

The North Halton Compass

Reach then a soaring quill,
that I may write
As with a Jacob's staff
to take a height

CLEVELAND

Publisher:
MRK Communications Ltd.
419 Wilson Street, Eden Mills, Ontario N0B 1P0
PHONE 519-856-2424
FAX 519-856-2486
INTERNET ADDRESS mrkennedy@sympatico.ca

Compass Contributors

Editor /Typesetting:	Arts Editor/Rockwood:
Reid Kennedy 519-856-2424	Deborah Quaile 519-856-2386
Nassagaweya:	Art & Graphics:
Cindy Lunau 519-853-3772	Joel Pink 519-823-2298
Donna Danielli 905-854-2469	
Bonnie Mullen 519-837-1300	Eramosa:
Paula Gomes	Dale Hamilton 519-856-9891
	Ray Darling 519-856-2493
Esquensing:	
Betty Brownridge 905-878-6730	Artwork by Janet Wilson
Stella Bryant 905-451-4668	
Tunde Otto 905-702-0026	
Glenda Benton 905-877-2101	

The North Halton Compass is published on the last Friday of each month. Copy and advertising deadline is the 15th. In case of an error or omission in display and classified advertisements, space allowance will be granted for the portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. It remains the customer's responsibility to notify the Compass of errors and the publication will not be responsible for incorrect ads after the first insertion. All editorial and advertising content is copyrighted and the sole property of MRK Communications Ltd. The North Halton Compass is distributed throughout the rural communities within the traditional boundaries of Nassagaweya, Esquensing and south Eramosa Townships.

Circulation: 9,400

Compass Subscriptions

VOLUNTARY LOCAL SUBSCRIPTION

Rate: \$20.00

LOCAL IN-TOWN SUBSCRIPTION

including Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Guelph
Rate: \$25.00 (12 issues)

OUT OF AREA SUBSCRIPTION

within Canada Rate: \$30.00 (12 issues)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cheques payable to:

MRK Communications Ltd.

419 Wilson Street, Eden Mills, ON, N0B 1P0

PHOTO REPRINTS

Contact The Compass
519-856-2424

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

Brian Melnick, Advertising
Manager 519-856-9377

The Compass is also available at

Recycled Reading,
184 Main St. East, Milton
and
Wetherby's,
149 Church St. E., Acton

The Barnyard Adventures of Nassagaweya Ned & Emmy Esquensing



Brass Tacks

Editorial -

Christmas traditions are the anchor in our overly busy, forgetful lives. Traditions, by their very nature, bring us back to the centre of the circle, enhancing a cultural continuity that the rest of the year often lacks.

Traditions are the handing down of beliefs and customs by word of mouth, from one generation to another. Some of these patterns are kept strictly original, while a little variation adds excitement to others.

In any case, we each have our own personal favourites. Baking plum puddings, icing sugar cookies, taking in Midnight Mass or a candlelit service on Christmas Eve, making sure the whole family is around to decorate the tree...

The list is endless, yet can often get so tedious that the simple pleasure of holiday rituals is lost in the race to fit everything in.

When I was single and lived on

my own, I made certain that I got to the back of the family farm in early December to find a small tree to decorate. I cut it down and carted it to my apartment in the back of the truck, trying to look nonchalant as the bush and I whisked upstairs on the elevator. Usually I decorated it on my own, the task soothing and familiar, yet fresh because it was mine alone. Sometimes I encouraged another single friend to join me, so that we would take pleasure in each other's company while forming memories.

Since we moved to the farmhouse in Rockwood, I've delighted in trimming the house with the abundant cedar, spruce and pine boughs on our property. The kids stick them haphazardly into the gates of the cedar fence; inside, they're nestled in baskets or along the top of the dining room buffet. Their scent is sharp

and pungent, and I like to spice it with bowls of clementines, cloves and cinnamon sticks.

Last year the cutting was that much more pleasurable because my then five-year-old son went out with me, carrying armloads of branches from the woods and braving pine needles that never behaved. We were cutting for the old stone church as well, to decorate the window ledges and oak front doors.

We tramped through the snow like Good Queen Wenceslas and her trusty assistant, pausing to catch a few errant snowflakes on our tongues. The silence of the trees was all enveloping as the gentle hiss of snow hit the boughs and branches. Tracks of deer were freshly evident, and that cold, clear, frosty dream is imprinted on my brain, one which I will hold tight and pull to mind if the hectic pace of the season ever threatens to engulf me.

No, Christmas doesn't come from a store, Mr. Grinch. It's a wish, a dream, a treasured tradition. And the best part is, it doesn't have to be just one.

Pick your favourite traditions and stick with them. They're your anchor, your guide, and your beautiful dream in life. They can be whatever you want - roast goose, caroling, or a Jimmy Stewart movie.

Mine, however, are evergreen. Have a wonderful Christmas season!

Deb Quaile

I heard the bells on
Christmas Day

Their old, familiar carols play,

And wild and sweet

The words repeat

Of peace on earth,
good will to men!

Longfellow



HALTON Country Inn

Fully licensed Now accepting
bookings for the
Holiday Season

- Lounge • Patio
- Banquet Facilities

SIXTH LINE, NASSAGAWEYA

Guelph Line	6th Line	Highway 25
Campbellville Side Road	Highway 401	Milton

905-876-3018

"ENJOY COUNTRY ATMOSPHERE ON THE MOUNTAIN"

Loon-Woods Ltd.



Cindy Pearson-Lunau
R.R. #2, Rockwood

ANTIQUÉ
REFINISHING
&
FURNITURE
FINISHING

~ FREE ESTIMATES ~

519-853-3772

Your Favourite Summer Farmers and Vendors are gathering for a

Winter's Eve Market

Join us for Farmer's Market, Crafts, Carolling, Prize Draws & Santa
Friday December 10th - 5pm to 10 pm
Plus - your opportunity to buy Downtown Dollars - Details (905) 873 4970




Where it all began