

Crush time: Beppi Crosariol is in B.C. to help with the harvest

OUR WINE CRITIC GETS HIS BOOTS DIRTY IN THE OKANAGAN GLOBE LIFE ►

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HINT PANDEMIC

Ottawa's plan to shelve flu vaccines breeds dissent in health ranks

Doctors fear late rollout means flu shot will arrive just as virus begins to peak

BY CAROLINE ALPHONSO TORONTO

Dissent over Canada's H1N1 vaccination strategy continues to quietly mount in the country's medical community as the top public health official said the government will temporarily leave nearly one million doses of the vaccine on the shelf till early November.

The decision to hold off on doses that are now ready comes at a time when the pandemic

and China, have already begun inoculating their populations against the swine-flu virus.

Some health experts fear that the late rollout in Canada could come just as the virus starts peaking - and that the vaccine, awaiting regulatory approval, will do little to save those groups most vulnerable to the influenza pandemic, including pregnant women. David Butler-Jones, Canada's chief public health officer, said the vaccine

TERRORISM » CANADIAN DIPLOMATS' ORDEAL

Deep in the Sahara, Fowler's abductor creates safe haven for terrorist kidnappings

'The Uncatchable' ringleader has powerful government and al-Qaeda links in Mali

BY GEOFFREY YORK TIMBUKTU, MALI

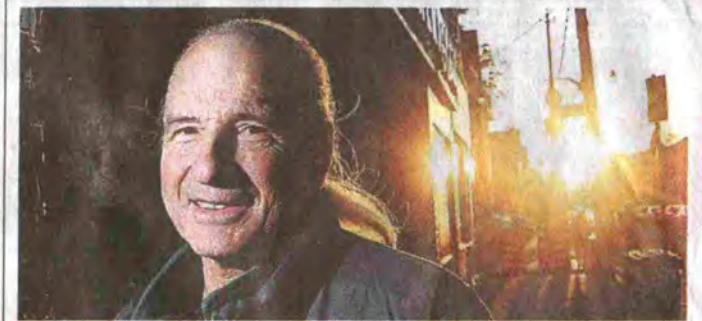
On the northern edge of Timbuktu, the ancient mud buildings disappear and there is nothing but endless desert, stretching for nearly 1,000 kilometres to the border of Algeria and beyond.

This forbidding landscape, populated only by a few bands of nomads and smugglers, is the stronghold of Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the elu-

ghanistan and still closely linked with al-Qaeda, has a fearsome reputation in the Algerian media. His legend is fuelled by nicknames such as "The Uncatchable" and "The Emir of the Masked Battalion."

A more accurate portrait would begin with another nickname, given to him because of his lucrative cigarette-smuggling activities: "Mr. Marlboro."

INSIDE TODAY'S GLOBE AND MAIL



Are you in your happy place?

Quality-of-life study finds the friendly neighbours and abundant outdoors of small communities make people more likely to be happy. NEWS, PAGE 11 ►

Think red, preach green

Dion's Green Shift track record notwithstanding, Liberals vow to fight next election on environmental issues. NEWS, PAGE 5 ►

I want to ride my bicycle

Gary Mason takes a look at Copenhagen's bike-friendly culture and wonders how Canadians can learn from their example. NEWS, PAGE 13 ►

According to a new quality-of-life survey, Canadians are happiest when they get their fresh-air fix and spend time with friendly neighbours, **Anna Mehler Paperny** reports

Country mouse versus city mouse

If you can believe their survey responses, Canadians are happiest when they're surrounded by an outdoorsy environment and friendly neighbours.

And, furthermore, the urbanized city dwellers who aren't getting their friendly, fresh-air fix just aren't as satisfied with their lives as a result.

A quality-of-life survey released today found 43 per cent of Canadians living in towns of fewer than 5,000 people rated their quality of life as "excellent," compared with only 32 per cent of those in cities of more than 100,000 people.

The good news is that Canadians are happy: Overall, 86 per cent rated their quality of life as either good or excellent. That's happier than surveyors had expected, said Monica Patten, president and CEO of Community Foundations of Canada, the group behind the survey.

What's more, in the grand scheme of things, the nation doesn't seem terribly put off by the worst economic downturn in decades: When asked when the survey was conducted in August how the recession affects their lives, 63 per cent said it had only a moderate impact.

Although happiness is still strongly linked to wealth and education, the survey indicates Canadians don't rate their quality of life based on money, jobs, educational opportunities or even the cultural resources at their disposal. The most commonly cited quality-of-life indicator was physical environment, with almost a quarter of those surveyed identifying the great outdoors as the most important thing keeping them happy. A fifth said the most important thing was the "social atmosphere" of their homes, including neighbours. An apparent lack of satisfaction on the part of Canada's urbanites contrasts a growing number of people flocking to cities. Canada's urban population is more than five times its rural population.

RURAL LIVING



Iris Brett, outside her home in Arnold's Cove, Nfld., says she has no problem finding a parking spot when running errands.

PAUL DALY

I like small-town life. It's easy, laid back and I feel safe.

For Iris Brett, happiness is the ocean at her doorstep.

The 68-year-old has lived on the cusp of the roaring Atlantic all her life: She moved back to her native Arnold's Cove, Nfld., 20 years ago after three decades raising a family in Happy Valley Goose Bay.

And given the choice, she would never live anywhere but her town of about 1,000 people.

"I like small-town life. It's easy, laid back and I feel safe," she said. "There's very little crime: You don't

have to worry about locking your door or locking your car, anything like that."

And when she goes to run errands at the supermarket, she has no trouble finding a parking spot.

"Sometimes you talk to somebody in Toronto, they have to work it so they do their banking one day and their grocery shopping another because it all seems to take so much more time," she said.

And if she wanted, St. John's is just a jaunt down the TransCanada

Highway. Ms. Brett's three adult children don't see things quite the same way: They all made the exodus years ago to Ontario, where they see a better opportunity to work and raise their families.

Given the number of people who continue to flock to Canada's cities, it's a bit counterintuitive for the country's rural residents to rate their lives as better than those of their urban-dwelling counterparts, said Tom Hutton, an urban studies professor at the University of Brit-

ish Columbia. If rural life really were that much better than urban life, he said, "why wouldn't more people live in rural areas?"

Prof. Hutton pointed out that it's important to distinguish between quality of life in rural areas close to urban hubs: They tend to have the superior access to vital amenities that come with city life, without the urban hustle and bustle. More isolated rural areas, on the other hand, are often out of luck when it comes to accessing services.

BY THE NUMBERS

43

Percentage of people in towns with fewer than 5,000 people who rate quality of life as "excellent"

32

Percentage of people with the same response in communities with more than 100,000 residents

22 million

Number of Canadians living in communities with a total population of 100,000 or more in 2006

12 million

Number in 100,000-plus communities in 1971

23%

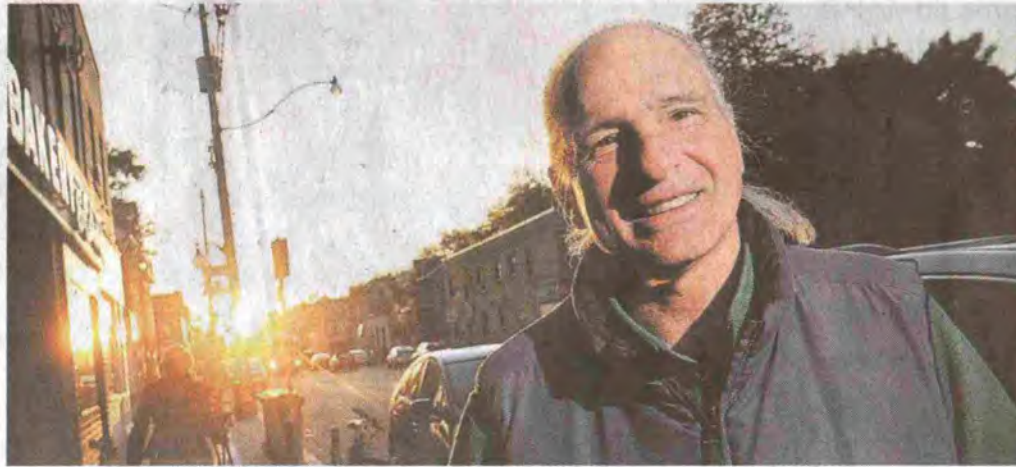
Percentage of Canadians who said their physical environment was the most important contributor to their quality of life

20%

Percentage who cited social atmosphere as the most important contributor to quality of life

» Source: Community Foundations of Canada 2009 Vital Signs Community Quality of Life National Survey; Statistics Canada Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin, 2006

CITY LIVING



Fourth-generation Torontonian Rory (Gus) Sinclair says he finds 'intensity of the human experience' in his urban hometown. KEVIN VAN PAASSEN/THE GLOBE AND MAIL

I would rate my quality of life as top of the line ... and I will say that shamelessly.

If Rory (Gus) Sinclair ever leaves his house in Toronto's residential downtown core, he vows, it'll be feet first.

The fourth-generation Torontonian wouldn't live anywhere else, and he doesn't care who knows it.

"I would rate my quality of life as top of the line ... and I will say that shamelessly."

Most of what Mr. Sinclair cites as the most important factors making

him an inveterate urban dweller are the same factors that have his compatriots, who responded to a quality of life survey, touting the virtues of less densely populated climes: He knows all his neighbours, has keys to their houses and picks up their papers when they're on holiday; he loves being able to shop at his local farmer's market, or walk to the corner store to pick up milk.

But there's no way he could find

comparable "intensity of the human experience," as he puts it, anywhere but his hyper-urban hometown, he said.

Even more than rural residents, Canadian urbanites place a premium on green space: Fourteen per cent of those living in cities of 100,000 people or more said it was the most important contributor to their quality of life, compared with only 8 per cent of people in com-

munities with fewer than 5,000 people. Mr. Sinclair gets that: He and his neighbourhood association spent a year and a half cataloguing all the trees in their area.

University of British Columbia urban studies professor Tom Hutton notes that one of the driving forces behind population growth in urban centres is immigration. Some native-born urbanites, he said, end up leaving for smaller communities,