

Come on, Lighten Up Willie



Lighten
Canada up

By JANET DUVAL

Lighten Up Day — what a concept! Far be it from me to criticize any excuse for frivolity. But have a heart folks! Must it be so soon after our Foremost National Day?

I refer, of course, to Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, the first true Lighten Up Day of the year, when the worthy hog casts about looking for manifestations of sunlight, the first luminous portent of spring.

It's a day when we pause to be inspired by the earnest hope for the future that burns within the furry breast of the humble hog. Such faith, emanating from a cold hole in the snow, deserves a celebration.

Four days later, on February 6, we'll still be recovering from all the excitement. The decorations will still be up. The leftover festive foods will still be left over. Will we be ready for another day of feasting and frolic?

Maybe there are people that don't make Groundhog Day the occasion it deserves. Perhaps they neglect to serve the doughnut holes, the Shadow-gai wine, the Shadowbriand broiled to a turn. Perhaps they even forego Groundhog Cake, its pristine white icing swathed around the central, emerging figure of the hog.

Our family enjoys a friendly game of Pin the Tail on the Groundhog on this special day. We gather around the piano for rousing renditions of Me and My Shadow, and The Shadow of Your Smile. Groundhog Day being on Sunday this year, we've asked the minister to use the old hymn favorite, Holey, Holey, Holey.

So come on, Lighten Up Committee, do you really think we can handle two festive days so close together?

On second thought, we do manage to survive New Year's celebrations just one week after Christmas.

And I could put a red nose on our stuffed groundhog, if you like.

OK then, I'm for it. To save up some energy for the events of Lighten Up Day, I'll try not to overdo it on Groundhog Day.

Enjoy Lighten Up Day everyone. And have a hole lot of fun on Groundhog Day too.

Remember: if our furry friend sees his shadow, it means six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow at noon, so the story goes, spring can come any time.



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News

Digest

Milton man killed

Harold Magee, 76, of Milton was killed in an accident on Hwy. 24 in Eramosa Township Thursday afternoon.

At 4:30 p.m., a car was driving south on Hwy. 24, 13.5 kms north of Guelph, according to Guelph OPP, and collided with a second vehicle which, travelling on County Rd. 26, Eramosa, failed to stop at the stop sign.

The second driver, Bernice Buchanan, 52, of Guelph is in stable condition at Guelph General Hospital

Blood donor clinic

The Optimist Club is sponsoring a Blood Donor Clinic at the Holy Cross Church in Georgetown on Monday, Feb. 10. The clinic is open from 1:30-8:30 p.m. Give the Gift of Life!

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Little Jessica Petkoff, 2, brought along her very own teddy bear as the little ones at Acton Parent and Child Resource Centre held their own Teddy Bear Picnic, Wednesday,

at the Wallace St. location. The kids enjoyed stories and songs about teddy bears as well as snacks during the party.

TED BROWN Halton Hills Weekend

RSI step closer to dump approval

By STUART JOHNSTON

Reclamation Systems Inc. (RSI) has formally requested the Town, Region and the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) to amend their laws to permit the company's landfilling plans for the Acton Quarry.

RSI has also threatened to take the matter directly to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) if the amendments are not completed by the middle of this month.

Under the Planning Act, RSI has the legal right to ask the OMB to process its amendment if the municipality fails to adopt it within 30 days of its request.

Up until last week, RSI had not asked the Town, Region or NEC to amend their respective plans. It must be given the new designations in order to operate its proposed landfill legally.

According to Planning director Ian Keith, RSI's application, when referred to the OMB, will then go to the Joint Hearings Board for review. Last month, RSI had requested that a joint hearing be held on its proposal, rather than go through a regular environmental hearing.

A joint hearing is different because it cuts through the bureaucratic red tape and consolidates all provincial acts governing a landfill into one hearing. That includes an environmental hearing, as well as the OMB review. A joint hearing will essentially take away the responsibility of approval from the Town, Region and Ministry of Environment.

This tactic was expected by the Town, Keith said, and it shows that RSI is just "going through the motions" to ensure the letter of the law is followed so that its application is not jeopardized by a technicality.

And that's exactly what the Town is doing by dealing with its application like any other received by the Planning Department, Keith added.



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