



**Ramblin' Ruth**

**Projectiles Keep Falling On My Head**

By Ruth LeBlanc

You never know what will fall from the sky. Once I was hit by pigeon droppings as I walked along a city sidewalk. Some people say it's a sign of good luck. I say the only lucky one is the dry cleaner.

On the sidelines at a football game, I watched the ball fly through the air before running interference with my forehead. I saw stars and dropped to the ground - a literal touch down. Since moving to my country home I have been bombarded with pine cones that fell by the hundreds last winter. I needed a helmet to walk across the front yard.

Earlier this year, when winter decided to pay us a belated visit that started with high winds, falling snow and colder temperatures, it came as a bit of a surprise. But after an unusually mild season, I figured a touch of winter was almost welcome. Little did I know, when the wind began to howl and the snow began to fly, that a projectile attack was on its way.

The storm continued through the night and in the morning I checked to see if it had caused any damage. One large tree limb had just missed the hood of my car, while another had settled in the snow on the passenger side. It seemed my snow-covered vehicle was unmarked and in my rush to go out, I gave it a clean bill of health.

I parked and did my shopping as the sun melted the snow on the car. On my return, I noticed a huge dent, peeling paint and deep scratches, and saw that the trunk lid had shifted, which must have been caused by the falling tree limb.

When I called my local insurance company, I was told that it was considered a projectile and that the car would be repaired and a rental provided. I cursed those wild Manitoba maples that line the driveway and grow wilder than weeds. When we first moved up from the city we thought the more trees the merrier and planted many of these around the yard. I have regretted it ever since.

After a week with a rental car I was back in my own vehicle. I parked in the driveway, looked upwards and saw only clear skies, with limbs firmly attached to the trees on either side of me.

Projectile attacks can happen anywhere to anybody. Take Japan for instance. On June 4, 2009, thousands of minnows and tadpoles descended from above, landing on whatever was in their way. The theory is that migrating pelicans regurgitated them as they flew high in the skies above the area. In the last century there were over 600 reports of strange things that have fallen from the sky.

Having bird droppings on my head and footballs in my face is nothing compared to the cow that fell from the sky onto a fisherman's boat and sank it. No one believed the fisherman until it was reported that the crew on an airplane transporting a rambunctious cow let their cargo go to save the plane and themselves.

So heads up everyone!

**St. Mark Holds Peace Garden Blessing**



On April 25 St. Mark School held a Blessing of the Peace Garden which was constructed in front of the school last spring. Staff, students, parents and grandparents were present for this special event which was also attended by Mayor Wayne Emmerson, Ward 4 Councillor Susanne Hilton, director of education Susan LaRosa and superintendent of schools Mary Deveaux. The two girls holding a prayer flag are Vanessa Mizzi (left) and Christina Romualdi. Each class presented a flag to be hung on the pergola.

Ray Grandison photo

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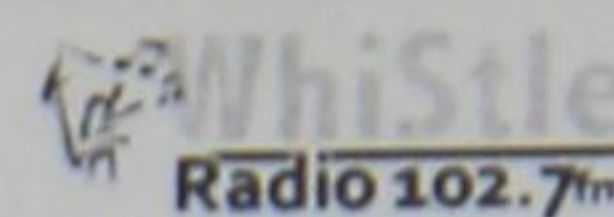
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