

COMPOST GIVE-AWAY

Markham's Environmental Services Department and The Lung Association of Toronto and York Region announce another *Compost Give-Away Event* to celebrate EARTH DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 1998

9 AM to 2 PM (while supplies last)

MILLIKEN MILLS PARK PARKING LOT
south side of 14th Ave between Warden & Kennedy

You must bring your own shovels and containers
Maximum 6 bushels per household
Markham residents only



For more information call our
HOTLINE (905) 415-7535
fax: (905) 479-7766, or
wastemgt@city.markham.on.ca

Beer, barbecue on back burner for enlightened dads in the 90's

While not on a par with Rhett Butler wheeling his baby daughter around that swank Old South neighbourhood in *Gone With The Wind*, a recent stroll down Main St. with my

brother-in-law and our respective youngest offspring was good for a few double takes and wisecracks from members of the town's female citizenry



From Where I Live

Bruce Stapley

The occasion was a dinner visit by my wife Susan's sister Mona and her husband Joel, along with their five-year-old son and freshly minted daughter. A real 1990's dad, Joel is a parent who participates. Like me, he was there for the birth of his kids, and is perfectly ready, willing and able to change diapers and take his turn feeding, rocking and generally consoling his baby daughter in her moments of newborn distress.

When I told him I had to whip down to the grocery store to pick up a few things for supper, he suggested we take advantage of a glorious late Monday afternoon and walk. Susan and Mona, sensing we were trying to abdicate our duties as co-parents by leaving our combined litter under their supervision, decided the outing would be made that much more meaningful if we were accompanied by the younger half of the kiddie quartet.

So we loaded Griffin in his stroller and Madison into her convertible pram and set out on our mini-journey. Upon encountering several mothers pushing their own little ones in strollers, it suddenly occurred to Joel and I just how unlikely a sight we must have made to those from a bygone era. The approving nods and friendly hellos from the moms we saw made it quite clear they felt the universe was at last unfolding as it should have so many light years ago.

It was only when we ran into women I knew that the razzing began. Joel and I graciously turned the other cheek, willing to bear the brunt of years of frustration from women forced to tend to every last detail of their infants' existences while hubby put his feet up and watched television.

"Well imagine that," started one woman in a thinly veiled disdain for the male sex. "Two men out pushing the kids while Mom gets a break." She was basking blatantly in the delight of seeing two dads who, either by choice or by wifely coercion, had been fitted with the yoke of parental responsibility.

We tried to come up with a few weak-kneed come-back lines to humour these long-suffering women. "Frankly, my wife says I've been pushing it for a while now," Joel responded with a grin. In the end, though, we just smiled and moved on.

We arrived at our destination and set about the task of picking out our provisions.

But it soon became clear we were relative novices when it came to stowing said groceries while wheeling our human cargo from aisle to aisle. With Griffin and his ever-increasing infant bulk occupying every available space in his stroller, there was neither nook nor cranny in which to stash a bag of green peppers, a couple of packs of beef ribs, or a box of cookies.

Joel finally managed to secure the top cover of Madison's pram to support the weight of a plastic shopping basket and its contents.

I must confess we made a formidable shopping tandem. Not only did we prove shrewd at comparing prices, but we also considered the nutritional values of all products, along with the ethical aspects of the producing companies.

We eventually returned home, shopping bags strung around the handles of Griffin's stroller. We unpacked our purchases, prepared a wicked red wine, garlic and fresh thyme marinade for the meat, and chopped up a few veggies.

It was only then that we finally reverted to dads of days of old, opening a beer while we took our rightful place in front of the barbecue.

All in all, it was a good day for 90's fathering.

CORRECTION NOTICE

The Markville Toyota ad that appeared in Thursday, April 16 displayed the wrong vehicle and should have shown the 1998 Sienna Van. The Economist and Sun sincerely regrets any inconvenience this may have caused Markville Toyota and their valued customers.



TOYOTA'S RED TAG DAYS ARE HERE

1998 SIENNA CE 4-DOOR
"4 Speed Auto" "Dual Air Cond."
"A.B.S." "Power Group"



LEASE ** \$348⁰⁰ PER MONTH
FOR ONLY 48 months

905-294-8100

HOMEOWNER CLINIC

Choosing A Contractor

Wednesday, April 29, 1998
7 to 9 p.m.

Markham Civic Centre, Canada Room
101 Town Centre Blvd. (northwest corner Warden and Hwy. 7)

The Building Standards Division of the Town of Markham presents a free homeowner clinic.

Come and hear speakers from the legal, construction and architectural professions discuss:

- the importance of good quality plans
- finding the right contractors
- considering proposals
- signing contract

Seating is limited.

To register call
(905) 477-7000 ex 317



CELEBRATING VOLUNTEER WEEK

MILLIKEN

on the move

A Community Partnership

Meet and Mingle

LOCATION: Milliken Mills Community Centre
Program Room "B"
7600 Kennedy Road, Markham

TIME: Meeting will start at 7:30 pm

**THURSDAY
APRIL 23, 1998**

Volunteering in your community
What's in it for you? What are some of the organizations that you can get involved with?

FREE COFFEE

There is no charge. Everyone is welcome!



Milliken on the Move: A Community Partnership, has as its essential theme the drawing together of people interested in building a stronger social network within the whole community serving the needs of youth, families, disabled, seniors and any other group. Anyone who wants to be involved can share in the leadership and presentation of ideas. The Steering Committee wants to open more opportunities for people to participate actively in the life and work in Milliken Mills.



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Public Information Meeting To Discuss Markham's Transportation Needs

Markham Council and staff are holding a Public Information Meeting in your neighbourhood to hear your concerns about the transportation needs in Markham. We are bringing together the departments and agencies which are responsible for transportation planning and operations in Markham and we want to hear from you about local issues such as congestion, traffic infiltration, development, traffic calming and parking. Come out and meet with Council and staff and let us know what is important to you.

Monday, April 20

7:30 pm

Thornhill Community Centre
Fireside Lounge
Bayview & John Street

Transportation Committee Chair
Regional Councillor Gordon Landon

