

April is the cruelest month but we get a taste of Summer



**Kell's
Korner**

**Donna Kell
Herald Staff**

Is April the cruelest month?

Everyone looks at the advent of spring with different emotions, but it was poet and sometimes playwright T.S. Elliott who said, "April is the cruelest month."

This particular month, he said, shocks all living creatures out of hibernation, rousing them back to life after the blanket of snow disappears.

While last weekend's weather didn't seem to produce too many shock casualties, Elliott may have a point.

There is evidence that the annual transformation from relative quiet to relative liveliness is taking place. We now hang in the transition stage.

Everything looks brown. Trees are barren and mud slides are everywhere. Melting snow lingers and puddles get deeper.

The sun is out, but no one knows for how long.

And people seem to have difficulty choosing an outfit to match the season. Wool sweaters are worn with cotton pants. Old sweatsuits are dragged out of the closet and worn (whether or not they fit from last year's indulging). One person will walk past you wearing shorts while another sports a ski jacket.

And snow plow drivers aren't sure when to pack it in, swimming pool owners don't know when to safely pour chemicals into their pools, and cats and dogs just shed all over the place.

This is the confusion of a new season.

Plants will soon start to bud, having been forced by sunshine, water and soft soil to get back into the land of the living. Deciduous trees will turn green again, carpets of manicured grass will re-appear

on the lawns of the many and short-life-span tulips will burst into colorful glory very soon.

And time will come for lawn cutting, shrub trimming, bulb planting and car washing.

In this, the season of change, everyone seems to be in a rush to do... something.

April is the time of transition, new ambition, and a return to each year's routine of barbecues, camping, cottaging and fishing.

Maybe the cruelty lies in the fact that these things are not here yet. But we're given a glimpse of what will come when the sun shines again.



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