

stouffville comment

Campbell has work cut out

We have a new prime minister. But will we have a new government?

That is a question for time, but in the meanwhile, the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell has her work before her. And quite a task it promises to be. The first female prime minister simply must come out with guns blazing to retain the position through another election.

She is in the unenviable position of having to resurrect the economy, battle unemployment and with the other hand, fend off the ever-watchful eye of the media, many of whom are bent on her destruction.

Campbell will soon have to sever her Mulroney ties and wipe the slate clean.

Whether she wins the next election is of no real concern. Her accomplishments to this point, in such a short time, is a true Canadian success story.



I need a vacation to recover from my vacation

Why is it that everything happens in June?

It seems as soon as the sun heats up just a tad, everything springs up like a field of dandelions.

This became most evident when I took my vacation last week.

The agenda was gruelling, with little time for actual rest and relaxation.

We had a wedding on the first weekend in North Bay, where I was master of ceremonies and usher. After three days of much running around, and very little merry-making, we returned to find our lawn in grievous need of mowing.

This is no mean task, since moving to the country in the winter left me with only a tiny city electric lawnmower.

I haven't gotten around to buying one of those mowers that look like a reject from a monster truck show. So I spent much of the first real day of my vacation getting tangled in 200 feet of lawnmower cord. It took five and a half hours to complete the task. Another day shot.

The following day, my in-laws arrived for my wife Kim's graduation from university.

More running around, cleaning. Another day shot.



MINUTE WITH MAIR

andrew mair

The following day was graduation day, and Kim had to be at school for noon. Graduation began at 2:30 p.m. and gruellingly finished at 5:30 p.m. Dinner followed; another day shot.

The next day it was off to Stratford, for some real relaxation, but with two theatre engagements, dinner, shopping and a sidetrip to St. Mary's, it was hardly relaxing.

But it was a wonderful time. Stratford is one of our favorite summer destinations, and this year's production of A Midsummer-Night's Dream was worth all the aggravation of finding parking spots, getting sunburned and overheating my car.

It is lively, quirky and the remodelling of Shakespeare's comedy is a delight.

By the end of the weekend, after fighting the cottage traffic and having the glaring sun beat down on my burned arms mercilessly as I drove, I was glad to be home.

But then I had to get up and go to work.

It really is true. Most people need a vacation to recover from their vacation.

Recycling taken to the next level

Recently it was Clare's birthday so I went shopping for clothes.

I bought her shorts, a vest and a lovely hat which will go perfectly with my blue jeans - the blue jeans she was wearing to school as I shopped.

Since my daughter and I share everything, I tried her presents on first, just to make sure they were the right size.

As I selected a pair of earrings from her room later that day, she was busy helping herself to my new black T-shirt.

There are few rules about borrowing in this house, except that the person who owns the clothes gets to wear them first.

This rule was instituted after a teacher looked at a shirt I was wearing and said, "that's Clare's, isn't it?" In this case it was actually mine and it was new. I hate possessive people, but I do like to make the point that I have some clothes of my



KATE'S CORNER

kate g. dordale

own. With the unseasonably cool spring and the need for big, warm tops, I took to raiding my son's wardrobe.

Owing to the condition of his closet this is not a task for the faint-hearted, but it can sometimes be worth the grisly effort.

The other day I found a nifty hooded sweatshirt scrunched up on the floor beneath his easel. One of the pockets was ripped, but I soon fixed that, thus doing him a favor for the next time he unearths it.

Of course he may not be able to find it again, since it's now hanging neatly in his closet.

the last place a teenager looks when dressing.

Co-ordinating a witty combination of garments from the family collection is a challenge. The traditional places used for storage yield little of interest, apart from some vintage neon pieces in junior sizes.

Under the bed, wedged behind the settee in the TV room, or stuffed beneath cushions in the basement is where you'll find the true gems.

Washed and, if absolutely necessary, ironed, they look so good that my daughter is often heard to exclaim, "so that's where my shirt went. Can I wear it?"

The only exception I make to fashion recycling is footwear. As the person with the smallest feet in this house, I have so far resisted the urge to don abandoned basketball boots.

If the shoe fits, I just throw it away.

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