

Ramblin' Ruth

Looking On The Bright Side

By Ruth LeBlanc



Life is one big journey and where you end up nobody knows. Plan as you may, no one can predict or control the future.

Years back I thought my road in life was mapped out with all the bases covered. Then a unexpected surprise was thrown into my path and all my plans flew out the window. When I moved to Kawartha Lakes, I constantly found fault and kept drawing comparisons to my old home of Musselman's Lake and the town of Stouffville. Filled with familiar faces, shopping opportunities and a great variety of restaurants, Whitchurch-Stouffville won my vote by a landslide.

Trent Lakes is short on coffee shops and restaurants, and retail is almost nonexistent. To find a good restaurant or store you must drive to a nearby town or travel to Peterborough. It seemed to me that the conveniences and services I once enjoyed were replaced with frustration and a craving for a good cup of coffee.

Then, just weeks ago, I had a change of heart. Instead of balking and finding fault, I began to see all the positive things I had tried to ignore.

Little quirky restaurants tucked down tree lined driveways or beside a lake hidden from view. People in the villages warming up as your face becomes more familiar and you are no longer a stranger. Small church congregations becoming like a second family and taking you under their wing as you go through your transition, if you let them.

Now the deal to stay has been sealed with the purchase of a cottage just a five minute drive away. The old fellow who previously bought it as an investment had passed away and it sat for two years, neglected and ignored.

Driving by just a month ago, I came home and made a call

to view it. It was still furnished, and the old widower's belongings sat cold and dusty in the empty cottage he had once called home. It needs a massive amount of work inside, but it has good bones and sits on a large treed lot just a minute's walk to the water.

A deal was quickly sealed and now the keys sit on the kitchen counter. This spring, I will plant a garden for the old man, on land that faces the woods. There is a benefit in moving from an area of high-priced housing to a place where prices are more affordable and bargains still can be found.

So for now, this will be home. I have made friends, and lunches with the girls have resumed. This is a place where people from all over have come to enjoy a different lifestyle. The biggest hurdle has been the readjustment period, when I questioned the move and wondered why on earth I made it.

Now, with a positive attitude and the realization that I moved for a new life and then never gave it a chance, I am learning to accept the good things. It has taken seven years but I survived the upheaval and lived to tell the tale.

On Facebook I see that some of the students who visited my office at the GO train station are now married, with little babies. I see friends celebrating birthday milestones and parents becoming grandparents and I realize that life stands still for no one.

You either roll with the punches or let life turn sour or bitter.

Enjoy the life you have or make changes so that you can find happiness. This is the only life you will ever get, so live it to the fullest.

Going Bach To The Sixties



Bach to Blues goes Back to the Sixties on May 2 at Christ Church Anglican.

On May 2, Stouffville's Bach to Blues Company invites you to join them on their musical journey Back to the Sixties at Christ Church Anglican on Sunset Blvd.

Concert performances will be at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and will feature special guests the Albert Street Four. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door and are available from Barthau Jewellers and Card's Appliances on Main Street.

A portion of the proceeds from each performance will be donated to Willowgrove for Fraser Lake Camp in memory of John McDowell, a well-loved, long-time member of the Bach to Blues Company.

New singers are always welcome, be they soprano, alto, tenor or bass. For more information call 416-579-4079.

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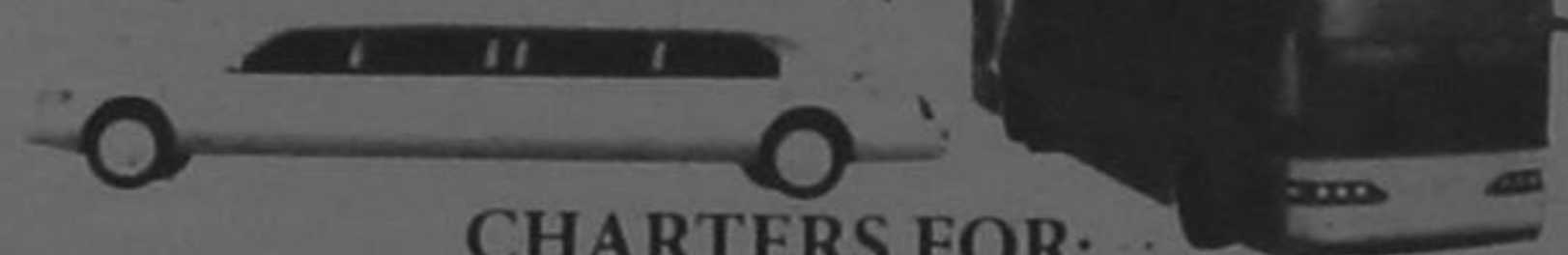
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