

## About the cover

A frozen forest scene captured by amateur photographer Connie Miller whose work is featured in Gallery on pages 48, 49.



## Also inside...

Editor's note/contributors	5
Culinary Adventure	10, 11
Looking back	25
Calendar of events	29-34
Keeping Fit	39
From The Garden	36-38
Summer Reading	42, 43
Gallery	48, 49
The Last Word	50

## Editor's note

There's an ongoing joke I have with one of our editorial staffers in *The Independent & Free Press* office. Whenever it snows she comments on how "pretty and beautiful" it is outside.

I usually respond with a curse.

Once upon a time, before puberty, I loved winter. Road hockey games on snow-packed streets, skating on a nearby pond, building snow forts—the pleasures of winter were endless.

Then I began driving. Then I bought a house with a driveway. Then I got a dog that insisted on 11 p.m. bathroom trips outside while the winds howled and temperatures dropped to eyeball-freezing depths.

While many revel in the wonders of winter—the blanket of white and crisp, see-your-breath chill—I endure winter. No revelling here.

That said, there is nothing better than curling up with a good read on a winter's day—one doesn't have to feel guilty about not being outside and taking advantage of the balmy temperatures and abundance of sunshine.

Hopefully you will find this edition of *Sideroads of Halton Hills* a "good read" and reason enough to pour a warm drink and curl up in front of the fireplace.

In this edition we offer you stories on ...well, let's leave it to you to discover what's within these pages. Consider it an early gift to unwrap.

Grrrr, winter.

—John McGhie, editor

Got a comment or story idea for *Sideroads*? Send it along to editor  
John McGhie at [jmcghie@theifp.ca](mailto:jmcghie@theifp.ca)

## Parting shot...



Acton's David Quinn of the Halton Astronomy Club shot this photo of Northern Lights above Acton at 9:30 p.m. October 24. It was taken with Canon Rebel T2i at ISO 800 for 30 seconds. *David Quinn photo*

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