

Fixing child poverty starts at home

Every time a Speech from the Throne is delivered by Canada's Governor General, war is declared on child poverty.

This particular declaration has become a Canadian tradition, providing the Liberals hold power. The Grits now have a monopoly on the less fortunate. The New Democrats used to hold the deed to the poor. But they handed it over to the Liberals when it became apparent that Canada no longer believed in the NDP. That's OK, because the Progressive Conservatives don't believe in the poor. It was a nice tidy way to handle the poor situation.

The Canadian Alliance Party acknowledges that poverty exists but the Stephen Harper-led party maintains that poverty is a matter of choice. According to the Alliance, poor children choose poor parents. During the selection process, any card-carrying Alliance member is quick to point out that poor babies could just as well select rich 'mommies' and daddies. But oh no, these little rascals have rights. They stick with their welfare mommies from the get-go. You've got to hand it to the arrogant Liberals. It's like the book says, when the Liberals talk poverty, they talk, "Straight from the Heart."

Monday's speech was the same old same old. The federal government will improve access to adequate child care for poor families. And, the National Child Benefit will increase by a few bucks.

The feds claim they'll work with the provinces to increase access to early learning opportunities for poor children. Don't hold your breath waiting for specifics. Tune in next year for details.

It's no secret, the federal government has overlooked and downplayed low-income families who look after their disabled kids. Apparently, those days are over. The government now promises to lend a hand. If we, as a society, do anything, let's hold the feds to this one.

On a personal level, I have a glimpse into what it's like to care for a disabled person. However, I do not do it 24/7 alone and I am not poor. My heart goes out to anyone who cares for a disabled individual, especially a child. If on top of all else, the caregiver and the child live in poverty in a country as affluent as Canada, then hearts must be broken.

According to the Throne Speech, new early childhood development programs for



Joan Ransberry

aboriginal children will be made available. As well, the government's going to help parents dealing with fetal alcohol syndrome. This particular promise is embarrassing. Didn't Canada have its nose rubbed in the glue in Davis Inlet about eight years ago?

Did we not recognize that our aboriginal children were dying before our eyes either by suicide or by substance abuse? The 12-year-old kids who survived the glue sniffing and the boozing in Davis Inlet are old enough to have babies now.

Did we not respond to the dire emergency in Davis Inlet and in other remote areas with similar needs? Did we not put emergency clean-up programs in place, followed by preventive-measures, followed by 'never again' measures across our great nation?

When it comes to substance abuse, including treatment for alcohol and drug abuse, Canada has the know-how. Why doesn't our government demonstrate a will? Why on God's earth are we letting our beautiful, our talented and our precious young, First Nations people rot before our eyes?

Long gone are the days when we viewed Aboriginal People as drunken Indians.

The great majority of people living in Canada view aboriginals as an asset to Canada and as absolute equals.

It's time the government played catch-up. No taxpayer worth mentioning would begrudge an aboriginal child nurturing from a loving and healthy family, a quality education, a supportive community and adequate health care.

It's too bad the same can't be said of this country's MPPs. I am the grandmother of two aboriginal children. Malcolm, 7, and Leona, 5, who live in Yellowknife, NWT. When I speak of them, I burst with pride.

The reference to the poor in the throne speech is pointless because the most important item is missing: Housing for low income families sort of fell through the cracks. Winning the war against poverty starts with a roof over your head.

FREE-RANGE TURKEYS

For the past number of years whenever turkey-time came, we simply reached into our cupboard and pulled out our "Turkeys are Us" ad, dusted it off and ran it a few times in the Economist.

Our customers had become so used to it that when they saw it, they didn't read it anymore.

They just saw the picture of Turkey Al and Mike the Knife and phoned for a turkey.

Alas, things change, and so does our clientele. With so many new people who have moved into our area, our turkey story needs to be retold.

We sell only free-range turkeys - they run loose and eat what they want (lots of grain). Add to this a gentler defeathering process which leaves more of the natural flavour (and the odd feather) with the turkey and you'll have a turkey that exceeds your expectations - unless of course you've dined on one of ours before.

Our turkeys are very moist (without the artificial help that a Butterball receives), very tender and flavourful and they cook a little quicker than most.

So, order one of our old-fashioned turkeys. They range in size from 15-20 lbs. and from 22-26 lbs.

Ready to roast, they're...

Call 905-940-0655

2.59 lb.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE...
Breast Cancer raffle tickets for an amazing Village Grocer Christmas dinner. They're available for our cashiers.

10.00 ea.

CRANBERRY STUFF

Not only will those amazing Cranberry candles be back, we'll have fresh Ontario (Iroquois) Cranberries, pure Cranberry juice (Less money than last year), Cranberry Chutney and some really nice Cran-maple syrup.

- Arriving this Weekend! -

GOING TO THE FAIR?

You can't have fun on an empty stomach! Visit the Rotary Club booth for our pea-meal back bacon, our burgers and our Oktoberfest sausages.

Have Fun!

NEW ZEALAND ORANGE ROUGHIE

This is one of the most flavourful and versatile white-fleshed fish available. The fillets, which are boneless, come in generous serving sizes and are just the thing to have if you are planning an indulgent dessert!

Reg. \$13.95 lb.

SAVE 4.00 lb.

NOW ARRIVED!

Abbate Pears are now here. They have a slightly russet finish, taste something like a Bosc, are huge and sweet. From Italy!

VILLAGE GROCER
QUALITY FOODS

OUR OLD-FASHIONED

CABBAGE ROLLS

Cabbage Rolls are a hot item in our store. I imagine it's because they're so time-consuming to make, that few people make them at home. Whatever the reason, they don't last long in our freezer - especially when they're one of this week's features! So come early and get them while they last.

Container of 4
Reg. \$10.95 lb

25% OFF THIS WEEK

PORK RIB EYES

These are an amazing little boneless pork chop. Turkey Al asked that we feature these this week cause they're easy to grill, easy to season, and very easy to eat.

Reg. \$7.95 lb

25% OFF THIS WEEK

PLANNING DESSERT?

We'll be doing a lot of Thanksgiving baking for next week. This is a heads up of what will be available - It will be best to order what you'd like because the availability, despite our very best efforts, will be tight.

We'll be making pumpkin pies of course, Pecan Pies & Cranberry-Apple Flans
All sorts of Thanksgiving Cookies.

Caramel-Apple, Cranberry-Orange and Cranberry-White Chocolate Scones.

Caramel-Apple, Pumpkin and Cranberry Tarts.

Cheese Cakes in Pumpkin, Caramel-Apple and Brandied-Cranberry.

Thanksgiving Carrot Cakes.

Cranberry-Orange Coffee-Cakes (my fave) and Apple-Caramel-Pecan Coffee Cakes, as well as assorted harvest loaves.

As we work from a fairly small space, our regular selection will suffer a bit. If there is an old-favourite you'd really like, let us know so that you won't be disappointed.

WHAT'S UP NEXT WEEK?

Our ad will appear next Tuesday instead of Thursday - watch for it.

NOW AVAILABLE!

We'll have cut squash - and - cut turnip available for this week and next -

1.99 lb.

WHY SHOULD YOU BUY OUR HAM?

To many people, ham is ham - if you've tried one you've tried them all. That is, unless you are old enough to remember what ham was originally like before machines intervened. Machines? Yes, that's right. Nowadays, almost all hams (including spiral honey baked hams) are put through a process called 'tumbling'. It's like a giant dryer, except the opposite is the result. This machine boosts 'yield' which means hams grow in weight during the process - just read the 'protein added' part of the label to find out how much it has 'grown'. The good part (for the manufacturer) is that (a) you have more ham to sell because they've all 'grown' and (b) all the little bits of pork can be put through this process as well because it glues it all together in the shape of a ham (\$1.99 lb. supermarket ham). The bad part (for the customer) is that gone for good is the texture, tenderness and flavour that made ham famous in the first place.

At our store, we make ham in the time-honoured pre-mechanical way - by hand. Come pay us a visit - we'll restore your faith in ham!

Oven-Roasted Maple Sugar Ham - 5.95 lb

Boneless, whole or half

Hardwood Smoked Black Forest Hams - 5.95 lb

Boneless, whole or half

Traditional Bone-In hams - Whole or half 2.49 lb

It's best to order early 905-940-0655

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY OCTOBER 6TH

Hours:

Mon. 10:00-5:00 - Tues. Thurs. 9:00-7:00 - Fri. 9:00-8:00

Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

548 Carlton Road, Unionville

940-1770