

Supply management

Turkeys raised in Ontario

It is likely that a succulent roast turkey, stuffed with savoury filling, it's brown skin crackling, with juices seeping warm within will be the principal dish at Christmas dinners in this neck of the woods. Forty-three percent of all whole turkeys sold in 2003 were purchased during the Christmas season. When combined with Thanksgiving, whole turkey sales accounted for almost three-quarters of the annual market, according to a feature article written by Sandra Salmins with assistance from the University of Guelph's Kemptville College.

The production of turkey is supply managed in Canada. This means that enough turkey is produced for the market and the farmer is ensured of selling the product.

Ontario has about 180 of the 550 turkey farms in

Canada but produces almost half of the total requirements for the country!

Most turkeys are raised in specially designed environmentally controlled barns that provide protection from predators, disease and bad weather. An average flock size is about 10,000 birds. Within the barns turkeys roam freely, eating a mix of ground corn, wheat, and soybeans and drinking at will until they reach market size.

It takes about 2 to 2.5 kilograms of feed to produce 1 kilogram of meat over the course of 11-17 weeks.

Consumers can be assured their turkey is "artificial-hormone-free" as artificial hormones are not allowed in any poultry or egg production in all of North America. Antibiotics may be used, but if they are, a withdrawal period is required before the animal goes to market.

Charles Dickens is usually acknowledged as the reason turkey has become the festive Christmas food of choice. It was after Dickens' character Scrooge provided the prize-winning turkey to Bob Cratchit, that the bird was popularized and became part of holiday feasts.



DAZZLING SUNSET: Rail fences bisect fields covered with white fluffy snow on Churchill Rd. N. while the sky performed some glorious pyrotechnics for Danielle McIsaac's camera lens on one late wintry afternoon.

The Acton BIA wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. A special thanks to all those who donated to the Sharing Tree. It was a huge success.

LEATHERTOWN

Railway service in Acton again?

Rail service upgrade?

The possibility of rail service returning to Acton might be part of on-going studies into improved passenger rail service from Georgetown to London, now being investigated by the Northern Mainline Rail Alliance, which includes Halton Hills.

At the request of Regional Ward 1/2 Councillor Clark Somerville, the Town will review a consultant's report that said the Alliance's plan to offer better rail service through the communities it represents, including Halton Hills, Guelph, Waterloo, Kitchener, Stratford, St. Marys and London, is feasible.

The North Mainline plan calls for four self-propelled, 90-passenger diesel rail cars, offering extended four day-a-week service, with peak direction GO Train service from Georgetown to

TOWN DIGEST

a new station at Breslau.

Mayor Rick Bonnette said they can't get ahead of themselves, but noted the Town already owns rail side land in Acton where the previous Go Train station stood.

Second off-leash zone

Following the tail-wagging success of its first well-received off-leash dog zone in Acton, Town Council has approved a second location in Cedarvale Park in Georgetown, much to the excitement of members of HH-DOG – the Halton Hills Dog Owners Group – that helps the Town operate the Acton leash-free area in Prospect Park.

At Council last week,

HH-DOG president Kathy Dorbeck said that new provincial dog legislation has made controlled dog areas more important than ever. "We applaud the Town of Halton Hills for taking a progressive and proactive approach to the issue," Dorbeck said, adding Cedarvale is a great location, easily accessible by foot and car, with lots of shade and water.

Dorbeck said HH-DOG would continue to fundraise to help make a success of both off-leash locations.

The proposal will be before the Town's budget committee next month. Comments on the plans may be submitted to the Town before January 6.

Fumes brew complaint

Town bylaw staff will investigate complaints that fuel fumes from idling trucks are leaking into a Queen Street residence while the drivers nip into Tim Hortons for a coffee.

At Council last week, Acton Councillor Jon Hurst told staff he would supply them with details of exact times and dates when the fumes are at their worst, after bylaw enforcement director Henry Tse said he would have staff look into the problem.

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NOTICE

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