

LETTER FROM IN FOCUS

"I like these cold, gray winter days. Days like these let you savor a bad mood."

- Bill Watterson, cartoonist and creator of Calvin and Hobbes



It's that time of year when Canadians sink into a post-holiday, pre-spring funk known by many names, including the winter blues and the February blahs. Many beat the doldrums by planning a tropical vacation or a snowy ski trip. But even if you don't have a winter getaway on the horizon, there are still plenty of things to look forward to this month. Here are just a few reasons to look on the bright side as we make our way through the shortest month of the year:

1. The shortest day of the year was way back in December, which means we are getting **more and more hours of sunlight every day**.
2. The Town of Halton Hills has put together a jam-packed schedule of fun family activities for **Family Day** on February 15. From skating and swimming to arts and crafts, there is something for everybody on Ontario's newest winter holiday.
3. February 16 is **Shrove Tuesday**, which means pancakes for dinner. Check out the page 9 for a list of places to go to celebrate this delicious tradition.

For more fun February diversions – including theatre, live music and outdoor activities – check out the special two-page calendar on pages 8 and 9.

Now it's your turn. How do you beat the February blahs? What are your plans for Family Day? Do you have an event coming up? Let us know!

And remember: if you're heading out of town on a winter getaway, take a picture of yourself with In Focus and send it in. You could see yourself in our next issue!

Happy February!

Andrea Lefebvre (alefebvre@independentfreepress.com)



Did you know that...

...the Royal Canadian Legion building in downtown Georgetown was originally a **livery stable**.

...in the 1870s, Sarah Augusta Secord decided Acton's millpond deserved a more poetic name. She renamed the pond **Fairy Lake**.

...the village of Glen Williams purchased a **fire engine** in 1856. Ironically, it was destroyed in a fire ten years later.

...before officially being named Acton in 1844, the town was known as **Danville** and **Adamsville**.

...actress **Ashley Judd** "died" in Glen Williams. In the movie *Simon Birch*, Judd's character gets hit in the head with a baseball and dies. That part of the film was shot in **Glen Williams Park**.

...**George Kennedy**, the man after whom Georgetown is named, was partially blinded in both eyes during the War of 1812.

...the **Hide House** building was originally built in 1899 as a warehouse for the Beardmore Tannery.

...Delrex Boulevard, Rexway Drive and Heslop Court are all named after **Rex Heslop**, who designed and built the "Georgetown East" subdivision in the 1950s. He also created Toronto's Rexdale neighbourhood.

...stone quarried in Glen Williams was used to build Toronto landmarks like **Casa Loma** and **Queen's Park**.

...**Wilbur Lake**, located behind St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown, was drained in 1915 to make way for the Radial Railway.

Do you know some fun facts about Halton Hills? Send your information to **Andrea** at alefebvre@independentfreepress.com.

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