

Hats off to this blast from the Hollywood's past

I dislike hats. Despite the fact I've been seen wearing a tuque during the cold months of winter this was meant only to protect my abnormally elongated ears from the rigours of frostbite.

No other reason. From April through October I go bare-headed despite repeated wifely warnings.

"You could be a victim of sun-stroke," she constantly cautions. But I ignore the advice.

However, this will soon change. I'm buying a fedora.

A what? Yes, a fedora. It's a male style conversion that's sweeping the nation. And don't be surprised if women soon take up the trend. Perhaps they already have.

Those old enough to have lived through the 1930s and 40s will recall when every man, regaled in his Sunday best, wore a fedora. Including my dad and granddad.

If you're prone to watch long-standing black and white movies, most leading males wore fedoras back then including Gregory Peck, Jimmy Stewart, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Harrison Ford, Gene Kelly, Humphrey Bogart and Clark Gable, complete with feathers in



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

the bands. This, apparently, a man's wardrobe all-inclusive.

What goes around comes around.

While this may be stretching my assumption, I believe Whitchurch-Stouffville's fedora movement began three years ago at Stouffville's O'Neill Funeral Home.

It was manager Patrick Leblanc who recommended all exterior staffers, of which I was one, should be similarly attired in black suits, black coats and black fedoras.

While the collective colour combination, (black), wasn't my pref-

erence, I fell in line with popular sentiments and the decision was approved. Several weeks later, when I dared glimpse in the mirror, I truly sanctioned what I saw. But I liked myself even better with interior flaps lowered and extended ears completely covered.

The concept won head office approval, too, even to having an employee photograph published, fedoras and all, in the company journal.

Like zoot suits of the 1940s to bell bottoms of the '60s; like sideburns of the '50s to long locks of the '70s, crazes come and go. The fedora could be next on the obsession agenda, possibly a fashion that's already here.

For I see them everywhere, on babies of six months to adults of 85. Even now, in areas more urban than Stouffville, the trend has crossed gender lines. I want to keep it going.

As with almost everything, inflation has also hit the fedora market. For example, back in 1908, one could purchase what was then called a stiff hat for as little as \$1.33 or as much as \$2.19. If a simple but stylish dress hat was required,

prices ranged from 45 to 89 cents.

Today, a quality Tilley or Stetson can cost up to \$105 and a superior Christy, \$200. The Cadillac of fedoras belongs to the Karl Lagerfeld-Classic brand at \$277. The Biltmore selection is more in keeping with the average man-on-the-street starting at \$39 and continuing on up to \$169.

Although prices vary so also do materials. One can choose between leather, canvas, straw, fur and wool plus an assortment of shapes and sizes. As the incomparable Don Cherry would say "check 'em out".

While I loathe casting a spectre of negativity into something so practical and so attractive as the stunning fedora, history records that its big fashion break came during the 1930s gangster era of Al Capone and company. The various shapes and patterns seemingly gave mobsters the tough exterior they desired.

But today, the exact opposite is true. That's why we see wee ones in carriages and strollers wearing them as well as seniors in their nineties.

This said, with Father's Day, (June 15), fast approaching, I'm

already saying thanks, to wife Jean, in advance.

Why the sign, you ask?

How do you plan to vote June 12? To such a personal question I'd like to respond with "none of your business". Instead, I merely allude to a sign posted at 381 Rupert Avenue. It reads 'Liberal'.

But ordinarily, when it comes to elections, I'm not a sign supporter. Truth is, I detest them. For I see them as nothing more than environmental encumbrances. So why, you ask, does a Dr. Helena Jaczek insignia hold a visible location on the Thomas family front lawn?

Three reasons. First, I'm a strong supporter of Premier Kathleen Wynne and the pension plank in her platform. Second, I'm a fan of Dr. Jaczek and her achievements within this riding.

And third, it provides a degree of balance to a PC symbol boldly visible across the street.

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

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\$280,000	\$1,063.17	\$490.70
\$300,000	\$1,139.11	\$525.74
\$320,000	\$1,215.05	\$560.79
\$340,000	\$1,290.99	\$595.84
\$360,000	\$1,366.93	\$630.89
\$380,000	\$1,442.87	\$665.94
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We want your input on the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

Both the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan are up for Provincial review in 2015. The Regional Municipality of York wants feedback from residents, businesses and organizations across York Region. The Region is holding open houses to solicit input and provide information on these important plans.

Tuesday, June 3, 2014

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Municipal Offices
111 Sandiford Drive, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

King City Arena and Community Centre
25 Doctors Lane, Township of King

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

East Gwillimbury Sports Complex
1914B Mount Albert Road, Town of East Gwillimbury

If you are unable to attend an open house, you can submit your comments on these plans to York Region by email at futureyork@york.ca or mail to:

The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 6Z1
ATTN: Long Range Planning Branch

If you have accommodation needs to fully participate in an open house, please contact Trish Elliott at 905-830-4444 ext. 71528 at least four business days in advance.



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