

OPINION

Stouffville
Sun-Tribune

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mystery man a kind samaritan

I had a bad fall on Main Street Dec. 27. I fell on the ice on the sidewalk. A man driving by saw my umbrella on the ground, turned his car around and stopped to see what was wrong.

I was sitting in water and could not get up. He was very kind and got me up before driving me to Buckingham Manor where I live.

He was a very kind person and I am sorry I didn't get his name.

I certainly appreciated his kindness so very much.

Thank you, to a very kind samaritan.

ROBERTA PARRY
STOUFFVILLE

Coffee house worth a try

We think everyone should know about For the Love of Jo coffee house in downtown Stouffville.

We go there a lot.

The Stouffville people should go there and try everything that they have to offer.

The people that work there are very sweet. They always make the best coffee and hot chocolate.

BRAEDEN MCCONLLE & MORGAN HOPPER
STOUFFVILLE

HAVE YOUR SAY

► What do you think of these issues? E-mail jmason@yrmg.com

Gladys would have been proud

Re: *Day in Gladys' memory aids her charities, Dec. 4.*

The Gladys Clarkson Memorial Day and fundraiser Dec. 7 raised \$1,400.

Donations were received from many businesses, individuals and organizations across the area.

Organizations benefitting from the event were Royal Canadian Legion Branch 459 and its ladies auxiliary, the Whitchurch-Stouffville Strawberry Festival, 1st Stouffville Cubs and Scouts, Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and the Silver Jubilee Club.

Guests wrote thoughts and memories in Gladys' Memory Book. A silent auction, guessing games and a draw was held.

More than 100 family members were treated to a pre-Christmas dinner by Gladys' children.

Everyone involved made it a wonderful day.

Gladys would be proud.

CAROL SCOTT
STOUFFVILLE



Going to barbershop, chain or not, still money well spent

I was trying to explain to my son the other day, what makes a good barber and how haircuts relate to the economy.

Like so many other things in this world, my sons prefer to go to the chain or franchise type barbershops you see around these days. Which are fine. I go there, too. The ladies who cut hair there are great and the price is right.

Still, I sometimes feel like they are missing out on the experience of having a man, as in a male barber, cut their hair.

There are fewer and fewer of these gentlemen around, and it's a shame. They are a dying breed. It was a totally different experience.

"A good barber is usually older, with solid-looking forearms," I told my youngest just before New Year's, after his haircut at the haircut chain, which made him look sharp. We went to the Tim's next door to celebrate the re-emergence of his ears.

"He may have sheared sheep in his youth back in the Old Country, which is exactly what you want. You don't want someone pussyfooting around, snipping here, clipping

there, sizing you up in mid-haircut like he's a bad sculptor with a big Canada Council grant.

"You want someone who can take command," I told my son.

"I do?" he said, his 10-year-old eyes revealing that, "Dad, what they heck are you talking about" look they sometimes give off.

Yes, you do, I said.

This concept seemed totally foreign to him. The nice ladies at the haircut chain were able to cut his hair without a tear welling up in his eyes, even once. What gives?

Back in the day, you knew you were getting a good haircut when you had your head pushed forward, snapped back, shoved left, tossed right. Your eyes watered.

"You want that comb yanking at your hair, tugging it into the upright position, standing at attention, so when he takes the clippers to it he can chop it down like so many Christmas trees, snip, snip, snap. Timber! That's what you're paying him for. Or her for."

And here he thought we were paying them to shorten his hair in a style that would not make him a laughing stock (unlike his father's



Bernie O'Neill

attempts to cut his hair when he was younger). Back when I was a kid, they made sure we knew they were shortening our hair via an all-out sensory experience.

Rule 1: Always say you want it short. That way, everyone's happy. Say a trim and, well, then it's a judgment call. You're saying you don't know what you want.

"Besides, you want a haircut that's going to last, and if it's going to last, well, mister, somebody's going to have to cut off some hair," I told him.

"They're not going to just 'sculpt' your hair so that it looks cut, but is just sort of propped up there,

so that two weeks from now you'll need another visit.

"And as any barber knows, that's why you go HIGH over the ear. Anything less is inferior workmanship.

"Granted it looks like Farmer Brown just drove a combine over your head. But by Day 3, which is the Day of Truth when it comes to haircuts, nice and high over the ears looks just right."

I told him that, nearer the end, after he's made you look like James Bond or Brad Pitt or whatever, you want to solicit his opinion on any of the recent federal or provincial political boondoggles, the state of the Leafs, the mayor's popularity, and how the barber's kids or grandkids are doing. You can repeat some of this wisdom back at the office, or in his case, Grade 5, like it's your own and your colleagues (or classmates) will comment on your remarkable insights.

"And if you say you don't want it blow dried, a good barber understands. He doesn't force the issue. Your hair's been cut, it's still a little bit wet, you're going home now."

A good barber keeps really old copies of People magazine and

Maclean's lying around because he knows that's what you expect in a barber shop. The focus is on cutting hair, not literature. If you want to read a good book while you wait, bring your own. Otherwise you read about Walter Mondale's upcoming run for the presidency and that's just fine with you.

Ten years from now you can go to a barbershop and read about Al Gore's run for the presidency.

They say in tough economic times, people tend to have their hair shorter. They can only theorize as to why.

You want to look good at work, in case they're deciding on who to lay off (as in lay off the slob with the messy hair)? You're spending on fewer material things so you want the world around you to be looking good, and that includes looking in the mirror? Who knows?

I just hope the at-home haircut doesn't come back in style.

Without real skill, you cut the kid's hair a couple of times and he starts to look like he's been combing his head with a weed-whacker.

Uncertain times or not, going to the barber is still money well spent.

LETTERS POLICY

The Sun-Tribune welcomes your letters. All submissions must be less than 400 words and must include a daytime telephone number, name and address. The Sun-Tribune reserves the right to publish or not publish and to edit for clarity and space.

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