



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

HERE WE ARE in November and the holiday season will soon be here. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of the year. I have many memories of Thanksgivings past. I remember going to my grandmother's as a child and sitting at the big dining room table with food galore. The aroma would be wonderful and if I close my eyes, I can seem to still smell it. Are we today thankful for everything we have? We should, daily, ask ourselves and recite what we are THANKFUL for.

When the Pilgrims arrived in Cape Cod on November 11, 1620, they had come to the new world to seek a place to worship in freedom. They suffered and dealt with a lot during their first winter, including deaths of half of them. Despite their many problems, the Pilgrims established the first Thanksgiving and they were thankful.

This past year, while not yet over, has given me a lot to be thankful for. As you pause to enjoy Thanksgiving, I hope you will take a few minutes to think of all those things that you are thankful for and blessed with. I want to share with you a poem my father shared with me a few years ago that I enjoyed very much and I hope you do, too:

The Thankful Heart

*For all that God in mercy sends,
For health and children, home and friends;
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word or deed,
For happy thoughts and holy talk,
For guidance in our daily walk —
In everything give thanks!*

*For beauty in this world of ours,
For verdant grass and lovely flowers,
For songs of birds, for hum of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for the stream and wood,
For the ocean's mighty flood —
In everything give thanks!*

*For the sweet sleep which comes with night,
For the returning morning light,
For the bright sun that shines on high,
For the stars glittering in the sky,
For these and everything we see
O Lord, our hearts we lift to Thee:
In every thing give thanks!*

I wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving!

Township Perspective

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