

Christmas is about love of others

So much has been debated about how we wish someone well during the holiday season.

Put Christ back in Christmas! are common cries from those who celebrate. Indeed, they should put Christ back in Christmas. That's the reason of the season. For those who believe, Christ was born in a manger with livestock all around him. He had no clothes. He came from no wealth. But he led his life with love at the core.

We must recognize (and most probably do) that there is room for everyone to celebrate in the way they choose, this month and throughout the year.

Be it Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Ramadan, Diwali and other faith-based celebrations, the common thread is love and hope. Honouring what's come before, and making a conscious effort to do better moving forward.

It's about people.

It's about kindness.

It's about generosity.

It's about acceptance.

It's about loving your neighbour.

It's about spending time with people who matter to you.

It's about giving to a stranger with no expectation of anything in return.

Sharing a smile and wishing someone Happy Holidays doesn't detract from what the season of giving is all about.

If anything, we as a people should be offended with the commercialism and high-cost of celebrating at this time of year. Buying the best of the best in gifts, but not giving the best of the best of ourselves, is the greater sacrifice to humanity.

What matters is how you treat people, not the price tag attached to the shiny new present. It's irrelevant in the long run. It's a general understanding people remember how you made them feel, not what you did or bought for them.

It's unlikely if Jesus Christ walked this earth today he would take exception to wishing someone Season's Greetings or Happy Holidays or a simple the very best to you.

Love was Christ's ministry and we as people of all faiths, cultures and creeds should endeavour to live our lives with love and give of ourselves to make this world we live in a better place.

The Independent & Free Press

The Independent & Free Press is published Thursday and is one of several Metroland Media Group Ltd. community newspapers. Editorial and advertising content of The Independent & Free Press is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited. The Independent & Free Press is a member of the Ontario Press Council, which is an independent ethical organization established to deal with editorial concerns. For additional information or to file a complaint, contact info@ontpress.com or call 416-340-1981.



THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

905-873-0301
 Publisher: Neil Oliver
 General manager: Steve Foreman (sforeman@theifp.ca, 905-234-1011)
 Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell (ccampbell@theifp.ca, 905-234-1012)
 Managing editor: Chris Vernon (cvernon@metroland.com, 905-234-1020)
 Distribution: Shelley Papineau (spapineau@metroland.com, 1-866-838-8960)
 Classifieds/Real Estate
 Kristie Pells (krealstate@theifp.ca, 905-234-1016)
 Advertising Sales
 Jenny Hawkins (jhawkins@theifp.ca, 905-234-1014)
 Jennifer Spencer (jspencer@theifp.ca, 905-234-1013)
 Rachael Scutt (rscutt@theifp.ca, 905-234-1015)
 Kelli Kosonic (kkosonic@theifp.ca, 905-234-1018)
 Classified Call Centre
 1-800-263-6480, Fax 1-866-299-1499
 classifieds@metroland.com
 Accounting: 1-866-773-6575

Editorial
 Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/photographer (emaher@theifp.ca, 905-234-1023)
 Kathryn Boyle: Staff writer/photographer (kboyle@theifp.ca, 905-234-1022)
 Graeme Frisquie: Staff writer/photographer (gfrisquie@metroland.com, 905-234-1022)
 Production
 Shelli Harrison (sharrison@theifp.ca, 905-234-1017)

Get the latest headlines delivered to your inbox by signing up for our twice weekly electronic newsletter. Go to www.theifp.ca and click on Newsletter sign-up at the bottom of the homepage.

Letters to the editor

Georgetown is a special place

Saturday night my husband and I were at home when somebody knocked on the door about 8 p.m.

I assumed it was one of our neighbours. Maybe Colleen with a sample of some new cookie recipe she'd found or maybe Rob with an offering of ribs he had in the smoker all day?

That happens on the street where I live. When I opened the door, it was a young girl who I don't know.

She said she just wanted to say she liked our lights on the house and front lawn. I assumed it was her mom or dad waiting for her in the car at the bottom of the driveway.

My husband and I decorate every year (He has the plan and I am the helper) and as far as he is concerned the comments from kids young and old, the waves from cars slowing down in front of the house, the question from one of our little

neighbours asking if she could hug Olaf, make it all worth it.

The girl at the door said she lived over near Centennial School and was just out for a drive.

If I had been thinking faster, I would have offered her some Christmas cookies.

She made our night just by stopping to say she liked our decorations.

As crazy as the holiday season can be for a lot of people, sometimes it is the easy things we do that make us smile and deal with the craziness.

When going for a drive or walk around your neighbourhood, just to look at lights is one of those easy things.

Thanks to the young lady at our door and thanks to her parents for letting your daughter go up to a house just to say I like your lights.

I love living in Georgetown.
 Merry Christmas.

Lorena Crowdis,
 Halton Hills

Why spend \$300K?

As a taxpayer I'm totally against the spending of \$300,000 for a study by consultants on the feasibility of a local bus service.

If, and when it becomes clear that most of our residents feel that such a service is required, we surely, with three municipalities in our region already having such a service in place, do not need the involvement of a consultant firm?

I suggest that our staff contact some of the other towns in the region and find out how they set up their transportation system.

Please don't spend taxpayers' money just to have outsiders reinvent the wheel.

Rein Pater,
 Halton Hills