

Let's look at the bright side in '10

It's a new year. That means renewed hope and optimism.

In reality, it just means you have to put up a new calendar, but don't tell anyone.

I think we're pre-disposed to look at the pessimistic side of things. How many times a day do you hear, "Things aren't like they used to be."

I've noticed a few things recently that I think are getting better. Every time I upgrade my computer, for example, I'm blown away with how much more I can do and how much faster I can do it. I thought my last computer worked just fine, but that was because I didn't know any better. Now I do.

I spent some time at a Christmas hockey tournament in Burlington watching my nephew, and I was impressed with how much better the parents are than they used to be. There was far less abuse hurled at the officials, but when there was, it was often half-hearted. I'm sure others have different stories, but that's what I saw this year and that was the first time since I can remember.

In Milton, I think some of the infrastructure is catching up. Roads are being finished and new facilities are being built. The new library branch is fabulous. Milton will never be like it used to be, but there's no use complaining about it anymore. There are some good things that go along with its expansion.

I think TV is getting better, too. I don't necessarily mean the quality of shows, but the ability to watch them when you want. Plus, the On Demand features you get with various cable options allows you to watch a good American cable television series when-



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On a personal level, I think older women are looking better. I haven't figured out whether that's through the miracle of science or if it's just because I'm old myself and have a different viewpoint.

On a non-personal level, the world is supposed to end in 2012. We've heard that before and will hopefully hear it again after 2012, but the positive spin is that even if it's true we still have a couple years to go. It was nice while it lasted.

Even my youngest granddaughter is getting better. She's not quite as nice as my first grandchild, but there's still hope. Recently she told her aunt that she was going to cut her head off. Then she added, "Just kidding." Much nicer, right?

So, it's a new year and things are getting better. You can still find plenty to complain about if you want without looking too hard, but save it for another time. The recession is over, we haven't been buried by snow (yet) and whatever health we have we still have. And closer to home, my head hasn't been cut off, so there's plenty to be happy about.

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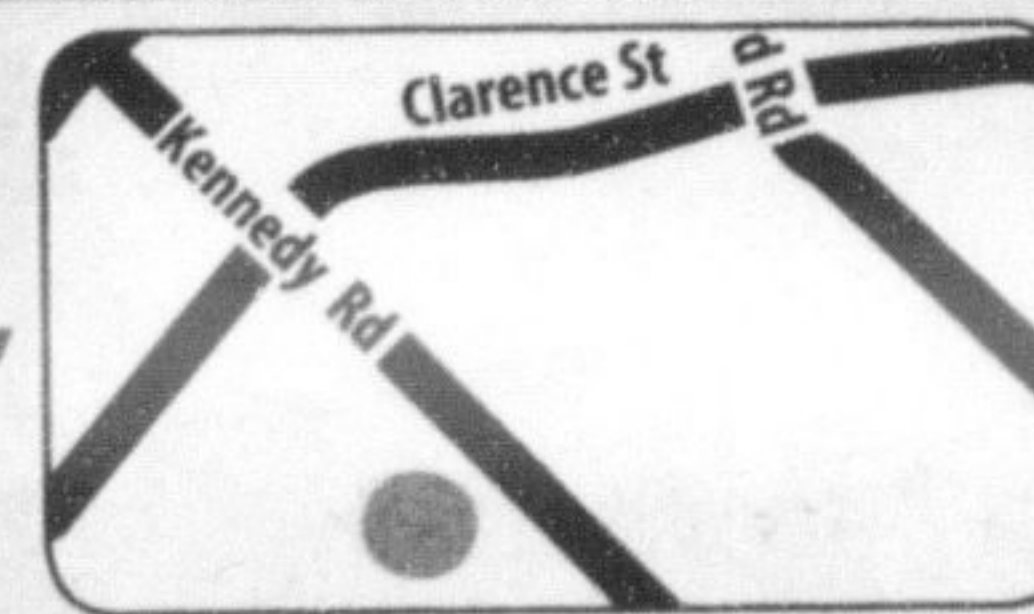
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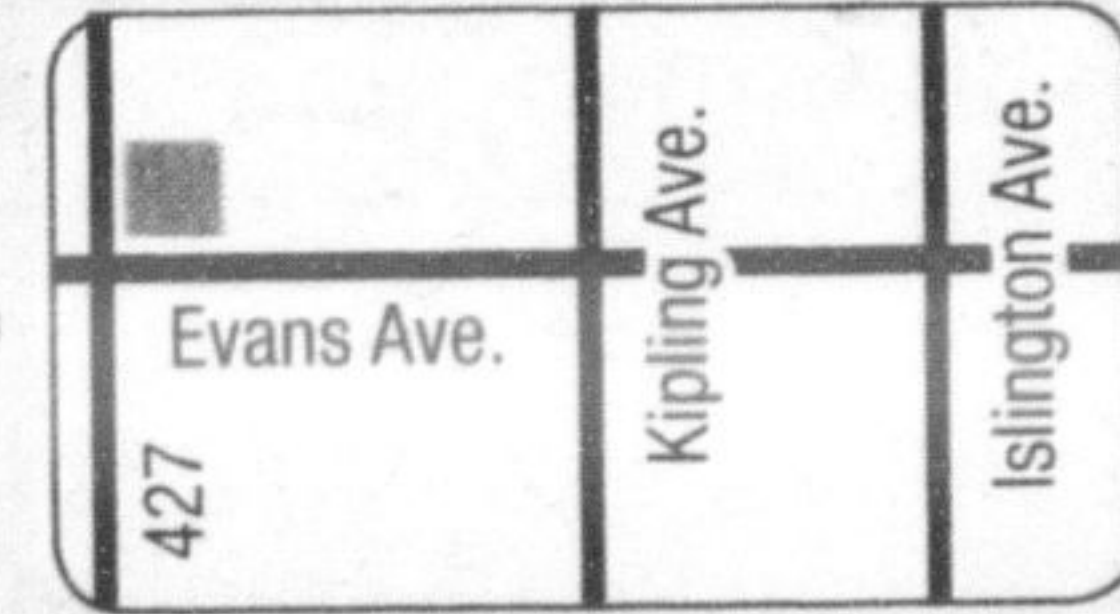
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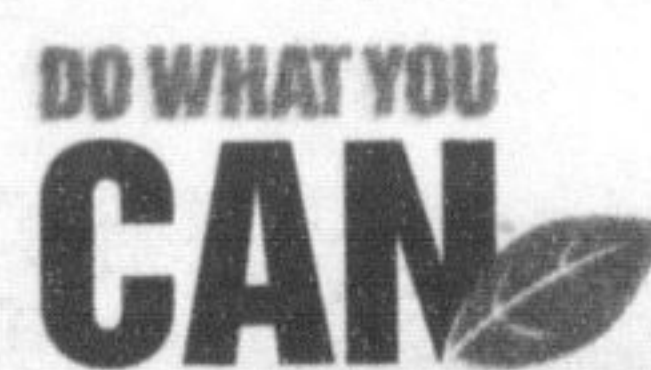
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