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## COMMUNITY



Graeme Frisque/Metroland Media

Residents will gather in Georgetown, Acton and Glen Williams Dec. 1 for the annual tree lighting as part Light Up the Hills.

## LIGHT UP THE HILLS STILL SHINING BRIGHT IN ITS 2ND DECADE

### TREE LIGHTINGS SET FOR DEC. 1 IN GEORGETOWN, ACTON, GLEN WILLIAMS

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It's been 11 years since the Christmas lights first lit up Dominion Gardens Park, but time has done nothing to dull Gerry Kentner's enthusiasm for the project she created.

"I'm just as passionate about it today," Kentner said of Light Up the Hills, which will have its annual tree lightings Saturday, Dec. 1. "I feel like I did 11 years ago."

Of course, Light Up the Hills has grown significantly since it began in 2008, having expanded from its original Georgetown location to Acton in 2010 and Glen Williams in 2013. It's more than Kentner ever imagined.

She originally envisioned a tree lighting with families standing around,

drinking hot chocolate and singing Christmas carols.

"I really just wanted a free, fun family night," she said. "I'm thrilled how the community has embraced it."

Though the lights are up for a month, Kentner said it is a year-round endeavour to co-ordinate.

It now takes a board of 12 people to plan the event and co-ordinate sponsors, another 15-20 to set up the lights and maintain them through the month and then 50 more doing odd jobs the day of the tree lightings. And she said, like most community organizations, they could still use more volunteers.

As the event has grown and expanded, so has the budget and the organization has several fundraising efforts to support the event.

Memory balls, introduced in 2011, are again available to remember the life of a loved one. Each memory ball is \$25 and will be hung on the trees with the name of the person it is honouring.

Raffle tickets will be on

sale in the Georgetown Market Place Nov. 22-23 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.), Canadian Tire Nov. 24 and Dec. 8 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) and at Holiday Magic at Knox Church Dec. 7 (3-9 p.m.). Prizes include Toronto Maple Leafs tickets, a diamond bracelet, dining and entertainment gift certificates, golf packages and gift certificates.

The What's Cooking Christmas cookbook is also on sale for \$5 at several locations around town.

Tim Hortons will be providing hot chocolate and the Georgetown Lions Club will be serving hot-dogs at the tree lightings on Dec. 1. New this year will be a photo booth for family photos.

The tree lighting at all three locations will begin at 7 p.m.

Kentner said she and her husband Dave will still take a drive past the displays in the evening.

"I still get that warm, fuzzy feeling when I see them come on," she said. "It's just a moment of happiness, and I hope it brings that to every, no matter how their day has gone."

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