



Appointment with Pohlman

Road Hockey

By Ralph Pohlman

When I was growing up in a small town I believed that kids in the city had more advantages. After all, they had places like the 'Y,' public swimming pools, coaching and stuff like that.

But later in life I was astonished to discover how many very successful people came out of the little towns of this country.

I discussed this topic with a childhood friend and we recalled how, in that small Saskatchewan town, you were actually surrounded by parents. Everybody knew you. If I was being a nuisance in the White Lunch Café, or the Beanery at the railroad station, my parents knew about it before I got home.

We also decided that you had the opportunity to see people "in the round." My teachers were not just teachers. I saw them at church, or in the post office, or buying their groceries. You got to know the mayor, who was also the yardmaster down at the CN. And so you had a world in microcosm. Later in life it is not so hard to meet a mayor, and you are no longer awed by the office.

As a child in a small town you have a freedom you would never know in the city. You ride your bike out into the country after school, you watch the farmers bring their grain into town, you have time to lie on your back in the grass and learn the difference between a rock and a tree. Not just learn it intellectually, but feel it, absorb it, make it a part of you.

However, when it came to building character, that was left to road hockey. Whenever I see kids playing on the road now I wonder if they go through the same pecking order. We used to call it "shinny." I'm not sure why. Maybe it was because you

spent the winter with no skin on your shins.

Road hockey has a definite pecking order. The youngest kid gets to play goal. Well, actually that's not true. The youngest kid gets to stand on the side and say, "Can I play? Can I play?" and be repeatedly told to "Get lost," but in more direct words.

Eventually one of the guys who is playing out front goes into high school and is then too cool to play road hockey and everyone moves up a notch. The kid who was in the goal moves out front and the kid who was on the side moves into the goal.

But those two years in goal, standing between two piles of snow, holding a broom, freezing your hands and feet and every other appendage, built your character.

At the beginning of the winter you played with a tennis ball but it soon got broken or lost. You never used a puck. For one thing, a puck hurts and, secondly, when you drive it into a snow bank you can't find it. No, after the tennis ball got lost you depended on nature and Melville was by no means a one-horse town. There was always a newly dropped pile of fresh frozen pucks somewhere down the street.

And so it is those two years in the goal, fending off shots with a broom, that develop your courage for later life. Anyone who has been hit in the mouth with a frozen horse turd can face anything.

An Irish Odyssey



This summer Cathy Beland surprised her husband Michael with a trip to Ireland, which included a visit to Castletownbere, his great-grandfather's home town. En route to their destination, Cathy posed beside a road sign with a copy of the Stouffville Free Press.

Clean Water Day

By Lindsay O'Connor

The official launch of Whitechurch-Stouffville's Clean Water Day takes place Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Town offices at 111 Sandiford Dr.

Two local NGOs, Emmanuel International Canada (EIC) and the Stouffville Igoma Partnership (SIP), have joined forces to bring attention to the lack of clean water in developing countries.

As Stouffville residents we take our water supply for granted. We have a shower, make coffee, wash the car and water our lawns, but it's not that way for the

780 million people without access to clean drinking water, a number equivalent to the population of the United States, Canada, Australia, Italy, France and Mexico combined.

EIC and SIP invite the public to attend the Oct. 30 launch and hear what two leading charities in Stouffville are doing to provide access to clean water in the developing world. While the numbers can seem overwhelming, the truth is that this is a completely solvable problem and these two organizations are committed to being part of the solution.

"Home of Traditional Martial Arts"

BUICKS KARATE.COM

"TRAINING PEOPLE IN THE MARTIAL ARTS SINCE 1973" 905-642-9700

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

Teaching Martial Arts, Changing Lives

\$299⁰⁰ FOR

KARATE LESSONS!

Try a FREE CLASS!

10 Commercial St., Stouffville
905-642-9700

A Common Legal Mistake

Once again I have had to inform people that they are the victims of what I call the most common legal mistake in the Province of Ontario. Increasingly common practices further mislead people into thinking that a spouse is a spouse whether married or common law.

And that is quite simply wrong. In real estate and estates where I concentrate my practice, but also in Family Law, a spouse is someone who is married with only one tiny microscopic exception, whereas a common law has some spousal rights. Regarding the "Matrimonial Home" and Inheritance a common law is nothing more than a "friend with benefits" and receives less than the nephew no one has seen for 20 years or more.

Pensions and other contracts can give common laws benefits. A Marriage certificate is proof of a contract with many benefits. Without a certificate you need your own contract. A lawyer may cost several hundred or a few thousand dollars. But what is a house worth today? Or an inheritance?



Paul J. Crowe
Barrister & Solicitor
86 Ringwood Dr., Unit 28
Stouffville, ON L4A 1C3
Phone: 905-640-8100
pauljcrowe@hotmail.com
www.pauljcrowe.com

See Paul J. Crowe For Friendly, Experienced Legal Services

13 You're invited!
ANNUAL WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE
Studio TOUR & SALE

Sat. Oct. 19 & Sun. Oct. 20, 2013
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

18 Venues • 29 Artists
FREE Admission • FREE Draw • PRESSURE FREE atmosphere



Visit us at
www.stouffvillestudiotour.com
and follow us on

