

Submitted Article
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Optimistic Light

It is at this time of year that I find myself referring to the light in the mornings and evenings as 'optimistic light'. What I mean by this is that the light somehow changes within this window of seasonal shifts and it suddenly appears optimistic – of longer days, the potential for Spring in the coming weeks. Usually there is a day that I notice the light and I feel myself buoyed by it - lifted up and carried forward out of the traditional winter slump that we often feel in February.

Reflecting on the idea of optimistic light I made a connection between it and volunteerism here in Haliburton County. A bit of a leap I suppose, but hear me out. I have spoken about volunteerism, community building and how incredible it is to work and help others in this County. And each and every day I get the opportunity to work alongside many partner agencies like Point in Time, Community Care, VON, Access Center, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit...this list goes on and on. And within each of these agencies, whose mandate it is to help their neighbours there exists the volunteer. The quiet force that helps forward mandates. Volunteers who buoy up all they come in contact with through their wonderful spirit of giving.

According to some volunteers, being a light is just who they are;

- “I have met people who do everything they can in their own busy lives to help change the face of Haliburton County, my role is small but my heart is big.”
- “I really do hope that I have brought some hope and awareness to others.”
- “I realize how fortunate I am in my own life situation and also that I have the opportunity to contribute to others in some capacity.”

So, when you take a moment to see the optimistic light on the horizon in the coming weeks, I hope that you take another second to realize just how our County is enriched by our wonderful volunteers and service agencies that truly wake up each day in hopes of changing someone else's life for the better.

*Submitted Article written by Nancy Brownsberger of SIRCH Community Services
For information on volunteer opportunities visit www.sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742*

