

# Is your tolerance tested at grocery store, gas bar?

**P**atience is a virtue, possess it if you can. Seldom found in woman. Never found in man.

Obviously, the anonymous author of this quote was never a resident of Whitchurch-Stouffville. Otherwise he would have coined the line to read: "Patience is a virtue, possess it if you can. Sometimes found in woman. Seldom found in man."

Why do I prefer the more practical perception? Hopefully, recent experiences will explain.

**Occasion No. 1:** I was in No Frills, for no other reason than to purchase two items, a jar of peanut butter and a chocolate bar. It was a Saturday and the store was busy. On approaching



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

the nearest check-out counter. I observed the lineup to be long, some customers with carts filled to overflowing.

Rather than return my pur-

chases to their respective shelves and depart empty-handed, I tolerantly took my place. That's when a woman, immediately ahead, observed my circumstance.

"You don't have many," she said. "I have a lot. Please move ahead."

That's patience.

**Occasion No. 2:** I was on student crosswalk duty Tuesday. Due to inclement weather, walkers were fewer than usual but vehicular traffic was heavy.

With cars, trucks and buses lined up on Millard Street between the Ninth Line and Westlawn Crescent, I held parents and children back until the main road cleared. One pedestrian, a young mother, was holding a small girl and pushing a baby carriage.

After what, to her, must have seemed like an eternity, I guided her across.

"Sorry for the hold-up," I apologized, "it's been one of those mornings."

"Don't feel sorry for me," she replied, "I feel sorry for you."

That's patience.

**Occasion No. 3:** The location was Mac's gas bar on Main Street. The late-evening price had been reduced to \$1.20 a liter, prompting motorists to fill up prior to their morning commute.

One woman, obviously unaccustomed to the self-serve system, couldn't make the switch-over work. Before I could walk from my car to hers, a waiting driver, also a woman, came over.

"Let me help," she said, "these

things can be tricky at times."

In a matter of minutes, the thankful motorist was on her way.

That's patience.

Then there's the other side.

**Occasion No. 1:** Again at No Frills. And again with two purchases. Waiting near the end of a long line, a man became irritated.

"What are you doing here? Don't you know there's a cashier four aisles over who can handle small quantity sales? It's people like you who slow down people like me."

That's impatience.

**Occasion No. 2:** On crosswalk duty Thursday. The traffic again was heavy with lineups extending in all directions.

At the intersection, a female driver attempting a right-hand turn, cut a male driver off, forcing him to brake. Not content to politely smile and motion her on, he jumped from the vehicle and loudly berated his challenger.

That's impatience.

**Occasion No. 3:** Again at Mac's. Rather than drive through to the furthest pump, a woman stopped her car at the one closest. This forced a male motorist to wait, a delay he didn't appreciate.

"Why couldn't you have shown a little courtesy and moved up?" he yelled. "Some people think only of themselves."

That's impatience.

In our work-a-day world, such situations continually occur.

How do you react? Hopefully with tolerance rather than annoyance. Hopefully me, too.

*Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.*



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MCO Stouffville Orthodontics is conducting a food drive from November 1 - December 7 for the Stouffville Food Bank. The food drive is open to the public and non-perishable food items may be dropped off Monday-Thursday from 10AM-5PM and Friday 10AM-2PM at our Stouffville office.

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