

EDITORIAL

with Dawn Brown

Tis the season to give back

There's something about the first snowfall—even if said snow melts just a few days later—that helps get me in the holiday mood. I don't think I'm the only one, either. This past weekend the stores were busy with shoppers getting a jump on their Christmas gift giving and the entertaining the season calls for. And good for them. After all, Christmas is just a little over six weeks away—six weeks that can creep up on you in the blink of an eye.

However, while we scramble to find the perfect gifts for the people we love, we should also remember that there are those who are not so fortunate, those who might need just a little help this year. And there are a number of opportunities in our own community to give back.

This week, Leathertown Lumber at 264 Main Street North has launched their annual toy drive for the Salvation Army. For approximately 15 years Leathertown Lumber has been collecting new, unwrapped toy donations. Anyone who would like to donate a toy this year is encouraged to do so before December 11 when the Salvation Army will be making their pick up.

Also this year, the Acton Firefighters Association will be collecting new and unwrapped toys for children ages 10 to 16 years at the Santa Claus Parade on Saturday—starting at 1 p.m. The toys collected will be given to local families through the Halton Regional Police Service's (HRPS) Toys for Tots Campaign. In its 18th year, the HRPS's Toys for Tots Campaign provides toys to less fortunate families within Halton Region.

Links2Care is providing new pajamas, socks and toiletries to children under 16 years old with their Holiday Giving Program. Individuals, schools, church groups, and community organization are all welcome to participate. Visit links2care.ca for more details.

These are just a few ways we can give back to our community. There are so many more, through schools, clubs, churches and community groups, and with more to come as the Christmas season really kicks into gear. And while toys and monetary donations are appreciated, don't underestimate the value of time. So many groups and events striving to help make Christmas a little merrier for someone else need volunteers to make all these events happen.

Remembering our fellow man, giving back to people who may need some help this season is what Christmas is about—is what community is about. So as the holiday season nears, we should all think about what we can do to help make someone's Christmas just a little bit brighter. Sometimes just a small thing can make all the difference to someone else.



RUDE AWAKENING: These geese seem somewhat confused that the water in their pond in Eden Mills had suddenly become stiff. - Les Schmidt photo

Shame on the game on



By
Angela Tyler

Remembrance Day began in Canada as Armistice Day in 1931. It was a statutory holiday to commemorate Canada's war dead. When I was a kid, discussions of "war time" seemed to frequent our lives. There were stories of rations, or members of our family who were "overseas", or even my Aunt Jean who—a war bride—made Canada her home after marrying my Uncle Jack, or my favourite of how the Salvation Army always made sure the soldiers had care packages and were looked after. My parents grew up during the war and although did not harp on it during discussion, they did want us to know of the struggles that the world had to experience. On Remembrance Day we paused to be thankful for our military and to be appreciative for the lives we had because of our war dead.

To this day, Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador,

Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Yukon maintain Remembrance Day as a statutory holiday while Manitoba recognizes it as an Official Day of Observance.

This year, Little J's class participated in reading In Flanders Fields during their school assembly. It was an amazing moment to be able to watch her read, explain it to her while she surprised me and memorized it on her own. It was important as she is learning what I had learned from my parents about remembering those who fought for our freedom. Her brother is learning too, and he was insistent on making sure he wore his poppy proudly for his school assembly and to soccer on Saturday morning...

Saturday, November 11.

The Dude asked, "Does he still have soccer on Remembrance Day?" I told him that was what the schedule said, and I confirmed it with his coach. I did understand, though. The league rents the Dufferin Centre and the schedule is there and Remembrance Day isn't a statutory holiday.

As we got to soccer, I was happy to hear a fellow player's mom explain to her son that at 11 a.m. when play stops, they needed to stop as well. I took the cue and reminded the little guy as well. However, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month nothing stopped. There was no moment of silence. There was no playing of O'Canada. It was game on as usual.

I was disappointed we never made it to the Cenotaph service this year. However, it was doubly disappointing when this happened ... or didn't happen.



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