

# SIGNS & SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Just a few words this month about some signage that mystifies me, and some signs of the times that mystify me, too.

Politics is a rich source of dumb written and oral material. Now the election is over, I can comment on the signage of Dennis Timbrell without accusations of anti progressive-conservative bias haunting me. His election signs proclaim in bold and fearless print, "LET THE FUTURE BEGIN!" I beg your pardon. What? This means something? How does one stop the future from happening? This is the kind of empty, witless saying that rings grandly off the ears, but produces no meaning to the brain. Absolutely none. We used to have this kind of bombastic signage at our year-beginning sales meetings. The brass felt it would motivate the workers. "Succeed Through Success!", that kind of dumb saying. We snickered and laughed, and waiting for the monetary bonus plan for motivation.

I may make a fool of myself with this critique, but being wrong happens to me all the time. If jumping to incorrect conclusions bothered me, I'd hardly ever get to speak. At the newly renovated armoury building in downtown Picton (and it looks pretty nice, too), the signage above it proclaims "CIRCA 1913". OK, I even looked it up in the pocket Oxford. "Circa" means "about" with a date. So it isn't possible to determine when the armoury building was erected? After all, 1913 isn't the dark ages. People wrote things down then, even had cameras. I suppose we'll just have to accept that sometime around 1913, the building was constructed. It is not possible to determine precisely when. I am adopting a new birthdate, "Circa 1940".

In the Canadian Business Section of the Globule and Mail, there was printed this business announcement: "Mount Sinai Hospital announces the appointment of Joseph Mapa, BA Bed DHA MBA FCCHE FACHE." I am not kidding. I'm mightily impressed. By the way, this article is written by George Underhill, BscFor (Bachelor

of Science in Forestry) BFIT (Biggest Fool in Town) RGM (Resident of Greater Milford) and SMMC (South Marysburgh Mirror Contributor). See how easy it is to put a claim on being pretentious?

I have long had a problem with, I think it's called "non-representational performance art." This is where the artist, for example, eats live cockroaches while dressed as a mongoose.

The artist purports to know what the act represents, but the viewer doesn't, and is expected to guess. The thing is, this isn't a joke. People take it seriously. So here's one that was in the paper a few months ago:

"Four dancers will partner with non-motorized push mowers in a seductive paen to lawn care. The dancers will waltz with their lightweight mowers, lift them, even play them as instruments, all the while carving seductive patterns in an expanse of grass."

Really, I can add nothing to this.

- George Underhill



## LIGHT UP THE TOWNSHIP

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

Christmas Light Decorating Contest

Prizes Prizes Prizes

(1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Join the fun! You may win a prize!

Judging will take place on the evening of December 15<sup>th</sup>

Remember to leave your lights on!

Call Doug and Karen Gyde, 476-6534 by December 14<sup>th</sup> to register

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