

Vintage Wine

# Generation Exercise

By Kate Gilderdale

"Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric." Pam Brown

Despite spending a ludicrous amount of time on Twitter during the election, my greatest joy has been hanging out with our beautiful grandson, a subject on which I could – and do – bore for Canada. And now that the Walleheads, late of Stouffville, have moved to the centre of the universe, I get to see him several times a week, and the thrill never wears off.

As every granny knows, her grandchild is the cleverest, most adorable and accomplished human being who has ever toddled the earth, walking rapidly around in ever-decreasing circles before sitting down with a thump and a surprised expression on his perfect face.

Take Ollie's language skills. At the age of

one he was already saying 'mama'. When I expressed delight at this demonstration of his brilliance and devotion, my daughter-in-law, who was born in Turkey, explained that 'mama' is Turkish for baby food.

Now he has an astonishing vocabulary – duh-duh (truck); duh-duh (plane); duh-duh (squirrel) and boobewwy (blueberry – note his particular ability to master anything to do with food). What he can't articulate verbally, he makes clear with vocal pyrotechnics that cannot be misinterpreted – just try removing him from the playground before he's ready and you, and others in the general vicinity, will quickly get the drift.

As regular readers will recall, I have never bought into the idea of going to the gym and getting sweaty on various instruments of torture like the treadmill and the rowing machine. Now I have my own portable gym. After two or three hours working out with this baby I can hardly find the strength to hoist him into the stroller and engage in the wrestling match required to get him buckled up safely for the journey home.

And don't get me started on modern devices for transporting the young and the restless from A to B. Back in the day, wheeling our children about involved a flimsy umbrella stroller which occasionally folded up with its small passenger still

inside. Now health and safety rules require nerves and abs of steel to slot baby (figure 1) into stroller (figure 2) and secure him with multiple straps (figures 3 and 4) and insert sturdy bumper bar (figure 5) into small and highly resistant attachment slot.

By the time I have completed this comedy of errors, I am sweating more profusely than Rob Ford on Jimmy Kimmel Live. Mastering the art of changing diapers is also a challenge, not helped by my uncanny ability to put either Ollie or the diaper the wrong way round on the couch, which doubles as a change table at Gilderdale Towers.

Ollie's attention span is not long and all Mr. Wallethead's heroic efforts at distraction rarely outlast my lack of dexterity. And getting the diaper on is just the beginning. As fast as one leg is inserted into our



grandson's tiny perfect jeans, the other wriggles out, and Sod's Law dictates that the chances of his sweater going on back-to-front are a hundred per cent (plus or minus 3.1 per cent, 19 times out of 20).

Just when I think this crazy war is over, he kicks off one of the shoes I have spent 10 minutes inserting his foot into.

Henry Youngman once noted, "My grandmother is over eighty and still doesn't need glasses. Drinks right out of the bottle."

Now I know why.

## Diwali Celebration at Christ Church Anglican

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

Between Halloween and Christmas comes the Indian festival of lights – Diwali. The Indo-Canadians of Stouffville came into being this year as a registered organization and is hoping to bring the Indian community together by hosting a Diwali get together. "Every year, we would travel 60-70 kilometres to either Brampton or Mississauga to celebrate our festival. So a bunch of us decided to create it right here in our town of Stouffville," said Yagnesh Patel, who is organizing the event along with Stouffville residents Jignesh Patel, Jignesh Dave and Tejas Pancholi.

The event is planned for November 28 at Christ Church Anglican at 254 Sunset Blvd in Stouffville. There will be a talent show



by kids as well as adults and Bollywood singing and dancing. "At least 200 people are expected to attend," said Yagnesh. "The main aim is to inspire our kids and future generations to participate in their culture and traditional festivals by learning that no matter where you are

you can always organise a celebration." Besides, Stouffville is a supportive and diverse town where everyone feels accepted.

For sponsorship and ticket details or more information, please email p\_yagnesh@yahoo.com



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