

The North Halton Compass

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

CLEVELAND

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The Barnyard Adventures of Nassagaweya Ned & Emmy Esquesing



Brass Tacks

Editorial

Once again there are a few changes developing at The Compass, and we like to keep our loyal readers informed.

You might have noticed the date on this issue of The Compass is February 2000. Wait a minute, you may ask - what happened to January? Nothing, actually. This is "that" issue; we just moved the date ahead to reflect the coming month and the time period each particular publication will cover. We'll still publish the same number of issues throughout the year.

Along with the date change, we're changing the circulation date of the Compass. Our rural readers will find our paper in their mailbox by the first business day of each month, fresh with coming events, great profiles of local people and businesses, Glenda's treasured recipes, Donna's collection of things to do with your children, book and concert reviews,

a smattering of regional history, and everybody's favourite, Shoebox Memories.

We pride ourselves on tasteful stories and ads from the communities we cover, and ensure that our contributors have roots in the area. Many larger publications run by formulas set in big city offices that don't always encompass the rural area, whether that includes farming issues, wonderful neighbourhood residents or small-town events. We're constantly doing our best to stick to your values, and hope that our heartbeat remains true.

We've tried to keep on track with our own self-imposed standards, such as keeping our advertising/story ratio to approximately 50/50, and providing a little "food for thought," as publisher Reid Kennedy likes to say. At The Compass, we also like listening to feedback from our readership. Please feel free to

Resolutions we keep

pass along any comments or suggestions you may have.

Deb Quaile

Agricultural Economic Impact Study: taking it to the next level

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protecting the agricultural industry is in protecting agricultural land. It should be considered a resource. There seems to be a vacuum when it comes to protecting agricultural lands. People don't realize how much high quality agricultural land Halton has. It's depleting at a hefty rate and strong policies are needed to protect it."

The economic impact study concluded that agriculture is a resource worth protecting, not just for its economic impact but because "Agriculture enhances the quality of life for residents of the GTA through the products it markets and by preserving a rural countryside in proximity to urban settlements."

According to the study, GTA farmland is unique in that "It's geographic characteristics qualify it as part of the five per cent of the Canadian land mass that is qualified as prime agricultural land." Only five per cent of Canadian land is considered prime and a large piece of that segment is found within the GTA. The agricultural industry needs to continue to grow and adapt to new technology and that can only happen if the land base is protected and maintained.

The impact study proved the importance of agriculture in the GTA, its up to the various levels of government to take the study to the next level: stringent land use policies that don't bend under the pressure of urban expansion.

Blue Springs Soapbox -

Compass Correspondence

Re: Parade of Lights

I would like to thank all of the people involved in organizing and staging the annual Parade of Lights. It was spectacular! The farmers and country folk in our community put on the parade just for fun. There are no commercial ties. The parade brings people from all over southern Ontario, packing the village to capacity. It is great for local businesses and the village in general. I have seen it each year for the past four years and the parade just gets bigger and more creative each year. It's a lot of fun to watch all of the lights and see all the people in the community out on the street socializing and having a good time.

I am sure that the parade's smooth and effortless appearance tell of many hours of planning and thought, and I didn't want that to go unrecognized. Thank you so much for the wonderful show of community spirit and Christmas cheer! I look forward to next year's parade.

Sandy McNabb
The Purple Pig Pizzeria
Rockwood