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# Comment & Opinions

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EDITORIAL

## Recall special goal

Tomorrow is a pretty significant date in Canadian history. For it was on Sept. 28, 1972 that Paul Henderson scored the goal that was heard round the world — or at least across all of Canada and what was then the Soviet Union.

For many who were around to see it happen, The Goal became one of the defining moments in hockey history.

People still talk fondly about where they were when Henderson put the puck in the net to restore our national honour. It has become a part of the lore of the game and the history of Canada. Here we were, by no means a superpower, sending hockey players and fans into the heart of the "evil empire" to take on the big, bad Soviets.

It was also a time when all of Canada was united towards a common goal. Referendums, constitutional debates and the strange soul-searching to define "Canadian" were all to come in the future.

But for September, 1972 we were pulling together. Whether players were French-Canadian, English-Canadian, or immigrants such as Stan Mikita who was born in Czechoslovakia, it didn't matter — they were Team Canada and they had to win that series.

It may have seemed odd to the rest of the world, but the importance of this series became monumental, especially after we lost game one.

Canadians are relatively restrained patriots, we generally mind our own business and don't try to force our will on other countries.

However, in those days our hockey supremacy in the world was never questioned. When the Soviets came over and knocked us on our ear, it was time for some serious re-evaluation.

Many of the players in that series said that for them the final four games in Moscow were like being in a war. It's funny that 25 years later the participants can get together for a friendly game of shinny and laugh about what happened. Take time tomorrow to remember.



## Just 'delete' the frustrations of e-mail

Had coffee the other day with a friend of mine. An ex-cop. He'd been on the force for eight or ten years, then suddenly last spring he'd resigned.

And now it seemed like he might want to talk about it. I wasn't sure just how to approach the subject. There was a rumour going around that my friend had suffered a nervous breakdown.

But why? Did the constant stress of

facing down crazed crackheads and homicidal psychopaths finally get to him?

Was it the unrelenting threat of injury and death? The strain of dealing with the human race at its violent, booze- and dope-fueled worst? Is that what got to him, I asked, as gently as I could.

His hand shook slightly as he hoisted the mug to his lips.

"No," he said softly. "It was the



### Basic Black

Arthur Black

paperwork."

My friend estimated that he spent three-quarters of each working day making notes, sending memos, filling in forms and typing out reports.

"I wasn't a policeman" he said, "I was an office clerk who happened to carry a gun."

It wasn't the pressure of holding down one of the world's most dangerous jobs that got to him. It was the mind-numbing boredom of shuffling paper all day long.

My pal is not alone. A business consultant by the name of Dianna Booher conducted a survey of 2,000 businesses last year. A few of her conclusions:

- White-collar office workers spend 60 per cent of their time checking, filing and retrieving printed information.
- Of all the documents that are printed, copied and distributed by North American business every day, 75 to 80 per cent are never referred to again.
- For every dollar spent thinking up documents, it costs up to \$80 to print, copy, distribute, file and eventually destroy them.

But that's old news, because this is the age of the computer, right? Paper shuffling is obsolete in the Brave New Electronic World of the Internet and e-mail.

Wrong. A study from San Jose State University concludes that computers have not replaced old technology, they've merely jumped on its back,

adding to the burden.

Office workers don't just answer the regular mail anymore. They also have to respond to inter-office mail, voice mail, teleconferencing, e-mail, faxes, pagers — even Post-It notes. Remember how e-mail was supposed to revolutionize our postal habits by weaning us of our paper habit?

Maybe it would if we trusted it, but we don't. Sixty per cent of all e-mail is still copied onto paper.

The supreme irony of all those great new space-age 'time saving communication devices' is that using them consumes more, not less of our time.

Seventy per cent of the people interviewed by San Jose researchers complain that they are 'overwhelmed' in their personal and professional lives just sending and receiving messages.

Some of us are fighting back. A few office workers ease their burden by deliberately allowing the batteries on their pagers and cell phones to run down. Other people just leave the dust cover on their home computers.

I heard of one CEO in California who returned to his desk after vacation to find more than two thousand e-mail messages waiting for him.

His solution? The 'delete' button. He vaporized the whole works. "I figure if they were really important messages, the senders would get back to me," he explained.

And my friend, the ex-cop?

Sold his computer. Turned in his cell phone. Applied for an unlisted telephone number and landed a job in the hardware department of the local Canadian Tire.

Goes fishing on his days off.

And he smiles. A lot. Way more than he did as a cop.

## Beautiful Musselman's Lake now a faded memory

Dear Editor,

It's hard to believe Musselman's Lake is the same lake that I grew up on, swimming, water-skiing, and admiring as a young girl.

I moved to Musselman's Lake when I was 10, now at 30, I walk around the lake today, and it saddens me. There is a green film that settles on the surface, there's a black film that lines the shore.

Most important there was an oil spill which is most visible.

I often wonder who, or what, is responsible for the poor conditions of

this once, most beautiful, small body of water that many of us call home.

Recently, roads, water and gas were installed in my community, the lake withheld its grace somewhat through this enormous construction and disturbance.

Each morning or evening as I walk around Musselman's Lake I wonder, will I ever be able to admire this lake as I did when I was 10?

In memory of Musselman Lake's Past, I have concern for its future.

Jackie Gray

## Forest water troughs were a thoughtful gesture

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank whoever is responsible for the very thoughtful gesture of placing a water trough under a tap at the southwest corner of the Patterson Tract near the new pumping station at McCowan and Aurora Roads.

As a longtime user of all of the York Regional forests, I was most impressed with quality of the installation and appreciate the kindness on behalf of all horses and their riders in the tract.

Gwynne Rooke.

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