**Rural Route Contributor Guidelines 2018**

Rural Route is a community magazine. We accept submissions of stories and photographs from anyone in or closely connected to our readership area. We aim to cover a broad cross-section of stories by a variety of writers that would interest our rural population. We appreciate every submission and read every story, but we cannot guarantee publication of all submissions.

Send articles, photographs, letters and story ideas for consideration by e-mail to [**editor@theruralroute.ca**](mailto:editor@ruralroute.ca)

**Things you need to know**

*Theme* Each story must follow the theme of that month’s magazine (pages 3-4)

*Word Count* 500 words, query editor if the story will be longer

*Photos* Send photos as separate files and include a cut line for each photo

*Deadline* 1st of the previous month

**Sections to Consider**

*Recipe of the Month***:** send us your favourite family recipe along with a photo

*Photo of the Month:*send us a photo of something unique along your rural route or something that captures ordinary life from a different perspective

*Memory Lane:*personal stories and memories

*Profile:* a noteworthy person, accompanied by a strong, compelling image

*Creative spotlight:* spotlight on local creativity including books, art, craftsmanship

*Expert Advice:*insight on a specific issue from a local expert in that field

*Do It Yourself:* do it yourself tips and tricks from a local expert in that field

*Business:*local business trends and business news stories

*Other possibilities:* Community, Fiction, Environmental, Humour, Arts, Explore, Discover, Experiment, Educate…

**Contact**

If you have any further questions, contact the editor at:

[editor@theruralroute.ca](mailto:editor@ruralroute.ca) | 519-510-5550

**Rural Route Themes 2018**

**February:**

*Creative Endeavors*

Creativity plays an important part in our community from professional theatre to amateur art of all kinds. This issue features some of our local talent and showcases our collective artistic endeavors.

**March:**

*Cultural Perspectives*

In this issue, we celebrate our cultural diversity and rich heritage by sharing insights into the different cultural groups among us.

**April:**

*It’s in the earth*

This edition looks at our environment and its part in our community. It features our farmers who closely interact with the earth and some of the initiatives in our area designed to take care of the planet we live on.

**May:**

*Off the beaten path*

As summer comes, many of us like to escape to the wilderness. It may be a bike trail, a campsite, a hidden waterfall, or a week-long rugged adventure. This issue looks at outdoor adventure in our area.

**June:**

*Local Sights and Sounds*

There are the hot tourism destinations we all know about and the not-so-popular places we’d prefer to keep to ourselves. This issue visits both, bringing you some of the places you’ll want to see and the things you’ll want to do this summer.

**July/August:**

*Green Thumb*

This month we look at the people who make eating local possible. There are tips, tricks and insights for gardeners of all sorts.

**September:**

*Back to School*

Schools impact our entire community, now and in the future. This month we’ll focus on education, including some of our schools’ creative initiatives to better prepare students for the future.

**October:**

*Giving Back*

Thanksgiving reminds us to be grateful. This month we take it one step further and celebrate those who are giving back to our community. We also look at how we can get more involved in giving back in both large and small ways.

**November:**

*Spice of life*

Beat the dreary days of November by adding spice to your life—and kitchen. So much of culture, social life and community takes place around food. In this edition, we slice into the bread of local life by focusing on food and the customs and culture around it.

**December/January:**

*A child’s world*

Almost a quarter of our community is 14-years-old or younger. This month we’re featuring their stories—the winners of our annual children’s writing contest. We also focus on spending time with the children in our lives.