

Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

The beginning of a new year is a sort of "hello-and-farewell" effort. It's a bit like having a party. You are fresh, bathed and charming. Your "Hello" to the first guests radiates warmth, affection, and vitality. But your "Goodbye, goodbye" as the last guests totter off into the snow is a combination of exhaustion, relief and cold horror as you realize what time it is.

And that's pretty much the way we feel about the year that's ahead and the year that has passed.

It's a sign of the indomitable human spirit that we can look back on a year that was nothing but an unadulterated mess, and yet look forward with the greatest cheer and optimism to 12 months of what will probably be exactly the same.

Or is it plain stupidity, the irrationality of man, the only rational species?

For most of us normal human beings, each year, like life itself, is a mixture of pitfalls and pitfalls and vicissitudes and conquests and frustrations and accomplishments. It's a good drink, but it has more than a dash of bitters in it.

Maybe your husband had a heart attack. But your daughter produced a beautiful grandchild. Maybe your teenage daughter became pregnant. But your old man finally went on the wagon.

You lost some old friends, but gained some new ones. Your hair grew whiter and your teeth blacker. But your arthritis-improved-and-your Aunt Gertrude died and left you \$284.

You worried for approximately four hours about the state of the world, and the starving in India, and the war in Vietnam.

And you worried, depending on your age, anywhere from two to 3,000 hours, about: your hair, your complexion, your constipation; your job, your boss, your bills; your wife, your husband, your children; your roof, your basement; your inability to sleep, your inability to hold

your liquor as you used to; your mother-in-law, your daughter-in-law; your smugness, your lack of security; your brain tumour, your stomach cancer; your waist-line, your bust-line. And eleven thousand other things of equal importance. Yes, Jack or Jill, you worried. Silly, wasn't it?

But this year. Wow! Things are going to be different. Your children are going to do what you want them to. Your wife (or husband) is going to realize, finally, that you were right all the time.

You're going to be a Better Person. That's it. A Better Person. And no goll-dang fooling about it. You are going to stop nagging. You are going to be more tolerant of your nutty children (or nutty parents). You are going to go to church every Sunday. You are going to get more sleep, more exercise. You are going to have a baby, write a book, join a club. That's the stuff chaps.

Well, good luck, Mac and Mabel. You may need it. I have the utmost faith in the human spirit, but you can't kill a dinosaur with a pen-shooter. And that's about all we have to fight with when we enter the jungle of another year of life.

However, this is a different New Year. It's the 100th anniversary of the Fathers of Confederation, or something. I know how that stirs every Canadian to the marrow.

There's no doubt that every one of us feels a thrill of pride as we enter this particular year. One hundred years ago, we were a patched-together, uneasy, suspicious, resentful amalgamation of distinct areas, worrying only about local rights and how much it was going to cost us.

But what a change in a 100 years! Today we are a proud, glorious nation. Worrying about how much it's going to cost us, local rights, resentful, envious, suspicious, uneasy and patched-together.

One cannot help but think, as one looks with shining eyes into the shining new year, our centennial year, that we have made tremendous strides. Side-ways.

Family's experiences

Darkness, 45 below, in Inuvik cars drive on icy Mackenzie

The Lewis family, which moved recently from Acton to Inuvik in the North-West Territories, has again written a very interesting letter to their friends here. Mr. Lewis was a teacher at the Robert Little School.

We have appreciated receiving numerous replies to our earlier letter. It is a pleasure to hear from people and we are interested in receiving your welcome letters. From the various questions we were asked about this region we will try to answer as many as possible.

The climate here has changed considerably since we arrived. During September the weather was very pleasant most of the time but cool, going to near freezing at night. Our first snow storm of any account, (5"), arrived about the second week of October and it is still here. It quickly packed to a hard sugary surface, but was not icy because it was too cold to thaw during the day. The temperature dropped below zero for the first time this fall the night of Oct. 21 and has been dropping gradually since. This week it reached 45 degrees below zero. If the wind is not blowing, which is seldom, the low temperatures are quite pleasant. When the wind is blowing at 15 m.p.h. the cold is equivalent to 60-70 degrees below zero. All the lakes, including the Arctic Ocean are now frozen over with about 24" of ice. Cars and trucks are travelling on the Mackenzie River to Tuktoyaktuk which is 125 river miles from Inuvik, located on the Arctic Ocean.

Sunlight hours have rapidly decreased for the last month. On Dec. 6 the sun came over the southern horizon for a few minutes then set again. It will not rise again until Jan. 10. Then we will gradually get some daylight. As the earth tilts on its axis to the North it reaches the farthest point on Dec. 21. At that time the sun can only be seen on the horizon, from the Arctic Circle. All places north of the Arctic Circle are in darkness.

During the summer, Inuvik will receive the same number of days of continual daylight. Everyone dresses for the cold, with heavy parka coats, and mukluks on their feet. There are many different materials used for parkas but the pattern is practically the same for everyone. They are either all fur or fur-trimmed so that it can be tied around your face with a small opening to see and breathe. We have not yet seen an igloo although the students at school from smaller settlements have built them and lived in them. Dog teams are not plentiful here although there are some. They are the chief means of travel in the smaller settlements for trapping and hunting. Some trappers use ski-dogs or snowmobiles but have found they were not dependable enough. Many people own cars and use them except when the temperatures go below 40 degrees below zero - that is for about two months. There are approximately 125 cars in Inuvik.

The chief means of transportation for the Lewis family is walking, although friends of ours have a car and we get out with them when the weather is reasonable. The only way to get out of Inuvik is by airplane and we have had two trips that way. In late September, seven teachers including myself chartered a small plane on a fishing-hunting trip to a wooded area about 70 air miles south-east of Inuvik. We lived in a trapper's log house and enjoyed the peace and quiet of the Arctic outdoors. The fishing was good for grayling and lake trout, but the only thing we got a chance to shoot was a caribou on a stump. After two days, when it was time to leave, the plane came in and circled the lake and disappeared again for two days. High winds rolled the water up so that the plane was unable to land. The fourth day there, food was scarce and hunting fruitless except for cranberries which we cooked with oatmeal porridge. We were finally picked up and landed back in Inuvik.

On Dec. 4, our family enjoyed a private charter flight to the Husky Lakes, about 40 air miles north of Inuvik to see the whales. In the summer, white whale come into these lakes from the Arctic Ocean. For some strange reason this year about 14 of them did not leave on time to get out before the channels froze over. They were trapped in the lake. Because they require air to breathe at 15-20 minute intervals they surface and spurt out used air and inhale fresh air. As the lake froze they narrowed their breathing spots to three places through the ice. By constant surfacing in the same place they have managed to keep one hole open. It is about 30 feet long and 10 feet wide. We landed on the ice near them and walked to the side of the hole. There was a very methodical display of spouting whales in the opening for the 20 minutes we were there. They were 12-15 feet long and about 2 feet in diameter.

From the Husky Lakes we flew to Tuktoyaktuk, located 80 miles north-east of Inuvik, on the Arctic Ocean. This is the northern shipping harbor for the Arctic islands. Cargo is brought from Waterways, Alberta down the Mackenzie River by barge to Tuktoyaktuk (Tuk), then transferred to ocean vessels to service the isolated islands. We visited the fish pit, which is a hole steamed through the permafrost to a depth of 40 feet, about the size of a well. The lower part is hollowed out to form rooms for storing fish and other meat throughout the year. Two feet under the surface the walls are composed of layers of sand on top of layers of ice. This is the natural formation from the last ice age.

At the fur shop there were various articles available, such as parkas, mitts, slippers, mats, purses, hats, ice-worms and oopkiiks. These things are made by the native people from the local furs. Inuvik also has a fur shop, although the prices are slightly higher than Tuk. We also visited the school. It is as modern as any I've seen, with a new gym and auditorium, industrial arts, home economics as well as six classrooms. We saw several dog teams going out over the Bay with loaded sleds and we saw the Pingos. These are mysterious hills, found nowhere else in North America. They rise from the tundra like volcanoes, but instead of flaming lava, blue ice is found in the center. They were lakes at one time.

Shocked by tragedy

Cousin of Rockwood man captain of rescue ship

Rescues at sea and burning fishing trawlers perhaps fall to alarm or disturb the average land-locked Haltonian. Salt-sea disasters have a much sharper effect on Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Johnson of R. R. 2, Rockwood, however.

The Johnsons, formerly of Hull, England, are both from families who made their living fishing the waters around the north-east area of Canada and Greenland.

When the British trawler "St. Finbarr" exploded and burned 250 miles north of Newfoundland on Christmas Day, it was Captain Edward Woodruff, a cousin of Mr. Johnson and master of the British dragger "Orsino" which rescued 13 of the crew of the "St. Finbarr".

Mrs. Johnson's brother was the youngest seaman aboard the "Norman" when it sank in 1952, just prior to their coming to Halton. Ironically, enough, both the "Norman" and the "Orsino" were from the same line of ships - Hellyer Brothers.

The late "St. Finbarr" was noted as a rescue ship and considered a lucky vessel prior to her sinking, which brought death to 12 crewmen.

Presentation held in Ospringe school

Friends and neighbors held a presentation party in Ospringe school last Wednesday evening for Bruce and Janet Huff (nee Janet Altken), who were married in the fall. Games were enjoyed by all.

Mrs. A. Gates read an address and presented the young couple with a beautiful pole lamp and an envelope containing money as an expression of good wishes.

Both Bruce and Janet thanked their friends for the gifts. Refreshments were served.

Mayor's inaugural address

After taking their oath of office Tuesday evening during the inaugural meeting, Acton council members received spiritual guidance and an inaugural prayer from Rev. Dwight Engel of Trinity United church.

In reading from Judges, chapter 7, verses 1-8, Mr. Engel pointed out how the Midianites had been delivered by the Lord through the action of 300 men out of 10,000 pitched beside the well of Harod. Mr. Engel pointed out his reasons for reading this particular chapter as he noted the responsibility for a whole nation had rested on the shoulders of only 300 men.

"You men have been chosen to take the helm, you have become they. It is a difficult thing, I can assure you of the continuing interest of a portion of the population who are behind you," he remarked, as he wished the council members every success during their

two-year term. He was thanked by Mayor Les Duhon on behalf of council.

The mayor, in making his inaugural address, noted it had been customary to give a long speech in the past and this year he was breaking tradition as he tucked a lengthy prepared speech back into his pocket. Instead, he gave the following report.

"I have spent some considerable time preparing what would have been a valid directive for 1967, or what we call the mayor's inaugural address. "But in the interest of Centennial Year, I would like to get us off on the right foot by dispensing with an unnecessary speech by me. I feel that this council, including the mayor, should eliminate all superfluous palaver and get right down to business."

"To support this, I would like to bring to your attention that it will be necessary for No. 1 Committee to meet as early as tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. to deal with a very urgent matter.

"It is evident to me that once again, we have a council of good calibre, and we should have no problem in becoming an efficient, conscientious, co-operative group in a very short time.

"Above all else, we must assume the full responsibility of our positions on council and be prepared to stand up and be counted on all matters, and once any subject has had sufficient discussion, you will vote either yes or no.

"We actually have a 10 point program already all set out for us, and others the new year may bring to our attention.

- (1) Sewage treatment plant extension.
- (2) A new dump site, for sure.
- (3) Improved administration facilities.
- (4) Peel Street drainage.
- (5) Signals at Mill Main, Eastern Ave., and resurfacing of 25 Hwy. south to town limits from Mill and Main.
- (6) Fairy Lake dredging.
- (7) Review procedural by-law and study all other existing by-laws.
- (8) Staff and workmen's wage and pay rates.
- (9) Landscaping the new library area.
- (10) Encouraging our residents to take a new and keener interest in Acton this year.

Police report two charges during week

During the week following Christmas Day members of Acton Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police worked a total of 184 hours and patrolled 789 miles in and for the Town of Acton.

In this period two traffic charges were preferred and 47 warnings issued which included speeding and rules of the road violations. One accident was reported which resulted in one child being injured and requiring medical attention.

There were no criminal occurrences recorded, and only three miscellaneous complaints registered.

Two male persons were charged with driving in the Liquor Control Act of Ontario and resulted in one being lodged in Milton Jail. There was one request for assistance which was of a compassionate nature and one premise was found insecure.

It's terrible to grow old alone - my wife hasn't had a birthday in six years.

Don't let your mind wander. Why not? It's too weak to be let out alone.

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Free Press Church Notices

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidey Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967
9:45 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. "The Angels' Joy."
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service "Progressive Revelation."

Monday, Jan. 9 — Mission Circle, 8 p.m.
Wednesday — Prayer and Bible Study 7:30
Thursday — Explorers at 6:30
Thursday — Choir Practice, 7:30
Friday — B.H.F., at 7:00 p.m.
Text: "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name (but Jesus) whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).
11:15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).

SERVICES
10:00 a.m.—Trinity Church Acton. (Nursery provided.)
11:15 a.m.—Churchill Church (Churchill Rd. N.)
The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be administered at both services.
Sermon Subject: "Communal Life."
Adult Class, 8 p.m. — Subject: "Understanding the Old Testament."
All Welcome

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.O.A.C. 33 Churchhill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

Week of Prayer Services — January 3 to 6 inclusive, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Rev. Jim Charlwood of Toronto speaking at both services.

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Christ Ambassadors.
Friday, 6:45 p.m. — Crusaders.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.
Minister
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A.
Organist and Choir Master

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.
9:45 a.m.—Church Membership Class for Teenagers.
11:00 a.m.—Winter Celebration of Holy Communion. Meditation Theme: "The King's Table."
7:30 p.m.—Youth Fellowship. Worship, Discussion and Recreation.
Everyone Most Welcome.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967
10:00 a.m.—English Service.
2:30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3:45 p.m.—Sunday School.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR
ANGLICAN
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

Friday, January 6 — The Epiphany of our Lord.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967
Epiphany I
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Matins.

Inaugural meeting Esquusing council

A brief but solemn ceremony Tuesday morning marked the inaugural meeting of Esquusing township council when members took the oath of office and Rev. F. Norman Young, minister of Georgetown and Limehouse Presbyterian churches, read from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 and gave the inaugural prayer.

Shortly after taking office, each member was polled for his brief remarks and a welcome was extended to newcomer James Goodlett.

The newcomer to township politics expressed his appreciation for being elected and said he hoped his previous experience in politics would be an asset in helping to develop the township. In closing he said he hoped the work he was doing would be a worthy servant to the people.

Councillor C. F. (Pat) Patterson in expressing his pleasure at being returned to office for a second term hoped his previous year's experience would be a benefit to the township. Councillor Tom Hill, returned to office for a second term, said he was happy to serve the township for another year and remarked how pleased he was with accomplishments last year. He noted there was a lot of work to be done by council this year. He emphasized the fact he would be serving the township as a whole and not just a portion and he would do his best for everyone concerned.

Reeve George Leslie said he was pleased to be starting his fifth term and he was happy to serve in this capacity for the centennial year. He asked everyone for full co-operation as he remarked, "we will cross our bridges when we come to them."

Included on the list for remarks was clerk E. C. Lindsay who expressed his pleasure at seeing almost all the old members back in office and extended a hearty welcome to newcomer Mr. Goodlett.

Assistant clerk Delmer French said he had found the work in the past a pleasure and thanked Mr. Lindsay for teaching him the work.

Assessment Commissioner Art Benton congratulated the council for their return to office and welcomed Mr. Goodlett. He noted that there had been only one year in his recollection where two new council members had been present at an inaugural meeting. "During 1967 there will be many decisions which will have quite a bearing on the township and the county and I wish you the best of luck and help of God in making these decisions," Mr. Benton remarked.

Road Superintendent Bud Snow told members of council it had been a pleasure to work with them during the past year and looked forward to a good year in 1967.

Assessor Steven Saxe said he was proud to be a member of such an organization and looked forward to serving the township for many years.

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