



Appointment with Pohlman

A Wonderful World

By Ralph Pohlman

We humans like to magnify ourselves and remember the heroic stuff, like Columbus' discovery of this continent, (even though he actually landed in Puerto Rico and thought it was China) and forget the bad, like our talent for killing each other as well as any wild species we get near. (Come to think of it, America had already been discovered, only it wasn't by Europeans.) We also like to make heroes out of fictional characters like King Arthur, Robin Hood and Don Corleone, not to mention Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and Harry Potter.

And for all those years we had the Seven Wonders of the World that nobody could remember. Some of them may not even have existed. Finally! After all this time waiting and praying, we at last have a set of new Seven Wonders of the World.

The campaign to name the new wonders of the world (hereafter known as the W's. of the W.) was launched in 1999 by a Canadian, Bernard Weber.

After a world-wide poll of over 100 million votes cast on the Internet, the winners were announced earlier this month at a ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal.

As anyone who plays Trivial Pursuit knows, the original seven W's. of the W. were The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, (nobody knows where they were or what they actually looked like), The Statue of Zeus at Olympia, The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, (who?), The Colossus of Rhodes, (I think it was a statue that straddled the harbour), The Pharos Lighthouse of Alexandria and, the only one surviving, The Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

So now we have the NEW Seven W's of the W, although some of them seem to be pretty old, but at least they actually exist. The biggest vote getter was The Great Wall of China, followed by Rome's Coliseum and India's Taj Mahal. Then we have Jordan's Petra, (you know, that city carved out of pink rock), Peru's Machu Picchu, Brazil's Statue of Christ the Redeemer on the mountaintop overlooking Rio de Janeiro and Mexico's Mayan Chichen Itza pyramid. Hmmm. What happened to Stonehenge?

Anyway, these beat out a bunch of other nominated landmarks that didn't make the cut, including the Eiffel Tower, Easter Island in the Pacific, the Statue of Liberty, the Acropolis and a few others.

So, I've been thinking, maybe I could suggest some other wonders that, at least unofficially, might fall into some kind of wondrous category. Of course there have to be criteria. For example, natural

wonders like the Grand Canyon or Niagara Falls, wondrous though they may be, are forces of nature so don't qualify.

I can't decide about Dolly Parton's shade-giving balcony, not knowing whether it is a natural wonder or has surgically assisted support. She herself says that she has never had to use sun-block below the waist.

When I look around the local area I am struck by the wonder of the Flea Market and the incredible number of things I don't want, along with Stouffville having become the universal centre for doughnut shops. It also strikes me as a wonder that Stouffville likes to think of itself as Music Town, despite not having a music store or even a town band. Oh, I know, we have been putting on Music Mania for 40-some years wherein a whole bunch of folks with delusions of adequacy, including me, get up on the stage at the end of April and entertain their relatives.

What else? Well, the nonexistent Pickering airport should qualify for something, much like empty Mirabelle, the expensive white elephant built north of Montreal. And right in town we have Duffin's Creek, which usually has no water in it.

In Canada as a whole one might consider the Flying Saucer at Moonbeam, Ont., the Wawa Goose or the CN Tower. Are there others? Probably. One possibility is the Senate in Ottawa, also known as The Taskless Thanks.

Suggestions from readers are welcome.

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RECYCLING EVENT A BIG SUCCESS

By Heather Engli

Goodwood Gardens would like to thank all the area gardeners for their co-operation in making the plastic pot recycling event a success.

Approximately 1,500 cubic feet -- that's 15 skids piled seven feet high -- of plastic pots, paks, trays, tags, etc. are not going to be buried in landfill for eons to come. Clearly, people are hesitant to put their unwanted pots into the garbage and have been storing them

for years. Many expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to clean out their garden sheds and garages.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the sorting. When it is all finally packed and shrink wrapped it will be trucked to the Canadian Polystyrene Recycling Association. CPRA pays for the cell paks and some trays (polystyrene only). The money raised will be donated to Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources.

At this time no more plastic

can be accepted for recycling. If there is a local trucking company travelling to 401 and Dixie Road who could offer space, Goodwood Gardens would greatly appreciate the help. Please contact David Gribble at 905-640-4852.

Earlier this summer, Goodwood Gardens collected this massive pile of plastic pots and containers from residents and will be sending them to the Canadian Polystyrene Recycling Association.



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