



Kate Gilderdale / Stouffville This Month

Stouffville Legion Auxiliary members Gladys Clarkson, Jennett Abbott, Aurelia Smith, Marjorie Smith and Marion Murphy take a tour of the Ontario Legislature before receiving Queen's Golden Jubilee medals for community service from Oak Ridges MPP Frank Klees. Other Whitchurch-Stouffville volunteers honoured at the ceremony were Bill Attewell, Dorie Billich, Helene Johnson and Tom Winters.

Seventy-seven per cent of Ontarians plan to work during retirement

56 per cent of Ontarians don't know how much money they'll need in retirement

Winnipeg, January 14, 2003 - According to a recent national survey sponsored by Investors Group and conducted by Decima Research, 77 per cent of Ontarians are strongly considering the idea of working in some capacity during their retirement. That is a stark contrast to what retired Ontarians are doing today, as only 23 per cent indicated they are currently working.

The survey also found that 61 per cent of Ontarians are planning to use 'earned income' as their primary or secondary source of retirement income. Fifty-three per cent of respondents indicated they plan to work part-time, while 43 per cent plan to engage in consulting work or other self-employment.

Despite the strong majority acknowledging that some work will be a part of their retirement, the survey showed that most Ontarians have not determined how much money they'll need in retirement (56 per cent). Interestingly, the number of Ontarians planning an early retirement seems unaffected by this lack of knowledge. The survey found that 39 per cent of Ontarians intend to retire before age 60, despite 49 per cent not knowing how much money they would need.

"Retirement should not be a shot-in-the-dark proposition," says Heather Clarke, Director, Advanced Financial Planning Support for Investors Group. "Many people who have not properly planned for retirement will probably have to work to maintain their lifestyle. Leaving retirement planning to the last minute, or making retirement lifestyle decisions based on inaccurate assumptions, is risky. This is why using the services of a financial planner is imperative to building your own 'perfect' retirement."

While most survey respondents indicated they didn't adjust their retirement plans as a result of weaker stock market returns, those who did make the change (21 per cent) indicated their adjustments include earning more in retirement, saving more, and spending less. Non-retirees indicated they plan to earn more money during retirement (74 per cent) and save more (77 per cent) as a result of stock market volatility. Retired respondents said they plan to spend less (78 per cent) and lower their lifestyle expectations (35 per cent).

"People need to be realistic about earning potential as they age. Planning on this income when the statistics show you are more likely to have health issues as you get older could be risky," said Heather Clarke, Director, Advanced Financial Planning Support for Investors Group. "It is such a great time of life, why be careless about how you spend it?"

The survey also found some other interesting retirement attitude results:

- Canada Pension Plan benefits continue to be the most relied upon source of retirement income. 73 per cent of Ontarians said they viewed CPP payments as either their primary or secondary source of income after they retire;
- 75 per cent of respondents intend to rely on their RRSP saving as their primary or secondary source of income;
- 62 per cent of respondents intend to rely on their employer pensions as their primary or secondary source of income;
- Younger Ontarians (less than 50 years old) are more likely to expect to generate their own retirement income through employment earnings or investments while retirees are more likely to rely on government pension payments;
- Only 23 per cent of Ontarians said they are expecting an inheritance that will improve their financial situation.

The survey results are based on a Decima Express national telephone survey conducted with a representative sample of 2000 Canadians (18 years and older) between November 15th and 24th, 2002. A sample of this size will provide results that can be considered accurate for the population overall to within plus or minus 2.2 per cent 19 times out of 20.

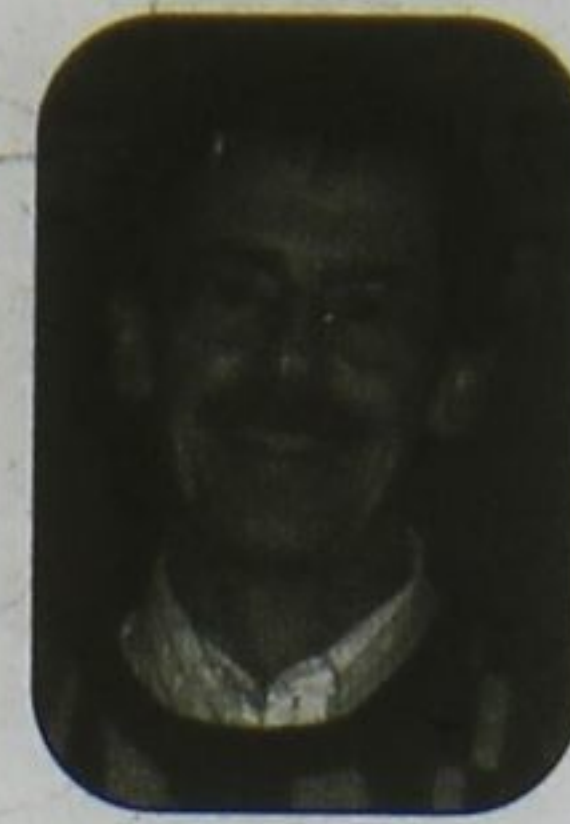
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with Bruce Stapley

Stumbling through Stouffville

It's A Shore Thing

"The only problem with Stouffville," begins my wife Susan's oft-repeated lament about our particular corner of the planet, "is that there's a distinct shortage of turquoise water, white sand, palm trees and mountains."

Never has that void been so evident than in this the winter of our deeply frozen discontent. So for those of us whose response to a crisis is a modicum of good old-fashioned escapism, I've compiled my own personal "Top 10 Beaches I Have Known" list. Here we go:

Lang's Beach, New Zealand. The same rhythmic waves that lull you to sleep at night call you to wake up and watch the sun rise over Hen and Chicken Islands in the early morning at this ocean-side paradise to the north of Auckland.

Schinoussa, the tiny Greek island far from the maddening tourist crowds in the Little Cyclades, boasts an idyllic, quiet beach just below Giorgios Grispos' resort and restaurant on the island's west side. Gorgeous sand, rolling hills off to either side, and your own coral reef. As a backdrop, you're likely to find an assortment of handsome yachts moored in the bay, the property of pleasantly surprised seafaring visitors.

Puerto Escondido, on the Mexican west coast way south of Acapulco. Little known when I visited in 1973, and apparently still that way all these years later. The best body surfing I have ever experienced -- back in the days when I could indulge in the sport without breaking my face.

Lake Edith, Alberta. The combination of rock flour fed blue water, distant snow-covered mountains and a white sand beach makes for a perfect postcard setting on a hot summer's day.

Kolimbithres, on the Greek island of Paros. This place "rocks" -- the smooth-

sculpted rockscapes provide built-in lounge chairs for you to soak up the heavenly Greek summer sunshine.

The beach across from the Puaikura Reef Lodges in Rutaki, Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. This unspoiled tropical paradise is back-dropped by lush mountain vegetation. It is particularly appealing upon arrival in early January fresh from a Canadian blizzard.

Panmure Island, Prince Edward Island. A July day on the beach here lasts forever. Miles of white sand to walk along, dunes to slide down, and mini sand islands created by the retreating tides.

The beach at Plantation Island Resort, in Fiji's beautiful Island of Malolo Lai Lai in the Mamanuca Islands. The palm-fringed white sand beach is spectacular under the sun's golden glare or the moon's silver stream. Turquoise water...distant mountains...visiting yachts...need I say more?

Hot Water Beach, in New Zealand's breathtaking Coromandel Peninsula. How hot is the water? Let's just say I almost burned my toe when I thrust it down under the sand at water's edge looking for the answer. We're talking serious volcanic heat.

Any Caribbean beach. How about the sun, sand and surf in front of the Jolly Beach Resort in Antigua? The Caribbean at its white sand, glimmering, multi-hued best. Honourable mention, of course, goes to the north beach at Musselman's Lake.

But alas, if like me, you are snow-bound with no prospect of a beach escape this winter, there's always Plan B: Slap on some coconut scented suntan lotion, cue up your old Jimmy Buffet tape on the Walkman, head on over to the Tanning Zone's Jamaica room, and drift away!

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