

THE WAY WE WERE

At one time, Georgetown had two railway options between Toronto and Guelph - the Grand Trunk (Canadian National Railway Line) and the Toronto Suburban Railway. This 1922 photo shows the Radial Station, a familiar landmark at 29 Main St. Due to the depression, the advent of the automobile and the close proximity to the Grand Trunk line, the TSR venture failed in 1931. The site in downtown Georgetown was later home to TD Canada Trust and now is Goodfellas Wood Oven Pizza. - Heritage Halton Hills

Heritage Halton Hills/photo



OPINION

THEY'RE NOT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - THEY'RE 'AUTUMN LIGHTS'

BROWN FLIPS THE SWITCH ON A VERANDA PROJECT



TED BROWN
Column

Now I would never say I'm an extremely "early-Christmas-decoration-putter-upper."

In fact, I often find myself dragging the outdoor lights out to put 'em up the week before Christmas, when my hands are freezing, and it's downright annoying to wiggle those little blown lights to get 'em going.

I'm unlike our neighbours David and Kathleen,

who usually have their Christmas tree up soon after Halloween.

And I know it's Kathleen who is the main instigator. I really think she'd have the tree up during Halloween except for the abuse she'd take from David - not to mention me - for having the Christmas tree up so early.

However, there was a slight change this year.

The Sidekick and I have a pair of imitation Halloween pumpkins which have lights inside, and they give off a ghoulish glow when they are plugged in.

A day or so before Halloween (OK, who am I fooling - Halloween night), I pulled the two pumpkins out of the closet and set them outside the front door on the veranda, ready to scare any ghosts or goblins

who might drop by.

I plugged in the pumpkins, and flipped the switch.

Nothing - not a glimmer. OK, they've been around a while, time to check the bulbs.

All good. Hmmm.

I soon discovered the porch lights on the veranda were also dead.

It was getting dark (and cold) so I left them in the dark and they were not featured in the Brown Halloween celebrations of 2018.

I put the pumpkins away, and figured it must be a wiring problem.

That job was added to my procrastination list. I was waiting until we had some slightly warmer weather, with no rain.

As I arrived from town last Wednesday, I looked at

the outlet, then looked at the exterior temperature on the dash of the truck.

It was 6 C, and no rain.

For the time of year, I'd call that as close to perfect conditions one could expect in mid-November to repair the exterior receptacle and porch lights.

I traced the wiring to the panel, and turned off the juice, and opened up the switch that operates the outside lights and receptacle.

I will say, it was an easy fix, as I found a loose wire in the receptacle box.

Checking the wiring back to the panel, I had to move a couple boxes of Christmas decorations - as it happened, it was the two veranda-sized Christmas trees we put out on either side of the front door every

year.

Since they were already out of storage, and I needed something to test the switched circuit- well it was a no-brainer. I plugged in the little Christmas tree.

It did look kinda cheerful standing there - except it was lonely.

Back down to the basement, and I hauled out the other tree, and in minutes, the two trees were standing on the veranda, lights glowing out the Christmas spirit, albeit a few weeks early.

Now I don't say I have my "Christmas lights" out - I just have my "autumn lights" out.

And in a couple weeks, I expect I'll probably move up to my "early winter lights out" for a few weeks, before we can move for-

ward, and finally graduate to "Christmas lights" out on the veranda, all accomplished without so much as lifting a finger after the initial installation!

I'm really looking forward to The Sidekick's reaction as she arrives home, to be greeted by the "autumn lights."

But the best part? I can hardly wait for Kathleen to see my "autumn lights," and put mega pressure on her to get her Christmas tree up in the living room.

Of course, she'll probably think they're "Christmas lights," because they do look pretty much the same ...

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