

This metric madness must end

It's been more than 20 years since Canada jumped aboard the metric bandwagon and I can't help thinking the whole exercise has been a waste of time and money.

Sure, sure, I know all the reasons why this country opted to go metric three decades ago— primarily to bring us into line with much of the rest of the world— but after 25 years of use, you would figure metric would be second nature to most of us.

It's not. At least it's not to me or anyone I know.

While the younger generation, say those under 25, may have a working knowledge of metric, it's pretty obvious that most people over the age of 30 still measure by inches and feet and weigh themselves in pounds. And there are more of us over 30 than under, so if metric is going to be the system of choice for the majority of Canadians it will probably take another 20-30 years for that to actually happen.

In the meantime, however, we Imperialites are forced to live our lives under the laws of the tyrannical metric police even though that's not how we think.

I know it's about eight miles to the Brampton Guardian office from The Independent & Free Press office but only last week did I realize that it was 12.88 kilometres.

I have, since metric was introduced, found myself buying hamburger by the total price and not the weight. I want two pounds of lean ground not .90 kilograms.

Gas may be 59 cents a litre but that doesn't tell me a thing (other than the oil companies are committing a major-league rip-off).

We've had the metric system in place for a quarter of a century and yet even our major media outlets ignore it.

Don't believe me? Watch a TV weather forecast and you'll see both Celsius and Fahrenheit used for temperatures. Turn on a football game and you'll hear the announcers talk about a 250 lb., 6-foot 6 linebacker not a

THIS
'N
THAT



John McGhie

112.5-kilogram, 1.95 metre linebacker which, by the way, doesn't sound all that imposing, does it?

Furthermore, it is a pound of flesh not a kilo of flesh; an ounce of prevention not a gram; a 10-gallon hat not a 45.40 litre hat!

I urge all fellow Imperialites to write to their local federal member of parliament and demand the return of imperial measurement. This metric charade has gone on long enough.

SERVICE IS EVERYTHING

During a recent excursion to the U.S., I attempted to purchase an item that had a mark on it and pointed out the flaw to the cashier. Even though the item was already on sale, she knocked an extra \$10 off the price because of the mark. This week, in a Canadian store, the same scenario unfolded. I intended to buy an item that was marked, but when I pointed out the flaw to the store manager she said that was the reason it was discounted. The end result? One place got my money and the other didn't.

DIS 'N DATA

The CBC, hasn't produced a sitcom worth watching since well, never, but its latest effort, The Newsroom, is so realistic it's frightening, not to mention funny... Message to Sarah Ferguson: Shut the hell up. No one cares about hard you had it while living in a palace and were waited on hand and foot... Hwy. 407, hmmm? Shorter off ramps and no guardrails? Sounds like an accident waiting to happen.

MAY WE RECOMMEND ...



JUDY POWELL



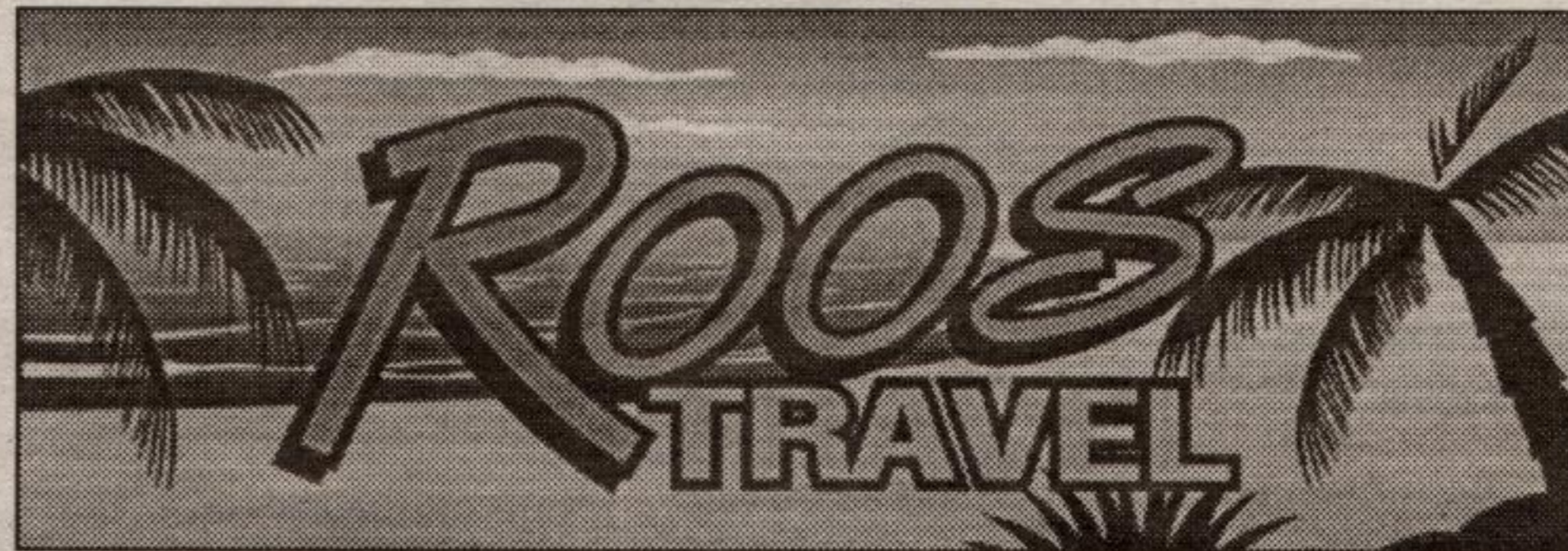
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