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editor's note

It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want- oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!

-Mark Twain

This edition of Sideroads of Halton Hills marks the seven-year anniversary of the launch of our quarterly publication.

Back in spring 2005, when the idea for Sideroads was launched, we didn't know quite what we were striving for, just that we wanted a different product for Halton Hills residents.

We knew it should have a strong rural, outdoorsy feel and highlight local people, businesses and activities.

In the ensuing years Sideroads has won numerous awards from various newspaper associations and we've featured a wide variety of artists and entrepreneurs, looked into our past and highlighted some hidden gems to be found in and near Halton Hills.

Since spring is the season of newness and new life, we've opted, with this edition, to give Sideroads a bit of tweak and fresh face.

You'll notice immediately the magazine is printed on a higher grade of paper.

The layout has changed as well with Janine Taylor lending her talents to give the magazine a cleaner, easier-to-read look.

But, we didn't want to tinker with what has made



Sideroads a hit with our readers- interesting articles.

In this edition new contributor Phil Gravelle goes behind the scenes at Terra Cotta Cookies, a Georgetown business success story and also profiles area resident Tim Dolman- a carpenter by trade but artist at heart.

Patti Post pays a visit to local bookstores while Andrew Hind gives us a fascinating look at how Canada's favourite creature- the beaver- plays a vital role in the ecosystem.

Michael Burton also profiles Halton Hills' 'Mr. History' Mark Rowe.

Those stories, and much more, can be found inside the new-look Sideroads.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and comments. You can email me at jmcghie@theifp.ca.

John McGhie, editor

contributors



Phil Gravelle

Phil Gravelle is a freelance writer, photographer and graphic designer. He lives in Erin with his wife Jean and son Tom, and writes a weekly column for the Erin Advocate (re-published at www.erininsight.blogspot.com). A McMaster University graduate he has worked as a reporter and editor at several newspapers, including the Owen Sound Sun Times, The Brampton Guardian and The Etobicoke Guardian.



Patti Post

Patti Post has an honours post-graduate journalism diploma from Humber College. She also interned at The Independent & Free Press, CBC, and Canadian Living magazine. She works for a variety of publications, but particularly enjoys finding community stories and writing about social issues.



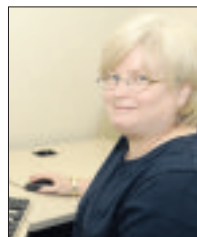
Andrew Hind

Andrew Hind is a freelance writer who contributes to many Metro-land publications. A York University graduate, he has been writing for several years and has co-authored six books with Maria DaSilva.



Michael Burton

Michael Burton is a graduate of Sheridan College's Print Journalism program and has been living in Georgetown for 18 years. He is the former editor of Travis Magazine and writes for various magazines including Chill Magazine and Sideroads.



Cynthia Gamble

Cynthia Gamble is the news editor at The Independent & Free Press and has been a staff member for 27 years..



Ted Brown

Ted Brown has been a staff photographer/writer at The Independent & Free Press for the past 28 years and has won numerous newspaper awards. He is a Georgetown native.