

President's Corner

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Richard Dolewski

It's 2003... Let's start the New Year off right! 10 ... 9 ... 8 ... The lit ball in New York's Time Square starts picking up speed. It's almost time! My kids are poised and ready to yell on my queue. 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... Everyone holds their breath for the last few seconds. 1 ... 0 ... We jump up out of our seats and yell, "Happy New Year!". I love watching our children rejoice after practicing this line hundreds of times the day before.

Then we all break into a song that I never understood! "For Auld Lang Syne." Where did this song come from? "Should old acquaintance be forgot..." I am glad I do not know the rest of the words. How many times have you heard or sung those words? What does it mean, and more importantly why am I singing this?

We made it. The old year, for better or worse, is finished. The new year has begun with fresh promise. Here's our chance to start again, to do it right this time, to have another shot at success... at glory... at just accomplishing what we had intended to do in 2002. It's time to shed that baggage from the year long gone and celebrate what can be in the 365 untouched days to come.

Let's start the new year off right. I think its time to start to live fuller and richer lives. Let's stop and contribute more time to our families. Let's contribute more time to ME! Let's be selfish and start thinking of ourselves. Do something for yourself that will make 2003 a happier one. Buy yourself that Christmas gift you secretly wished for but got a pair of socks instead. Take the time for yourself everyday to do something special.

It may be to read, listen to music (uninterrupted by the pager), enjoy a run, see the James Bond movie or take a long bath.

I meet and talk with people, and they walk around with their shoulders shrugged all day. They are like EYYORE in Winnie the Pooh. "Oh, Woe is me!" Sometimes people feel that their life has become a dumping ground where everybody else has dropped their mess and it seems there's no room left for them.

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The 5th Wave

By Rich Tennant

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It's a new year, it's time to restart your LIFE!!. Clear that room full of headaches you carry. It's your life, you can't see past the daily junk. We'll take it out with the weekly trash and let's take 2003 head on.

This new year gives us the opportunity to start fresh and make the necessary changes in ourselves and in our lives. We all have the same challenges. It may be a new job, no job, a new home, or a new addition to your family. But it may also be through various losses, a very close friend, a mentor, a true "BUD." Looking at these changes as positive is the best way to make new and rewarding decisions in your life.

We have been on hold most of 2002 with threats of war, a slow economy, crazy hydro bills, bad Toronto sports teams and the stock market gone into the dumper. My wife says, "I told you so." Will it ever recover? But this is all in the past. How much worse can it get? Personally, I feel that this year will be a great one, filled with promise of prosperity and lots of potential. Make yourself a promise – it will get better – but do not make a resolution.

I don't usually make New Year resolutions because I'm ashamed to admit to you, dear reader, that I did not keep my resolutions in 2002. Zero. Zilch. None. Nada.

But my advise to those who do is this: "If at first you don't succeed... Give up!" Certain things are just not meant to be, and there comes a time in everyone's life (typically about half way through January) when they have to admit to themselves that it's hopeless. It's better to pretend that you were too drunk to recall making any resolutions and save yourself a lot of stress. Remember, there's always next year!

Happy New Year and good luck with all those pesky New Year's resolutions!



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