

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 North Halton Compass is published on the first business day of each month. Copy and advertising deadline is five days before that date. 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, Esquesing 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

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The Compass is also available at

Recycled Reading, 184 Main St. East, Milton

Wetherby's, 149 Church St. E., Acton

Best's Harbour, 519 Main St., Glen Williams

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**Recycled
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The Barnyard Adventures of Nassagaweya Ned & Emmy Esquesing



BRASS TACKS Editorial

Spring - and much more - has sprung

Ah, it's spring, and everything is blossoming around us. We're entering our growth spurt - from lily of the valley to tender asparagus or young stalks of rhubarb - not to mention the bustling road crews and development firms.

There have been a lot of hot topics tossed around our rural communities for the past few months. Residents are embroiled in issues that strike the very heart, such as the reconstruction of Guelph Line, developing the Hornby "industrial corridor," and turning more farmers' fields into housing for bedroom commuters.

These are painful issues to be sure, but ones with which we must deal. For many years, our rural areas and small towns all over the country were slowly dying as people left to migrate into the cities. Now, it seems the migration is turning around, although in some cases it seems more like the flood-gates have opened.

My husband told me about an ad on a Mississauga billboard

regarding a housing development in Milton that enthusiastically proclaims, "Let me ride through the wide open country that I love..."

We can certainly see both sides of this issue. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of people who hope to simplify their lives by moving to a "rural" area. Obviously, we already prefer it. But in the "old days," we used to drive by our pastoral fields in between villages; now there are often no boundaries separating the flow of towns. It'll be hard to find the sanctity of untouched landscape if everyone keeps wiping it out.

Here in Rockwood, houses are popping up across the landscape like the bold dandelions dotting my lawn. Now, don't get me entirely wrong. I happen to like dandelions. They're brighter than daffodils and quite cheerful. Not only are they edible, but they make wine that has a kick like a mule. In comparison, the housing that is progressing in our area is, on the whole, tastefully done and estheti-

cally pleasing. People need somewhere to live, and we will hope that the camaraderie of the countryside will fit into their grand scheme of a new post-urban life. The fact that the town is changing so quickly, however, is the mule kick that forces me to recognize some undesirable changes and learn to deal with them.

Although parts of our territory are struggling with growth, we know that such things are inevitable. Perhaps a good portion of the development will be the necessary injection of lifeblood into some of our flagging communities, and will help bolster our stores and small business revenues, our church congregations, or the clubs and committees that need fresh faces. Hopefully, some changes will help make this a safer place to live and work.

We cannot only see the downside of development, and must look on the positive side to see how we'll continue to grow and bloom in each individual Garden of Eden.

Schedule for Road Safety Challenge Week in Milton

- Exams for Road Rodeo held in April
- Ultimate Mix in-school contests occurring in April. Finale at Milton Mall May 4
- TOM Program during April for RIDE programs during Challenge Week
- Commuter Survey took place during April
- The week after Challenge week - Seniors Stepping Out Safely Program begins

Apr 29 Launch @ firehall: Child safety seat clinic, OPP Roll-over simulator and Safety Bug.

Apr 30 Canbike - OPP at HCR centre, Rollover Simulator.

May 1 Radar Message Board, Release Commuter survey results.

May 2 Radar Message Board.

May 3 Radar Message Board, Seatbelt blitz, RIDE Program.

May 4 Radar Message Board, Truck Safety blitz - MTO, Ultimate Mix, Seatbelt blitz, RIDE Program.

May 5 Radar Message Board, Seatbelt blitz, RIDE Program.

May 6 Seatbelt blitz, RIDE Program.

May 7 Road Rodeo at Milton Mall - 14 students, 7 favourite teachers from 7 H.S.'s in Halton Region.



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