
THE NORTHSTAR CHRONICLE



Snowfall

~ Ravi Shankar

Particulate as ash, new year's first snow falls
upon peaked roofs, car hoods, undulant hills,
in imitation of motion that moves the way
static cascades down screens when the cable
zaps out, persistent & granular with a flicker
of legibility that dissipates before it can be
interpolated into any succession of imagery.

One hour stretches sixty minutes into a field
of white flurry: hexagonal lattices of water
molecules that accumulate in drifts too soon
strewn with sand, hewn into browning
mounds by plow blade, left to turn to slush.

What's in this Month's Edition?

Poem

Riddles

Featured Artists

Advice Column

Current News

Book Review

Closing



Riddles

By Simeon Buchner

Q: Who were the first people in history to celebrate the New Year.

A: Around 4000 years ago Babylonians were the first to celebrate New Year.

Q: Name the most recent year in which New Year's came before Christmas.

A: This year.

Q: There are five hen and rooster pairs. Each pair has one baby every month.

How many chickens will there be in one year?

A: It is impossible to know because the chicken's babies could also have babies during this time.

Q: What do you call a 100-year-old ant?

A: An Antique!

Q: What does a caterpillar do on New Years Day?

A: Turns over a new leaf.

Q: I can be happy, sad or confusing. I can show or just be gone, but I'll come back not before long. What am I?

A: Love.

Q: What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

A: The letter M.

Q: What is the maximum number of times a normal sheet of (news)paper can be folded in half by hand?

A: Only once. After that you're folding it into quarters, eights and so on.

Q: What time of year does an octopus favor?

A: Oct-ober

Q: How can twins be born in different years?

A: One was born on December 31st 11:59pm and the other was born on January 1st 12:00am.



Featuring...



New Growth ~Michaelyn Redgwell



Rose ~Kate Fersovich



So, it's a new year which means we should be looking forward to some change- or another relapse in politics and economy. As you may or may not have heard the Keystone pipeline that was supposed to be Alberta's economic saving grace, is planned to be officially cancelled starting January 20th on the account of the USA's Democratic leader Joe Biden.

The pipeline project first started since 2010! This project has been delayed by both Canada and the USA many times, so the process has been long and rough for those invested in this project. Though the media has done the best of its abilities to make the situation look like a light loss, many Albertans will and are seeing the heavy financial effect this will have on our economy.

As it is, Alberta is extremely in debt by the billions, and losing this investment that we have spent over a billion on just digs us deeper in the hole. Some say that it is a lose that can be taken, and that it is better for the environment. The fossil fuel exchange from Alberta to the USA would start a major influx in the oil industry, raising gas prices, which raises production. With that comes more pollution, so for pro-green and anti-global warming advocates this is an acceptable lose.

It's a win lose situation, but only time will tell how the situation will play out. Let's hope and pray that Alberta can gain some reimbursements for it's loses, though as this will be a heavy tole on our economy not matter what side of the scale we stand.

That's all for the January edition.

~Naomi Kitchen

Advice Column

By Naomi Kitchen and Contributors

Looking for some advice this new year? Well, you have chosen the right column, this month we are going to discuss self reflection and how to get over holiday blues. Since opinion is an important factor with advice, I asked a few of my guy and girl friends for advice to fit in this column to suit different people's perspectives. Though Christmas and basically all the holiday seasons are over it is still important to address those holiday blues some people experience around special celebrations.



Why can't I have as much fun as other people?" "We see all around us people making these New Years resolutions or having these amazing perfect Christmas', and we feel inferior or like we have to change ourselves, but the truth is we don't. Just because everyone around us has these perfect family/couple/friends' photos or they had this amazing holiday, doesn't mean we aren't special or perfect the way we are..." – Klarissa Peters. Comparing ourselves to others will only bring us down and being selfish will only make you feel worse about the holidays, for some it can be a "dread". It can be a letting down feeling when they compare themselves to others or feel they haven't done enough this year but it's important to remember "How much we changed this year" – Anonymous.

"Christmas is a time of fun and gifts, but it's also celebrating the birth of our saviour, he was born so that we could be forgiven and be free of sin, the birth of a perfect baby, who came to the earth solely for us." – Rebecca Friesen. So, in a sense the gifts and nice meal we share on Christmas are like the goodie bags at a party, we are celebrating his birth and the joy of his coming to earth. If that doesn't excite you then maybe you should consider "What is the reason you celebrate Christmas? What is at the heart of it?" -Anonymous. If you celebrate Christmas or any celebration just for your self, then you are likely to feel this emptiness like something is missing. Now for some of you, you may miss someone, or something is different and though time will heal those wounds, it helps to look at the blessings and people who you have around you while you have them and appreciate them while you can. This also applies if you look at the celebration as all about you, what am I getting?



That includes the good and negative changes, maybe your achievement wasn't as great as some one else's sure, but it was important for you, wasn't it? Or maybe you didn't reach a goal or created a new bad habit, these are all steppingstones of live, new year or not. "One common misconception or idea people have is that new years is the time to *change one's self*... We shouldn't anticipate the new year with hopes that everything will be better and that we need to change ourselves to be happy. There's a difference between changing and improving" -Klarissa peters. So, this year if you want to do something different this year improve your self don't try to change you are special and loved as you are.

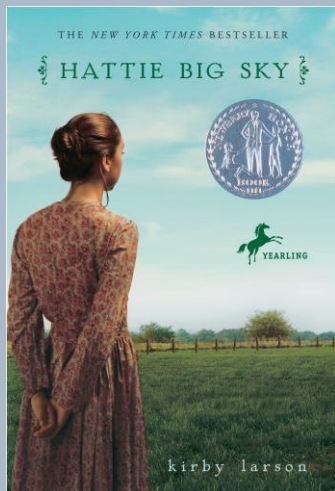
I want to thank all the people who contributed to this Column your advice was very helpful and deep. I know it is my hope you all have a good new year, and remember it is never too late to start improving. In fact, the best time to start is right now it doesn't matter what you're doing or where you are at in life, you don't have to wait for a new year.

Make today a fresh start.



Hattie Big Sky, By Kirby Larson

Reviewed by Abbie Rae Kornelsen



Genres: History, Historical Fiction

Interest level: Grades 6-10

Rating: 7/10

Similar to: Dear Canada Series, Little Woman, Anne of Green Gables

Author: Kirby Larson

Other titles in this series: Hattie Ever After

Summary

Ever since Hattie's parents died, she has lived with several different relatives. In 1917, when she is sixteen, she receives a letter from a dead uncle who has left her his homestead claim in Montana. To keep his homestead Hattie must work and make a profit in under a year. When Hattie arrives in Montana a kind neighbour named Perilee Mueller a mother of three, helps Hattie get settled. As World war, I rage on the Mueller because of their German background face persecution in their tiny community. At the end of the book the Muellers, leave Montana to move to Seattle. Hattie follows them about a year later, as she leaves on the train, she tries to keep a positive outlook.

Christian Beliefs

Hattie has a relatively strong faith in Jesus Christ. She asks God for help in her homestead and makes a point of thanking him every day. Hattie attends church regularly and once Perilee sees God's love through her neighbours she returns to church with Hattie.

Overview

Even though Hattie does not end up being able to keep her homestead, she still shows determination and bravery as she faces the unknown. This book is full of hopeful, witty and sometimes sad situations. Through all of them, the characters turn to God and seek guidance which is a quality that is quite admirable. If you are a fan of any Historical Fiction, then you will thoroughly enjoy this creative book!

In Christ,
Abbie Rae

Authors note: If you have any questions or a suggestion about which book we should do next contact me at abbie.kornelsen@nsaschool.ca.

Happy New Year Chroniclers!

I hope you enjoyed this month's edition. I'm sorry it's a little late! A big thank you to those who submitted this month to make this one work! Don't forget to check out our website and please feel free to email me or anyone of the Chroniclers if you'd like to join the team!

Thank you to everyone on the team:

Leah Brown, Taya Young, Abbie Kornelsen, Sean Umbsaar, Kate Fersovich, Naomi Kitchen, Jacob Brown, Daniel Hindle, Michaelyn Redgewell, Natalie Dryden, Naomi Schiltroth, Kayla Nicolls, Benjamin Widish and Isaac Smith.

<https://sites.google.com/nsaschool.ca/northstarchronicle/home?>