

Weekender

Comment

Club for teens is needed

On Tuesday, Markham Planning committee turned down a plan for a teen dance club on Bullock Dr. And, while the town fathers and mothers may have some legitimate concerns — lack of control over hours of operation and age restrictions, for example — there is a troubling question.

Is a teen dance club feasible at all in Markham? Few doubt there is a need for such a facility — errant teens are a problem at plazas, etc. But as long as Markham councillors have serious reservations about the concept, it will never be a feasible business proposition.

If it can't be operated as a profitable business, then is the town willing to subsidize creation of such a facility? If the answer is no, then Markham councillors are burying their heads in the sand.

Our contention is that Markham needs a teen club and that the Town's recreation department should operate it.



Time to pay off those Christmas "Credit card charges" Folks!!

Unionville visitors from Caracas

It could only happen in Unionville.

You sit down in a restaurant to discuss plans for the upcoming escape to Venezuela, to find seated in the table beside you two nationals from that very same South American country.

Happened last week. Unionville House, to be specific. Great little spot, one of several in the area that blend quaint ambience with impressive service.

A slightly off the wall waitress set the tone for the evening with her greeting of "Hi, I'm Jody, and I'm afraid you're stuck with me for the duration of your dinner."

A few moments of good natured sparring followed, as we immediately took a shine to this delightful gal. I remarked to my friend, a doctor who specializes in optometry, how this brought back memories of our infamous ski trip to Quebec where our holiday-induced zaniness would invariably find me trying to converse with the waiters in Spanish,



instead of the more appropriate French.

This tends to happen when you've spent as much time in Mexico as I have, affording the opportunity for the practical application of that high school Spanish you never thought you'd need.

Jody didn't miss a beat, letting me know that no, she didn't speak Spanish, but the couple beside us did. This girl really made it her business to get to know her patrons.

Sure enough, a quick turn of the head revealed a smiling pair of faces with pronounced Latin features. My face lit up like a quartz halogen headlight as I revelled in

the opportunity to show off.

"Hola, que tal? Como estas?" I greeted them enthusiastically. And yes, further conversation confirmed that they were indeed from Caracas, Venezuela.

Elydia, every man's vision of the Girl From Ipanema, was a stunningly beautiful woman who had recently taken up residence in Toronto, where she works. Alberto, her male companion, works for VISA, the Venezuelan national airline, and was here for a visit.

Now this was really some coincidence, seeing as how sister Pat and I had spent the afternoon with Jean O'Neill in Stonehouse

House of Travel in Stouffville studying the pros and cons of a winter getaway to a beach close to Caracas.

Elydia and Alberto gave us all the information we needed to make our decision, and we told him we'd look him up when we get there.

Being a proud citizen of my own Markham and Stouffville area, I was curious as to what had brought this couple to Unionville for dinner.

It seems the little town with the storybook main street has made its mark among those in the Toronto area who would prefer to leave the big city hustle behind them when looking for that special night out.

Funny how we can take for granted the authentic charm and friendliness of Unionville when we live so close by. Only to "rediscover" it again when outsiders marvel at it, telling us how lucky we are to have such a village as part of our big neighborhood. Unionville seems to represent

the ideal that all small towns dream of achieving. Careful planning has allowed the main street to survive in its restored setting while the inevitable expansion of the town goes on around it.

The bypassing of the old village itself by Kennedy Road has eliminated the traffic that is just passing through, leaving Main Street less congested for those who choose to poke around.

Summer or winter, a drive or stroll through this page out of history serves as a replenishing experience, a chance to truly appreciate the efforts of so many people who have applied such creative energy to something so dear to them.

For those people, it must be a source of pride to know that some where in Caracas, Venezuela is a man whose holiday season memories will include an enjoyable dinner in Unionville with a beautiful lady, an attractive waitress, and several rather strange types from Stouffville.

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9 Heritage Rd.,
Markham,
L3P 1M3

DON BERNARD
JIM THOMAS
Editors

CHRISTINE BERTRAM
Manager

Weekender

BRUCE ANNAN
Publisher

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

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT — News Editor-Jo Ann Stevenson. Reporters: Paula Crowell, Steve Houston, Chris Shanahan, Alan Shackleton. Sports Editor-Frank King. Photography-Sjoerd Wittveen, Bill Lanning.

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Distribution Dept. 294-8244
640-2100

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