

What's a sun-worshipping, snow-hater to do?

To all those who expressed fears this space might deal with strike-related issues this week, including snippets of numerous conversations held over the past week with people of all stripes, not to worry.

Other than to confirm that, as usual, the truth is the first casualty of any war, and to make a lame attempt at wit by suggesting there are enough red herrings on both sides as to constitute a 'school', I wouldn't dare touch the subject. I'm quite happy to allow the pundits of my newspaper of choice in times of crisis, the Globe and Mail, to

sort through the sordid mess in print. So instead, we're going to assume the continuation of life as we know it after this entire business is resolved, or at least simmers down a little. And with winter showing signs of coming early this year despite promises from the Farmer's Almanac that we're in for a mild season ahead. Winter wimps like myself are already starting to consider our escape routes. However, it would appear there are nothing but road blocks in the way of the highways and airways leading to the sunny south this winter.

A recent call to the ramshackle hotel that put us up for a song in St. Pete's Beach, Florida last March Break confirmed my worst fears. The renovations transforming the facility into a condo palace were going ahead. Our modest digs, complete with two burner hot plate, is about to become a \$200 a day luxury suite. This throws the proverbial monkey wrench into the machinery, especially after we had gone so far as to equip ourselves with the station wagon of the '90's, a mini-van, to help survive the long drive to the snowbird state next March.

Another winter haven for cheap-skates, Cuba, appears to have become the target of those who would bomb hotels as a means of making their point that we shouldn't be putting our tourist dollars into a country that boot-ed out foreign business interests some four decades back. So a return to the lovely beaches of that Caribbean island is unlikely for us.

Montserrat has been all but destroyed by a volcano, although I've never seriously considered that small island a destination for fiscally-challenged sun seekers like us. On to Aca-



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

pulco, where sell offs abound in every Saturday travel section from October through May. But unfortunately this scenic Pacific getaway was ravaged by a hurricane a few weeks back, and while their tourist people are insisting it's business as usual once again, one can't help but be a little leery.

So what's a sun-worshipping snow-hater to do? Especially when you're restricted to the Christmas holiday/March Break peak periods. I've considered dusting off my old cross country skis and making a resolution to take to the local forests when the snow comes for good. But the prospect of decking out the entire family, including our 17 month old son, for a Saturday afternoon schoosh through the woods conjures up less than enticing visions of cranky, snow-soaked kids refusing to get caught up in the exhilaration of the great winter outdoors.

However, Drew, now five, has made it abundantly clear that he intends to set up shop outside on a regular basis once the snow drifts eclipse lawns, bushes and driveways. He was more than a little miffed last Monday when, after a morning mini-blizzard left a nice little snow covering on the ground, he was forced to stay inside with his croup-infected baby brother while his dad attempted to formulate sports stories. By the time he finally got outside, all evidence of the morning fall had melted.

So I suppose I had better resign myself, in the interest of productive parenting, to learn to like winter and all its frosty faces. I guess I'll have to pick up some thermal long underwear, a pair of Arctic boots and a real Canadian toque if I'm going to survive it. Anyone out there know how to make a hot toddy?



ATTENTION YORK REGION SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS



Negotiations are continuing, but unless a settlement can be reached this weekend, it is anticipated that our elementary and secondary school teachers will be on a legal strike beginning Monday, November 3.

In the event of a legal strike, parents should know:

- * all or most of our teachers will NOT be in schools beginning November 3
- * all regular classes will be cancelled
- * as a service to parents who cannot make alternate arrangements, schools will be open -- provided we can ensure that children are safe and adequately supervised -- however, parents, who are able, should keep their children at home
- * student safety will be our primary concern

It is our hope that we can bring this situation to a speedy resolution. Updates concerning negotiations are available on our Teacher Negotiations Hotline at (416) 221-5051 or (905) 713-2711 ext. 7040 or visit our Website at yrrcssb.edu.on.ca.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these difficult times.

Susan LaRosa
Director of Education

Tina Rotondi Molinari
Chair of the Board

The York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board
Le Conseil des écoles séparées catholiques de la région de York

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