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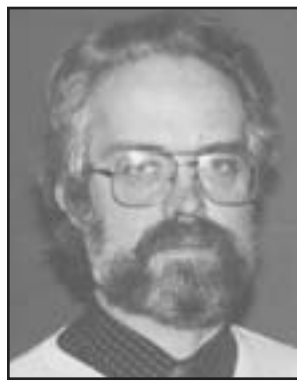
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**Bill's  
Bulletin  
Board**

By Bill Rea

I freely admit that I am not a fashion plate, I never have been a fashion plate and I have no desire to be a fashion plate.

I doubt the above admission will come as a great shock to anyone who really knows me.

I hate shopping for clothes, and do so as seldom as possible. Thus I tend to wear out the clothes that I have, or at least the ones I like to wear. When I do go shopping, I tend to take excessive pains checking out the price tags, and even more excessive pains getting the task over with and getting out of whatever store I happen to be in as quickly as possible so I can get on with other things in my life.

And I hate trying on clothes even more than I hate shopping for them. In fact, that is something I have always hated, from the days my mother would buy me the most hideous-looking stuff (any man who remembers some of the clothes his mother bought for him when he was a boy will know exactly where

I'm coming from) for school. And it continues to this day.

So that is a partial explanation of why you'll never see my name on the list of the 10 best-dressed men anywhere. But with my charm, who notices?

On the other hand, styles of dress have changed a lot over the years, to the point is I wouldn't know what's in and what's out these days (not that I ever would, you understand).

My wife and I received a little lesson in that not too long ago.

We were out for dinner at a restaurant bearing a well-deserved positive reputation; the type of place where one usually goes for a special occasion, and for Beth and I, that was sort of the case.

A party was shown to a table near ours. Beth shot a quick glance over the four people as they passed our table, then leaned over to me and softly whispered her concerns that her attire might not be "chic" enough for the current surroundings.

Now whether or not one is appropriately dressed depends a lot on where one is. For example, had my wife been at the Academy Awards ceremonies last week, I would have ventured that her attire at dinner that evening would have been a little out of step, although I invariably would have looked worse. But that was a hypothetical.

Considering the reality of the dining establishment we were in, I thought she was measuring up well in all respects, including her apparel, and I told her as much (that's what I meant about charm).

But it got me to thinking about the way I was dressed, compared with the other men in the room, and I think I was more or less in step, provided no one delved too deeply into matters of quality. The interesting thing is there were about a dozen men in the room, and not a tie to be seen. One of those clear indications that times have indeed changed.

There was a time that a man would not have thought of entering such an establishment without at least a jacket and tie. There were a couple of men in jackets (not me), but that's as far as the fancy attire went.

Remember the times when some establishments wouldn't let men in unless they were wearing a tie? I once heard there was a place in Toronto that had a

supply of ties available for rent or sale in case some guy forgot his. I also recall one reputed place in the big smoke that faced a major public stink because it turned away a lad in his Boy Scout uniform because the accompanying neckerchief didn't measure up to standards in the eyes of whoever was calling the shots.

There are lots of places where one used to see ties regularly, but not much any more. We used to hear about people dressing in "their Sunday best," evidently referring to what they would wear to church. I get to church now and then, and few are the men who wear ties now. Who would have thunk it in our parents' day?

Schools are another example, at least among the male teachers. When I was in elementary school, you wouldn't ever see one without a tie. Things were a bit more relaxed in high school. The older, stuffy guys always wore ties, while the younger and hipper ones seldom bothered. Fact is it never seemed to affect my marks much.

As with most things where clothes are concerned, I seem to be some distance from being in style. I normally wear a tie to work, at least during the week (Tuesdays are often an exception because that's production day for the paper). I don't know why I do it. I just do, and have

since I've been working.

So I figure if I wear a tie, it must be out of style by some standard.

Coincidentally, I came upon an item on the internet last week entitled 10 Crimes of Work Fashion. It seems I'm not as bad as even I thought, at least according to Laura Morsch, a writer for CareerBuilder.com

A couple of these items on the list were gender specific, such as showing too much cleavage. You all have my permission to say something if you ever catch me doing that.

There are some of these sins of which I am not guilty, such as wearing poor-fitting clothing. The stuff I wear may look like hell, but it fits, sort of. I also try to set articles aside if they're torn or excessively dirty, although at this time of year, it's hard to keep clothes spotless. It's also a crime to wear too much perfume or cologne. I never touch the stuff. I'm also not supposed to wear shorts to the office and I never do, especially in winter.

But there are some of these crimes I do commit, like going too long between haircuts and beard trims. Actually, Morsch would probably argue I should lose the whiskers. I've had them for almost 20 years, and I plan to keep them for a while.

Even a slob like me is entitled to some indulgence.

**Editorial**

**Schomberg has plenty of young Idols**

Although the house was just about full Saturday afternoon, it's something of a pity that more people weren't out for the second Showcase of the Schomberg Idol competition.

There were 13 local young people who stood up and gave it their all in this contest, which is being hosted by the Schomberg Agricultural Society, and in the process, they provided a very pleasant afternoon of entertainment. It was clear the audience enjoyed it, although it's true there might have been something special for the parents of these competitors. The selections that were sung were all from the '70s and '80s; like their vintage.

But it really doesn't matter whose vintage was catered to. Fine music that's well performed is always a delight, and such was certainly the case Saturday.

True, there might be some differing factors motivating these talented performers. Some might be

looking for feathers to add to their caps, or possible stepping stones toward career aspirations, or a certain feeling of accomplishment or maybe just some bragging rights. But in it all, one motivation was clear in all of them - They were on stage doing something they really enjoy. And they did it well too.

It might be easy to shrug off this event, dismissing it all as a bunch of kids doing kid stuff. To anyone holding such views, we put this simple question - Have you ever, either when you were young or not so young, stood at the front of a hall with more than 100 people, many of them total strangers, and sung? Very few of us have ever done that, and it's safe to say that many of us would never have the guts to try it.

But there were 13 youngsters from this area who did just that Saturday. Whether they did it well, or could stand some improvement, is irrelevant. They did it, and

are thus worthy of our admiration.

The Schomberg Idol competition will continue in the coming weeks, with the

**Letter to the Editor**

**Rupke's motion was 'redundant'**

This is in response to the resolution regarding King Road submitted by Councillor Jack Rupke and voted on at the Feb. 26 meeting of King Township council.

Notwithstanding our belief that the resolution was redundant, given the resolution made by Concerned Citizens of King Township (CCKT) and the King Township Chamber of Commerce in January 2006, which was accepted by council, CCKT would like to comment on Councillor Rupke's resolution.

First, we believe the environmental assessment (EA) requested by Rupke unnecessarily perpetuates the phenomenon of piecemeal EAs that enable

incomplete, inaccurate assessments of the true impact of projects. As we recommended to the Director of Infrastructure Planning for York Region in a letter in november, we believe an assessment for the King City-Nobleton bypass should be incorporated into the Highway 50 and Highway 427 Extension Area Arterial Network Study.

Not that anyone ever needs an excuse to attend the fair. But we think this

The Highway50/Highway 427 Extension Area Arterial Network Study is strategic; it is a good effort to determine a holistic solution for the defined area. We are very concerned, however, at the apparent northern border of this study, which is the extension of Highway 427

year's is going to offer an added special charm, thanks to these aspiring and inspiring Idols.

Well done all!

to north of Rutherford Road (i.e. Major Mackenzie or in the vicinity of Mayfield Road.) How is the traffic going to reach or leave the new terminus of 427?

Without addressing this issue, congestion will simply be shifted onto east-west routes, which are neither adequate nor appropriate.

Secondly, we do not agree that the Environment Assessment Act requires the Region to assess alternatives both north and south of King Road. There is recent precedence for restricting the geographic boundaries for assessment. The Terms of Reference for Western Vaughan IEA was approved last February by the

**See 'Cut' on page 5**