

COMMENT

It's a time for reflection

By Ted Brown
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A Ted Bit

Independent & Free Press. It was a time of change, filled with excitement, (and admittedly, some trepidation,) and certainly a time to re-evaluate all my goals, plans, and expectations.

Retirement was to be short-lived, as weeks after my final day at the newspaper, Halton Hills Ward Two Councillor Joan Robson announced she would not seek re-election in October.

My stress-free plans of simple retirement were suddenly tossed out the window as I filed to run for council, putting a whole new set of plans into play, dramatically altering the year for me.

When spring finally arrived, The Sidekick and I, joined by my sister and brother-in-law, embarked upon a two week exodus to Ireland, visiting the homeland of our ancestors, while experiencing the magic of the countryside.

That trip was no doubt one of the highlights of the year for all of us. My sister and I were coaxed into joining with a folk singing

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I'm sitting in the early morning glow of the day, the Christmas tree lights twinkling nearby, the rest of the house in quiet solitude as The Sidekick is sound asleep upstairs. The atmosphere is certainly conducive to reflection.

It's difficult to ponder the end of 2014 without saying a distinct 'good riddance' to some aspects of the year— mixed with thoughts of joy with some events of the past 12 months.

It was a year of transition for me. On the 'good riddance' side of the equation, I certainly won't miss the first three months of the year. Starting with the ice storm, followed by one of the coldest and most relentless winters of recent memory— well, it qualifies as a 'good riddance' item.

With that extreme cold, the 2014 lamb crop at Brown Farm took a hit, with lamb mortality at an all-time high, due to stressed mothers, and hyperthermia on the part of the lambs.

The year was one of a career change for me. Jan. 31, I retired from my day-to-day duties of being a full-time journalist with the

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