

Husbands often buy back donated clothing

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was attached to a "nice suit" he bought just before he got married.

"It disappeared," Mr. Petrilli related, "and he never knew what happened."

It works both ways, however. When Mr. Petrilli notices bags in his garage destined for the local thrift store, he's sometimes tempted to take a peek.

If he finds something he can't part with, "I pick it up and put it back," he said.

That's not as bad as some hobbies, who wander into local thrift stores, such as the Salvation Army Family Thrift Store in Markham, specifically to buy back clothes their wives have brought in.

Brenda McGruthers' pet peeve is a formerly white T-shirt belonging to her husband, Gord, that is now so threadbare, "you can see through it," she said. Mr. McGruthers recently retired after 30 years of running his own business, Gord McGruthers Septic Tank and Drain Service. It is now operated by their son, James McCluskey.

She describes the "they're

'Men don't look good in white shoes.'

Mary Garisto
Woodbridge resident

too good to wear now" phenomenon. New shirts will often hang in the closet while Mr. McGruthers reaches for the old reliables.

"I am saving them," he'll say. When Ms McGruthers asks what he's saving them for, he gives her "that look".

She suspects he counts his old shirts to make sure they're still there, she said with a laugh.

Then there's the perfectly fine pinstripe suit dating back to the early 1970s lurking in some closet in Woodbridge. It belongs to Domenic Garisto, who runs a painting business. He claims he doesn't have many other old clothes because his wife, Mary, throws everything away. And the suit is coming back in style, he said. In fact, he has seen several men wearing similar fashions.

His wife has been trying to get rid of that suit for the past 10 or 15 years. And don't even mention the white shoes. He has had

them for 20 years and he never wears them, Ms Garisto said.

"Men don't look good in white shoes," she stated.

She'll go through clothes at least once a year and chuck anything that hasn't been worn in a year or two. At that point, "you'll never wear it", she said.

Mr. Garisto keeps old clothes, or would like to, because of sentimental reasons or he's willing to wait

for them to come back into fashion — no matter how many decades it takes.

And there is, indeed, something good about the passage of time.

At the Care and Share Thrift Shop in Stouffville, Joyce Turman, who is the manager of the work room, has seen it all.

There are the clothes that are dated, just old enough (within the last decade or so) to be out of fashion and

not too appealing. Retro clothes are big with those who loved the 1960s and '70s.

Vintage clothes date from the distinctive styles of the 1940s and '50s.

Further back in time is antique clothing, which is much scarcer.

She has noticed older men tend to wear their clothes a lot longer than younger guys.

Their clothes often come

in to the thrift shop carefully washed, ironed and folded.

She can tell when a young man's mother has threatened her son with, "Clean your room" because those bags contain all kinds of clothes: new, old, never worn, slightly worn, grungy, all crumpled up together.

Although couples have different opinions on the subject of old clothes, it's pretty low on the list of the irritations of life.

Miss World glows with confidence, talent

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17,000 websites dedicated to her.

She put on 20 pounds for the role because she wanted to look "normal", not a supermodel type. Rai is new to acting, but she positively glows with confidence and talent.

As a treat for hip hop and R&B fans, singer Ashanti puts on a smokin' Hindi-styled hip hop performance at an Indian beachfront rave. That's

where the film's romantic plot takes shape in the form of an English man who washes up on shore.

There is great richness in location, as the film starts in rural farm country in Punjab, moves to an Indian neighbourhood in London, a mansion next to Windsor Castle, Manhattan and Los Angeles.

In one spectacular scene, the Indian lovers are singing to each other on the beach at Malibu and when the camera pans out, a massive gospel choir is

serenading them. Panning out further still, there is a Bollywood style line dance of board-carrying surfers and a Baywatch-inspired singing duo.

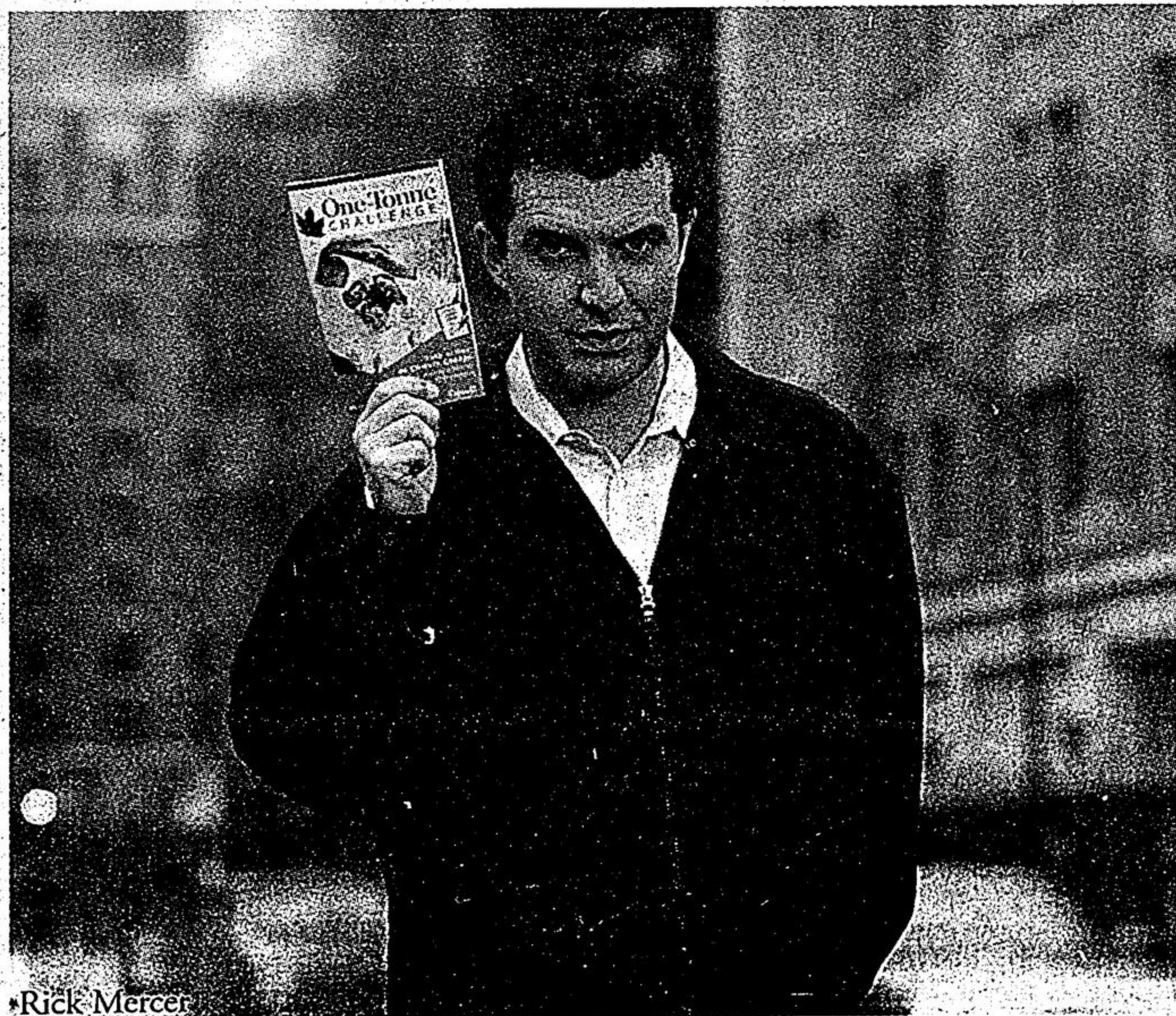
The film is a feast for the eyes and heart. The characters are often eating, singing and dancing, wearing swirling, brightly coloured silks and gold jewelry and enjoying life as we in the urban West often forget.

Families are tight and they spend time together. It's a delicious life.

The plot is close to the novel and this space is too limited for any explication. Suffice it to say, it's an entertaining and incredibly uplifting film made under the auspices of ex-Miramax boss Harvey Weinstein, who appears in a scene shot in India on the closing credit roll.

If this is the kind of stuff he's going to turn out, then fine. Harvey, get out from under Disney's shadow and do your thing.

The movie world will be a better place.



Rick Mercer

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