

RANDOM REFLECTIONS: This Too Shall Pass!

By Kathryn Wishlow

As we enter into yet another week of a “Polar Vortex” deep freeze, I am amazed at how quickly one can forget the past when confronted with the present. January used to be well known when I was young, as the coldest month of the year and the temperatures always headed towards zero degrees Fahrenheit or below. During my teenage years I suffered frostbitten ears from underdressing for this month's bitter windchill factor.

Only my farming friends seem to recall how mild last winter was compared to this year. Their chickens have greatly reduced their laying output lately, likely because even they are focussed on just keeping warm. Although I do miss my farm eggs these last few weeks, I am grateful to have enough wood to put another log on the fire beside me. Some of the people I know that depend on wood stove heat are already running low and are concerned about how much longer these regular deep freezes are going to occur this year.

This January brings other issues as a new presidency south of our

border threatens to present Canada with major tariff concerns. No doubt whatever is implemented initially, adjustments will have to be made down the road as the effects of such a move ripple through the economies of both countries. Trade wars never seem to last long. As my grandmother always used to say, “This too shall pass!” One would think the recent devastation in the Los Angeles fires would be more of a priority for an incoming administration.

Despite the cold that seems to painfully affect the arthritic joints of dogs and humans alike, at least the daylight hours have been steadily increasing over the last few weeks. This is one reason to be more optimistic. Plus as we near the end of this month, I always feel that February seems to whizz by in comparison ... not just because it is a short month, but just thinking ahead about March and the promise of spring on the way, hopefully is enough to improve anyone's spirits. Right?

The people who take advantage of winter activities will be happier this

year as last winter was pretty much a complete bust. The ice was barely thick enough to skate on never mind strong enough for ice-fishing huts. My friends in Ottawa were surprised to find the Rideau Canal could not be considered a safe or dependable skating facility for the first time in recent memory. It seemed like the Heritage Trail was not the best for people who enjoy taking their sleds for a good outing, either. I am not sure there has been enough snow for the trails to be any better this year. However I do hope the season is good for the businesses who depend on the winter revenues.

(Kathryn Wishlow belongs to White Pine Writers Inc., a local group of like-minded authors whose first book “The Art of ... RePurposing Yourself!” is available locally & at Indigo/Chapters, with more items coming soon. Follow them on Facebook or www.whitepinewriters.ca)