

Shopping for necessities requires true skill

In an age of increasing specialization, with people taking courses on how to present themselves, how to use body language and how to raise children, I can't understand why no one's tackled the thorny topic of effective shopping.

I'm not talking about shopping for interesting stuff like clothes, shoes or CDs, I'm talking about dull necessities like toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, crackers and coffee.



kate's corner

kate gilderdale

You used to be able to whip around your local food or drug store at the speed of light, instinctively knowing where things were and what they looked like, and be out of there in minutes.

But the times they have a changed.

For a start, no store worth its salt ever keeps things in the same place for too long, just in case you get complacent, and you can almost guarantee that just as you've got used to it the way it was, somebody will decide to "improve" it by rearranging everything.

Then there's the issue of choice. I like to think of myself as pro-choice, at least as far as shopping goes, but you can have too much of a good thing.

Remember when you went to buy a toothbrush and they came in soft, medium and hard?

Now they come with more options than a Rolls Royce.

You get compact heads, little skinny heads with minute clumps

of bristles, which are so small you'd end up cleaning your teeth one at a time; velvet tips, soft rounded tips, and long bristles on the outside surrounding short ones on the inside.

There are models called sulcular toothbrushes, which sounds like a nasty disease, but actually refers to the ability to "get into the difficult areas between teeth and gums." And then there are the handles.

You'll find handles with spindly tops and strange lumps on them curved handles, and handles with rubber tips on the bottom which prevent you from hanging your toothbrush in the toothbrush holder.

Last week I tried to buy three toothbrushes, one medium, two soft, each with four rows of old fashioned symmetrical bristles and nice, straight, unadorned handles.

I was still there 45 minutes later in front of a wall-to-wall display of ultrasoft, shorthead and double action models.

I finally decided on two of the three, but they only had them in medium or hard. I found a soft one

which was passable, but my son won't use a pink toothbrush and that was the only color they had.

I almost inquired where I could get our old models re-bristled.

After that I tried to buy some toilet paper.

Did I want one-ply, two-ply or three-ply? Quilted or plain? White, peach, grey, pink, yellow or soft beige? Scented or unscented? Finally I just looked at the prices and went for the cheapest.

I was beyond caring what people would think when they visited the smallest room at Chateau Gilderdale.

I spent the rest of the day vacillating between crackers with salt or no salt, whole wheat or plain, cheese flavored, onion flavored, garlic flavored, with or without poppy seeds or sesame seeds. Tomorrow you'll find me staring with glazed eyes at the coffee aisle.

I'd like to enlarge on the subject, but we've run out of cereal and the store closes in three hours.

ANNOUNCEMENT

KIMURA & GOODBRAND

wish to announce that they have dissolved their partnership effective May 1, 1990.

Donald Kimura will carry on his practice in association with Joan M. R. Emmans at:

155 Main Street West,
Stouffville, Ontario,
L4A 7Z4
Telephone: 640-5454.

Kenneth Goodbrand will carry on his practice as a sole practitioner at:

155 Main Street West,
Stouffville, Ontario,
L4A 7Z4
Telephone: 640-5454.

Rec File

Summer programs set to go

Registrations for all camps, aquatics, and summer tennis commences Monday, June 4 at the Recreation Complex.

Registrations begin at 6:30 p.m. You can assist our efforts by calling the Recreation Department and provide us with general family

information (name, address, postal code, phone number, etc.)

We will enter this information into the computer which will speed up the process to register for our programs.

Spring Tennis

We still have a few spaces left in the Adult Tennis program in June. Why not dust off that racquet and join us?

Registrations will be accepted at the Recreation Complex.

Triathlon

Our third annual Whitchurch-Stouffville Triathlon is set for Canada Day on Sunday, July 1. All interested triathletes are encouraged to participate.

Registration forms will be available in mid-May at the Recreation Complex.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this event is asked to contact the Recreation office.

There will be a volunteers meetings on Tuesday, May 15 at the Rec Complex at 6:30 p.m.

Pool Opens

It's time again to open the Whitchurch-Stouffville Pool. Saturday, June 2 at noon is the scheduled opening.

The Recreation Department has undertaken significant renovations to this facility and hope you enjoy the new changes.

Much Music Video Dance

As part of the Strawberry Festival, the Recreation Department, in conjunction with Much Music, is hosting a youth video dance at the Recreation Complex on Wednesday, June 27.

All youths are encouraged to attend.

This will be an all-request dance evening and participants are welcome to talk to the Veejay and request the video of their choice.

Skateboarding Program

Attention all skateboarders! Our season is upon us.

Season memberships are available through the Recreation Department.

The program begins this Wednesday, May 9.

Remember, helmets, knee pads and elbow pads are mandatory. There will be no exceptions.

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