

**SIMCOE-YORK
PRINTING &
PUBLISHING
LIMITED**

**Publisher of the
King Township Sentinel**

Business Office

25 Queen St. N.
Bolton ON L7E 1C1
(shared with Caledon Citizen)
Toll Free 1-888-557-6626
905-857-6626

Fax: 905-857-6363
admin@kingsentinel.com
www.kingsentinel.com

Head Office

34 Main St. W.
Beeton ON LOG 1A0
905-729-2287

Fax: 905-729-2541

Publishers:

BRUCE HAIRE
JOHN ARCHIBALD

Editorial

**Managing Editor
BILL REA**

editor@kingsentinel.com

Reporter

Anneleen Naudts
Jon Yaneff

Advertising

**Director of Sales
JOHN ARCHIBALD**

Sales Reps

Nancy Stenhouse
Beth Wilson
Annette Derraugh
Diann Gaston

Composing

**Manager
KRISTEN HAIRE**

Ad Designers
Penny Gilbertson
Joanne Radyk-Carrick
Lisa Rosati
Brian Valdock

Business

Jacque Archibald
Cheryl Phillips
Janice Coté
Sylvia DeShane

Subscription rates:

Within 65 km except towns with letter carriers – \$37.50 + G.S.T.
Beyond 65 km and towns with letter carriers – \$54.00 + G.S.T.
Single copies 94¢ + G.S.T. or \$1.00 (includes G.S.T.)
Published every Wednesday
Copyright King Township Sentinel 2008

The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to the negligence of its servants or otherwise, and there shall be no liability for non insertion of any advertisement beyond the amount paid for such advertisement.

Simcoe-York Printing & Publishing Limited,

**publisher of the
New Tecumseth Times
King Township Sentinel
Innisfil Scope**

**Caledon Publishing Ltd.
publisher of
Caledon Citizen**



PM. 40036642
RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO
SIMCOE-YORK PRINTING &
PUBLISHING LIMITED
34 MAIN ST W
BEETON ON LOG1A0



**Bill's
Bulletin
Board**

By Bill Rea

Valentine's Day has come and gone, with the usual wide range of insincerely affectionate thoughts, often expressed in a form of shopping panic attacks, not quite as intense as what one sees at Christmas time.

Cynical, aren't I? But I think there's a bit of truth in what I just wrote, at least for many people.

I, fortunately, am not part of that group. My wife regularly reads these columns of mine, so if I had been referring to myself, I certainly would have thought of something else to write about this week.

Traditions are something I can understand, and I am enough of a romantic to understand the need some people might feel to show some extra affection one day out of the year. But I believe it's even more true that people who really feel affection for each other usually show it just about every day, with maybe a little something extra this one day. Who needs to get too extravagant?

At the risk of turning stomachs out there, I can say that is the case with my wife and myself.

We try not to wave our mutual affection in everyone's face when we're together. Beth often accompanies me on assignments, and she's with me just about the whole day every Saturday. But we avoid the blatant stuff in public. Perhaps we could do a better job than we already do, at least in the eyes of some people.

My brother has been heard to mutter on occasion, "do they always have to act so (blankety-blank) married?"

So we try and behave in public, and we have had people notice and comment on how good we look together. It is true we've had more people approach Beth and offer condolences for the man she's stuck with, but I'm getting used to that.

When it comes to affection, I find it a lot more satisfying just knowing in my guts it's there. External signs, like a Valentine card, are nice, but they aren't

needed.

I received a reminder of that last Wednesday, the day before Valentine's Day. I found myself with a bit of down time between evening assignments. I also realized, with a bit of a start, what auspicious day was approaching. Now Beth never forgets to at least get me a card on Valentine's Day, and since I've been a married man, I have done a good job of remembering too, usually getting something to boot, along the lines of flowers, or candy, or sometimes both, or sometimes something else.

As soon as I realized that I had better get something for my beloved, an idea started forming in my head of what would be appropriate, and I knew there was store nearby that could accommodate me. I won't say anything more along those lines. Like I said, Beth reads these columns, and keeping her guessing a bit is part of the charm; at least I think it is.

At any rate, I was able to obtain what I was looking for, and next had to come up with a way of getting it into the house without Beth knowing what I was up to (of course I wanted to surprise her).

As I walked in the house, I was sort of planning to slip quickly out to my car after she had gone to bed, and set everything up on the kitchen counter, where she would find it when she came downstairs Thursday morning. That

plan quickly changed when I walked in. I heard the unmistakable sound of water filling the bathtub upstairs, and I realized Beth would be thusly occupied for the better part of half an hour. I can be an opportunist when I need to be, so I dashed back out to the car, retrieved the stuff and snuck back into the house. I hid the crucial package in a cupboard under the counter, astutely reasoning Beth would not likely check under there.

That whole operation was accomplished before she even knew I was home.

A while later, as Beth was retiring for the night, she came up to me and told me she understood how busy I have been the last couple of weeks (editing two community newspapers takes a lot out of a fellow, you know).

"I don't want you getting me anything for Valentine's Day," she said, in her best wifely tone. "You have too much to do as it is."

My first thought was she had gone into the kitchen cupboard and found what she wasn't supposed to find. But I quickly realized that would have been unlikely. That's just not Beth's way of doing things. Had she found the gift, she would not have let on. That way, she'd try to let me think she was surprised.

So after she went to bed, I did a bit of puttering about downstairs, and took a couple of minutes to

arrange everything for the surprise that I was assuming was still alive.

It was, at least I think it was, from the reaction I received first thing Thursday morning.

It hasn't always been that way with me. In fact, there was a time when I considered Valentine's day to be something of a chore.

My mother always left little cards for us that morning, and when I started high school, my father angrily dressed me down one year for not getting her a card.

There were also the card exchanges in class Valentine's afternoon in the elementary grades, and us boys in the '60s didn't mind swapping such cards back and forth. It was a lot more fun than reading, writing and number-crunching.

As I got older, and came to realize that girls were not as yucky as I had once believed, I seldom got the urge to be overly romantic, largely because there wasn't anyone who sparked the REALLY necessary urges.

In fact, Beth was the first girl I ever bought flowers for on Valentine's Day. This was in the days when she was just my girlfriend, before she became my wife and girlfriend. I think she was more surprised when I handed them to her than I was that I had actually done something like this.

In some ways, maybe a day like this is a way to mark progression through life.

Editorial

Could our premier look before he leaps?

Premier Dalton McGuinty has announced he wants to change the way daily business is started at the Provincial legislature at Queen's Park, and that specifically means doing away with the traditional recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

We can see a certain amount of merit to this idea. The premier is evidently trying to make the process in the legislature more inclusive, or at least make it into something that he deems to be more inclusive.

But we have to wonder about the way he's going about this. In the first place, why did this idea come up last week without warning. And why is it evident that there was no consultation with any of the the MPPs around.

Oak Ridges — Markham MPP Dr. Helena Jaczek gave no indication that she was consulted, and she added she had heard no calls

to have the prayer dropped from the routine at Queen's Park.

York — Simcoe MPP Julia Munro said she heard no such calls either. And since last week's announcement, Munro said all the reaction she has heard has been negative.

"Before Mr. McGuinty raised this idea, I had never heard from any of my constituents about the issue. Residents of York-Simcoe care more about making sure they have good paying jobs, a health care system that works and an education system that helps provide our kids with the skills and good start they need."

So we are left to wonder what the fuss is all about.

True, the Lord's Prayer is basically a Christian tradition, and not all members of the legislature are of that faith, nor are many of their constituents. But it's recitation is a tradition that has been around for more than a

century, one that is important to many in Ontario and one that does no one any harm.

The Lord's Prayer, in essence, praises God, pledges devotion, asks for His help, asks for His forgiveness for failure and promises to forgive others. Where's the offensive part of that?

And if it was offensive to anyone, why has there not been more outcry before now? For that matter, why hasn't there been any outcry?

It could also be argued that any kind of prayer in such a setting might be out of date, or redundant. It is true that King Township councillors don't have any prayers recited at the start of their meetings, and things seem to go reasonably well. And there are no such prayers spoken at York Regional council.

But in nearby Peel Region, the council there

opens its meetings with with a generic prayer, and the council in the Town of Caledon some years ago adopted an area-specific version to recite at its meetings.

According to a report in Thursday's Toronto Star, the Lord's Prayer is recited at the start of council meetings in the City of Brampton and Mississauga, but not Toronto. There, they start their meetings with what is known as a minute of "personal reflection."

The House of Commons in Ottawa adopted a non-sectarian prayer a couple of years ago.

No one has suggested the Lord's Prayer should have a monopoly on the expressions of faith in the legislature. Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory said as much in the letter he issued to McGuinty in reply to his announcement.

"Part of respecting the tradition of the legislature is

keeping the Lord's Prayer," he stated. "That doesn't mean we wouldn't be open to other prayers being added, but a starting assumption that we would eliminate the Lord's Prayer would not be acceptable to us."

There are alternatives to the Lord's Prayer, if people find that necessary. There are also other prayers that could be recited, possibly on a rotating basis, that could appeal to those of other faiths, while keeping the Lord's Prayer, both in respect of those of a particular faith, and in respect of the traditions that formed the institutions that govern this inclusive society.

Maybe the time for prayer in the legislature has passed. If so, then so be it.

But would it hurt the premier to consult with people to see what they believe and would like to see?

Isn't that really the essence of being inclusive?