

Show him you're able to change



Dear Ellie

Q: My boyfriend of one year and I broke up because of a stupid ultimatum I gave him. I now realize I was taking him for granted, and always testing if he really loved me. I wouldn't take his advice over my problems with my parents and just used his shoulder to cry on.

He finally said that even though he loved me, he couldn't see us together anymore because we're too different; I needed someone stronger and he also needs someone who won't fight with him over little things (he doesn't need another mother). The day after we broke up I sent him two angry messages, which he hadn't responded to. I called him later and left an apologetic voice mail.

It's two weeks since we talked and I want to bring him back. I'm working on myself because I realized that I have many flaws. I want to contact him, but my friends say I shouldn't. I'm beating myself up over losing an amazing guy I love, who was there for me as much as he could be.

A: You don't need your friends to tell you what you know: You love this man and yet you pushed him away with your testing, your disrespect for his opinions, and your dramatic reactions. Now, it's up to you to show him you're capable of changing. Send a letter (write a personal note, not an e-mail), apologize once more and state your intentions to examine your own behaviour during this period apart. Then do it.

Take a few months to reflect on what you really want out of this relationship and talk to a professional counsellor if possible. Do not keep contacting this guy, and do it only when you feel truly ready to be in the kind of partnership you both need.

YOU NEED A LAWYER

Q: My sister-in-law is a controlling person who's started to take control over my aging parents. My sister and I had a bad year putting up with her until my mom got into a long-term facility. My dad is 80 and still lives in his home.

She's misinformed people that she's their daughter and put her name as first contact. My brother allowed this because it takes the stress off him. He says we "don't appreciate her and what she does." She's also bad-mouthed myself and my sister to my mom's sisters. We're worried about the control she has over my brother. He and I have power of attorney over my parents. How do I get her to step back?

A: Go back to the lawyer who drew up the power of attorney and insist on writing in the details of how decisions are to be made, who has signing powers and who doesn't. Your brother may be able to list his wife as a substitute for him, but you may then be able to have your sister be your substitute if needed. Also, try to see your sister-in-law's "help" in a different light; if she's got worthwhile ideas, then worry less about who's "in control" and more about what's really best in each case, for your parents.

If you're more accepting of her opinions, she may not push so hard. However, once the legal lines are clearly defined, you'll have recourse if she crosses the line again by misrepresenting herself.

E-mail Ellie: ellie@therecord.com



Bed of Roses by Myrtle Horst of Kitchener is the featured quilt at the Mennonite Relief sale of 225 items, including 150 quilts.

RECORD STAFF

Things of beauty

Ties

Couple's bond grows with each passing day

By Barbara Aggerholm, Record staff

KITCHENER — Every morning when Ken Egerton wakes up, he's glad of another day to spend with his wife.

It's no small thing; first because Ken's very life is threatened by heart disease, and also because he and Jacki have learned how to appreciate every minute of their lives together.

Twenty-five years ago, when Ken and Jacki promised to be there for each other in sickness and in health, they had no idea how much they'd be tested. They said nothing would come between them.

It hasn't. Not Ken's five heart attacks. Not two double-bypass operations. Not Jacki's worsening arthritis or chronic back and neck pain after a fall down stairs. Not the financial uncertainty that comes with living on a disability pension; not the realization they won't have children; not the unfulfilled dream of seeing the world.

The world is their home, a subsidized Kitchener townhouse they share with two cats, big Molly and delicate Princess; their neighbourhood and the friendly Pioneer Park library branch to which they trek, Ken in an electric wheelchair, Jacki using a walker, three times a week.

You'd be mistaken if you think their world is small. It's as big as their hearts, which are plenty big, and their curiosity, which is enormous; and their ability to laugh and talk to each other, no matter what.

► **Ties** continued on page E4



RECORD STAFF

Ken and Jacki Egerton in their Kitchener home.

New Hamburg the place to be for quilt auction

By Valerie Hill, Record staff

NEW HAMBURG — On the last weekend of this month, the town of New Hamburg will erupt in a riot of colour and excitement as the 42nd annual Mennonite Relief sale offers up the very best in Waterloo Region crafts and hospitality.

In its four-decade history, the sale has become a mainstay for the town and attracted buyers from as far as the U.S. and Europe, eager to score a beautifully handcrafted quilt.

To date, the sale has raised more than \$13 million for the Mennonite Central Committee, an organization that focuses on relieving poverty and hunger around the world.

► **Quilts** continued on page E3

Schedule

Friday, May 30, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., quilt preview and both silent and live auction of various donated items including sporting equipment and wood craft.

Saturday, May 31, 7 a.m. pancake breakfast followed by quilt auction starting at 8:30 a.m. Outside auction begins at 9 a.m.

Other activities include children's events, clowns and magicians. Auction of fully restored 1951 Massey Harris tractor, noon.

Starting at 8 a.m. Saturday will be a two- and five-kilometre Run for Relief fun run.

OPENING SALE



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