



Photo by Mike Campbell

YOUR COMMUNITY

Letter of the day

Were the good old days really so good?

Talking turkey prices then and now, was enough to make most younger people want to boycott the Christmas Turkey and certainly slam the price gouging of those who grew the turkeys. But before you get too carried away, better talk to someone who is older. Why? There are always two sides to every story and the second side was not printed, but here is some of it.

In 1945, I was still going to WCI and worked on Saturdays, from either 8 or 8:30 am until 9 pm for \$2.50 per day. Before I graduated in 1946 I got a raise to \$2.75. My graduating class, from a three-year commercial course, were getting jobs for \$6 and \$7 a week. I went to work in my parent's store for \$9 and paid some board as all the other students would as well.

Always wanting to farm I left the store and worked on a tobacco farm for \$15. a week and my board. In harvest it was \$6 a day. Many people arranged to take holidays at that time of year to earn this big money!

In 1940 to 1950 we worked on tobacco farms for 50 cents an hour and my husband worked as a carpenter for about \$1. an hour.

Now let's compare, turkey at .46 cents a pound to someone making 50 cents an hour, it would take 16.56 hours to pay for a 10 pound turkey. At today's prices at the high range \$2.30 a pound, on for just under six hours of work.

On the other hand many times through the year you can buy C grade fast frozen turkeys for 99 cents a pound. Back in 1945 C grade was 40 cents a pound. With a 50 cent an hour wage

you would pay for your C grade turkey in just under 14 and a half hours. Today at \$7. minimum wage you would pay for the same turkey in just over 2½ hours.

The minimum wage is not the average wage here in the Woodstock area, so who really would like to go back to the good old days? We have so much to be thankful for in this marvellous country of Canada, let us not always look for ways to feel sorry for ourselves. There are two sides to every story, let us not just print one.

So folks enjoy your Christmas turkeys, remember those less fortunate and be thankful for what you have. Actually we have never had it so good!

Ruth Skillings,
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