

# Eye of beholder sees beauty in passing grade

Walking past a jewelry store during the holidays, I saw a sign out front asking what life would be like without beautiful things.

And while the intent of the shopkeeper was to draw attention to his assortment of rings, watches and fine porcelain figurines, I found myself pondering the question in more absolute terms as I continued my stroll. Inspired by the brilliant sun and the general sense of well being the Christmas season brings, I proceeded to compile a list in my head of the most beautiful things I have encountered during my lifetime. With a new year upon us, traditionally a time for new beginnings as well as reflection, I thought it might be nice to start out 1998 by sharing this aesthetic array.

The first spellbinding sight that came to mind was the Grand Canyon. I recalled how, upon coming across this majestic expanse on a driving holiday to Mexico back in 1977, I drove from vantage point to vantage point in search of a picture that might best capture the absolute awesomeness of this wonderful chasm. In the end, I gave up. When it comes to such a massive natural wonder, it's a matter of all or nothing. There's probably a sermon in there somewhere, but we'll leave that for the men and women with the clerical collars.

Numerous other natural phenomenon came to mind as well, sunsets over the ocean or against the backdrop of tall pines, the water falls and rock-studded rapids of Ontario's northland, or the smooth water and shoreline rock formations observed while canoeing the French River. I'm sure Canada's Rocky Mountains would be right up there — if, alas, I had ever gazed upon them.

My very first recollection of something so beautiful as to cause me to stop in my tracks came as a kid. Back in the late 1950s I lived and died with the fortunes of my beloved Toronto Maple Leafs. After tuning in to Hockey Night in Canada on TV in black and white every Saturday night for several years, I finally got the chance to go to Maple Leaf Gardens to see my hockey heroes in the flesh. I can still recall the goosebumps that broke out all over my body upon walking up to the edge of the greys and peering down upon the ice surface and the players warming up. The explosion of vivid, precise colours caused my jaw to drop.

The births of my children, all four of which I was fortunate enough to witness first hand, have provided the closest thing to a beautiful miracle I have ever observed.

As for creations of my own making, the sight of my first ever piece of pine furniture, completed and resembling in every detail the one in the craft magazine, still sticks in my mind. So taken was I by the fact a pile of boards could be painstakingly worked to produce such a faithful likeness of an early Canadian furnishing that it inspired me to pursue a career as a



## From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

cabinetmaker for a decade.

I've also been tremendously moved by the beauty of music through the years. Many will testify to that sense of utter perfection which surrounds your senses when voices and instrumentation combine for a moment of unspeakable musical brilliance.

Then there's that picture of my wife I took while on assignment in the local school yard the day I met her 10 years ago, the one I kept coming back to gaze at again and again when it surfaced in

the *Tribune* office a few days later.

But while the beauty I've observed in my life has usually involved things that others could also appreciate for their artistic merit, I'll never forget the sight that set my heart to singing with unbridled joy back in the early summer after my Grade 12 year. The figure I'm referring to, of course, was the big, bold '51' — a bare pass but a pass all the same, written on my report card beside my most egregious high school nemesis, mathematics.



# Get Involved!

Markham needs you to get involved in the process of governing our Town and taking a part in charting our future.

The Town has a variety of advisory boards and committees which allow you to use your talents and interests for the benefit of our community.

To find out more about these opportunities, for a summary of terms, duties and functions for the various committees and advisory boards or to pick up applications, visit the **Town of Markham, Clerk's Department, at the Markham Civic Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham L3R 9W3** or the Public Library nearest you or call Mrs. Pat Miller (905) 477-7000 ext. 822 for information by mail or fax. An orientation session is planned for those interested in the whole committee process on January 13, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in the Canada Room at the Markham Civic Centre, when details and responsibilities will be outlined for potential committee members. As well, Council will be conducting personal interviews of applicants on most of the committees. Applicants should be aware that Council is currently reviewing the Terms of Reference of the committees and some committees may be subject to change.

Applications in writing, whether by hand delivery, fax, or mail, addressed to the Town Clerk, will be received until January 23, 1998 from any members of the general public residing in Markham who wish to have their names considered for the following local boards and committees:

### Boards & Committees

- Achievement and Civic Recognition Awards Committee
- 1998 Canada Day Committee
- Committee of Adjustment
- Court of Revision/Property Standards Committee
- Frederick Horsman Varley Art Gallery of Markham
  - Advisory Board (or a subcommittee of the Board)
- Heritage Markham - Local Architectural Conservation
  - Advisory Committee (L.A.C.A.C.)
- Markham Advisory Committee on Accessibility
- Markham Cemetery Board
- Markham Conservation Committee
- Markham District Historical Museum Board
- Markham Public Library Board
- Markham Race Relations Committee
- Markham Theatre Board (or a subcommittee of the Board)
- Mayor's Advisory Committee on Finance and Taxes
- Millennium Committee (Terms of Reference and membership size has not yet been determined)
- Milliken Mills Beautification Committee
- Waste Management Committee

48 Years in Markham

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL CUSTOMERS

Happy Birthday to Toromark - 48 Years in Markham  
with 1000's of Happy Customers

- \$100 BONUS - Start the New Year off right with a new chesterfield from Toromark
- Come & place your reupholstering work - 1/2 PRICE SALE ON FABRICS
- Curt & Stephen are Here to Serve You & Make You a Happy Customer

294-2581

**TOROMARK**

477-2055

Hwy. #7, just west of Hwy. #48 in the IGA Plaza

48 Years in Markham

## Focus on Faith

# New Year offers chance to implement changes

As the New Year dawns, it's interesting to ponder what sages through the centuries have commented concerning times past and times future.

Ovid wrote about the year 1 B.C.: "Neither will the wave that has passed be called back nor can the hour that has gone return."

About 500 years B.C. Confucius wrote, "Study the past if you would define the future."

And as far back as 900 years B.C. an ancient optimist named Ion put it this way, "The unexpected makes hearts dance the more."

No matter how we look to the future, based on our past the new year affords an excellent time to implement some beneficial changes by way of resolutions. Yes, we joke about res-

olutions that we don't seem to be able to keep for more than a short time, but some do stick. And, we must note that it is by such decisions that we do grow, little by little, yes, but grow indeed.

So, here's a collection of good resolutions. Some are short term, others long term. Why not select one, just one, that, based on your past, would benefit your future.

- Seek out a forgotten friend
- Mend a broken relationship without wor-

rying who was to blame.

- Encourage a teenager

- Fulfill a promise

- Forego a grudge

- Reconsider your expectations

- Find one thing each day for each family member about which to express appreciation. Keep a check list to ensure you do

- Speak your love. Then, speak it again

- Recognize that respect is earned

- Develop your sense of values, remember, relationships outweigh materialism every time.

- Visit a shut-in. Share a meal with a stranger. Learn to listen more.

- Be more sympathetic and understanding of the hurting.

- Get things right with God. Spend more time in prayer, enjoying the presence of God in your life and committing each day's responsibilities and opportunities to Him.

So there's the challenge. The only way we can drift in life is downstream. It takes a live fish to swim against the current and make upward progress. Let's resolve right now to make 1998 a year of personal spiritual growth.

**CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
A FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

A Church to Call Home

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship  
"Curing Worry Warts in 1998"  
Pastor Mark Lowrie

8176 McCowan Road (just south of Hwy. 7)  
Markham, ON • Tel: 905-475-7695

**CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH**  
131 Main St., Unionville 474-0183

Sunday, January 4, 1998  
9:15 & 11:00 am Worship Service  
"A warm welcome awaits you"

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**

Join us Sunday at 11 for Worship & Nursery Care.

Church School resumes January 11  
& 143 Main St. Markham  
(905) 294-4736

**MARKHAM MISSIONARY CHURCH**

Sunday January 4, 1998

9:30 a.m. Christian Education Hour

7:00 p.m. Pastor Lougheed speaking  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Fellowship, Youth & Awana for children  
Call church for additional program information.

5438 Major Mackenzie Drive East  
Markham, Ont. L3P 3J3  
(905) 294-5081 / (905) 294-5383 (fax)

**THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH FROM A-Z**

**F**

**FAITH**  
Faith has been described as a fewness of words and an abundance of deeds. But moreover, it is the satisfaction of both mind and heart in one's deepest beliefs about life.

For further information about the Bahá'í Faith please call 1-800-433-3284