

Courtesy, What's that?

I sometimes worry that common courtesy has gone the way of the dodo.

There was a time when people were concerned about those around them, and made an effort to not offend or inconvenience others.

And, I'm sure, if you look hard enough, many of those fine people still exist.

But I fear the others, those 'me-oriented' ones out there, tend to be increasing more and more in numbers as each year goes by.

With this being March Break, the Centre Court at Georgetown Market Place is the high water mark for kids whose parents couldn't afford to head off for a week to somewhere warm and sunny with white sand beaches.

It's the place where the mall administration hosts shows that give moms and dads and the little ones somewhere to go to be entertained and enjoy their time off school.

Tuesday was the Max and Ruby show, a pair of rabbit sibling cartoon stars, who appeal to the little kids, in the three to five year-old age group.

I was sent to cover the show, and photograph the excitement on the faces of the pint-size audience that had gathered there, many of them waiting an hour or more to get the best seat on the carpet in the front row.

The first thing I noticed was a wall of shopping carts, parked around the outside of the court. It seems some parents decided that the world granted them twice as much space as others, and used the shopping carts to hold their coats, their shopping bags and in some cases, their kids, at the expense of others who weren't quite as self-serving.

Not only was it inconsiderate to block the area with a shopping cart— it was dangerous, barricading the area while those shoppers who didn't give a hoot about Max and Ruby had to squeeze through.

Giving the shopping cart crowd the benefit of doubt, I'm never sure if people like that are being selfish or just happen to be in their own little cloud, oblivious to the effect they're having on those around them.

The show began, and the kids were overjoyed with Max and Ruby dancing around the stage.

Ted Brown



As the kids danced and sang along with the performers, I noticed a woman shoving in behind me.

She was pushing her kid past me, past the people running the show, past the security people, in fact, past anyone who got in her way, to seat her princess in the front row— at the expense of any other kid already there. Apparently, she didn't have a grasp of the 'first come- first serve' concept.

It was too bad for the little kids who had waited for an hour— her kid was gonna be in the front row, no matter what. Three people challenged her as she shoved through— each time she snipped back at them and pushed her kid through the crowd.

Finally the last one who confronted her was a little more aggressive than the others. The pushy mom snapped back a couple of rude words, then left, dragging her designer clothing-clad princess with her.

Apparently she finally got the message.

I wanted to pat that person on the back for standing up to her. In this case, it made a difference to those little kids in front who had waited so long. So often, pushy people simply get their way, at others' expense.

It seems some people are born into this world, convinced all others owe them special status.

But fortunately, there are also others who aren't afraid to take a stand, and tell them they don't.

So apparently, common courtesy is not dead. You just have to look a bit harder to find it.

(Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

Group wants Province more involved in future power projects

MELANIE HENNESSEY
Special to The IFP

A residents' group wants the Province to step up and find a better way to complete power projects.

The notion, from the homeowners' advocacy group called Powerline Connections, comes in response to Hydro One's proposed transmission line that will run through Halton Hills and Milton.

The group of about 120 landowners formed primarily to advocate for fair financial compensation and transparency in the ongoing negotiations with Hydro One.

Robert Barlow of Powerline told the Region's planning and public works committee recently that the group thinks the Province should be brought to the table as well to come up with a better way to implement these kinds

of projects, particularly when it comes to dealing with landowners.


"I'm going to lose my property, my business, and it (Hydro One's proposed transmission line) goes through my home," said the Halton Hills resident. "Landowners have to be put first. We're saying we want to be treated fairly up front and not at the end of the process."

He asked the Region for its support in dealing with the Province, noting Powerline has been trying to talk to the provincial government for almost a year now.

"We want to sit down with the Province and say, 'These are the issues we've run into,'" he said.


Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette acknowledged the frustration residents are experiencing and asked staff to prepare a summary on the issue for the next cycle of committee and council this month.

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