

HAVE YOUR SAY

Any way you measure it

Re: "Measure for Measure" [May 2005]: Arthur Black asks Ottawa to "cut us some slack." It's Ottawa's slack that got us into this mess where we're using two different systems of measurement: the system the Americans use and the system that everyone else in the world uses.

Just because the United States is strange doesn't mean Canada has to be strange, too. I don't see Mexico adopting the American units of measurement.

—P. Schwebke

Ottawa

Pierre Trudeau eagerly grabbed at the metric system as one more way of converting a once-proud Dominion into a French socialist republic. In this endeavour, he was almost 100 per cent successful. The Liberals ... claimed that failure to do [adopt the metric system] would put us out of step with the rest of the world and harm our overseas trade.

Oh really? Our biggest trading partner, the United States, is a nation of rebels and measure absolutely nothing in metric and probably never will! Let us stop wasting millions of dollars on this farce and return to inches, pounds, gallons, acres and Fahrenheit temperatures. If nothing else, it would show that we are not a nation of sheep.

—M. Oldfield

Maple Ridge, B.C.

Don't overlook us!

Re: "Great Places to Live" [May 2005]: We moved from B.C.'s Sunshine Coast to The Island because we have relatives here. But we searched very carefully before deciding. Here, we found the house we wanted at an affordable price in a small city with a well-equipped hospital, competent physicians willing to take new patients, good shopping facilities, public transportation, clean air and a moderate climate, parks and wilderness

areas close at hand, a healthy economy with a strong industrial and commercial base, and easy access to the South Island via the new Inland Island Highway.

I'm aware you've received other mail from some of my fellow retirees in Campbell River. Some of us are part of a program designed to "improve the demographics of Campbell River." A few years ago, the median age here was 36, whereas Qualicum was 56. We were seen as a "lunch-bucket town." Some residents even left the area when they retired. That is much less true today.

In order to attract retirees, our group has spearheaded a number of initiatives including a website (www.retire.incampbellriver.com). Something seems to be working. Our real estate agents now tell us that 40 per cent of home sales are to people from outside the area. Certainly the retired people in Alberta and Saskatchewan seem to know where to find Campbell River. Will Ontario be next?

—B. Hughes

Campbell River, B.C.

Treating obesity

Re: The Obesity Crisis [June 2005]: I am five foot three, 290 pounds and suffer from MS, fibromyalgia, rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, high blood pressure, sleep apnea and chronic pain. A friend gave me the name and address of Dr. Pat Poon's Metabolic Clinic in Richmond Hill. It took about six months to get in. He specializes in the morbidly obese, diabetic and other obesity-related disorders. I have lost 23 pounds in three weeks on a very restricted high protein diet, and my blood pressure has gone from 158 to 108.

He can be reached at 250 Harding Blvd. W., Ste. 402, Richmond Hill, ON L4C 9M7 (905-737-3237).

—S.L. Gothard

Newmarket, Ont.

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Our September issue is a special publication dedicated to exciting cities, unique adventures and active places for long-term stays around the world.

OCTOBER: AGING WELL

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