

New Hamburg a little corner of heaven here on Earth

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Letters

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As of April 1, my wife and I will have lived here in New Hamburg for one year. We moved into Stonecroft where we have met some incredible people and have become engrossed in the many activities available to us here.

But I digress. This is about New Hamburg, not Stonecroft. I didn't realize it until I moved here from Toronto, that I have arrived in a town that I refer to as "a little corner of heaven right here on earth."

In New Hamburg, which I now call home, I have been made to feel incredibly welcome and safe. I have discovered that it is possible to drive into town and easily find a free parking spot. I can go to the grocery store and not have to carry a quarter to unlock my grocery cart from the train of carts parked in the lot.

I can drive my convertible (in the summer) into town, jump out, and attend to my business without having to concern myself with whether I have locked the door or put up the top.

I can go to the licensing office without having to line up outside or plan to arrive prior to opening so that I don't have a lengthy wait. No matter which place of business I go into, I am always greeted by people who are "so darn friendly" and want to talk for the sake of just making conversation.

We have; in the first year we have been here, taken part in, and thoroughly enjoyed; many events such as the July 1 festivities, especially the duck race.

We have attended the Mopar cruise night and the Mennonite quilt sale weekend. We have ventured to nearby other small towns where we have taken part in the Wellesley Apple and St. Agatha Strawberry Festivals. We have ventured to St. Jacobs and Millbank where we have bought furniture built by the local people.

We have had lovely sunny days in Stratford where we also took in the musical "Oklahoma."

At Christmas we attended the Tree Lighting ceremony here in town and thoroughly enjoyed the manger presentation put on by the local people. We also attended the Christmas choral evening put on by the Nith Valley Singers.

We have eaten some wonderful meals in some of the beautiful restaurants we are very fortunate to have here in our town. New friends from the area have directed us to Snyder's Forest where we have been able to take up cross country skiing again, a sport we have not been able to enjoy for years.

One of the things I had to give up to move here was my weekly hockey which I had been involved with for over 30 years. I have, after a few enquiries, met a wonderful group of local senior hockey players who have made me feel welcome in their "league."

I can go out through the gates of my community and turn right and be in the country where I can jog or cycle, or I can turn left and take my run or ride through town.

I felt honoured last spring to take part in the New Hamburg 8K Run and I look forward to doing the same again this spring and for many springs to come.

Cycling along some of the country roads early on a warm summer morning and watching the sunrise, listening to the silence and stillness and visiting local cows gives me a euphoric feeling I have never experienced in the city.

You, the people of New Hamburg, who make this wonderful community what it is, may not realize that you have, what I describe as, "a little corner of heaven right here on earth".

I hope you do.

David Connolly

New Hamburg