

Turning Back the Clock

Historic photo submitted
courtesy of Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum



As Stouffville District Secondary School gears up for its 50th Anniversary Reunion next summer, we take a look back to an earlier time, and Stouffville District High School's Athletic Association of 1947-48. Pictured here are, (back row) Helen Heise, Helen Goudie, Audrey Bell, Jean Miller and Sheila Tait. Front row: Faye O'Neill, Marion Murphy, Erline Paisley, Edna Sanderson and Carol Weldon.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

Whitchurch-Stouffville This Month believes your opinions are important, and encourages you to voice your comments or concerns in a Letter To The Editor. We accept all letters, but only publish letters which have been signed. We request you include a phone number (not to be published) for verification of the letter writer. While Whitchurch-Stouffville This Month reserves the right to edit letters, due to content or length, in most cases letters will be published as written.

Fax your letters to: 905-642-2368, or e-mail to: withwrinkles@hotmail.com or mail to WSTM, Kate Gilderdale, 6111 Main St., Stouffville, Ont., L4A 3R4

Whitchurch-Stouffville This Month is on the web.
Look for us each month at: www.stouffvilleonline.com



Kate A'la carte

LETTING GO OF YOUR BAGGAGE

One of the best opportunities for pondering the meaning of life is while waiting for your luggage to appear, or not, on the carousel at Pearson International after a long flight home.

This profound observation struck me a couple of weeks ago as my family and I jostled for a prime location around the carousel at the end of a crammed transatlantic flight. Let's face it, the interval between getting off the plane and the arrival of your baggage affords plenty of time for reflection on what it means to be human at the dawn of the third millennium.

What's more, I believe that baggage retrieval has the potential to become an Olympic sport, one at which even yours truly, the quintessential non-athlete, might excel. Consider the skills necessary to successfully spot, lunge at and grab your own personal piece of luggage without causing serious physical injury to, or outrage among, fellow members of the baggage retrieval community.

Your first move is to get through passport control early and stake out your position before the hordes are three deep. As a regular traveller, my advice is to choose a vantage point some distance from the chute where bags are ejected, so that you can spot your quarry well in advance of grabbing it.

Bear in mind that while all luggage may not be created equal, about 99 percent of it is black and trolley-style, which results in a lot of mistaken removal of other people's suitcases, many of which appear to be filled with rocks from Stonehenge. By the time you have read the label and hauled the rogue piece back onto the carousel, your own luggage may be serenely on its way to a second or third lap around the long and winding road back to your location.

The importance of keeping a careful eye out for your bags is offset by the constant need to assert your sovereignty over your hard-won space by preventing other people from slithering in front of you and cutting off vital sightlines. This can be achieved by placing an airport trolley between you and the carousel and family members on either side of you.

Nevertheless there is always that type A neanderthal who elbows everyone out of the way as he rushes up to the carousel as if to take possession of a bag he has just spotted, pushes your trolley aside and stands firmly in front of you. This tactic can be counteracted by some subtle manoeuvring involving the wheel of your trolley and his leg, accompanied by a cheerful, "Whoops, sorry, someone pushed me."

By the time he has recovered his composure, you can be back in the starting position, your beady eye fixed on the fourteenth suitcase to the left. Veteran baggage retrievalists also know that, once in a while, bored airport personnel amuse themselves by removing a random collection of cases and placing them in an obscure spot between carousels.

For the neophyte, this can mean waiting for an hour and a half until all the luggage has been claimed before discovering that yours has been languishing in a heap since soon after you arrived in the baggage hall. The most fun of all is when your baggage, enchanted by the holiday you have just completed, decides to see more of the world by getting on the wrong flight.

These days, personal coaches, grief counsellors and other lifestyle experts urge us to get rid of our excess baggage. If you fly often enough, Air Canada will probably do it for you.



Merry Christmas from
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"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men."

-Luke 2:14

Wishing you exceeding great
joy as we celebrate the birth of
our Saviour.

From all of us at

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