

Weekender

# Comment

## Miracle on Main Street

A massive explosive ripped through Markham Village Lanes early Thursday, marking a new era...one in which a small idyllic town came of age.

Markham Village Lanes, a showpiece on Markham's Main Street, was the target of a heinous crime.

Manny Elkind, owner of the complex stated in an interview with the Economist that the perpetrator was probably someone who was jealous.

Whoever committed this mindless crime, blew away the livelihoods and dreams of several innocent merchants and risked their very lives.

The bomb stripped away our illusions too. No longer can Markhamites believe themselves to be living in a Camelot community, tucked away from the ugly festering problems and symptoms of our time.

Markham has crime, drugs, hatred, abuse, loneliness and corruption just like we see on television and read about in other communities.

But when the rubble clears, there's something left at the core. Something no bomb could eradicate.

Markham's got heart and spirit enough to rebuild the businesses of those harmed, and enough left over to fortify the dreams behind them.

Main Street merchants are already making sure their peers rebuild their livelihoods and dreams. Support of every kind has begun to flow abundantly.

It is a miracle that no one was injured in the blast and a different kind of miracle that shows us this community is no stagefront Camelot.



"You want to borrow some shower?"

## Summertime split-weekend blues

Okay, get out the violins. It's time to send for the crying towels for those of us whose job circumstances dictate that a "weekend" consists of a Thursday and a Sunday off each week.

Great in the winter when the uncrowded condition of most ski resorts makes a weekday an ideal choice for no-lineup skiing.

But in the summer, when cottage country wanderlust seems to go with the hot humid weather, the poor sucker with the split weekend must pack a lunch and head off for work when everyone else is packing their ditty bag and heading for the lake.

The retailer, the nurse, the cop, and the shift worker can all be forgiven their wry smiles on a rainy Saturday when they don't feel they are missing so much. They remember all those beautiful Saturdays when they had to deal with irate customers, snarky patients, unlawful

drivers, and unreasonable bosses while everyone else's main concern was what kind of suntan lotion would protect them while providing a deep, rich tan.

As a career retailer, I learned to see Saturday as just another day. Until I sold my business. All of a sudden, I had this full day off, with the kids. No church, no structure whatsoever. Wow!

It took about 3 months to adjust to, after which time I was hooked on the Saturday-Sunday weekend as an institution. It was just like being a kid in school again, but without the homework!

But a return to the retail game forced me to give up my new toy. Back to Saturday night, Sunday, and phoosh, the weekend is gone. Nothing more than an extended coffee break. So now when someone asks what I did on the weekend, I'm likely to reply that I blinked and missed it.



Mind you, a short weekend causes you to react with grateful celebration when you are able to catch the boss at a weak moment and wrangle a rare Saturday off. It also helps you make the most of what little time you do have.

If you have friends with expensive toys, you can dazzle people with visions of weekend adventures, even if you do only have one day. But as I found out last weekend, the reality of the experience can sometimes fall short of the

image conjured up in the minds of others.

My friend Brian has an 18-foot Sloop, so we decided to spend the 24-hour weekend on the boat, sailing, playing guitars, and butchering the music of Bob Seger and Neil Young.

Now this craft may zip along pretty well, and it may handle waves in a more than adequate fashion, but have you ever tried to sleep in one of those sardine cans? It's sort of like trying to sleep in a Chevette.

Or try on this scenario. You head out from Pefferlaw to Beaverton, under blue skies, and powered by a gorgeous breeze. You drop anchor at a beach to have a swim, then stroll over to the snack bar to procure some ice cubes so you can concoct your favorite drink.

All is perfect, until you look up and see the black wall of cloud which has suddenly appeared on the near horizon, accompanied by a sudden mega-increase in wind speed.

Four hours later, you limp back into the slip, soaked to the skin, shivering, and with new respect for "Sudden Simcoe" and her instant storms. And you never did get a chance to mix that drink!

So that, in a nutshell, was my most recent "short" weekend. Not such a bad memory, I guess, now that my wretched cold is clearing up. Who knows what I'll do next weekend. Let's see now. Don't I have a friend with an Ultra Lite?

Economist & Sun

The Tribune

9 Heritage Rd.,  
Markham,  
L3P 1M3

JIM THOMAS  
DON BERNARD  
Editors

CHRISTINE BERTRAM  
Office Manager

## Weekender

BRUCE ANNAN  
Publisher

294-2200  
495-9440  
640-2100  
649-2292

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT — News Editor-Jo Ann Stevenson, Reporters: Greg Coates, Paula Crowell, Steve Houston, Chris Shanahan, Kelly Connelly, Sports Editor-Francis King, Photography-Sjoerd Witteveen.

BUSINESS OFFICE — Shirley Lee, Patti Burgess, Andrea Manuel, Charlene Tuckey.

JENNIFER HUTT  
Distribution Manager

Published every Saturday by Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing at 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, Ontario, L3P 1M3, Tel. 294-2200.

Second class mail registration number 1247.

The Weekender is one of the Metroland group of suburban newspapers which includes The Acton Free Press, Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Burlington Weekend Post, The Etobicoke Advertiser, The Georgetown Independent, The Markham Economist and Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Willowdale Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Friday Beaver, Oshawa Whitby This Week, Oshawa Whitby This Weekend, The Richmond Hill Liberal, Thornhill Liberal, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune and Vaughan Liberal. Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. NATIONAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE — Metroland Corporate Sales, 493-1300.

PATRICIA PAPPAS  
Advertising Manager

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT — Retail: Terri Bernhardt, Lorne Hillier, Charles Canning, Jo-Ann Van Maurik, Lynn Moore, Real Estate Manager - Dorothy Young, Classified Manager - Debra Weller, Classified-Phyllis Ritchie, Joan Marshman, R. Stephen Mathieu, Karen Heise.

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT — Sandra Marrier, Jean Middleton, Barry Goodyear, Doreen Deacon, Irene Ramsperger, Sandra Kitley, Rob Moncrief, Lea Kitley.

Distribution Dept. 294-8244  
640-2100