

Soft & Gushy Folks We Are

How soft and gushy like warm marshmallow we Canadians have become. Our fore-folk would be so surprized as to be shocked. They themselves were far hardier, many as tough as hardened nails compared to us. The last of that breed in my family will be gone with Uncle Alf, now 86.

We have all turned into modern versions of those pouffy, powdered, pampered, European metrosexuals like French King Louis XVI and his princes of the court.

Today we need our twice daily showers, shampoos, conditioners, gels, makeup and Alzheimer's inducing aluminum chlor-hydrate deodorants lest we fail to meet some coiffed media image standard.

We race from place to place at some frenetic pace filling our lives with useless trips here and there from store to store, from door to door making like we have busy interesting lives while accomplishing little more than wasting valuable time to buy more stuff we really don't need.

Our fore-folks filled their days and nights with meaningful acts. Rare spare moments of rest and leisure were spent mending suits and polishing boots, repairing house and being involved in family and community making society livable for all. A little radio entertainment and an hours read at bedtime rounded out a fulfilling day.

We? We're so bored we waste a dozen hours or more a week numbing our brains with senseless commercial television.

The newspaper on the bus to work in days gone by was not full of right wing "Fraser Institute" propaganda inducing us to consume 'cuz global warming's not a problem.

Those really were the good olde

days. Ours are becoming some of the worst last bad days because we've become so soft we pamper ourselves at the expense of the environment. We're so feeble we can't even endure a healthier house temperature of 17 degrees C or less, 15 would be best. I would not even want to guess as a kid what my Robin Hood furnace, steam heated bedroom morning temperature was.

I loved snuggling down through the night, waking at dawn, bundling up, trundling down and nuzzling into our "Pooh Corner" bay window over the radiator closest to the source of furnace heat as it kicked in. Dad would've stoked it with fresh wood half an hour earlier.

How soft we have become that we can't even hoof it in the winter rain a few blocks to take the bus an hour to work. Those of you who do decide to even slightly emulate our grand-folks or my sister Heath, take a good book, there's naught but that right wing newspaper crap these days.

When was the last time you read the Globe and Mail or Vancouver Sun and saw a critical editorial. A comment lambasting the US Government's ongoing mistreatment of Canada under NAFTA. Or a diatribe severely criticizing US terrorist foreign policy in Afghanistan, Iraq or indirectly in The Lebanon. Have you ever read an article in the Sun criticizing the Campbell government's lack of support for the public school system? And yet every year it publishes page after page of the Fraser Institute's "report card" propaganda-trashing public schools through the selection of test scores alone ranking the very selective private schools at the top.

Has any CanWest Global Media paper ever ripped apart Canadians and their government for failing to live a sustainable lifestyle conducive to

environmental protection? Never once I'm sure. In fact they continue to debate and deny global warming is a real problem.

I do not recall any CWGMedia news coverage criticizing the Government's support and promotion of the most environmentally destructive project ever undertaken in Canada, the desecration of the one of the world's largest remaining carbon sinks, the Northern peat bog, now known as the Alberta tar sands, a source of oil for the USA. That my friends is all about buckling to pressure from the USA under NAFTA and our politicians letting us all get done deeply up our bent over Canadian buttocks.

What a soft and girlie man form our politicians have degenerated into. I guess it's a case of soft and gushy constituents being represented by poofter politicians! The old boy's club in Canadian government has run it's course. It's time for a constitutional overhaul which makes it mandatory for the House of Commons to consist of 51% women as per proportion of the population. The Senate should be abolished. We need not reinvent the wheel here. Austria, Scandinavian and other countries figured out how to do this years ago.

**Lance Read -
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