

Vintage White



It's All About Con-Text

By Kate Gilderdale
Stouffville Free Press

Having grown up in the era of 'don't put your elbows on the table' and 'you can't go out to play' until you've written all your birthday thank you letters' I'm finding today's etiquette a little difficult to navigate.

I've always used the phone to talk to people, because that was what it used to be for; the definition of the verbal form of the word in my 1998 Canadian Oxford Dictionary (now defunct) is: 'Speak to a person by telephone'. These days a large number of younger people prefer to receive texts, because it means they can't be interrupted while doing vital things like checking Facebook or Instagram or Eilo every 35 seconds or compulsively reacting to the pings announcing the arrival of another, properly configured, message.

It's all very well for them, because their thumbs have somehow evolved to operate miniscule keyboards and touch screens at the speed of light, instead of lumbering through the process with digits like sausages, pressing all the wrong buttons and spending hours editing the resulting linguistic quagmire.

According to the new etiquette, it's rude to phone someone because you're invading their personal space,

so you have to text them instead and wait, sometimes for hours, before they deign to respond. At that point, you've decided to forgo meeting up with them and are having coffee with a fellow Neanderthal telephone user instead. Or you are unable to respond because you've forgotten to charge your phone - again - or have switched it off for a couple of weeks until the next time you happen to take it for a bus ride into the city.

Conversely, it's no longer rude to barge into people because your eyes are glued to your screen and you are thus totally unaware of those around you. Apparently it's their job to avoid a nasty collision and their fault if they fail to do so.

The other day I read an article in which the author imagined how different things might have been if the phone had originally been used to text people, and someone suddenly discovered you could have an immediate, live, two-way conversation at the touch of a few numbers on a keypad with buttons larger than the head of a golf tee. Just think about it - instant connectivity with no downtime or typos, as well as far less likelihood of misunderstandings, and the opportunity to explore ideas in one simple exchange, brought to you by Bell, Rogers or Telus for just an extra \$5 a month.

Then there's the nostalgic aspect. *I Just Texted to Say*

I Love You somehow lacks the romantic heft of Stevie Wonder's classic song. The same goes for the Stones' *If You Need Me, Why Don't you Text Me?* And imagine the prank call scene from *The Big Sleep*, with Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart texting instead of talking.

Dinosaurs still roam the Earth and until we're finally vanquished, some of us will continue to prefer speaking to texting. It's the older generation's job to annoy the younger generation, and no one does it better than the boomers.

Just remember, we've got your number and we'll call it whenever we want to get in touch. And when you don't answer, we'll leave a voice message that we know, in our hearts, you will never listen to.

In the immortal words of Ogden Nash, "Children aren't happy with nothing to ignore/And that's what parents were created for."

"An ancient open-air ritual involving full-body exercise, face-to-face conversation and eye contact with fellow human beings in real time.

"It was before my time, too, but you can check it out on YouTube."

Parkview Village Bazaar

On Saturday Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parkview Village will hold its annual Bazaar at the Village Auditorium on Ninth Line, just south of Main St.

There will be a variety of vendors, and items will include delicious home baked goods and preserves and beautiful hand-knitted clothing created by residents. The event is a fundraiser

for Parkview Services for Seniors, a non-profit organization which provides various initiatives and programs for its residents.

"We appreciate help from our community to support our event in many ways for which we are most appreciative," said program coordinator Lenore Gould.

Reesor's

Chili Con Carne, Potato Bacon Soup, Top Crust Beef Pie, Cannelloni, Dairy Free Curried Cauliflower Soup...

We're re-introducing our winter menu & your favourite Reesor's soups & entrees are back! Are you hungry yet?



**GROWING
& MAKING
GOOD FOOD**

Reesor's Market & Bakery
5758 Main St., Stouffville
905-640-2270
reesors.ca

**Boyd's
Source
for sports.**
WE KNOW OUR STUFF.

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
Ski & Snowboard Tune-Ups

\$24.99

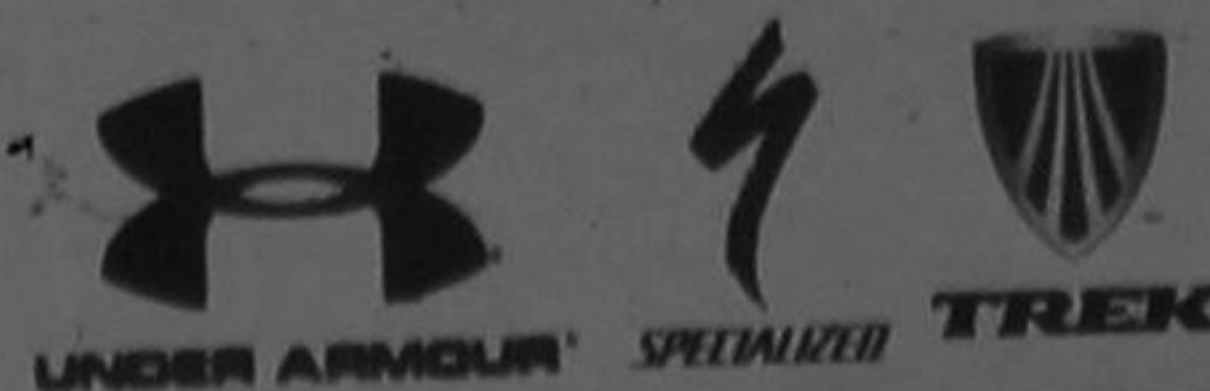
Under Armour Apparel
25% OFF

Composite Stick Clearance
UP TO **70% OFF**

All In-Stock Bikes
25% OFF

SNOWBOARD FINAL CLEARANCE
Boots, Boards & Bindings
UP TO **75% OFF**

905-640-6657



21 RINGWOOD DRIVE, STOUFFVILLE

Stouffville
optometry

Dr.'s McDowell, Genin, De Jesus
are pleased to welcome

Dr. Anthony Soluri

to our growing eye care practice. Anthony is an awarded graduate of the University of Waterloo and is familiar to many as Stouffville is his hometown.



Dr. Soluri is **WELCOMING NEW PATIENTS** and fully subscribes to our philosophy of **VISION FOR LIFE.**

Appointments can be made by calling

905 642 3937

37 years of exemplary eye care at 6085 Main Street in Stouffville