

# EDITORIAL

with Hartley Coles

## Positive attitude

The Toronto Star recently interviewed community movers and shakers in Toronto about their visions for a new and better city in 2007. Some of them had some good ideas about how the city could improve its image and make the Conde Naste tourism list. But it took Mike "Pinball" Clemens, the irrepressible coach of the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts, to turn the inquiry on its ear.

The "Pinball," who recently took out Canadian citizenship for he and his family, told reporters that Torontonians should start with a better appreciation for what they have and realize the greatness of their city.

"Toronto is not second fiddle to any other city in the world," the upbeat Clemens proclaimed. "We are not a little New York because Toronto is better than New York. We are not Hollywood North because we are better than Los Angeles."

Now some may think Mike Clemens may be exaggerating at least a little but it is his positive attitude towards everything he's connected with that contributes so much to its success. It's like the old adage about a glass of milk measuring half way down a glass. Some would say it's half empty. People like "Pinball" would say it's half full.

Now that 2007 is here if a few more of us adopted that buoyant Clemens attitude it could go a long way to solving some of the problems we face, real or imagined.

## Potpourri...

It is hard to believe there are people in this town and area who would stoop to defacing church signs and landscaping and spray painting the new Rotary bandshell in Prospect Park with graffiti before the project was even finished. Vandals also defaced the Boathouse in the park as well as several signs and went to work on the new steel framework of the new multi-purpose Agricultural Society building in the park. The vandalism is a sad reflection on the whole community where all of these projects are for the public good. We hope the police can catch the culprits and extend the full force of the law on their misplaced spray painting zeal. Any information people may have on the vandals would be appreciated by Halton Police.

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Here's a tip of the editorial chapeau to the organizers of the Acton Community Christmas Dinner who again this year served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to those who might otherwise be alone or not have been able to enjoy the social festivities on Christ's birthday. About 60 people enjoyed the dinner this year, served at Bethel Christian Reformed Church, accompanied by carols and other fun. Organizers and their helpers, of course, gave up time with their families and friends so others could enjoy the holiday.

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"Environment Canada says the mild winter weather we're experiencing this winter is not the result of global warming but merely a "blip" in weather patterns. Icy polar weather which ordinarily brings below-zero weather and snow to Canada, is stuck in the arctic. Meanwhile balmy winds from the south keep temperatures above the freezing mark and melt the ice on lakes, rivers and streams such as this photo of Fairy Lake Monday which resembles a skating rink in the frosty mornings and a swimming pool by afternoon." - From the Feb. 2, 2006, New Tanner.

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Has there ever been a more brilliant Christmas lighting display in this area from residents than there has been this season? The lack of snow didn't discourage people from lighting up their homes and property with all the elements that contribute to a festive ambience. They ranged from tasteful to gaudy and from elegant to displays to match the Griswolds. After the dreary fall months when the sun only appeared for auditions, the Christmas lighting cheered most of us up. Even the grinchers must have smiled. Alas, they'll soon all be gone.



**WELL, I SWAN:** Who could have visualized the serene scene of a Fairy Lake swan enjoying the water on the north arm of the lake on New Year's Eve day? John Shadbolt's lens caught the image as one lone bird consorted with a flock of Mallard ducks testing thin ice that comes and goes in weather better suited to early spring than winter.

## Extreme weather can be costly

Global warming may have been the last thing on the minds of Vancouverites as they dug out from a record snowfall and cold snap. But it's another reminder of how much we all depend on the stability of our atmosphere.

While residents of other Canadian cities may scoff at Lotus land's relatively minor misfortunes, the city has certainly had its fair share of weather anomalies lately. First, record rains churned up rivers and caused landslides in the city's watersheds, leading to turbidity problems in the drinking water supply and a boil-water advisory across the region. Then, just as the water began to clear, a record cold and snowfall paralyzed the city.

What has this got to do with global warming? Well, extreme weather events like these are exactly the kind of thing climatologists say will become more common as our climate heats up.

### Science Matters



By David Suzuki

How confusing is that? Global warming can cause heavy snowfalls. But it's true.

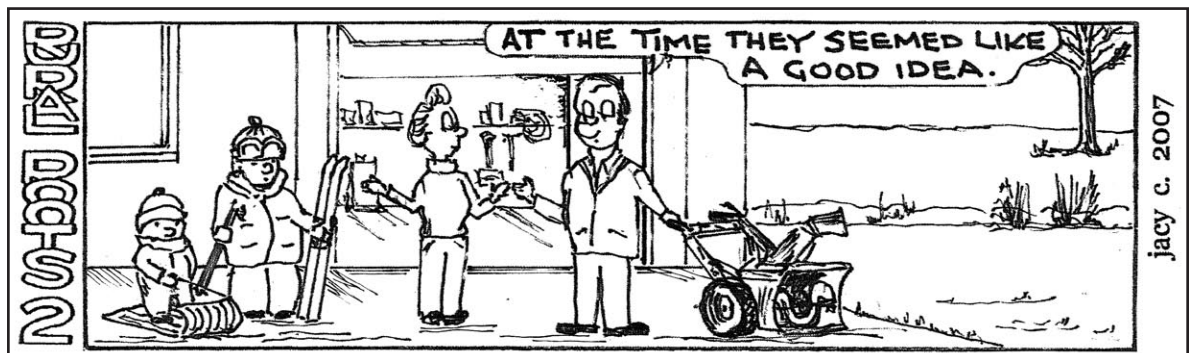
This ability to link global warming to so many weather-related phenomena has created a bit of a joke: Blame everything on global warming. Stock market down?

Global warming. Can't get a date? Global warming.

But underlying the joke is a serious fact. Our atmosphere is connected to everything - including us. By adding vast amounts of heat-trapping gases like carbon dioxide to the atmosphere (from our industries, cars and power plants) we're trapping more heat near the surface of the earth. More heat means more energy. Adding so much energy to our atmosphere creates the potential for more violent outbursts - like the weather Vancouver has been feeling lately.

This is why it's so imperative and urgent for humanity to get this problem under control. It's not as though global warming is just a minor inconvenience. Left unchecked, it's set to become a major hindrance to economic growth and international develop-

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