

Saying goodbye to a fine year - 1990

I'm rather sad to say good-bye to 1990. Now I don't want to leave the impression I'm a weeper when they sing Auld Lang Syne. Not for a minute.

Why there's been several times in my life when I was the count-down man and led those that could still stand in a nostalgic rendition of that old standard.

Not once was there a tear in my beer as the son of Hank Williams extols in his song video with his father's voice dubbed in.

Heaven, at one time I could sing out the old and ring in the new with the zeal of a Lotto 6/69 instant millionaire.

Today it's a little different.

The Old Town Hall

Long gone the brick and latticed tower

Long gone the upstairs curtained stage

Long gone the council seats of power

Assigned to history's printed page

Long gone the narrow and but-tressed fire hall

Long gone the engine, hose and wheels

Long gone the New Year's fireman's ball,

The fiddlers with their jigs and reels.

Long gone the cast and reverberating bell

Long gone the ringer stooped and gray,

Long gone the early and retiring knell



Have You Got A Minute?

Stories by W. Steamer
Emmerson

That tolled the time of day.

Wheldon Emmerson,
1989.

I don't ring anybody's bell any more.

But there are some things I look forward to in 1991 regarding bells.

I need a last stanza for my poem The Old Town Hall.

1991 will bring it for sure.

I know 1991 is going to be a better year for me medically. In spite of what I've been given - advice, pills, needles, etc., the medicals admit I'm bouncing back.

The following was written when I was struggling to prove I was going to bounce back.

IT'S TOUGH

It's tough when they tell you

You are over the hill

And to forego those tasks yet to be done

It's tough when they tell you to drop out of the race,

When you feel like it hardly began.

It's tough when they tell you, You are well past your prime, And to forego those tasks yet in mind.

It's tough when they tell you to sit back and relax, When you feel like there's still mountains to climb.

Wheldon Emmerson,
1989.

Like my first poem I need one more stanza and it will come in 1991.

Another thing I'm looking forward to is my bench mark as a volunteer. Along with hundreds of others I joined up April 26, 1941 as a volunteer. I've been one ever since. When 1991 rings in I'll have completed my 50th year as a community doer of things and April 26, 1991 will be golden anniversary.

1991 will see the end of me as a master of ceremonies. I would like to do one more prior to April 26, 1991 and then that will be it. I'll be finished kaput! And those are personal things but as being concerned about my grandchild and yours I want the world leaders to stop talking war, war, war.

Will Rogers and Winston Churchill both had the right idea.

Winston said "Better jawing than warring, and Will said "no nation should be allowed to start a war until the last one's paid for."

And now some of the really nice things that happened to me in 1990:

An annual visit from Jean King with a beautiful daffodil after the Daffodil Breakfast. She is kind, gracious and thoughtful to make it a point to let me know in a sincere gesture of appreciation that whatever contribution I made is remembered. Thank you Jean.

Thanks to Bill Smith for a

wonderful gesture of kindness and fellowship by inviting Doug Sargent, Earnie Hyde, Frank Morette and I to lunch at North Halton Golf and Country Club.

The laughter and stories came easily, without bitterness or rancor. It was a joy to spend a couple of hours over lunch sharing each others moments as part of old Georgetown history. For a few precious moments I was able to shed my burdens and to enjoy a memorable lunch.

Thank you Bill.

And Eleanor. How could I close out 1991 without a word to a friend of many years. I have told this story many times, but I first met Eleanor when I delivered a new tractor to their farm in Limehouse. Lovely family.

Her mom, dad, sister Margaret and Anna were lined up in a row as I jumped off that new International Farmall H red tractor. At that moment we hit it off.

Since then, she has been my friend, my confidant, a willing listener to my problems, a sage word of advice now and then when I needed it but always a friend.

Robt. Louis Stevenson said the most we can hope for in the voyage of life is one true and honest friend. He is a happy voyager who has many. She has filled the bill as a friend.

For my birthday I had tickets for the Shaw Festival Sunday brunch and matinee, "When We Are Married." Eleanor was my guest.

The weather was wonderful. So was the brunch and the play. It was a perfect day with a great friend.

And last but not least this paper for giving me the opportunity to write this column. It's been a pleasure to tell you about some of my experiences. My heart is warmed when someone tells me they have enjoyed what has flowed from my pen. Bob Malcolmson, Colin Gibson and the staff have given me an opportunity to communicate with you.

So you see dear readers I've given you a little of my 1990 highlights and a little of what I look forward to in 1991.

You have given me a challenge and I love that.

All the best in 1991.

Steamer.

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School year ends with bang

McKenzie-Smith school in Acton recently finished the school year off with a bang: 5,500 chocolate bars were sold to generate funds for the school (\$5,700 in total was raised) and \$340.00 of new books were purchased for the library. As well, the students also donated a great deal of food to the "Christmas Hamper" collection, coordinated by the Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.D.E., the Salvation Army, Acton's Rotary Club and the St. Vincent de Paul organization.

Plans for the new year include replacing all windows in the gym

on the Acton Boulevard side with insulated panelling. This will result in an elimination of water leaks and an additional activity area for the gym program at the school.

Recently, the Parent Association identified the items needed for the new year, which were approved at the school board's November meeting: Among the major items were included \$2,600.00 for Physical Education purposes, \$1,700.00 for computer equipment and \$400.00 towards major field trip subsidies.

In light of the holidays, last Thursday was school spirit day.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS!

The Canadian military has always responded when it has been needed. Kinsmen and Kinettes were created as a result of the camaraderie and friendships that developed in World War I. During the Second World War, the Kin Family sent millions of quarts of Milk to Britain and books and magazines to the Merchant Marines.

At this time of the year that symbolizes peace and understanding.



THE KINSMEN CLUB OF GEORGETOWN

would like to send their best wishes to our Canadian forces stationed overseas on our behalf:

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