

I've yet to see one bank robber, biker or boot legger. Dam.

I had a dirty weekend. Let me explain — I bought a small house in Musselman's Lake last October.

It's at the dead end of the street, a stone's throw from the lake, and it sits directly across from a little park. It suits my lifestyle.

Now that I'm a property owner, I can play in the dirt. Actually, I've rediscovered gardening.

The last time I planted a garden was in 1958. At the time, I buried enough spud buds to get 40 potato plants. Under my tender loving care, three plants survived. Actually, there were five, but two were born dead. In turn, the crop yield was four potatoes. I ate them in one sitting. I got a belly ache so I gave up farming, took up journalism and eventually found my way to Stouffville. It was here I discovered home. Everybody hates Musselman's Lake except the people who live there. We love it. Most of us wouldn't live any place else.

When I was considering moving to Stouffville, I was warned about Musselman's Lake. The lake has a bad reputation. It's called dysfunction junction. There are motorcycle gangs, other bad asses and a few unruly ghosts who boot legged, sowed their wild oats in all the wrong places and howled at the moon.



Joan Ransberry

When I learned that the infamous Boyd Gang called Musselman's Lake home for a time, I knew it was the place for me. I'd rather cozy up to a bank robber than spend five minutes with someone from a cookie-cutter house in a subdivision.

I am a little disappointed. I've lived at the lake eight months and I've yet to encounter a biker. Meanwhile, half of the bad ass population is now in jail and not one ghost has tried to sell me a jug of white lightning.

Here's the truth: the residents of Musselman's Lake are friendly, decent and caring. As well, they're environmentally conscious.

Over the weekend, while I played in the dirt, my neighbours arrived at the little park with babies, toddlers, big kids, packed lunches and tools. They carried rakes, shovels, hoes and garbage bags. It was spring

clean-up day.

A month ago, when the Friends of Musselman's Lake held its spring lakeshore and ditch cleanup, the residents rallied. When the day was done, the people of Musselman's Lake were tired and for good reason: The lakeshore was as clean as a whistle.

On Saturday, I took an hour away from my garden to take in the Main Street sidewalk sale. I spotted Liberal candidate Vito Spatafora. On the hustings, the Grit was insisting that Ontario must reclaim its position as a world leader in environmental protection.

And not to be outdone, Progressive Conservative candidate Frank Klees was giving away 1,000 baby trees and shrub seedlings. It's Frank's way of telling us that he's an environmentalist.

I remember when environmentalists were viewed as communists. They were laughed at, scorned, feared and, whenever possible, arrested. As for the PC party, it stayed clear of all pinko tree huggers. I guess, times have changed.

Elections and other silly things aside, living in harmony with nature should be easy. Remember: Our time on earth is brief, but the earth is here to stay. Leave it in better shape than you found it.

Until there's a cure there's us. Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada. Call and donate 1 800 567-CURE. This message brought to you as a community service of The Economist/Tribune.

PROPERTY TAX REBATE FOR REGISTERED CHARITIES

RECENT PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION HAS CHANGED HOW THE REBATE FOR REGISTERED CHARITIES IS CALCULATED.

Registered charities, occupying rented or leased space in a commercial or industrial class of property, may be eligible for a rebate equal to 40% of the increase in property taxes payable compared to 1997 for the years 1998 to 2000.

To be eligible for this program, the following criteria must be met:

- You are a registered charity as defined by subsection 248(1) of the Income Tax Act and you can provide a registered charity number issued by Revenue Canada
- You can provide from the landlord/owner documentation specifying the amount of property taxes payable for the units that you occupy.

Applications should be sent to the Tax Office of your local municipality for the 1999 rebate prior to June 1, 1999.

Application forms and additional information are available at the Tax Office of your local municipality listed below:

Town of Aurora	100 John West Way, Aurora	727-1375
Town of East Gwillimbury	19000 Leslie St., Sharon	478-4282
Town of Georgina	26557 Civic Centre Rd., R.R. #2, Keswick	476-4301
Township of King	2075 King Rd., King City	833-5321
Town of Markham	101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham	477-7000
Town of Newmarket	465 Davis Dr., Newmarket	953-5317
Town of Richmond Hill	225 East Beaver Creek Rd., Richmond Hill	771-8920
City of Vaughan	2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan	832-8502
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	37 Sandiford Dr., Stouffville	640-1900

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TURACK KUSATZ & ASSOCIATE

We are pleased to announce the merger of Turack & Associate and Sigurd Kusatz to form the Stouffville Office of Turack, Kusatz & Associate.

We are located at 6335 Main Street, Stouffville, just west of the Town Clock.

We specialize in Auditing, Accounting, Bookkeeping, Tax and Financial Consulting, Personal and Corporate tax returns as well as various other services to meet your needs.

We look forward to serving the community and if any further information is required, please contact

Tony Raguseo at (905) 640-1991
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Email turack@istar.ca.