

Perils of living in a 'plastic' society

"Have you got your card?" may well be the most asked question of the late Twentieth Century.

Yesterday I emptied out the contents of my battered wallet before consigning it to the garbage.

For years to come it could have accommodated more paper money than it was ever likely to carry, but the pitifully small section reserved for the multitude of

cards it contained had collapsed as a result of chronic overload.

The beginning of the end came when the Ministry of Health sent us four lovely, little rectangles of plastic, in individual envelopes and at great public expense, to replace the single OHIP card which had been our previous passport to the hospitals and medical centres of Ontario.

The accompanying leaflet



kate's corner

kate gilderdale

began with an announcement that even the most dim-witted of taxpayers would surely agree was redundant.

"You have just received your new Ontario Health Card!"

Whether the exclamation mark was to denote excitement or amazement at this momentous revelation was unclear.

After ploughing through such weighty topics as why my new card has a magnetic strip, I arrived at the crucial heading: "Who is responsible for looking after children's cards? A parent or guardian should carry the Health Cards of young children," advised the leaflet, exuding that

irritating air of helpful bonhomie so beloved of government pamphlets.

"Older children," it went on, "are encouraged to carry their own Health Cards at the parents' discretion."

Doesn't anyone working for the government have their own older children?

Don't they know that older children lose everything entrusted to their care unless it's really important, like baseball cards or bubble gum?

In practice, it means I'm the proud carrier of three new plastic cards which have joined two library cards, three video cards, a

CAA card with an expiry date of 1986, five credit cards, a bank card, cards for various family members from four different hospitals and a Bell Calling Card.

And that's not counting my Social Insurance Card, my English bank card and the children's birth certificates, which have been temporarily mislaid in my somewhat haphazard filing system.

I used to pay by cheque at the grocery store until they insisted on issuing their own little bits of plastic, but I think they did me a favor, because now I can only spend what's in my wallet, which means I stick more closely to my budget.

I've been inundated with 'invitations' to insure my cards, in the event of loss or theft.

Occasionally I go through them and remove a few from my over-worked wallet, only to return them in case I suddenly need them.

Suppose I was run down by a gravel truck on Highway 47 and wasn't carrying my Uxbridge Cottage Hospital Card?

What if I had to phone home collect and didn't have my Bell card?

How could I live through the weekend if, at 4.55 p.m. on a Saturday, I was stranded at the Public Library without my card?

It seems my whole life is dependent upon 17 rectangles of plastic.

Even if I wanted to be a card-carrying communist it would be out of the question, I haven't got enough room in my wallet.

Goodwood news

Couples Club held fun dance

ELSIE BOLAND
Correspondent

The Couples Club dance was held recently at Goodwood Hall.

The music was good but the crowd was small.

The disc jockey was an old Goodwood boy and he sure knows how to play his music. We all hope they have him again.

It is time for people to get their tickets for the season which is very reasonable and makes the ticket for dances less expensive.

Memberships are \$10 and dance tickets are \$8.

For non-members, the dance ticket is \$12.

Ticket sellers are Marlene Bell, Penny Johnson, Stacy Thorn, Bonnie Ross and Rhonda Perry.

We have a good dance floor and the hall was given to us, so I think we should make use of it.

The October event is a Halloween dance on Oct. 27 and John Bunk is the deejay.

Where are our old members? Have they moved away?

Last Wednesday was Bingo night at the Goodwood Hall, run by the Lioness Club.

Bingos will run every second Wednesday night and euchre will be played on the alternate Wednesdays for anyone who wishes to play.

A pot luck dinner was held last Friday at the barn at the Pentecostal Church in Stouffville. They entertained Markham area seniors and others who were welcomed.



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Lottery funds help people with disabilities.

Sharmila lost a leg to cancer when she was six years old. With the help of a prosthetic leg, Sharmila is able to skip and swim with her friends.

Helping people with disabilities is just one way lottery funds are used.

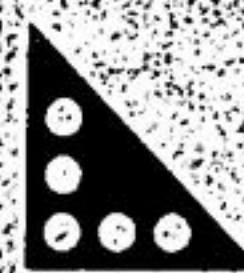
Lottery funds are also used to provide grants in other areas such



as sports and recreation, arts and culture, hospitals, and province-wide charities.

This is how Lottery funds are working for you in your area.

- Belleville General Hospital, Belleville
- Twin Mountain Snowmobile Club, Bobcaygeon
- Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough
- Uxbridge Youth Hockey Association, Uxbridge



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