

EDITORIAL

with Traci Gardner

Tis the season

Another holiday season is here and, as you are reading this, it will almost be all over. All of the planning and preparations made in anticipation of the Christmas events soon will come to an end and will be just another memory in our photo albums and files.

Most of us will mark the occasion in our traditional ways. We will enjoy more food and drink than we ought to. But the holiday season only comes once a year, and after all, that's what New Year's resolutions are for, aren't they?

Regardless of how we observe the holiday season, this time of year serves as a time of reflection for all of us. We will watch with anticipation the reaction of our children on Christmas morning. The friends and distant family members whom we see only at the holidays will go their respective ways afterwards until the same time, next year. But seeing them and enjoying their company will make us think about the friends and relatives with whom we shared the holidays in the past, but who no longer are with us, and we will count ourselves fortunate to be on hand for another holiday season.

Yes, we will realize that we are another year older, but are we also a year wiser? Have we done our best for ourselves, our families, and our community to make the world a better place?

It maybe an exciting time of year for most of us, however Christmas can also mean a sad time of the year too. For those of us who have lost a loved one or someone special in our lives, it can be a very sad and lonely time. For parents who can't afford to buy their children presents to put underneath the Christmas tree. For those people who are out on the streets homeless who have no family and no one that cares about them, we have to think about them too.

In that spirit, we urge all of our readers who have the ability to do so to think about contributing in some way to make this holiday and 2017 a bit brighter for those less fortunate than ourselves. It can be very hard and difficult spending a Christmas alone. If you know of someone who will be alone this Christmas, why don't you invite them around for Christmas Dinner and a chat to show them they are cared about.

Christmas should not just be a time of fun. It should be a moment of reflection. We can complain for 364 days a year. Take one day off to consider how fortunate we are and to think about what others around us might be dealing with.

From the publisher and staff at The New Tanner, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.



FIRST TIME: Sandra Jest (left) and Christine Hillman both made their first donation at the monthly Blood Donor Clinic held at the Acton Legion last Thursday night. Although they came separately, they both were in the holiday spirit and felt like giving.
- Les Schmidt photo

Christmas cards

Traditional Christmas cards that you get in the mail are a lost "art form" so to speak. When I was growing up, I remember our fireplace mantle covered from end to end, at times even double stacked, with greetings and well wishes for the New Year from close to home to miles away. It was almost a daily game we would play when my mom would open the envelope and comment "isn't this nice...guess who the card is from?"

Some cards were delivered by post while some, like the first card every Christmas, was hand delivered by a neighbour up the road. Some would have family pictures in them while others, perhaps relatives we haven't seen for a while, would have a detailed hand written note telling us of their family's tales for the year. Every New Years when the Christmas decorations would come down, the cards would get stacked neatly then put in the box with the tree ornaments. The following year, we would open the boxes to decorate the tree, see the stack of cards, read some, keep some and more importantly make room for the new ones soon to arrive.



By
Angela Tyler

With the age of the internet, e-cards and of course email, the mailed Christmas card is becoming a dinosaur. The community mailbox probably isn't helping the cause either, nor the price of postage stamps compiled with cards or specialty printed cards or even the professional family Christmas picture.

At my folks' place, there are still Christmas cards on their mantel, but there aren't very many and they certainly aren't double stacked. My mom now has garland on it as a focal point and the cards are the decoration, where before it felt like the mantel was built just for the cards. Our family has a few cards, dedicated friends or family who strive to keep the tradition alive which I love and truly appreciate. Sadly, if you take away the obligatory ones from a few businesses we patron, I think I could count the cards on one hand.

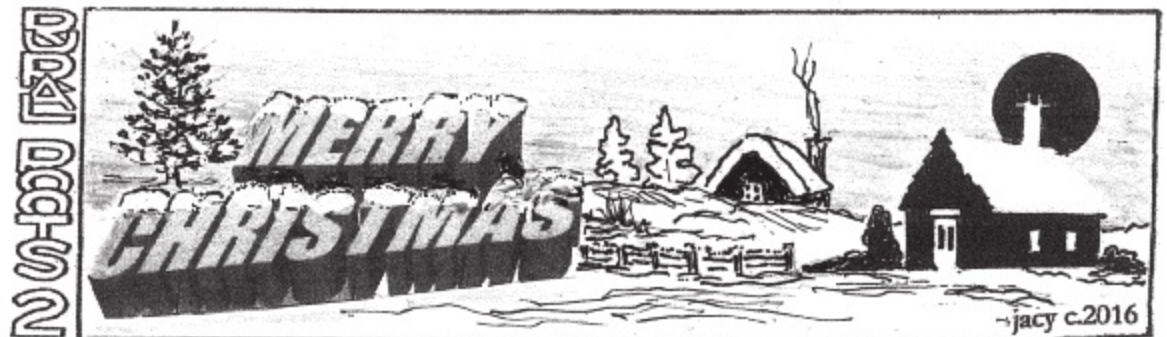
About two months ago, I decided it was time to attack the clutter drawer in my desk. In

it were our Christmas cards, addressed and ready to send... from 2015. How could I have forgotten to send out our Christmas cards? I couldn't recycle and send them out this year because the notes I included weren't really relevant anymore and pictures for the relatives that live a distance away were now almost two years old.

This year, I was determined that I was not going to screw up. I figured out an amazing card. I had my list of who I was sending it to and got clever this year (or so I thought) by adding our email and phone number on the back in an attempts to keep better in touch in the New Year. It was time to get back on track.

Well, I'm happy to report that the cards are in the mail. The problem is in all my well intended thoughts, planning and gestures, I sort of lost track of the month and quite frankly, if you are on our Christmas card list you will be getting one, but probably not in time for Christmas. Therefore once again proving the old adage, it's the thought that counts.

I wish all of you an incredible Christmas filled with family, fun, great memories and peace.



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