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BUILT WITHOUT COMPROMISE.



We are now among the approximately two and a half billion people world wide who have experienced Titanic, the three hours-plus epic film which combines a technically accurate depiction of one of the greatest shipwrecks ever with a 1990's version of a 1912 love affair.

We would have seen it earlier. But the couple we were hoping to accompany us begged off on account of the fact that one of them has a drowning hang-up, and couldn't stomach the thought of watching hundreds of people meet their doom in the frigid North Atlantic. Even though they were actually just hordes of actors soaking in the tepid tranquility of a Mexican bay.

So that left Susan and I winging our way to the Roxy in Uxbridge about an hour before show time on half-price Tuesday to guarantee our place in line. We need not have worried. For while the little theatre was almost sold out, apparently people in small towns don't do that big city thing of showing up in droves well in advance for mega attractions so that those who have a life and can't get there until just before show time are turned away.

The movie was indeed everything it was cranked up to be. It was apparent throughout that the 200 or so million dollars shelled out to create it was effectively spent, especially the replica of the gigantic ocean going vessel complete with its elegant first class

dining room. The special effects employed to transform the ruined Titanic as it now lies on the ocean floor to the grand ship it once was right in front of our eyes are most impressive. While riveting, Titanic somehow takes on the impression of a reworked Disney classic. After all, by now everyone knows exactly what fate befell the Titanic on its maiden voyage. It is common knowledge that the ship was billed as unsinkable, that there weren't enough lifeboats, and that the band played on while passengers scurried about trying to save their hides. On a recent morning, an FM radio wags showed no mercy when questioning the cerebral luster of a man attending the film whom, upon returning from the bathroom to find the Titanic in a state of complete disarray, asked of his partner, "What happened?"

But that's not to take away from the fact that Titanic is a classic production. It is surely a superb microcosm of a compelling romance played out amidst the difficulties dictated by a momentous historic event. Upon returning home, I contemplated the film and its intrigue as I drifted off to sleep. I found myself comparing the Titanic and the grandiose claims of its builders to the promises we are being given today by those who would sell us on the idea that technology has replaced church on Sunday as to providing the true answers to the questions of life's purpose and our very existence. The feared computer crash that has been predicted for New Year's Day in the fast approaching year 2000 came to mind, followed by other techno-disaster scenarios similar to those proclaimed in the Book of Revelations.

Upon being awakened far too early the following morning by our 21-month-old son Griffin, who serves as an unplugged, but very wired alarm clock, I was suddenly brought back to the realities and concerns of the world as it really is. I pulled myself out of bed, splashed some water on my face, and headed into the kitchen.

For while some people's lives include whirlwind love affairs with partners from different social strata on supposedly impregnable cruise ships, my immediate concern was to brew a strong enough pot of coffee to see me through another day of domestic and workplace responsibility.



**From
Where
I Live**

Bruce Stapley



From left: Enza Gennaro, Franca Martino, Frank Scarpitti, Lina Spina, Nico Navara, of CHIN Radio and John Martino, celebrate the opening of the new salad bar at BunsMaster Bakery on Bullock and Laidlaw Drives.

The Resale Report

WHAT YOU SHOULD EXPECT
AS A SUPPLIER

- As a supplier of goods to a re-sale store, you represent the most important part of the business. Re-sale stores are often viewed as retail outlets, and yes they are, but retail outlets can order goods from various suppliers. Re-sale stores depend on the community to bring in their unwanted goods and receive something in return, usually money. Whether you leave the goods on consignment or receive instant cash, there are a few things to consider before taking the plunge into supplying.
 - Always try and bring items that are in good condition. Original boxes and instructions are a bonus.
 - Call ahead to find out if appointments are necessary.
 - Inquire about the option to leave goods on consignment or receive instant cash. (There is a difference!)
 - Always ask what is required before making the trip to the store. (Some stores require I.D.)
 - Ask what the store is currently in need of. (There's gold in them there closets and garages!)
 - If the store you initially contact cannot accommodate you, ask for a referral.
- Good luck and remember, our three R's - Relax, Recycle with Re-Sale!
Watch for Franklin the Turtle coming to our stores April 4th and 5th.

Sy Ostromoff is the owner/operator of the Hand Me Downs Store in Markham.



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