

Only in Canada, you say? Pity.

Remember that old tea advertisement where the snooty Englishman reluctantly took a sip and then responded, "Only in Canada you say? Pity." Well, the "only in Canada" line could also apply to a letter the Canadian Bar Association sent this week to Prime Minister Stephen Harper demanding that he intervene to bring accused Canadian terrorist suspect Omar Khadr home from a military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Only in Canada, alas, could a young man accused of killing an American soldier in combat be himself turned into the victim.

Only in Canada, where anti-Americanism can be found in the strangest of places, could a gang of high-priced lawyers argue that the fact that Omar - a member of Canada's royal family of terrorists (Khadr's father had direct ties to Osama bin-Laden)

could these people argue that his imprisonment is even "more urgent" because Khadr was 15 at the time he was captured after the Americans say he tossed a hand grenade which killed U.S. Army Sergeant Christopher Speer during a battle between American troops and al-Qaeda fighters.

Never mind that the hand grenade could have just as easily killed a Canadian soldier involved in the fighting in Afghanistan.

Never mind there's a terrorist war going on, that Canadians are volunteering to fight the Khadr's of the world and many of them have made the ultimate sacrifice in doing so.

Oh no, all that matters to these elite lawyers - who are supposedly trained to hear more than one side of an argument - is that they could barely move quickly enough to turn Khadr into the victim immediately after hearing a speech - no doubt totally dispassionate - from Khadr's American lawyer Lieutenant-Commander William Kuebler, who flew from Washington to Calgary to address the bar association.

Kuebler even went on to claim that the last time he saw Khadr he asked for crayons and papers, and indication he is anything but an adult. Oh please.

If the charges against him are true - and there's considerable evidence against him - he was adult enough to fight for al-Qaeda and kill for the cause.

During his speech he kept referring to Khadr as a "child." Some child. Then there's the bar association's president Parker MacCarthy, who declared after listening to Khadr's lawyer spin his tale that the association should have intervened earlier. "I think that, to a certain extent, we may have been lulled into a sense that what was taking place (at Guantanamo) had some basis in fairness," he said.

Fairness? Is listening to an advocate of one side and then totally condemning the other side his idea of fairness? If there is no fairness and no justice in these proceedings how is it that the military even bothers to appoint a defence for Khadr and allows him to go wherever he wants drumming up support for his client?

The bar association wrote that, "Khadr should be released into the custody of Canadian law enforcement officials to face due process under Canadian law."

That's certainly what Khadr and his lawyer want to happen. If I were in their position I'd want the same thing.

"It would be unimaginable that this could happen to a 15-year-old in Canada," said MacKay.

He's right about that. And that, dear hearts, is the problem. That is precisely why his lawyer wants him tried here and why Harper should not buckle under to this latest round of pressure attempting to make the Americans and not Khadr the villains of the piece.

Khadr is a Canadian citizen but his crimes - or at this point, alleged crimes - had nothing to do with Canada. They took place in far off Afghanistan.

And even if he did manage to get into a Canadian court - which is overpopulated by the knee-jerk liberalism characterized in the association's letter to Harper - he'd likely end up serving a weekend or two in a well-appointed hostel of his choice.

So why wouldn't he want to be tried in Canada? Everybody wants that. He just doesn't happen to deserve it.

Maybe the bar association should have invited the family of Christopher Speer to their conference to see how they feel about. But hey, why seek the other side when the side you like makes such good copy?

Only in Canada, eh? Pity.



National Affairs

Claire Hoy

In the 'perfect' Del world ...

There are many reasons why human beings crave vacation time each year.

The warm winds blowing through your hair; the waves kissing the shore, and the endless sounds of children laughing. Of course, there's the priceless R&R factor.

Holidays, like their human participants, are fickle commodities. Not every resort is what it's cracked up to be. Many are cold, monstrous structures with plenty of pizzazz and luxury, but little in the way of heart and soul.

Those truly unforgettable family vacations possess all the wonderful things that are missing in the "real world." A family resort that beckons each year; that opens its arms and warms you like a terry cloth towel out of the pool, is truly paradise. It makes you question your very existence in the "real world."

We have found such a place and it's known to its regular family members as simply *The Del*. The Delawana Inn Spa & Conference Resort at Honey Harbour offers a unique glimpse into the whimsical land of what life should be like. We have made it our destination of choice for six years now and hopefully our love affair will never wane.

For those who visit, its attractions are obvious. From the food to the cheers led by the social team, time spent at The Del is more like a reunion of sorts, a reunification of mind and body that the "real world" tends to divide and drain. In a nutshell, it's like an energy drink for the soul.

Here's my family's comparison of the "real world" and the "perfect world of The Del."

In in the real world, cell phones and Blackberries sing and shout, ring and vibrate. When one goes off in a crowd, we frantically check to see if it's ours and what important call we simply must answer.

In The Del world, it's oddly silent, as if the heat and Georgian Bay breezes melt the diodes and render communications devices inoperative. If they are used, they're typically meant to send messages of joy and jubilation to the outside world, or contact a loved one on the other side of the resort.

Terms like *hustle, bustle, deadlines and schedules* only have meaning in the real, imperfect world. They're constricting, like trying to run through mud to escape a tireless enemy.

The only schedule of



Mark Pavilons

importance at The Del is the social itinerary, where your most difficult decisions involve choosing between a relaxing pontoon boat ride or hitting the pool after a great lunch at the Mackinaw Grill. The only hustle in this picture-perfect holiday paradise for us was dancing to the song YMCA at the beach and pushing our children on the massive swings.

These words appear only in novels, read by parents poolside at The Del, as their youngsters spend the day at the Very Important Kids Club. Knowing our charges are safe, busy and happy further clears the mental fog.

In the harsh, real world, parents have the responsibility of being their children's social directors and camp counsellors.

Only at The Del is there a person named Gary Don, who begins and ends each day with "Howdy, folks." His greeting is immediately answered by hundreds of youngsters and adults, who pause to extend the courtesy by responding, "Howdy, Gary." They listen intently to the day's schedule of fulfilled events. People stop what they're doing to be part of this wholesome exchange. Like some unique and yet undiscovered Yoga exercise, this daily ritual soothes the mind and sends the stress packing. Upon our return home, my two-year-old daughter awoke one morning with a huge smile on her face. "Howdy Folks," she whispered. "Howdy Gary," we replied.

Even the real world needs someone like Gary, Fun Girl and Fun Boy. No, they are not cartoon creations or superheroes, although it's easy to make that mistake. They are the guardians of peace, tranquility and friendliness - things not mentioned on the Web site or in the reservations brochure. They're added bonuses, not subject to GST or PST.

Our children bond with counsellors and make new friends during their daily camp outings. From mini-golf and rock wall climbing, to pool parties and a birds of

prey presentation, they're kept occupied and entertained. The floating trampoline and iceberg attract the little swimmers like magnets.

In the actual world, many adhere to strict exercise routines and feel guilty when they miss their regular workouts. People are, unfortunately, overly concerned with appearances.

At The Del, the only time people watched their waist lines was during the conga line on the North Beach that terminated in the limbo. And, swimming daily; walking through the majestic 25-acre property; taking the kids for a spin in a kayak or pedal boat, are all the exercise you need. That, and darting up the stairs for dinner! The twice-weekly barbeque nights are simply amazing. This year we decided on a

family tennis match, even though most of us never held a racket before. I'm sure it was quite a comical sight for those passing by, who offered to retrieve our balls that somehow flew over the fence. Little Kyleigh got the workout of her life, chasing our out-of-bounds serves.

In the real world, accidents and traffic mayhem are daily news topics.

In the comfort of The Del world, we parked our vehicle and ignored it for a week. We walked. The only traffic we witnessed was the flotilla of boats that passed by daily. We imagined trips abroad on our own yacht.

Why would anyone ever want to leave such a world and return to reality? The experience, or reunion beckons. Take advantage of it! Reality can wait.

The Other Side

Secrets?

By Hill Cox

The recent best selling book *The Secret* has stirred up interest in the spiritual side of life and related topics. Human nature being what it is, the promise of a secret of any kind being revealed is enough to pique most people's interest. But when there's a promise of a better life at the end of it all, who can resist?

It is an interesting book and for many, will become a helpful guide in their lives. But, anyone with a casual interest in metaphysics or spiritualism will have encountered everything that is written in the book. And while I don't want to spoil things for those who haven't read it, there are a couple of oversights that are significant.

The reader is encouraged to engage in visualization where you see whatever you want coming into your life. What was overlooked is the fact that if - deep within - you don't believe you can ever be rich, for example, you can visualize all you want, but you'll never need a Brinks truck to cart your money to the bank. A more informative work on this subject was written by Shakti Gawain in 1978 titled *Creative Visualization*. It has been reprinted many times over the years.

In an attempt to bring science into the discussion, one of the co-authors uses two magnets attracting each other as an example of like attracting like. What was overlooked was that if you put the north pole of each together they will repel not attract. Good principle, bad example.

Many books and television programs deal with spiritual themes that indicate to me there are a lot of people looking for answers - even skeptical newspaper editors as noted in a recent column by Mark Pavilons. Ongoing revelations from the scientific community shoot many beliefs and theories down in flames but some continue to build support for the common threads woven through most of them.

For those seeking answers to the mysteries and miseries of life, a look at the spiritual side can be very enlightening. In this series, I'll do just that on a few topics I hope you'll find interesting.

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