

Vintage Whine



All Washed Up

By Kate Gilderdale

"Behind every working woman is an enormous pile of unwashed laundry," Barbara Dale

At Chateau Gilderdale, on the other hand, Mr. Wallethead is chief of staff, dirty laundry division. His elevation to the ranks of the garment washing community is the result of several factors including the demands of my job (real or imagined for chore avoidance) and his reluctance to wear things more than once or twice before sanitizing them.

The fact is, I am a lot less organized than he is on the home front. What's more his mother, to whom I will be eternally grateful, believed firmly in gender parity (the condition formerly known as sexual equality) even though she was born in the early years of the 20th century when men were men and privileged women did nothing much except iron underwear, hand wash clothes, cook meals from scratch, raise children, clean the house, darn socks, tend the garden, do the grocery shopping, walk the dog etc.

When I lived across the pond, we used to heft our washing to the laundromat, drag it home and hang it out to dry in the garden. Back then I hated making all that effort, but now we have both morphed into smug eco warriors, shrinkers of carbon footprints and conservers of outrageously-priced hydro.

OK, maybe that's overstating it. The truth is, our dryer broke this spring and we were too cheap to fix it or buy a new one, so we invested in one of those rotary dryers and have now become converts to the joys of line-dried laundry. I am further galvanized by the idea of winding up communities I've read about that ban the practice entirely, perhaps fearing that exposure to a pair of Y-fronts may lead to a mass attack of the vapours on the part of shocked and appalled neighbours.

I have been ambivalent about doing laundry since the early days of our marriage, when I inadvertently placed a bright red T-shirt in a load containing, among other items, a jockstrap, a white squash shirt and several pairs of socks, all belonging to my unfortunate spouse. Even now, rose-tinted undies have been slow to catch on among male members of *homo sapiens*; back then, a pink jockstrap would have been a red rag to a bully. It took several days for normal wedded bliss to be resumed.

My line-drying crusade owes something to nostalgia. Both my granny and my mum hung out their laundry and whenever I do the same, I am transported back to the carefree days of my childhood and the sense of security that comes from being part of a close and loving family. Sometimes, however, this warm and fuzzy feeling is seriously compromised by a violent thunderstorm or one of those damp, British days when the clothes come off the line wetter than they were when I hung them there seven hours earlier.

Still, I like to feel I'm doing my bit for the environment, to whom I owe a massive debt, having taken eight plane rides in four weeks during our Turkish sojourn this summer in contravention of the approved tenets of green living. My other attempts at penance include removing packaged mushrooms from their plastic containers and leaving the latter at the grocery store checkout, and never, ever buying bottled water, since I would never, ever pay for something that you can get free from your kitchen tap.

When it comes right down to it, my principles are as elastic as the waistband of the tights that flap in the breeze on washing day. If I have offended any neighbours during the drying of my clothes I apologize unreservedly.

On the plus side, at least I'm not hanging out our dirty laundry in public.

Student Music Concert Celebrates 18th Year

Seven schools will participate in the 18th annual Student Music Scholarship Concert Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Stouffville District Secondary School.

The event, hosted by Stouffville's St. James Presbyterian Church, has raised more than \$70,000 over the past 17 years, with all funds divided among participating schools to assist their music programs. In 2009, each school received \$906.

Again this year, an estimated 600 students will take part, representing the following schools: St. Mark, Summitview, Stouffville

Christian, Whitechurch-Highlands, Ballantrae, Harry Bowes and SDSS.

One student, displaying exceptional vocal, instrumental or dance skills, will be selected to receive a \$200 scholarship. Previous recipients include Georgina Muir, Clara Jordan, Jocelyn McDowell, Cameron MacKenzie, Kathryn Irwin, Carley MacLean, Lillian Wild, Jennifer Thunem, Kirstie Hembruff, Aaron Clubine and A.J. deBoer.

Adult admission to the concert is \$5.

G L O R I A

Village Voices presents Gloria, one of Antonio Vivaldi's best loved works. Joining us will be members of Markham's Kindred Spirits Orchestra. The second half of the program will feature a selection of Christmas carols and of course our ever popular audience sing-along.

Joan Andrews
music director/conductor
Cheryl Campbell
soprano
Marta Herman
mezzo soprano
Loralie Kirkpatrick
mezzo soprano

Saturday December 11, 2010 7:30 pm
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
143 Main Street North (near 40th Markham)
Tickets \$20. Seniors/Students \$15.
Children 12 and under admitted free.
At the door or call 905.294.8687

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

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

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A MINE OF INFORMATION



Kim Truter, president and chief operations officer of the Diavik Diamond Mine, Eric Madsen director of communities external relations and winter road operations and a colleague catch up on international news at the mine, which is 210 km south of the Arctic Circle.



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