



Waterloo-Wellington
M.P.P. Ted Arnott
Invites you to
**A NEW YEAR
SOCIAL**



**On Sunday, January 14th
from 2:00pm to 4:00pm**
At the Victoria Park
Seniors Centre
150 Albert Street West
in Fergus
Everyone Welcome!

TURNED OFF: Festive lighting such as this on Dairy Drive during the Christmas season has mostly been turned off and residents now face the bleak part of winter. But most enjoyed the display of lights as they shone through the wet, soggy holiday season for what seems a brief interlude into ordinary living.

**NO BATTERY,
NO CHANCE!**



Make sure your smoke alarms work! Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Only remove the batteries to replace them.

Energizer



Warm winters not new phenomenon

A lot of information comes across this desk daily in the form of emails, faxes and mail from the past on a variety of subjects. Some of it is designed to scare the beegesus out of us especially since global warming has been the focus. It reminded me of events about 50 years ago when we were going through another warming cycle and there were all sort of predictions of gloom and doom to come.

One of my most acute memories is of a photo in The Toronto Daily Star which showed the rocky coast of Newfoundland replete with palm trees and people swimming on sandy beaches, obviously an artist's conception of what life would be like 50 years from then. Unfortunately for the Newfoundlanders it was pure fantasy.

Another memory of almost seven decades ago recalled a Christmas day languishing in bed with the measles, the common kind where you're covered with a scourge of red dots. At our front door was a yellow sign prohibiting entry because measles was present.

Beside my bed was a pair of skis, a Christmas gift from Santa Claus. I wept

Coles' Slaw

with
Hartley Coles



copiously while the icicles dripped from the eaves under a bright winter sun because I was tied to the bed.

Alas, I would never get to use the skis that winter. Bountiful snow fell before Christmas but when Dr. McNiven declared I was no longer housebound and could go frolicking in the snow with my skis – there was none. January, always time for a thaw, arrived and it seemed outside of a few flakes which fell some time in March, dreams of sliding down the Three Sisters and other area hills like the Crazy Canuks (who came long after) were shattered by the lack of snow. Some compensation came from the fact Henderson's Pond and the big pond (Fairy Lake) was frozen and great for pond hockey and skating.

Some years later snow in abundance arrived and the Three Sister, hills between Churchill Rd. S. and the Fourth Line, south of the

village, were the scene of a ski tow fashioned by the Blow brothers, Ken and Jack, Lee McSwain, and other avid skiers of the time. It flourished for a few winters and then the cycle repeated itself and it closed down for lack of snow. That's when cross-country skiing became popular again when ever Mother Nature bestowed a bounteous fall of the white stuff.

As you many have guessed the point I'm trying to make is that the lack of snow and cold weather in southern Ontario winters is not a new phenomenon. We seem to go through warm and snowless cycles, although one has to acknowledge the weather patterns seem to be changing in all seasons.

If you are a little long in the tooth, you'll recall when the Acton arena, like most arenas in the area, possessed natural ice. The artificial stuff didn't arrive until 1949. Then you'll also recall how fervently most of us prayed for cold weather before Christmas so we could go skating in the arena, often to the music of Acton Citizens' Band. We were often disappointed and looked with envy at places like Hillsburgh where it was cold enough to make ice a couple weeks before we did. Often the season ended in the middle of March.

Yes, as the song says, those were the days. We were at the mercy of the elements but were not as well equipped to deal with them as we are now. Yet life went on. The village grew into a town and somehow all the different kinds of fun and games we enjoyed growing up in this neck of the woods got tied in with electronics, television tubes and computers, Blackberries and cell phones.

It's a pity!

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resolutions
...have goals.

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