

NEWS

▼ ACCIDENTS

How search for a mate can land you in traffic court

The growth of the "dating industry" is an indication of how difficult it can be to find a spouse.

You can catch a glimpse by doing an internet search using "dating web sites" as your search criteria.

I think you might have to search "personal injury lawyer" to find its rival of paid advertising that fills your browser.

I count myself incredibly fortunate to have



ACHIEVING JUSTICE

Paul Hergott

found someone who I continue to be excited about spending my life with who, I can only hope, feels at least somewhat the same way about me.

There are many people in my life who are not so fortunate.

For some, they thought they had found a life partner but the relationship faded and ended.

For others, their spouses have passed away.

Young, single folk seem to have it easy.

Sure, some might be falling into less than ideal relationships, but it's comparatively easy to find a relationship when

you're at the beginning of your adult life, unburdened by the inevitable "baggage" that we pick up along the way.

By the time we get to be my age, in our 40s and 50s, we have all sorts of baggage.

Many of us have children, many of us are far less physically fit and attractive than we were when we entered our adult lives.

And all of us carry the emotional scars that

inevitably shape us as we move through life experiences.

The "package" we present to prospective mates is a less attractive one.

Likewise, the pool of prospective mates is less attractive to us.

Many people never find that relationship that they're looking for.

Those people have suffered a loss—the loss of the tremendous emotional benefits of a loving

and supportive life partner. There is another loss—a financial one.

The financial differences between being single and having a spouse can be huge.

One obvious financial impact is that spouses get to share the expense of one residence while single people must each finance separate residences.

A study I found quickly online compared what a single woman would pay over her lifetime as compared to a married woman who earns the same income.

The study concluded that a single woman could pay an extra \$1,022,096 (The High Price of Being Single in America, written by Lisa Arnold and Christina Campbell).

What if one of the reasons why your relationship has faded and ended, or one of the elements of "baggage" getting in the way of you developing a new relationship, is a chronic pain condition that arose because of injuries you sustained when a daydreaming driver smashed his or her vehicle into the back of yours?

Can you be compensated for that loss? It is impossible to say with absolute certainty that your chronic pain condition is the cause of the loss of, or inability to form, such a relationship.

It is also impossible to precisely calculate the

dollars and cents you have lost, and will continue to lose in the future.

The law requires a negligent driver (through his or her insurance company) to fairly compensate an innocent victim for all losses arising from that negligence.

This includes the very real financial loss arising from a reduced ability to attract a mate.

The cause and effect need not be proven with absolute certainty. The amount of the loss need not be precisely calculated.

If the court (judge or jury) finds that an injured victim has a "reduced opportunity" to develop such a relationship, the law requires the court to come to a "fair and reasonable" assessment of the financial losses arising from that reduced opportunity.

These losses, and all other losses arising from car crashes would be avoided, of course, if everyone simply gave driving the direct and distraction-free attention that it deserves.

This column is intended to provide general information about injury claims. It is not a substitute for retaining a lawyer to provide legal advice specifically pertaining to your case. Paul Hergott is a lawyer at Hergott Law in West Kelowna.

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DUCKS IN A ROW?

Several months ago I came across a fantastic fable penned by Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard. It was set in an imaginary kingdom populated entirely by ducks. The ducks were ruled by a duck king. The king lived in an elaborate palace located on the shore of Duck Lake. The duck king built a beautiful church for his subjects. The duck church was graced by a beautiful pipe organ. The king appointed a duck pastor, organist and choir director to oversee the church. Every Sunday, all the ducks gathered in the church for a service. The duck choir led all the ducks assembled, in hymns which they quacked at the top of their voices. Then the choir quacked an anthem which always inspired awe and praise from the congregation. The duck singing was always followed by a sermon from the duck pastor.

The pastor always reminded the congregation that they were ducks. As ducks, they were built and designed to live on the land and on the water. He reminded them that their wings were short and their bodies and necks were long. Their wings, he would remind them, were painfully utilitarian. They were built to get them from "Point A" to "Point B" and very slowly at that. He declared that, as a result of their design and their attitude as "true ducks", they were most always more content to waddle or paddle from place to place. Then came the crescendo to his sermon.

"But God," he quacked in a loud voice, "has indeed given us wings and thus declares that He wants us to fly." He went on: "God promises that if we just spread our wings and have faith in Him, a miracle will occur. He will lift us up and we will fly above the earth like eagles! Amen!"

The response of the duck congregation was always the same: "Praise God and halleluiah! With God's help we can fly like eagles."

The service would end with a rousing hymn that the choir and the congregation would quack with great feeling and gusto. The duck pastor would pronounce a benediction upon the congregation and conclude: "Now go out and fly like eagles."

Every week the duck congregation would just waddle out of church and waddle and paddle through their week.

Ever feel like one of those ducks? Ever hear a speaker or watch a movie that stirs you to your very soul, that convinces you that all you ever do is waddle through life, and that makes you want to fly like an eagle? Yet in the end, that feeling ebbs and wanes and we go right back to waddling and paddling through life. Why?

I can tell you why it happens to me. I am thoroughly convinced that I am a duck. I am thoroughly convinced that all I am able to do is waddle through life. Clint Eastwood preached to us ducks in his iconic role as

the tough no-nonsense cop "Dirty Harry". Harry's advice to anyone who had suffered a defeat, and to those who watched the spectacle, was always this: "A man's got to know his limitations." The crook lost and Harry won because Harry knew that the criminals he defeated did not know their limitations. Harry knew that most criminals were thoroughly convinced that they had what it took to fly like an eagle. They believed they had what it took to pull off the most difficult robbery or burglary and get away with it. Harry took advantage of a criminal's inflated sense of self and ability to defeat them. The moral to Harry's story: If you want to avoid defeat, you must believe you have limits, that you must know your limits and then live within them. Keep your feet firmly on the ground or floating in the water!

There are many things that keep me on the ground or just swimming on the surface of Duck Lake and convince me that I don't have the wings to soar. I am convinced my wings are short and stubby. I am weighted down by many things. It's the times I tried to fly and failed that keep me on the ground. The times I was sure that God wanted me to undertake a program or preach a certain message. The program flopped, and the message that I believed would spark a fire of passion for Jesus created more smoke than flame and heat. The good I wanted to do, I did not do. The evil I wanted to avoid, I ended up doing. There are other memories that weigh me down. Memories of times when I was hurt by others and times I hurt others. All these keep me on land and on the water and out of the skies. What can I do?

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:27-31)

The Prophet Isaiah spoke these words to God's people who had been in captivity in Babylon for some 70 years. Isaiah promised the people God was going to get them back to the Holy Land. They did not believe it. They declared that they were ducks. They could not waddle back home. Isaiah promised them that God would get them home; God would give them eagles' wings. God moved the heart and mind of a pagan King, and God's people were sent with His blessings to the Promised Land. The king cleared their path and gave them all they needed for safe and easy passage to the Holy Land.

All the burdens that kept them in place were lifted and they could fly like eagles.

God has done the same for you and me. He wants us to soar like eagles. But first, He wants us to confess that we are ducks. He wants us to confess that our wings are short and stubby. He wants us to say that our hurts and failures, our depression and anger, and all the sins we have committed, keep us down on the ground. He wants to hear us say that we want to soar like eagles but that we can't do it, not on our own.

Then we are pointed to Jesus. He became one of us, a duck. He challenged His fellow ducks to believe they could fly like eagles. He challenged them to see that what kept them down was all the burdens they bore, their sins, toils and cares. He promised to take their burdens from them and give them the power to soar like eagles. Some ducks accused Jesus of lying. They abused Him and placed a great weight on Him (a cross) and shoved Him into Duck Lake. He sank like stone and died. The cross they put on Jesus' back, the evil they deeds they carried out, God turned into the weight of the world's sin. In this way, Jesus bore the sin of humanity and paid the price for all sin. Jesus did not remain in the murky waters; He arose from the watery deep. On eagle's wings, He ascended to the heavens and promised to be the wind beneath the wings of all ducks who believe that He is the Son of God, that He bore our sin, died and rose to new life. He promised to walk and swim with us today, and when we sink into Duck Lake, to rescue us and fly us to heaven, the real Promised Land.

On this side of eternity, our sinful side will keep us convinced we are just overburdened ducks with stubby wings and for those reasons, we can't soar like eagles. We will mostly just waddle and paddle through life. However, there are times when God's Word and Jesus' presence will break through, and Jesus lifts us up and we fly like eagles. God's Word is preached, and Jesus is present, every Sunday morning at 9:00 and 10:30 at Grace. Come join us. We may sit in our pews like ducks in a row but Jesus can transform us and we can leave on an eagle's wing. Take the risk!

In Christ,
Pastor Ed



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Retired Saskatchewan teachers hold luncheon

The Saskatchewan Superannuated Teachers will hold their next meeting Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 11 a.m., in the Mission Seniors Activity Centre, 4398 Hobson Rd. in Kelowna.

The meeting will be followed by a pot-luck lunch. New members are welcome. For more information contact paularyder@hotmail.com.



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