

# Seeing red can sometimes be a good thing

Gogi has red hair.

You heard me, I said Gogi has red hair. Who's Gogi, you ask?

That's my granddaughter. My daughter nicknamed her when she was like two days old and the name has stuck. I don't know what it means and neither does she. The point is that she has red hair.

Red-haired people are stereotyped as we all know. They're supposed to have fiery tempers for one thing. I've never been that curious about it before, but it's like when you get a new car and all of a sudden you notice others with the same make as yours that you never saw before.

The Gogi and I go for walks almost daily in her stroller — she just turned one last

week. People often comment about the red hair, which I proudly make sure is on full display. At first it was like, "Oh no she has red hair," but now I couldn't be happier about it. It just took a little getting used to.

But, what I want to know is if redheaded kids are good kids or whether they're little monsters. So, I ask, or I'm told without asking.

One man showed me pictures of his red-haired grandkids and used unprintable words to describe their behaviour. Okay, not so good there.

A woman told me about her niece with red hair, who was very, very well behaved. As luck would have it, she has the same name as my granddaughter. No, not Gogi,



with MURRAY TOWNSEND

## On the loose

but I took it as a good sign.

I met another woman and her red-haired son at a yard sale. He was the quietest kid ever, I was told with a laugh. That was very encouraging, until I learned that he was deaf until he was five.

Somebody else said that Gogi was like a little Nicole Kidman with the red hair. I liked that, especially considering the alternative, which a generation or two before would have been Lucille Ball.

I asked a red-headed woman of about 30 if she had been a rotten kid. She said she wasn't, and that she didn't have a bad temper, but added that red-haired people were very good at one other thing. Okay. Well, I'm not going there.

Usually I resist the temptation to ask red-heads if they're hot tempered, in case they are and have a temper tantrum because I asked the question. In fact, if they do have bad tempers it could be because of everybody asking them about it all the time.

The only thing I've noticed is that red-headed people seem exceptionally nice, which is another good sign. I haven't seen any examples of the stereotypes being true.

I went on-line to research this further and couldn't find any studies about red-headed temper. Studies do show that red hair is more prevalent in Irish and Scottish people, but I went to schools when I was a kid that were about 80 per cent Italian and I remember one of them having bright red hair. I even remember his name, which may say something about red-haired people being more memorable.

Gogi has shown to have a temper about certain things, but I think it's pretty much the same for all babies. Most of the time she's very, very calm. In fact, she's been nothing but an angel.

Maybe that's it. Maybe redheads are gifts from heaven, and come with a bright red wrapping so that we know it.

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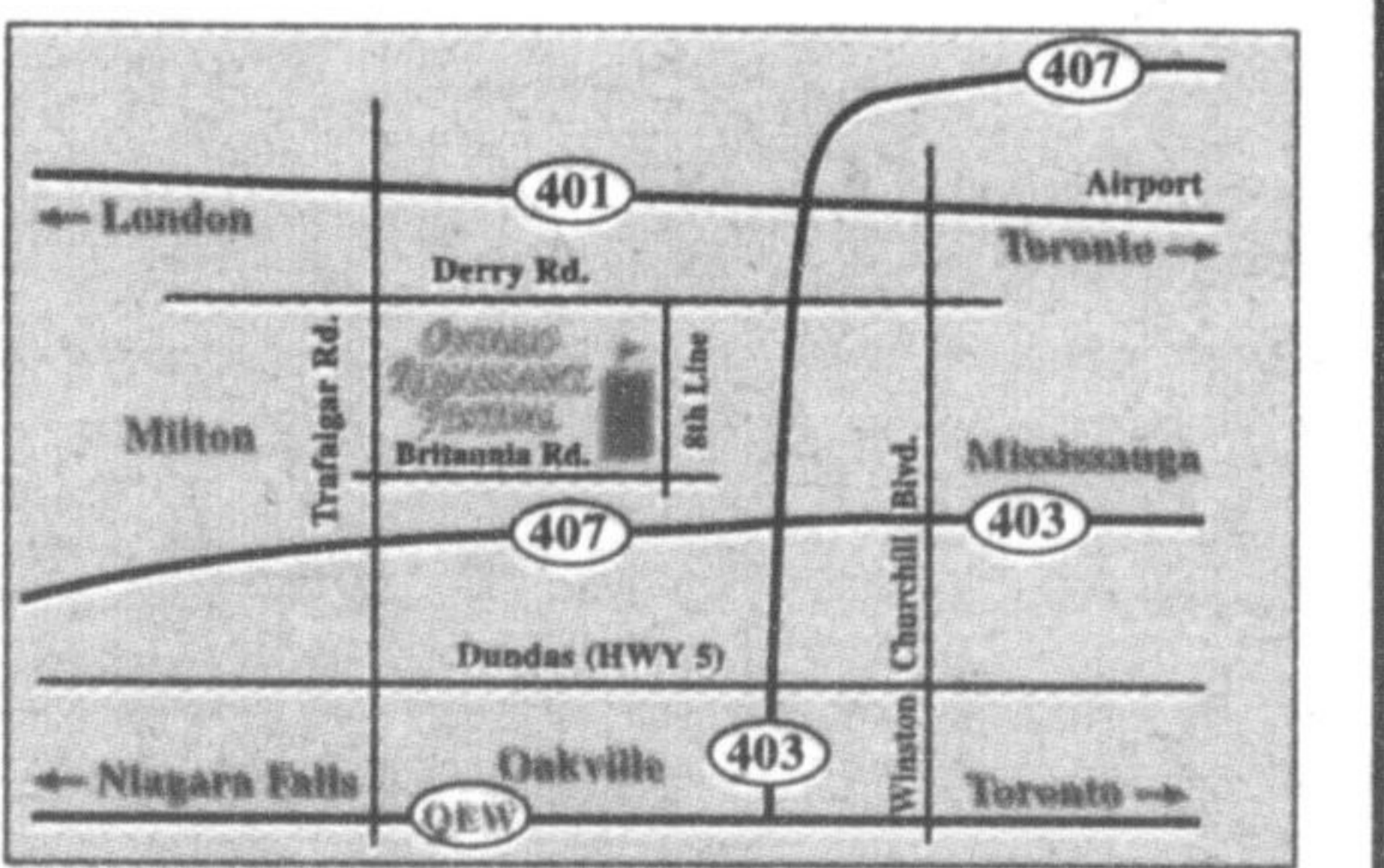
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HALTON REGION 30th ANNIVERSARY

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Bid documents for the services listed below, addressed to the Manager of Purchasing, 1151 BRONTE ROAD, OAKVILLE, ON L6M 3L1 will be received until 2:00 p.m. Oakville time on the specified closing date. Bid documents can be seen or obtained through the Purchasing Division of the Corporate Services Department, same address as above, telephone 905-825-6000, extension 7011. If long distance charges apply, dial toll free 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866).

Documents will be available for pick up on and after Thursday July 22, 2004, and there is a non-refundable deposit of \$26.75 (includes GST). Bidders who request documents to be shipped from the Purchasing Department must include a handling fee of \$10.70 (includes GST) for this service. Bid documents are also available to download from Halton's website at [www.region.halton.on.ca/bids](http://www.region.halton.on.ca/bids) for a non-refundable deposit of \$10.70 (includes GST).

Under no circumstances will facsimile or late bids be accepted or considered. Lowest or any bid not necessarily accepted.

Halton Region relies on this advertisement to provide public notice of this business opportunity and is not obligated to notify any potential bidders in any other manner.

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**Bell/Chairman's Breakfast on the Environment**

I would like to invite you to attend the Bell/Chairman's Breakfast on the Environment. Presented in partnership with TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, the event will feature renowned deep sea explorer and author Dr. Joe MacInnis. In his keynote address entitled "Leadership and the Environment - Lessons from Inside the Ocean", Dr. MacInnis will share his perspective and insight on the world around us.

Friday, September 17, 2004 at Rattlesnake Point Golf Club, Regional Road 25, Milton, 7:30 a.m., \$40 per person. For more information, or to reserve your ticket(s), contact the Halton Region Business Development Centre at 905-825-6000, ext. 7514, toll free 1-866-4HALTON, or visit [www.haltonbusiness.com](http://www.haltonbusiness.com).

Chairman  
Joyce Savoline

**Halton Regional Meeting Schedule:**

There are no regularly scheduled Standing Committee or Council meetings in August.

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1  
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