

Vintage Whine



Luddite's Lament

By Kate Calderdale

I've accepted that I'm never going to be famous, but at least I am more tech savvy than I used to be.

Last month I finally worked out why the subjects in photos I pasted on stouffville.com's *Free Press* page looked as if an articulated truck had run over their heads while they were upright. The result was people who appeared very wide and squashed-looking, with foreshortened arms and legs, even if in real life they could have passed for Kate Moss as opposed to, say, Hagrid. This little defect in my uploading knowledge was a result of the aspect ratio, which in digital photos is, as any fool knows, 4:3.

Aspect ratio, like zero day exploit, open firmware and memory leak, is not something I have studied in depth. And it's not because I haven't tried, it's because when I start reading the 4,000 page explanation online, my eyes glaze over and I become afflicted with a complete lack of comprehension engendered by the weird, fake English beloved of the tech community.

Techies, like organic foodies, serial killers and bungee jumpers, belong to their own special community, and even have a language all their own, like the Klingons in *Star Trek* and Ontario boards of education. This ensures that no one (perhaps that should read no one in the non-tech community) will ever be able to understand the verbiage that issues forth on computer programmers' 'help' pages unless they are also part of the 'banging their heads against a brick wall until their eyeballs bleed' community.

Anyway, I have now realized that you have to lop off parts of the top and bottom of a photo to render it anything like a facsimile of the real world once it appears

on the site. I would like to use this space to apologize to previous photo subjects who were inadvertently made to look as if they were part of a flat earth society cult on our home page.

Keeping up with the times is increasingly difficult unless you have a bottomless pit of money with which to upgrade your prehistoric (anything older than two years) equipment to its leading edge equivalent. And don't get me started on cell phones.

You're a hopeless Neanderthal if your communications device doesn't record videos, provide internet tethering (don't ask me, I haven't a clue), check stocks, initiate a remote wipe (see internet tethering) and fly you over Europe during a volcanic eruption. Sorry, we've just received word that the latter app will not be available until later this year, after I've spent most of the summer stranded in Istanbul, trying to fly home via Heathrow, while little gremlins and former bankers from Iceland keep stoking the fiery pit.

Lately I have been receiving emails from my technologically enhanced brethren and sistren who own socially acceptable communications devices as opposed to bottom of the line Nokias that come with lowly pay as you go phones. To emphasize the gulf between us, their messages conclude with a pithy footnote underlining their innate superiority: "Sent from my BlackBerry wireless device."

I hope fellow members of the Luddite community will take comfort in the knowledge that this column was sent from my seven year old eMac, which has a small screen and a squat body and a complete lack of cachet among the electronic elite. Donations are welcome.

*I am not making this stuff up.

"Try It Free" Week

To celebrate Recreation and Parks Month and encourage residents to get out and get active, the town's leisure department is offering a week of free activities from June 14 to 20.

Activities include Kindermusik and Playball 2 for preschoolers; Acrodance and Karate Kids for children and youth; and Mambo Mammies, Tai Chi, walking with poles, yoga, kickboxing and a wide variety of aquatics for adults and young people aged 14 and up.

For more information on dates and times, call 905-642-7529 or visit www.townofws.com.



Free Garage Sale Listings At Stouffville.com

Get your garage sale listed free of charge on Stouffville.com. Email us at garagesales@stouffville.com with the details. Go to garagesales.stouffville.com to see your listing.

Serving Stouffville Since 1996

MAIN STREET AUTO SERVICE

Licensed Technician for over 20 yrs

- Lube, Oil & Filter
- Tune-ups - Fuel injection service
- Air conditioning service & repairs
- Tires/Repairs/Installed/Balanced
- Exhaust Systems/Heatercores/Rads
- Brakes/ABS/Drum-Rotors-machine
- Alignments/shocks/struts/suspension
- Computer/Electrical repairs/wiring
- Batteries/Starters/Alternators
- D.O.T. safety-cars/bikes/trucks/trailers

PEACE OF MIND INSPECTION \$89.95
KNOW WHERE YOU STAND WITH YOUR CAR
Oil, Lubrication and Filter, 4 Wheel Brake Inspection, Tire Rotation, Battery Load Test, Check Charging and Cooling Systems, Inspect Front End, Suspension & Under Carriage.

Basic Lube, Oil & Filter \$38.95
1L - 10W

Interstate Batteries \$124.95
starting from

Wagner & AC Delco Brake Pads & Rotors Installed \$299.95
From

Front end Alignment \$84.95
Basic 2 wheel starting from

TIRES: Major brands Michelin, Good Year, Yokohama, Pirelli

*Most cars & light trucks

6757 Main Street at 10th Line Stouffville
905-642-9000

for all your eye care needs

DID YOU KNOW ...

Sunglasses are essential protection for everyone against glare and dangerous ultraviolet light that can damage your cornea, lens and retina.

Choose lenses that provide both UVA and UVB protection and a frame that gives good peripheral coverage. Grey or brown tints work best and polarized lenses are beneficial for those near water or highly reflective surfaces.

For young children, sunglasses and a large wide-brimmed hat provide maximum protection.

Questions? Call and ask us - we're here to help.



new patients welcome
evening appointments
contact lenses
fashion eyewear
lab on premises
state of the art technology



6085 Main Street
905.642.3937

Dr. C. Genin - Dr. M. McDowell - Dr. M. de Jesus - Dr. R. Zargar

MOLLER INSURANCE LTD.

905-642-2745

CALL and COMPARE
Business • Life • Auto • Home

www.mollerinsurance.com