

Traditions...

Can they too survive changes?

By Daniel Geneau



People are always saying “same old,” “same old” or “nothing ever changes”, well, a lot of the time that is true. So is it alright to say that even traditions can change? Here is one Dad’s view on this topic, for what were some of our usual fall & Christmas traditions.

My wife and I have three beautiful daughters, aged 19 to 23. Over the past years we have developed many family traditions which we are having trouble holding on to. These changes began as each of our girls got a little older and began moving out, either to go to school or to find work.

The first tradition of going to the orchard for picking fresh apples is at risk. Instead of the usual five of us it will only be my wife and I this year. The picking process will take longer this year but I know the end result of fresh apple pies, apple crisp and crumble will still be as delicious as ever. Bless my wife that this part of the tradition will not change.

Raking the leaves and putting away lawn ornaments and outdoor furniture. This is usually a family day job. It will actually be a relief not to have to put all the different piles of leaves into just one huge pile, only to have to rake it all again, at least one more time, because none of the girls will be there to run through them and dive into the pile.

Autumn is now progressing. It is time to start to plan the adventure of going to the pumpkin patch to pick out just the right pumpkin for each to carve their own Jack-O-Lantern. Should we stick to going to a place we have used before or enjoy the drive of searching for a new spot?

Carving the pumpkins this year will be a short process. No obligatory judging of each creative project and explaining why each contestant deserves to win. There will be plenty of time to find new tea lights or LED’s for the illumination process. The whole tradition of this has varied and dwindled over the years as the girls all got a little older. They have stated it is something each of them misses as well.

The latest and newest tradition for everyone began 12 years ago, when we moved out of the city to our country abode. The necessity to ensure everyone was up in the mornings at 6:15 am to catch the school bus at 7:20 am. The girls needed to be all set to go and at the end of the driveway. They would arrive home at around 2:55 pm.

Over the past few weeks I have found myself going out on the deck around the time the girls used to be picked up and then brought home, still waving a friendly hello to the drivers.

Last and certainly the grandest of autumn traditions would have to be the beginning of the ones for Christmas. There has been

shopping going on for the past few months to find just the right gifts, and putting up the exterior Christmas lights. Viewing everyone’s favorite Christmas movies and planning when would be the best night to watch each and in which order. Now, the feast plans to finalize. Where will the Christmas meal be held? This usually gets rotated around, but can happen anywhere.

Everyone will be home for Christmas Eve and we are so looking forward to that night. Depending on weather, who will we be visiting or will we stay in and have people come visit us?

Either way it does not matter because we all agree that getting to see everyone, wherever, is great because it is family. Even if we are seeing them the next day and it is an event we all agree we would miss. The opening of one gift on Christmas Eve is still a family tradition we all look forward to. It is a new pair of pajamas for each! With that small ritual done we all make our way to bed because tomorrow is the day we have all been waiting for.

“A Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!”

These are how I see many of our family traditions changing and some minor ways in which they too can survive change. One big tradition with which we have raised our daughters and know they will continue for the rest of their lives is, “The importance of family!” LH

