

It's okay to wear a jacket

Earlier this week, I ran into Helen.

Helen MacCormack is the president of Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce, and we cross paths at least once a month. This time it was for a photo, taken outside at 9 a.m.

As I set up the shot, Helen was shivering.

"Are you cold?" I asked.

"I'm freezing," she replied, "But I absolutely refuse to wear a jacket in September."

She got me thinking.

It's finally arrived, you know— fall, that is.

Okay, I know people will quickly tell me I'm wrong and the calendar says it's still summer, with the first official day of autumn a couple of weeks off. But I think fall is here now.

Take a look outside.

There's a heavy dew on the grass in the morning when we get up and there's that unmistakable smell in the air.

I've seen flocks of Canada geese flying around in V-formation as they start training for that long flight south.

The skies are starting to show that really neat iron grey color, and a few leaves are drifting down from the trees.

And it's cooled off, making it okay to wear a jacket— in spite of what Helen says.

I'm always more contented this time of year, simply because it's my favourite season.

Fall comes upon us and the weather is suddenly clear and cool, with gorgeous bright sunny days and cool, clear nights and brilliant full moons. It works as a stimulant for me.

I relax, enjoy my job and the people around me even more, as I drop into fall mode.

No more muggy weather and hot, sticky nights, except for the occasional day of Indian summer. The steering wheel no longer burns my hands after leaving the car parked in the hot sun in the parking lot all day.

Fall fairs have started, and people are motivated, back to a regular working routine, with summer mode behind them for another year.

Ted Brown



It's not that I dislike summer. I love those fine summertime things, like kicking back on the verandah, or hauling out the barbecue to cook up a steak with a cold Sleeman's in hand.

But fall seems to cap those lazy days of summer, and brings us back to our senses, as we prepare to face the cooler weather.

I think I'll always be a fall guy— I'm pre-conditioned from my farming days.

Farmers always viewed fall as an end to the harvest, a time to cut corn, and start plowing.

It was that time when the cattle were kept in the barn at night, allowing us to sleep in a bit, since we didn't have to herd them into the barn before milking.

The agricultural community still sees fall as a time when the end of the summer workload is in sight, when the last field of corn is combined and the final furrow is turned over.

Unfortunately it's short-lived— the weather quickly changes from sunny days to overcast, dreary ones, signaling the arrival of November, when the days suddenly turn cold and barren.

But, I'm a fall guy, and I'll savour the beauty of the season to the fullest as trees take on their fall colours, and the leaves rustle underfoot.

And (sorry Helen) I'll wear a jacket if I find it necessary.

'Cuz sure thing, we'll be wearing a lot heavier ones as soon as the chill of winter blows in.

(Ted Brown can be reached at tbrown@independentfreepress.com)

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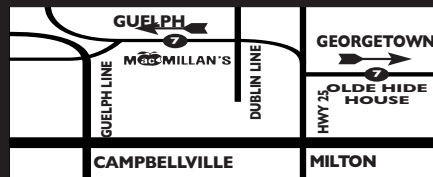
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- The HHMVL can accommodate up to 30 teams. They will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.
- Players must be 19 years of age or older.
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