

Contemplating a family photo once COVID is over



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

I'm always perplexed during a slow news week about what I should write about. It is during these times that I dip into my own thoughts and reflect upon them sometimes resulting in a sharing with you the Record reader.

The Covid pandemic has, for many, made us aware and perhaps a little more appreciative of "family." Not only those who branch out on the extended family tree but also those who grew up in the walls of the same house who, due to the pandemic, have become somewhat extended causing a melancholy and nostalgia in our hearts and homes in missing them.

In light of the above reflections this week I made myself a list of things that must be done when this pandemic is all over. Focusing on what is important and who is important, my list quickly revolved around family

and friends. These ponderings resulted in the following top three items being promised priority in my mind. 1.) Weekly or at minimum monthly family dinners, 2.) Conscious conversations and more active listening and 3.) an updated family photo. Not very complicated, right?

I was very satisfied with this doable plan when I compiled it. I was proud of the list when I glanced it over the last few days. The reality of each doable item kicked in this morning when I gave it all some deep thought and planning. Item number three brought me the realization of my greatest obstacle. My immediate family is made up of a husband and three grown sons! The last family photo is being shared here solely for the purpose of making a point. This classic was snapped eight years ago by my son using his phone outside of a restaurant we had just terrorized with our antics. This photo took ten attempts, thirty minutes of blood, sweat and tears as well as several moans and groans due to stomachs crammed full of sushi.

I remember at the time that my sons had agreed that this photo should suffice for at least ten years of my viewing enjoyment and for me to share when boasting to others about my beloved and well-adjusted tribe. I can't help as I write this today but to find myself looking at the Walmart portrait studio photo that was taken when the boys were 17, 15 and 10 displayed



PHOTO: ETHAN BALL

on our kitchen wall. Posed, clean and smiling we all look normal enough. What happened?

All of this to say, during this pandemic I suggest we all spend some time reflecting, planning and anticipating the things that we will get to do once the pandemic no longer dominates our lives nor dictates our every move. The fact that our last family photo was taken eight years ago makes a statement. On a personal note, after much thought, this photo is not

all that bad as it truly does reflect my clan. And come to think of it on closer inspection, I can see my extended family in these faces too; uncles, grandparents, brothers and sisters....

I have just replaced my number 3 item on the "after Covid to do list." Number three now reads, "Frame the last family photo taken and stick it up on the kitchen wall." This picture truly does remind me of the faces of those I miss the most when we are apart.

Fordyce Women's Institute collects cookies for group homes in Cowansville

By Louise Smith

On Wednesday, March 3, the Fordyce Women's Institute met by Zoom for a second month. If it is warm enough, and rules change for outdoor gatherings to what was in place in the fall, the group may attempt an outdoor meeting in April. Last fall several meetings took place in Davignon Park in Cowansville.

The meeting was short. Usually in March cookies are collected for the group homes in Cowansville. Edwina Bougie organized a cookie drop off gathering place at the Giant Tiger parking lot on Friday morning. Members of the Fordyce branch baked cookies and brought them in containers to Edwina's car. It was a bitterly cold morning for an outdoor encounter to hand over the cookies. The wind was howling across the parking lot.

The young people (and staff) look forward to the cookies every year. Edwina was going to deliver the cookies to the two sites once all the donations were made.

Monday, March 8, was International Women's Day. An across Canada Zoom meeting took place. Local presenters included Linda Hoy (ACWW Canads Area President) and Sheila Needham.

During Covid the stress and mental health of women have to be taken into account and acknowledged. Women are known as being the caregivers and supporters, but they need to be supported too. During Covid times women, for the

most part, are taking on a larger role in supporting children and maintaining the household while trying to also work from home.

Anyone who wishes to join the Fordyce Women's Institute can call Norma Sherrer, the president, at 450-263-3448.



LOUISE SMITH

Edwina Bougie collected cookie donations from members of the Fordyce branch of the Women's Institute to give to local group homes

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