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Weather



TODAY:
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 25
LOW OF 15



TUESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 25
LOW OF 13



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 26
LOW OF 13



THURSDAY:
60 PER CENT OF
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 27
LOW OF 15



FRIDAY:
60 PER CENT OF
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 24
LOW OF 14

Karaoke fun at the Sutton Legion



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

*"I wanna tell you all a story 'bout
A Harper Valley widowed wife
Who had a teenage daughter
Who attended Harper Valley Junior
High"*

- Jeannie C. Riley hit from 1968

Nostalgia is defined as, "a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations."

We all are reminded of the usual landmarks that each of our rural towns possess but there are some lesser celebrated spots around our towns that have embedded memories in our hearts and that take us back to times of our youth and many of these iconic places are now gone. Some replaced by new buildings with a different purpose, some now parking lots and some have become small patches of unkempt land where only memories of a first dance, a first kiss, a first drink or a first brawl remain (quite likely in that order).

I talk to a lot of friends who reminisce about their old bar hopping days with a fondness akin to memories of a first love. The sighs of nostalgia are often accompanied by rich stories that have evolved and that have been embellished over the years about bar room fights, rough characters and couples who could dance their way across Canada if the right music played...

For the Kolatschek family (Karl and his son Andrew, John, Anita and Bonnie), their obvious love for music and the fact that the Sutton Legion was looking to increase attendance at their locale and bring in more



COURTESY

business has made offering a monthly Friday night Karaoke something they felt they could do to help. On the third Friday evening of each month, the family provides the equipment and Karl and John man the computer assuring that any requests by someone willing to perform are available. Perhaps the biggest thing the group abundantly assure is encouragement, a welcome to all as if a group of old friends have wandered in as each new face arrives. Karl and Anita, long time past bar owners are the perfect hosts.

"The point of karaoke," said Karl Kolatschek, "is to have fun and to participate. You don't have to be the greatest vocalist; you just need the want to sing a song!"

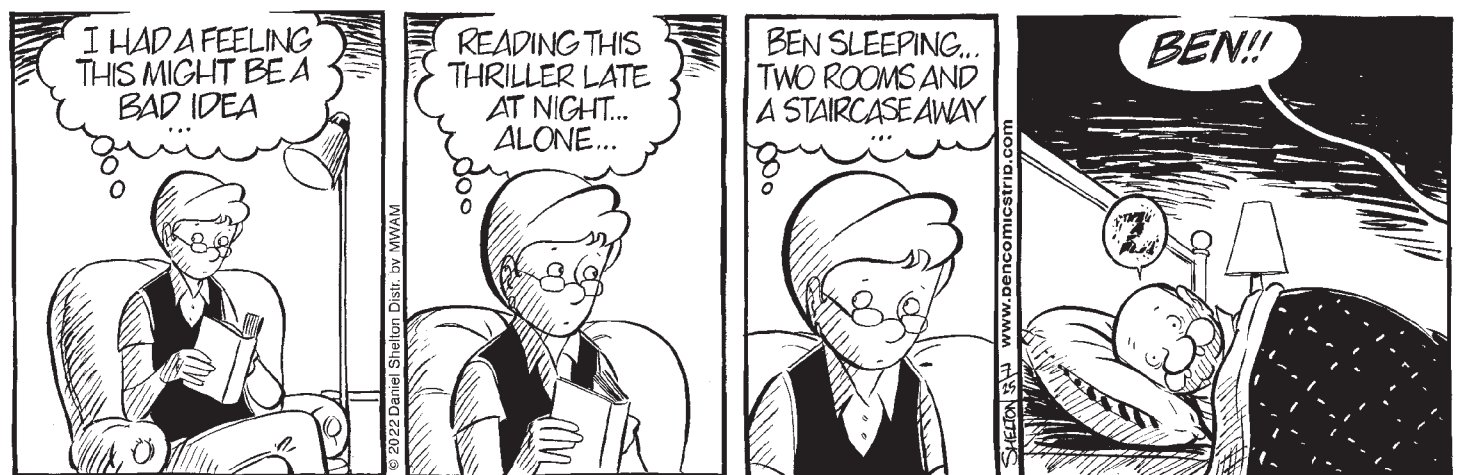
The Sutton Royal Canadian Legion is located at 2 rue Curley just a hop, skip and jump from the main street of Sutton filled with cyclists, pedestrians, tourists and those out for a soft ice cream on a hot summer evening. For those wondering if the Legion has changed much over the years, it hasn't. I held my first wedding reception there in 1983 almost forty years ago and it looks the same. To this day, when you enter on the bar side, you are greeted with a "hello" from patrons having a drink after a long day.

As I sat with my sister, her husband and mine watching the varied brave performers go up to sing I was impressed with their lack of inhibitions and their joyous inclusive attitudes. The evening was full of old country tunes from the 60's and 70's with the occasional rock song thrown in by the rebels attending who enthusiastically introduced the crowd to their genres! Some couples got up to share a two step or a bit of rock n' roll dancing and just for a moment I was taken to another place and time that I had only heard others describe as they reminisce.

"We need people to attend to make this continue and to help out the Legion," said Karl Kolatschek who hoped that folk hearing about the initiative might start attending in groups along with friends.

From Ode to Billie Joe to Summer Breeze by Seals and Crofts and everything from Elvis Presley to Queen, the evening passed quickly and the drive home to Mansonville found my husband and me glad that we had gone. The evening seemed a little happier and the carefree attitude of those in attendance made us look forward to the next third Friday of the month. Maybe I will see you there?

Ben by Daniel Shelton



I HAD A FEELING THIS MIGHT BE A BAD IDEA ...

READING THIS THRILLER LATE AT NIGHT... ALONE...

BEN SLEEPING... TWO ROOMS AND A STAIRCASE AWAY ...

BEN!!

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