

LEMONVILLE Community Centre

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Art Show
and Sale

Thanksgiving
Weekend
October 9-10-11
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The
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Group of
Artists 11th
Annual Art
Show & Sale

October 23 & 24
Sat. & Sun.
10 am - 4 pm

Located at 13453 McCowan Rd.
For more Information Call 905-640-3965
Come Early - Don't Be Disappointed!!

Appointment with Pohlman



Talking In Code

By Ralph Pohlman

There is a widely used language that does not have a dictionary. Women are able to speak it from about the age of three. Men can't learn it no matter how long they study.

Although this language has no actual name, it is the strange communication of words, tones, eyebrow lifting and pauses which enable women to do the following: carry on a duel in tones so placid a man thinks they are exchanging compliments, comment savagely on a female absentee while giving men the impression she is her bosom friend; make gracious gestures to ease awkward social situations.

For example, when it's time for guests to go home, many a man has been dragged out by his wife, despite the hostess's pleas to stay. Perhaps the hostess said, "Can't I give you another spot of coffee?" in a tone that left out "before you go."

to be sure you don't forget." Many doghouses have been occupied by men who took the statement literally.

Women also make statements with which a man must not agree too freely. These statements often begin with "that." For instance, when one's wife says, "That Miss Smith is quite attractive, isn't she?" of a woman to whom one might have been slightly attentive at a party, a husband who agrees does so at his peril.

Along with all of the above, men and women view relationships very differently. Take the TV remote control. Men think whoever gets to it first controls the clicker. As a matter of fact, I can watch the World Series, three football games, a show about bears and an alien movie at the same time. It's a gift.

My wife does not have this gift. She has no feel for when to zap and when to stop. She will stop at two people sitting at a table talking, a child crying, an ambulance scene, a lover's quarrel, or an old movie you can't see for the scratches. You see what I mean.

Being a more gifted zapper, I know these are not worthwhile subjects, so I stop at important things like an attack on a spaceship, a naval battle from World War II, wrestling or the latest swimwear fashions.

The speed of zapping must be constant through all these important subjects. You, the gifted zapper, must maintain a consistent pace without anyone noticing there might be a bit more interest in the swimwear fashions. As I said, it relates to giftedness, and not everyone can do this. But somehow my wife sees all this as an aspect of our "relationship."

But as I started to say at the beginning, men and women think differently. Until women program men to notice you're almost out of toilet paper, the two sexes will never communicate. Of course, men can be pressured into all sorts of household tasks, but they will not do them the way a woman would.

They will bathe the children, but they will not straighten out the bath mat, wipe the tub or wring out the washcloth. They'll leave the washcloth bunched up on the tap. They will drop the kid off at nursery school, but they won't spend five minutes chatting with the teacher or picking up the little darling's colouring project. They will do what men have always done, which is to reduce the job to its most basic essentials and ignore the niceties women consider important.

As a final comment, let me get back to that gift-giving topic. If I have learned anything in my half-century of trying to communicate with women, one of the main things is that a gift should not be useful. No power lawnmowers, toasters or new starter cables from Canadian Tire. You give those to a guy.

She gets a scented candle or a book of poetry. If not, then you won't be getting anything for a while. Trust me.

Or, perhaps two couples are walking home from an afternoon concert. As they are saying goodbye outside Couple No. 1's house, Wife No. 1 pleasantly inquires, "Won't you come in for coffee or a drink?"

If she had said heartily, "Do come in for coffee or a drink with us!" Wife No. 2 would probably have accepted. But to a woman's ear, an over-polite, tentative tone indicates clearly the lay of the landscape.

Unfortunately, before she can give a good excuse for declining, Husband No. 2 barges in with, "Why sure! Helen and I haven't a thing to do until dinner." Thus, in a living room strewn with newspapers, Couple No. 2 find themselves eating crackers served by an unsmiling hostess in an atmosphere not unlike the Arctic Circle.

When a woman says, "I don't want a thing for my birthday," she's speaking her ancient mother tongue. What she means is, "I haven't noticed any packages being sneaked in, so I want

Community Mennonite Voices

Contributed by Cameron Kaufman Frey, Pastor



Showing Gratitude for Those Who Came Before Us

Here's my advice: don't buy a toaster as a memento. At my grandmother's moving sale, I was too young to think about lasting value. My parents urged me to buy something, so I bought a cheap toaster that I don't think my grandma ever used. When I got married we used it, but we threw it out when it stopped working. While I have great memories of my grandma, I regret not having something of hers that I can see and touch.

On the other hand, it was awesome to be part of the annual Commemorative Service at the Altona Mennonite Meetinghouse, where Stouffville's founder is buried. Standing in a building built in 1852, I couldn't help noticing that it was so plain. Compared to Old Order Mennonite meetinghouses built more recently, it was austere. I thought about how difficult life was for our ancestors and yet what wonderful gifts they passed on to us. Because of their industrious and simple lifestyle, they were able to build a strong community. That community now provides us a

comfortable and enjoyable life. Taking time to appreciate our heritage filled me with gratitude for those who came before me to this area.

As I was preparing to speak at that Commemorative Service, I learned of the loss of a different heritage site. Few in Stouffville know that developers discovered the remains of Ontario's largest Huron-Wendat village, on Stouffville Creek, between Byers Pond Way and James Ratcliff Avenue. A 2007 Town Council resolution promised to recognise this site but there is no sign that this has been done. Now the site is a large pond built for storm drainage. Will we dispose of this village and lose out on the chance to see and touch our history? Are we so ungrateful for what we have that we turn our backs on those who came before us? For more information on the site go to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mantle_Site,_Wendat_%28Huron%29_Ancstral_Village

Or simply go to Wikipedia and search for "Mantle Site."

If you are new to Stouffville and looking for a faith community--or simply curious--you are welcome to visit us. We have chosen not to build a structure, but we meet in rented facilities at Parkview Village Auditorium (9th Line) at 11 am Sunday.

COMMUNITY MENNONITE CHURCH
12184 Ninth Line, Stouffville • 905-640-9730
10:00 Sunday School • 11:00 Worship Service



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