

Submitted Article
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Believe

As we all begin the preparations of the coming month I think collectively we find ourselves reflecting on seasons past. I believe this time of year elicits unique experiences for every individual, yet among the hustle and bustle – commitments to work, family, friends and community there appears to be threads that connect us on a much deeper level, unique to rural living, unique to small town communities but most importantly unique to Haliburton County.

I believe that we understand what this season isn't. It isn't about receiving gifts, materialism and spending beyond our means. I believe the threads that link us to this season are the ability to share time with family, friends and loved ones – hopefully sprinkled with laughter, good food and the making of memories while honoring memories past. The threads of ritual run through each of our neighbors lives during this time of year and we carry these traditions forward hopeful that the next generation will find usefulness and joy in them.

Having the privilege to work as part of a not for profit agency in Haliburton County, I believe that one of our greatest community rituals and another thread that runs among us is giving to others. It is apparent that through our collective reflection some of us understand, whether through personal experience or not, that giving to others is the single most important act that we can do during this time of year. Living in a small community, giving becomes a part of what we do to ensure that everyone has the opportunity for laughter, good food and the celebration of this seasons rituals. Helping each other is ingrained in our way of life here in rural Ontario and it is seen on a mammoth scale over the coming weeks every year.

I know that here in Haliburton County we are looking out for each other and that over the coming weeks we will help our neighbors whether through giving of our time, gifts, food or simply a kind and supportive word. We have so many opportunities to do this through the local Food banks, the Moose FM Toy Drive, Community Kitchens, Church Suppers, Fuel for Warmth, Corporate donations and the like. I believe that we understand the value of these gestures and that we are hopeful and trusting that they will make our neighbors lives better during this season and because of this I believe that Haliburton County is the thread that links us to each other.

*Submitted Article written by Nancy Brownsberger of SIRCH Community Services
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