

Harris should tackle dirty diners

I check the ladies washroom for cleanliness before I sit down for a bite to eat

If you want to know if a restaurant's kitchen is clean, check the washroom.

I have never understood why we accommodate filth in restaurants. For the most part, not only do we keep our home fires burning, we keep the home kitchens clean. But when we lay down hard-earned money to eat out, we'll put up with dirt, grease and things that crawl. It gives me the hebejeebees.

When I walk into a questionable restaurant, I head for the ladies washroom. If it's dirty, I ignore the call of nature and leave.

On occasion, I speak to management to inform them there's no excuse for filth and that soap, water and elbow grease remain inexpensive. My message is, "Get rid of the grease, the dirt, the bugs and I'll come back".

Toronto deserves a lot of credit. The city is leading the dirty diner crusade. It comes as no surprise that York, Peel and Durham are now thinking about the state of their restaurants. As we know, some of our eateries are so clean, they squeak. Others, meanwhile, are not only filthy, they have the potential to be lethal.

Still, I fail to understand why this problem has been dumped on regional municipalities. A tough inspection plan is needed across the province, not just



Joan Ransberry

across Toronto or across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

While health officials have asked the province to implement a province wide disclosure system, no one's really listening. And when you're holding your nose in a dirty restaurant, don't hold your breath waiting for a solution. It looks as though Premier Mike Harris isn't getting into the food fight.

What are the powers going to do with our greasy spoons?

In York, a rating system like Toronto's will likely be considered. In its system, Toronto is using red, yellow and green signs to inform the public about an

eater's cleanliness.

The Toronto system applies to restaurants, catering services, care institutions, bakeries, take-out spots and yes, even grocery stores.

The results are made public by the use of the red, yellow and green colour codes. The colours mean fail, conditional pass or pass.

It's good to know that at least in Toronto, I won't have to make a trip to the ladies' room to find out if I'm about to run the risk of being poisoned.

If I'm hungry in Peel and end up in some dive, I can call in my complaint. Peel is introducing a 24-hour hot line.

It'll soon be up and running for people who want to express concern about food establishments. Peel is also setting up a website with information about inspection programs.

I can't stress enough that a uniform province wide restaurant program is long overdue. The problem is too vast and too serious to be dumped on the regions.

I'm worried about York. Considering how long it's taking York to strike a tobacco-use bylaw, how will it handle germy restaurants?

York can't butt out in the name of health, so what are the powers going to do with our greasy spoons?

Antique car show Sunday

This Sunday the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum will be hosting the 27th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show.

The show will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 14732 Woodbine Ave. in Vandonr. The car show portion of the event will contain cars dating back to the turn of the century, and as new as the '50s and '60s.

Awards will be given to the best cars and spectators will be able to vote for

their favourite vehicle.

There will be musical performances and magic, as well as demonstrations of crafts, pioneer lifeskills and 19th-century trades.

For the kids, there will be a youth model car contest with categories for kits or 'from scratch' models.

There will be refreshments in the form of a barbecue, sandwiches, and home-baked goods.

The cost is \$12 for a family of four.



Explore the Wine Regions of Ontario

5th Annual Wine Tasting at



Over 12 leading wineries representing Ontario's finest wines, partner with over 12 local restaurants for an evening of exceptional wine, food and live entertainment.

A silent Auction with over \$9000 in donated items, moonlit carriage rides and a draw for a spectacular mystery door prize add to the excitement.

September 8th at 8pm
Advance tickets only, \$25
Wine tasting tickets \$1

Tickets are going fast. Call today (905) 294-4576

9350 Highway 48, Markham, Ontario (Just North of 16th Avenue on Hwy 48)

A fundraising event for the Museum, sponsored by Steelcase. All proceeds will help support exhibits and educational programmes.

a beachcomber hot tub improves your living space

BEACHCOMBER Hot Tubs & Spas SINCE 1978

a beachcomber hot tub is like having a permanent vacation spot right outside your back door. When you buy a new beachcomber hot tub you can get an extra value option package including the "instant room" swingbrella \$278 - whole package worth over \$2000.00 for only limited time offer

SEAWAY POOLS • BILLIARDS • HOT TUBS

25 HERITAGE RD., 1 NORTH OF HWY. #7 AT McCOWAN, MARKHAM

294-8030

Hours: Mon - Wed. 9 - 7pm Saturday 9 - 5pm Thurs. - Fri. 9 - 8pm Sunday 10 - 4pm

Fathers

Fri., Aug. 11
Sun., Aug. 13

THE SLAMMIN BUDDHAS KARAOKE

Visit our Website: fathersmarkham.com
Call for details 294-0134

The Last Call Free designated driver for you and your car (starts 11:30pm)

Corner of Hwy. #7 and McCowan Rd. Since 1984

Don't Miss This Weekend

BELL ALL HERBAL NO SIDE EFFECTS THE EASY WAY TO LOSE WEIGHT PERMANENTLY

EZEE SLIMMING PATCH

VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FAIL with the slimming patch in combination with our healthy eating plan that lets you eat until you are full and still lose weight

DUAL ACTION: The active ingredient of the ocean kelp called bladderwrack makes you want to eat less and stops you from overeating. It also speeds up your metabolism and burns off stored fat.

For men and women!

THE ONLY NATURAL and honest approach to stay slim for the rest of your life. Enjoy eating the right foods that cause you to lose weight. Fully explained & supported.

OCEAN HERB bladderwrack has been proven effective & safe for more than 100 years. Starts working same day.

NO STARVING patch plan allows 3 meals and 3 snacks a day. Nutrition experts now say avoid going hungry. It leads to eating binges and weight gain.

NO drugs, NO pills, NO calorie counting, NO restrictive torture diets

People say:
• Very pleased - lost 13 pounds • Lost many inches and feel great!
• Will recommend it to all my friends • Truly delighted with results
• Lost weight & kept it off • Reached desired weight
• Simplicity of patch surprised me

Same food plan as used by movie stars when they have to lose weight. One month supply of patches \$29.95.

AVAILABLE in MARKHAM at: Heritage IDA Pharmacy 9275 Highway 48 (471-6084); Homelife Remedies 78 Main St. N (471-9902); Main Drug Mart 5293 Hwy #7 E. (471-7978); Wing Tai Hong Trading Co. 4300 Steeles Ave. E. (948-8988) • STOUFFVILLE: Houston Pharmacy 6316 Main St. (640-2222); Shoppers Drug Mart 5892 Main St. (640-2700) Call store first, or call us at 1-800-333-7995 for a store near you

RAIN or SHINE You'll Feel Better with A New Look!

Salon Très Chic is offering:

- Sun Glitz-hilites (very gentle on hair) Book with Dora 20% off
- Cut and Style book with Mariana 20% off
- Free hair conditioning treatment
- tax included (offer exp. Sept 30/00)

Salon Très Chic (1 light south of 16th Avenue off Kennedy By-pass at 33 Bridle Trail Plaza) 905-477-0023

MONARCH Michelle Messina 2000