fighting for deck chairs, listening to paint-peeling Karaoke and watching 300 pound ballast waddle up to the dessert table for 4ths doesn't rank among my favourite things. And there's no refuge. At least when you're on an all-inclusive you can go hide in your room for a while. Most quarters on a ship are so small you have to leave the room to blink. I've been on one cruise and after 3 days, I did not feel like I was "king of the world" but I was praying for the iceberg.

We've been on several European vacations and I think overall we've enjoyed those holidays the most. There's much more to see and do, and if you go at the right time of year you can enjoy great weather with few tourists. The tricky part is you really need at least 2 weeks and you've got to be prepared for the odd language issue. On a trip to Italy just after we were married I was absolutely certain I'd purchased a rail pass that guaranteed us travel on any and all choo choos in Italy. See they have expresso, rapido and "slow-o". We boarded the rapido from Rome to Florence and when I flashed my pass to the conductor, he informed me in Italian that my pass was only good for "slow-o" and I needed to pay him an additional amount of lira. My wife's French helped translate the information. I said to Julie, "You tell him that I've got an all-purpose pass here and that I'm not paying any more money." She did and he responded by telling me that if I didn't pay the additional amount I'd be going to jail. Future trips to Europe involved rental cars.

The holiday we're on this time is one we piece-mealed together on the internet. The familiarity of Naples Florida appealed to our no-hassle side. Book the flight, book the hotel, book the rental car.....veg. Everything's English, everything's warm and everything's convenient.....really convenient. I love the fact that you can go into a Piggly frickin' Wiggly and buy coffee, soft drinks and beer. I'm told they have food there as well. Florida has something for both of us. Julie can shop and I can go and throw clubs around... ah, I mean golf.

Besides the obvious attraction of being next to the ocean with a warm

## Jeff Lumby's view from the country

breeze blowing in as you watch the sun set, Florida is noticeably neat. When we left Toronto it was pouring. I was going through windshield washer fluid quicker than grass through a goose. There's a reason that a smeared mixture of snow, rain, slush, salt and dirt never popped up in a Monet painting. It's unpleasant to look at and even more irritable to deal with day after day. In Naples, all

the cars and yards are clean and sometimes that's enough to start putting a positive slant back on things.

Although it's difficult to justify the costs of a week long vacation, the health benefits are undeniable. So if you think you need a rest, follow your hunch. Do yourself a favour and get out of Dodge. It's not as if you'll be missing a big Leaf game or anything.

### NOTICE OF COMPLETION

#### THE CITY OF GUELPH

#### CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TREATMENT AT THE ARKELL AND CARTER WELL SUPPLIES

##### The Study

The City of Guelph, through their consultants, Stantec Consulting Limited and Associated Engineering Ltd., commissioned a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) in support of water treatment improvements for the Arkell Well/Collectors and Carter Well Supplies. Upgrades to the system must be undertaken to facilitate disinfection upgrades to ensure compliance with the new Ontario Drinking Water Regulation 170/03. In addition, the City is proactively undertaking further repairs and upgrades to maintain the reliability and security of this supply.

The proposed upgrades include:

- Construction of a UV facility at the F.M. Woods Treatment Plant for the treatment of all water supplies from the Arkell Spring Ground and Carter wells;
- Construction of a replacement aqueduct at the Arkell Spring Ground east of Watson Road;
- Upgrades to the Artificial Recharge System at the Arkell Spring Ground including reinforcing the pump platform and construction of a new pumphouse, construction of a maintenance access bridge and a small control facility on shore;
- Reconstruct the Carter wellhouse to house both wells and upgrade the piping and control equipment inside;
- Install connections for standby power at each wellhouse at the Arkell Spring Ground.

##### The Process

The Study was conducted in accordance with the Municipal Engineers Association's Class Environmental Assessment process. The Class EA addressed health related disinfection upgrades and did not include an increase in permitted capacities.

##### Environmental Screening Document

An Environmental Screening Document (ESD) has been completed to document the planning and decision-making processes followed by this project. The ESD will be available for public review starting on Wednesday, January 5th, 2005 for thirty (30) calendar days at the following locations (Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM):

**F.M. Woods Treatment Plant**  
29 Waterworks Place  
Guelph, ON  
(519) 837-5627

**Environment & Transportation Department**  
2 Wyndham Street, 3rd Floor  
Guelph, ON  
(519) 837-5604

During this thirty (30) day public review period, anyone who has an outstanding concern with the project, which cannot be resolved in a discussion with the City of Guelph, may request that the Minister of the Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act, which addresses individual environment assessments. A person may submit a written request to the Ministry of the Environment at the following address:

**The Honourable Leona Dombrowsky**  
Minister of the Environment - The Executive  
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 12th Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

A copy of the Part II Order requests should also be sent to:

Mr. Brian Pett  
City of Guelph,  
Waterworks Division  
Works Department  
City Hall, 59 Carden Street  
Guelph, Ontario N1H 3A1  
Tel: 519-837-5627  
Fax: 519-822-8837  
email: bpett@city.guelph.on.ca

Mr. Dennis Mutti, P.Eng.  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
49 Frederick Street  
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6M7  
Tel: 519-585-7438  
Fax: 519-579-6733  
email: dmutti@stantec.com

If no Part II Order (bump-up) requests are received by Friday February 4th, 2005, the upgrades will proceed to design and construction as outlined in the ESD.

This Notice issued 20th December, 2004.

City of Guelph

ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING AE



Stantec



Everybody needs a rest sometime