Christmas Greetings



A Special Supplement to the

Winchester Press

Wed., Dec. 14, 2011

Prep & Landing: short film, long legacy?

Disney returns to tradition of admirable writing, imaginative storytelling with Christmas release

by Amanda Smith-Millar
Press staff

Is *Prep & Landing* Disney's next "timeless masterpiece?"

The computer-animated TV Christmas special certainly has a shot at the coveted title.

But, only time will tell if fans embrace the cleverly written 22-minute film as a classic.

Prep & Landing introduces us to Wayne (voiced by David Foley), a jaded and smug North Pole Christmas elf. After 227 years of executing seamless Christmas Eve break-and-enters, Wayne is simply putting in his time. The respected veteran of Santa's elite preparation and landing department handles his stressful job with Bond-calibre competence. There's no dog too territorial, no roof too steep, to trip up the tech-savvy Wayne, nor his personally trained special force.

Armed with magical North Pole skis and spy gear, they scout and set up Santa's worldwide tour of Nice List residences. It's thanks to the prep and landing elves, we learn, that Mr. Kringle performs his annual miracle – delivering gifts to a planet of Christmas-celebrating children with lightning-speed efficiency, all in one night.

When we meet Wayne, he wears a smirk of self-entitlement. His North Pole colleagues treat him with a mixture of admiration and disdain. Wayne is the type of elf who parks illegally and then "pretends" to threaten a diligent parking officer with inclusion on the Naughty List; he brags to everyone who will listen about an upcoming job promotion he's sure to receive.

Yes, indeed – Wayne has lost his Christmas spirit.

As expected, Santa decides to teach our flawed hero a lesson. St. Nick picks Wayne's partner for the position instead and orders the now-bitter elf to train an adorably enthusiastic newbie named Lanny (Derek Richardson). Wayne's cynicism turns to indifference and complacency on Dec. 24. His inadequate training of Lanny results in a hilariously botched landing preparation (and near-nervous breakdown for his tender-hearted trainee). St. Nick abandons the house to avoid a snowstorm – an unprecedented failure.

Determined to salvage the Christmas of the house's youngest resident (a boy named Timmy), Wayne is forced to turn himself around and shed his Scrooge-style attitude – in one night.

So why does *Prep & Landing* deserve five out of five stars? First off, the script is spectacular. Disney has built itself a reputation for writing clever one-liners; double-barreled jokes whose multiple meanings simultaneously crack up both child and adult viewers. *Prep & Landing* is stuffed like a Christmas turkey with these legitimate "all ages" gags – not to mention pop-culture references that, if not understood by the viewer, fail to diminish their enjoyment of the film. (i.e. – It's okay if viewers don't "get" why Santa's sleigh is named Rosebud; however, folks who've suffered through *Citizen Kane* will be rewarded with a bonus joke.)

Disney excels at infusing old stories and cliches with a fresh spirit. *Prep & Landing* is no exception. The North Pole is re-imagined as a miracle factory whose success depends heavily on complex, cutting-edge technology (some of which is through hand-held devices that look suspiciously like smartphones.) Christmas Eve is orchestrated by a North Pole Christmas Eve Command Center that looks like an air-traffic control room on holiday hyperdrive.

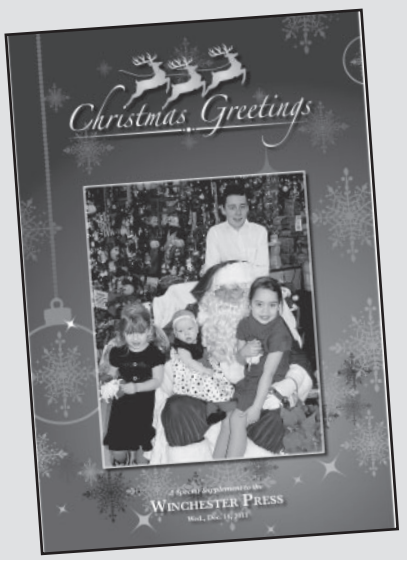
Despite its run time, *Prep & Landing* may be a top favourite for years to come, alongside *Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin,* and its other (non-yuletide) feature-length predecessors. That's because this little movie gets back to what Disney does best: create good-for-the-soul classics for families – not just kids.

Additional special features make the *Prep & Landing* DVD even more enjoyable; however, the short animation is touching and funny enough to cherish all on its own.



Prep & Landing
(2009, released to DVD 2011)
★★★★★ *(out of five)*
Rating: *G*
Run time: *22 minutes*
Available at Winchester Video

On our cover



Howdy, Santa!

Visitors Trinity (left), Ashlin, Shyanne, and Jacob Johnstone got to meet with Jolly St. Nick at Winchester BMR during a charity photo shoot on Fri., Dec. 2. A total of 25 kids (and one puppy) had their photos taken. When all was said and done, $170 in proceeds went to the House of Lazarus, an ecumenical outreach mission in Mountain.

Press Photo – Smith-Millar

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E-mail: bridalsbyalmor@storm.ca

New releases... just in the Nick of time!

Christmas DVDs available at Winchester Video for the first time



Beethoven's Christmas Adventure (2011)

An elf accidentally takes off in Santa's sleigh, crash lands in a small town, and loses the magic toy bag. Beethoven must not only rescue the elf, but also recover the bag from greedy crooks, and return the sleigh in time to save Christmas.

Rated PG, 90 minutes

Barbie: A Perfect Christmas (2011)

After a snowstorm diverts their plane, Barbie, Skipper, Stacie, and Chelsea find themselves far from their New York destination, and their holiday dreams. The girls end up stranded in the tiny town of Tannenbaum, but soon find they are welcomed by new friends. In appreciation of the hospitality, the foursome draws on musical talent to put on a performance for the whole town.

Rated G, 74 minutes

A Heartland Christmas (2011)

Lou's husband, Peter, may not be able to make it home for Christmas, which leads her to obsessing more than usual about making everything perfect for a traditional celebration. However, Mallory's tacky Christmas decorations are beginning to clash with Lou's tasteful, and colour co-ordinated, decor.

Rated PG, 120 minutes

Merry Christmas



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We couldn't have come this far without the support of good people like you.



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Best Wishes at the Holidays

Signs of the season are everywhere –
The snow on the ground, the chill in the air
But our hearts are always warm, this is true
When we turn our thoughts to friends like you.

With gratitude and best wishes for a happy holiday season from all of us

Annable's Jewellery

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With Wishes Warm & Bright

We are grateful for your continued patronage and wish you and your family the best holiday ever.

From the Management and Staff of

WINCHESTER BMR

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Hwy. 31 at
Hwy. 43
South of
Winchester
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Our sincere thanks for your valued business. We appreciate having you as our customer and look forward to serving you in the New Year.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from management and staff

Mary's Restaurant

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How sweet it is!

Annual gingerbread contest winners announced

MORRISBURG

Upper Canada Village (UCV) staff have announced the winners of this year's Gingerbread House Championship.

The list of winners was announced during a ceremony on Sat., Dec. 3.

Catherine Beddal of Ottawa went home with the evening's grand prize, claiming the $1,500 up for grabs. Along with the money, she also received a two-night stay at the guest house next door to UCV, admission for two to the village, with lunch at Willard's Hotel included, dinner for two at the Village Antiques Tea Room Bed & Breakfast in Williamsburg, plus a round of golf for two with a cart at the Upper Canada Golf Course.

> Thousands of dollars in prize money handed out at UCV

In the adult category, Wendy Dodd of Balderson was declared the winner. She received a $500 prize, plus a two-night stay at Montgomery House, including lunch for two, and admission for two to UCV.

Mathew Fontaine and Liz Dagenais from Cornwall took home the $300 second-place prize, while third place and $200 went to Tracii Reardon of Oxford Mills.

In the teen/youth category, the big winner was the team from South Grenville District High School in Prescott. Team members included Shai Kemp, Hayley Gilmer, Cassidy Moffitt, and Brody Farhngraber. For their efforts, the students received a $300 prize, lunch for four at Willard's Hotel, and admission for four to UCV.



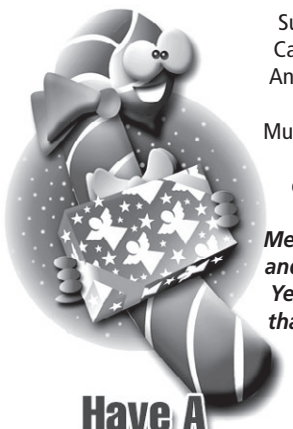
Ottawa's Catherine Beddal was the grand prize winner in this year's Gingerbread House Championship at Upper Canada Village. For her efforts, Beddal took home $1,500, among other prizes.

The second-place $200 prize went to Emma Creasy of Manotick, while Chesterville's Anastasia Yakabuski was the third-place $100 prize recipient.

The winners of the culinary arts category were Amanda Summaria and Allison Grundman from Toronto's Humber College.

The first-place finish included a $500 prize cheque, a two-night stay at the Montgomery House, including lunch for two at Willard's Hotel, and admission for two to UCV.

All gingerbread entries are scheduled to be on display inside Crysler Hall at UCV until Sat., Jan. 7.



Sugar plums....
Candy canes ....
And gingerbread men ....
Must be that time of the year once again!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and many thanks for your support

Have A Sweet Season!

THE VILLAGE BIN

498 Main St. W., Winchester
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CONTENTMENT

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Christmas Hours:
December 24 - 7 am-8 pm
December 25 - Closed
December 26 - 9 am-8 pm
December 31 - 7 am-8 pm
January 1 - Closed
January 2 - 7 am-10 pm



Best wishes from our family to yours!

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Ron & Shari



peace on earth.

With bright wishes to all on this festive occasion. We appreciate your continued patronage.

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A team of students from Prescott's South Grenville District High School was the first-place winner in the teen/youth category of UCV's Gingerbread House Championship. Pictured at right are Hayley Gilmer and Brody Farhngraber. Missing: Shai Kemp and Cassidy Moffit.



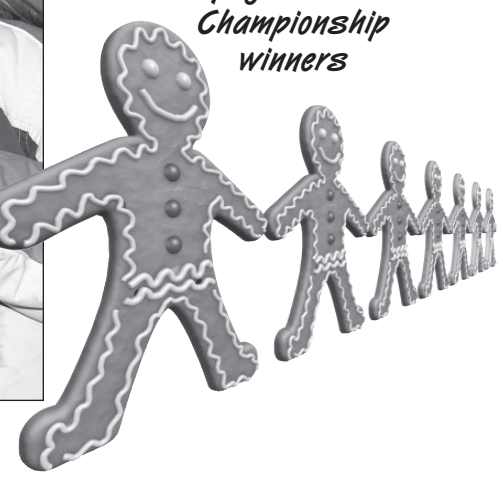
Amanda Summaria (left) and Allison Grundman, both students at Humber College in Toronto, were the first-place finishers in the culinary arts category.



Chesterville's Anastasia Yakabuski took home the third place $100 prize in the teen/youth category.

Home Sweet Home

Upper Canada Village's 2011 Gingerbread House Championship winners





First place in the adult category went to Wendy Dodd of Balderson.

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Gerald Stewart and Family

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The gift of volunteerism for the holidays

Donating is a popular way to show appreciation during the holiday season, but not every household has the funds to donate this year. In lieu of making a financial donation, a gift of time and service is just as valuable.

During this season of hospitality and togetherness, making charitable donations is ever-present in many people's minds. However, financial insecurity due to the sluggish job market and economy will likely result in more people hoping to volunteer their time instead of their finances this holiday season.

Volunteering one's time is a way to give back without expending funds. Just as charities and other organizations are in need of money to operate their causes, they also need manpower to put plans in action.

Busy people may think they don't have the time to volunteer, but this is not the case. Volunteer work can take as little as 15 minutes per week and be based on a flexible schedule.

When considering volunteerism, individuals can pick a cause that is dear to their hearts. Organizations that raise awareness about medical conditions to animal rights groups are all charities that can use assistance. Here are some ways the average person can volunteer service.

• Business owners who provide a particular product or service can donate such items to the charity. For example, a printing company can offer to print letterhead or envelopes for an organization. A restaurant can offer food for luncheons or fundraisers.

• Schools are often understaffed and can use the help of parents and other community members. Volunteering beyond the typical call of duty can help school programs flourish. Volunteering time as a coach or as a librarian can ensure children have the resources and programs for a well-rounded education.

• Consider spending time with the elderly at a nearby assisted-living facility or as part of a home-visitor program. Individuals who don't have family nearby may appreciate a visit from someone, even if it's just to sit and chat. This is something the entire family can do, even children.

• Something as simple as carpooling or offering to shop for busy people is another form of volunteer work that doesn't require being part of a particular organization. Why not babysit for a person who has to catch up on some holiday shopping?

There are plenty of ways to contribute without writing a cheque. The holiday season is the perfect time of year to think in a giving way.



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A Beautiful Season
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Merry Christmas!
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Seasons Greetings
Wishing our customers the very best for the holiday season.
From your friends at BMO Bank of Montreal Winchester Branch.
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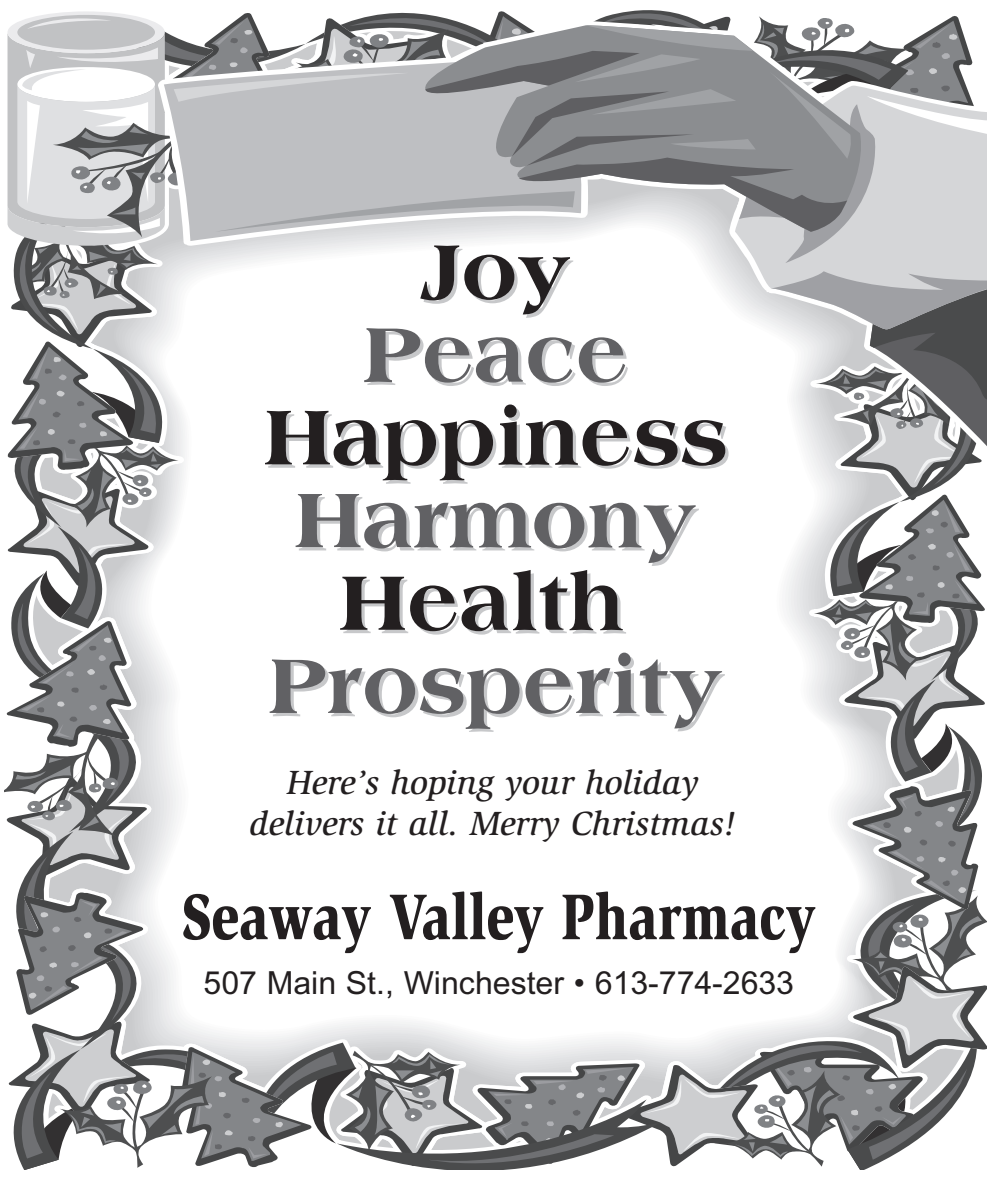

Here's hoping your holiday delivers it all. Merry Christmas!
Seaway Valley Pharmacy
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Parade day in Osgoode

The annual Christmas in the Village event, which includes a community breakfast and the Osgoode Santa Claus Parade among other activities, took place this year on Sat., Dec. 3. Members of the Osgoode Snowmobile Club (above) had a very "Smurfy" presence in this year's parade, while both Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus arrived in the village to great fanfare during the morning time event.

Photos – Morris

Seven ways to create new holiday traditions

Much of what makes the holiday season so special is the traditions that people hold dear. While families have traditions that stretch back decades, there is plenty of opportunity to embrace new means of celebration to breathe new life into Christmas, Chanukkah or the season's other holidays.

Chances are you're already hanging stockings or going caroling this year. You can add some of these and modify as they fit for your family.

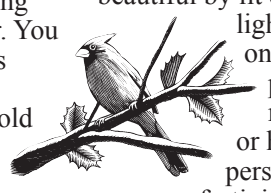
1. Feed the wildlife. During the cold days of winter, birds and small animals that don't hibernate may find it difficult to forage for food. By trimming an outdoor pine tree in edible snacks you'll have a beautiful tree and one that benefits the wildlife as well. String peanuts and other nuts for the squirrels. Make little ornaments out of suet and string for the birds. Berries and corn can be enjoyed by all. Be sure to choose a tree that is far enough away from the home, so you don't have too many scavengers hunting and pecking around the house.

2. Create a photo Advent calendar. Make your own Advent calendar that has small doors that open up to photos of different family members. Or use a collection of children's pictures that showcase how they've changed as they've grown older.

3. Select a tag from an angel tree. Each year you can bring a smile to a child in need by purchasing a present for an underprivileged kid.

4. Holiday story countdown. Every night in December, watch a movie or read a story that tells an uplifting holiday tale. Use this as a method of counting down until Christmas. On the night prior, reading "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" should suffice.

5. Remember someone who has passed on. The holiday season is one made beautiful by lit candles and twinkling lights. Remember a loved one or a friend who has passed away by lighting a remembrance candle in his or her honor. It's a way this person can still be part of the festivities.



6. Have a holiday sing-a-long. Sure it may be tradition to go around the neighborhood singing carols, but it's just as fun indoors. Have a singing party where guests are given lyrics to popular tunes they can sing around the piano or karaoke machine.

7. Banish the holiday blues. When the holidays are set to go for another year, many people find they become a little down. After all, a home that was once filled with merry trinkets may now go back to the bare essentials. Create a tradition where everyone in the family receives one more gift – a personalized ornament that can be packed away for use next year – that's given in January before the decorations are packed away. It's another opportunity to open a present, and it symbolizes looking forward to the joy of next year.



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With Best Wishes
From the Whole Gang!



Merry Christmas from Our Home to Yours
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Gifts of the three kings

With presents and parties foremost on the minds of many, the religious significance of the holiday season can take a backseat to some of the secular celebrations.

One of the religious celebrations of the season is Three Kings Day, also known as the Feast of the Epiphany and Dia de los Tres Reyes. Celebrated on Jan. 6, the Epiphany marks the twelfth day of the Christmas holiday, and remembers the three kings who came to bear gifts to the newborn baby Jesus.



According to the Bible, three kings, or wise men, named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar saw a bright star in the sky the night Christ was born. They followed this star to Bethlehem where they found the child. There they presented Christ with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Frankincense, also called olibanum, is a sap of the Boswellia. The tree is tapped, much as one would a maple tree for syrup, and the frankincense resin drips out in "tears." Frankincense was used for many reasons in ancient times, typically in religious ceremonies as an incense. The aroma of frankincense is said to represent life, and the Judaic, Christian, and Islamic faiths also used frankincense oils to anoint the young. It has also been used in alternative medicine as a stomach aid. Ancient Egyptians used charred frankincense to make kohl, or the eye makeup distinctive of that region.

Myrrh is another tree resin and it comes from the Commiphora species. Myrrh was commonly used as a healing agent, especially an antiseptic. Ancient Greek soldiers carried it to treat and clean wounds earned in battle. Egyptians burned myrrh as part of rituals. It is also another substance burned during religious ceremonies. Myrrh was also used in the embalming process in ancient times.

Historians and religious scholars say that the gifts given to Jesus by the three kings were quite appropriate. The gold represented his royalty; the frankincense, his divinity; and the myrrh, his future death.

Create a Christmas countdown calendar that rewards good behaviour

Forget the naughty or nice list, parents and other caregivers can celebrate well-behaved children with a different sort of rewards system – a good behaviour calendar that can be used to mark days of minded manners, exemplary acts, or help around the house.

Children often respond well to positive reinforcement. Instead of just reprimanding children when they have done something bad, reward good behaviour by focusing on all the things that they do well. A calendar that showcases the days that children were on their best behaviour can be a way to showcase all the good things kids do.

Here's how to make a countdown calendar:

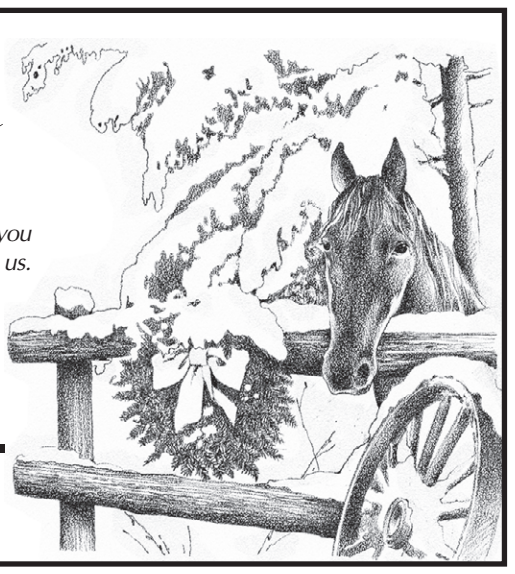
1. Purchase and gather supplies for the calendar.
   - posterboard
   - markers
   - construction paper
   - glue
   - ruler
   - pencil
   - glitter or other embellishments
   - Christmas-themed stickers or pictures
2. Lay the posterboard on the table and use the ruler and pencil to draw the boxes of the December calendar. Outline the calendar grid with markers, if desired.
3. Inside of the boxes, write different "prizes," such as staying up an extra hour. You can repeat ideas if you cannot come up with one for every day of December.
4. Cut out construction paper squares the same size as the calendar date boxes. Place a bead of glue at the top of the squares and attach them over the calendar grid so that you cover up the "prizes" but can flip up the construction paper to reveal the prizes when necessary.
5. Mark the calendar dates on each piece of glued-down construction paper.
6. Use the rest of the craft supplies to decorate the posterboard so that it is holiday-inspired.
7. Explain to your child that if he or she behaves well on a particular day, the prize beneath that day can be revealed. Then the following day that prize can be redeemed. As the parent you can use your discretion when determining which behaviours warrant a prize. This way you won't have to have all 31 days' worth redeemed.

The calendar will help encourage children to act responsibly and behave during a stressful month when it can be easy to misbehave. It will also serve as a countdown calendar for Christmas and the new year. Vary the rules according to your household. If the calendar works well for December, consider making one a few times a year.

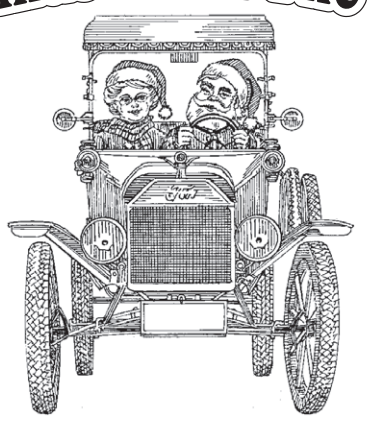
With Thanks for Your Business at the Holidays

We're rounding up our best wishes to thank you for being such good neighbors and friends to us. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

QUINTAN PRODUCTS INC.
P.O. Box 690, Winchester
613-774-3320



Christmas Is On The Way!



And so are good wishes from all of us to all of you.

Happy Holidays and many thanks!

A&T Service
Vernon
613-821-1946



Catch The Spirit

Christmas is about so much more than Santa and gifts. It's an opportunity to renew our faith and to tell all the special people we know just how very much we value their friendship and support.

Merry Christmas and thanks!

Dundas Manor Ltd.
P.O. Box 970, Winchester
613-774-2293 • 613-774-2294

Merry Christmas

We extend a heartfelt thanks to our customers, past and present. It's a pleasure serving you. We hope you and your family enjoy a wonderful Christmas and health and happiness in the New Year.
– From Management & Staff

Sales & Service Holiday Hours:
Closed Dec. 24, 26 & 27; Open Dec. 28, 29 & 30;
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Note: Winter sales hours 9 am-6 pm daily,
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With best wishes and gratitude at this special time of year

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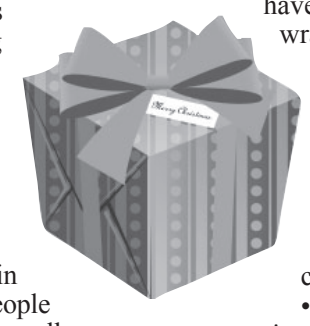
Dave: Cell. 613-295-5683

Gift-wrapping tricks and tips

The holidays are here and that means shoppers have started to stockpile gifts for those they love. Once the shopping rush is over, the time to wrap all of those great finds and treasures has come.

Although some people are gift-wrap gurus, there are many others who feel that their wrapping skills are lacking. Regardless, anyone can create delightful wrapped gifts with a little know-how.



Prepare

The first step to wrapping is to have all of the supplies in one place. There are some people who have actually dedicated small rooms as gift-wrap stations. While you don't have to go this far, find a large table and keep your tape, tags, paper, ribbon, scissors, pen, and other accessories nearby.

Also, sort out the gifts according to recipient and have any gift receipts handy to wrap up with the gift.

Wrap at a time when there are no distractions and you can devote your attention to the task at hand, like after children have gone to bed or during the day when no one is home.

Paper or bags?

When purchasing wrapping paper, it may be tempting to skimp on the quality of the paper to save money. However, a thicker, higher quality paper will make wrapping go more smoothly. That's because it will be less likely to tear on boxes or when you're rolling out and cutting it.

Thicker paper means you'll also be able to achieve more intricate folds and better creasing around boxes. It also may be more forgivable around oddly shaped items.

Gift bags are the go-to wrapping medium when you're short on time or have items that are not easily wrapped with paper. Because they come in a variety of sizes – and even giant plastic bags to contain large gifts – they are often more convenient.

Other tips

There are different tips that can help with wrapping.

• Buy neutral-patterned wrapping paper that co-ordinates with other papers. This way if you run out of one type of paper you can stagger other pieces and make a collage of papers so there's no waste.

• Use ribbon to dress up a gift and direct the eye away from any imperfections.

• Keep a stack of paper scraps and use it instead of tissue paper to fill in gift bags.

• Keep scissors sharp for clean cuts.

• Pack smaller items or oddly shaped things into a different container that is easier to wrap.

• Place small items in a paper towel tube, wrap, and tie ends with curling ribbon.

Practice often makes perfect when it comes to wrapping gifts. Having the right paper, a few decorative supplies, and some patience can ensure that gifts look festive this year.

Devouring fruitcake facts

The holidays and fruitcake have long been intertwined. Fruitcakes are often mocked, detested, and discarded. Few gifted foods create such strong derision. However, fruitcake is tradition. And as most people know, Christmas is all about tradition.



Fruitcake is an enduring tradition, most simply because the food, well, endures. Most fruitcakes will last eight to 12 months if wrapped tightly in plastic wrap and stored in an airtight container. If frozen, their lifespan could be endless. Jokingly, many families have said fruitcake is the only food durable enough to become an heirloom.

While mocked, it may entice a few people to know just how fruitcake has become a holiday treat.

The oldest references to fruitcake date back to Roman times. Ancient crusaders and hunters consumed fruitcake made with preserved fruits, pomegranate seeds, pine nuts, raisins, and honey. Fruitcake was a durable commodity that could persevere on long trips. Because of its combination of ingredients, fruitcake was also a good source of energy, much the way a trail mix is good for today's hikers.

In the 1700s, Europeans baked a ceremonial fruitcake at the end of the nut harvest. It was saved and eaten the following year at the harvest, with the hopes it would spur another successful harvest. Fruitcake evolved to more of a delicacy in the 1800s, even being served with tea in high society. It is rumoured that Queen Victoria waited a year to eat a gifted fruitcake as a show of restraint and moderation.

Fruitcake can be an integral part of a holiday celebration, and not because it's being used to block drafts from under a door.

Instead of giving fruitcakes as gifts, they should be served as part of the holiday feast. In addition to the sugar cookies and pies on the Christmas table, celebrants can serve slices of fruitcake featuring their favorite ingredients.



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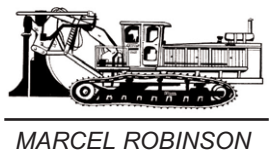

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May you find inspiration in the miracle of Christmas, and may peace and joy reside with you throughout this holy season and beyond.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
– Isaiah 9:6-7

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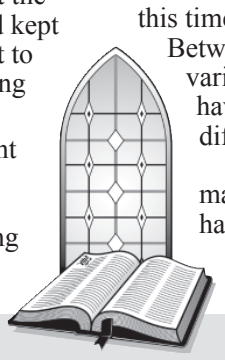

SHEPHERD TALK

by Rev. Jon Martin

For many years, Christmas has been special to me. As a young child this would be the time where I'd be lying in bed trying to sleep, but the thought of presents and great food kept me way too excited to actually get to sleep. This always made the waiting so much longer.

As I got older, this was the night when I would come home from the late service with my mother, filled with the sounds of choir-sung Christmas carols as they echoed inside of me. I would look out the living room window, the reflection of the Christmas tree lights just off to the side of my vision. I would then open the window, and for a moment the world would stop.

I could smell the snow and the crispness in the air, the streetlight casting its faint glow on the glimmering white powder that lined the streets, and, for a moment, everything was perfect. For that brief moment, the world seemed good and full of hope and potential.

I didn't yet know what the new year would bring, but at that moment, I knew that whatever it was – good or bad – or whatever I had come through that year, there was still hope in the world.

There was just something different about this moment, and it turns out that throughout history, others have noticed this as well.

Even before the dawn of Christianity, this time of year was seen as special. Between the Jewish tradition, and the various forms of Pagan religions, all have noticed that this time of year is different.

The most striking thing is that no matter how different the traditions have been, the themes are almost identical – light shining in the darkness, and darkness not being able to overcome the light.

This leads me to believe that there is much more to this time of year than any of our human-made traditions. I believe that this night is one of the "thin places" – that place where for just an instant, Heaven and Earth meet together. If we stop and pay attention, we can experience the mystery of God, and the hope that comes with it.

For Christians, this is exactly what Christmas is supposed to be about. Hope born into the world, a recognition that no matter how dark things may seem around us, still a light shines, and it's a light that no amount of darkness can overcome.

It's a time when we remember that God does not choose to be an absentee landlord that lives "somewhere out there," but rather chooses to be here, with us, in all of our brokenness, our hardships, and with us in all of our hope and rejoicing. It also means that we remember that the power to change the world lives within us, and we can make a difference.

❄

'While I can understand fully that some years it's hard to find that hope, this year I ask you to look for it.'

❄

It's a fantastic message. One that can fill us with hope, joy, excitement, and it may even be a message that one may or may not have tattooed across their back – I'm just saying.

For me, it is that important, as many of you well know, my faith is deeply rooted in themes of social justice, but this one line "light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it," this one line is the cornerstone for all I believe.

That all of us may have hope – hope that our brokenness can be put back together. Or that we can love, and be loved unconditionally; that we can lay down any burdens and baggage that we carry; that we may know justice and equity; and that all persons may be treated with dignity. It is this that will always be my hope for this world.

While I can understand fully that some years it's hard to find that hope, this year I ask you to look for it, to take a moment to be still – tonight may be the perfect time. Be still and take a moment to simply be in that thin place, where all that is, and all that will be, come together, and when we get a glimpse of God's kingdom and take hope.

Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. For me, it's such a beautiful idea. Hope, the kingdom of God in its fullness, I feel like saying too much about it would do an injustice to all that it means.

So it is my hope this Christmas that you may find your way to that thin place, with the music of Heaven in your ears, your heart warmed with hope, your pains lessened with light, and may the Christ child be born into your life in such a way that darkness will never overcome his light.

Merry Christmas.

❄

Rev. Jon Martin is leader of St. Matthias Anglican Church in Winchester.

Festive Tidings At Christmas



Here's hoping your holiday contains all the trimmings that make Christmas such a special time of year.

With thanks from all of us to all of you.

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Toys through history that caused a 'feeding' frenzy

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the store; Parents seek the hottest toy, while sales clerks shout, "No more!"

Few holiday seasons have come and gone without a must-have toy causing pandemonium among shoppers. In the months leading up to Christmas, one toy always seems to grab kids' attention and become a must-have item. These could be quirky digital-voiced animals or video game consoles.

Naturally, children put these gifts on their letters to Santa or wish lists. But as the days wind down to Christmas, manufacturers often cannot meet the demand for the season's most popular item. It's then left to parents to find the toys and gadgets by whatever means necessary.

Certain toys throughout history have caused a frenzy that results in desperate parents scouring wiped-out toy stores or making black-market deals to land themselves a hot toy. Here is a list of them, courtesy of MSNBC.

• Shirley Temple Doll (1934): Shirley Temple was the inspiration behind the first recorded toy to cause a shopping frenzy. The demand for the doll elevated after the actress' breakout film, *Bright Eyes* was released three days before Christmas.

• G.I. Joe (1964): Hasbro came up with the male action figure after watching Barbie dolls become such a popular toy for tots. The action figures were an instant hit, garnering over $16 million in 1964 alone.

• *Star Wars* Action Figures (1977): No one expected George Lucas' franchise to become such a smash hit. The merchandising company associated with the project didn't have time to make associated toys beyond a few board games and coloring books once *Star Wars* fever took hold. Therefore, "Early Bird Certificate" vouchers were sold and the action figures were shipped out a few months later. These action figures can still thrill, with eBay auctions bringing in $1,200 and up for figures that once retailed for just a few dollars.

• Cabbage Patch Kids (1983): What little girl in the mid-1980s didn't want a chubby-faced Cabbage Patch Kid to adopt as her very own? The demand for this fad doll became so heated that adults fought over them and price gouging ensued.

• Teddy Ruxpin (1985): If kids weren't seeking a Cabbage Patch doll, they may have been hoping to find a Teddy Ruxpin doll under their tree. Teddy Ruxpin was an animatronic bear who interacted with the child and told stories. It was based on the animated figures kids would see at theme parks or at their local play areas. Shortages around the holidays played into frenzied behavior. The doll was expensive for its day, coming in at around $68.

• Tickle Me Elmo (1996): *Sesame Street* fans fell right into the hype offered by Tyco Toys and Children's Television Workshop. Stampedes occurred in toy stores, people were injured and reports of extreme price gouging ensued, all in an effort for people to get their hands on the giggling, red furball.

• Furby (1998): This creature reminiscent of the popular 1980s film *Gremlins* came out of the box speaking its own language and slowly learned English over time. The animated pet/friend became the must-have toy of the year, but production numbers were scant in comparison to demand.

• Nintendo Wii (2006): Video game aficionados were wowed by the motion-sensing game controllers of this new system. This helped push the Wii to the top spot for video game consoles for that year and created a demand that led to limits on units purchased, diminished inventory, and even vouchers or wrist bands being offered by stores to get your hands on the Wii.

Seasonal song becomes holiday favorite

The song "Winter Wonderland" has become a staple of holiday radio. Much like "Jingle Bells," "Winter Wonderland" was not intentionally written to become a Christmas carol, but evolved into one over time.



The song was published in 1934 by composer Felix Bernard and lyricist Richard B. Smith. Smith resided in the town of Honesdale, Pennsylvania, and was inspired to write the lyrics of the song after seeing Honesdale Central Park and his own childhood home blanketed in snow. Smith actually wrote the lyrics while being treated in the West Mountain Sanitarium in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for tuberculosis.

Many singers have performed the song throughout the years, so much so that it is often a standard song on artists' holiday compilations. Some of the better-known and earlier versions were made by The Andrews Sisters and Perry Como.

"Winter Wonderland" has evolved into one of those songs that inspires visions of snowy splendor. Original lyrics feature a portion of the song mentioning young lovers being married spontaneously by a traveling "parson," a Protestant minister. Some thought those lyrics sent the wrong message to children, and another version was written with a circus clown, instead. The song has been sung with either bridge in place and even both in lengthier versions of the tune.

Merry Christmas

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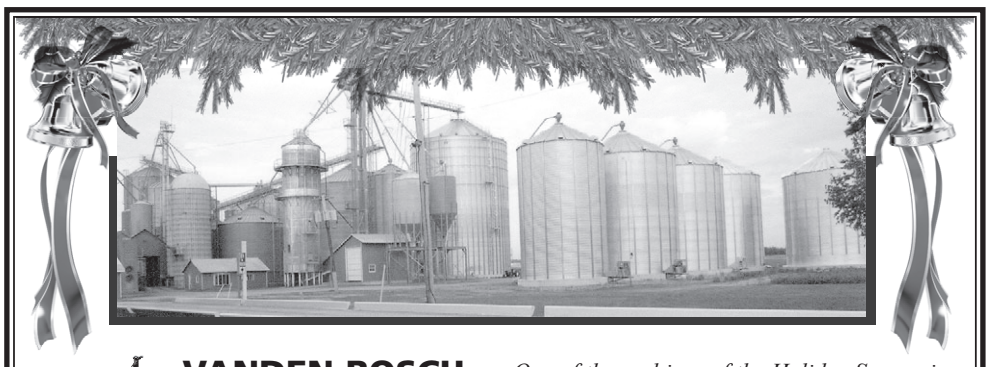

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Staple of holiday decor has a deep history

Chances are, holiday revelers will find themselves underneath the mistletoe at least once this holiday season. While they might know what to do when that time comes, they might not know the history of that plant above their heads.

Especially sacred to Celtic Druids, mistletoe was believed to bestow life and fertility, while also protecting against poison and serving as an aphrodisiac.



Mistletoe would later take on a more political meaning, as the ritual of cutting the mistletoe came to symbolize the emasculation of the old King by his successor.

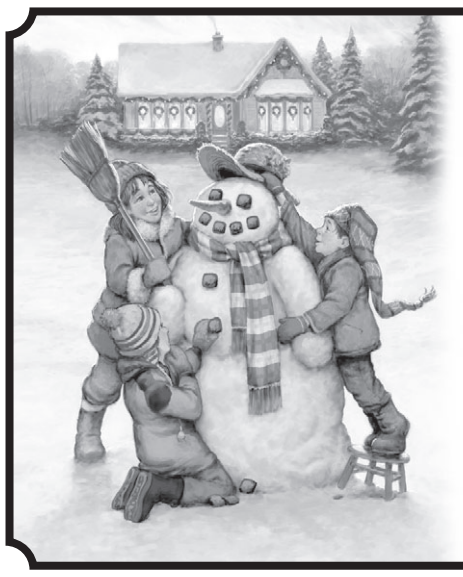
Nowadays, mistletoe is typically hung in doorways or entryways from one room to another. This tradition can also trace itself back several centuries to the Middle Ages. During the Middle Ages, branches of mistletoe were hung from ceilings to ward off evil spirits.

Throughout Europe, mistletoe was placed over doorways in the house as well as the stables as a means to preventing the entrance of witches.

The tradition of kissing underneath the mistletoe likely stems from the belief that mistletoe bestows fertility and is often associated with the Roman festival of Saturnalia, a period of merrymaking that pre-dated Christmas.

In 18th century England, a young lady standing underneath the mistletoe could not refuse to be kissed. Once kissed, the kiss would signify deep romance or eternal friendship.

History also suggests that mistletoe was a symbol of peace. In Scandinavia, mistletoe was considered a plant of peace. When standing underneath the mistletoe, enemies could declare a truce and spouses could end any marital turmoil with a kiss.



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– Norman Vincent Peale

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Sugar & Spice



Lynnette Klein Boonschate (left) with her mother, Susan.

The 2011 gingerbread house-making event, hosted by the Friends of the South Mountain Library, was a delicious success again this year.

A total of 37 house kits at $20 each were sold, organizers reported, which results in about $740 in proceeds. An additional $180 was generated by the silent auction during the Sun., Nov. 27 event.

Plus sponsorships from Mountain Moulding and Solstar Construction – and a deal on edible decorations from the Bulk Barn in Ottawa – the library's set to get quite a few upgrades.

Thanks to ongoing fundraising efforts, there's an audio-visual system to be installed in the facility, which includes an overhead projector and Blue Ray Player for DVDs.

The library is also installing a community notice board.



Above: *Graham Matte*



Press Photos – Smith-Millar



Anika Matte.



Braedan Coleman, who put the final dusting on his creation before taking it home (as volunteer Sandra Pym supervised).



Pint-sized workshop participant Amelia Milne-Servage with her mother, Nancy Milne.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



May the magic of Christmas unfold within your heart and home, bringing special joys and memories. As this season of love and cheer arrives, we extend warm wishes for a truly happy holiday to all.

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South Dundas meets Santa

The Sat., Dec. 3 Morrisburg Santa Claus Parade was a hit again this year. Residents lined the streets to watch the annual procession. Pictured are Brooklyn (left) and Dakota Hitsman of 1st Williamsburg Guiding, getting a hug from one of the parade mascots. Press Photo – Smith-Millar

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Dreaming of a white Christmas? Many people look forward to new-fallen snow to add to the picture of the holiday season. How many, though, give thought to how snow actually forms?

Snowflakes are ice crystals that form in the clouds. Water vapor freezes and clings to the dust particles in the air. As the crystals group together, they form snowflakes.

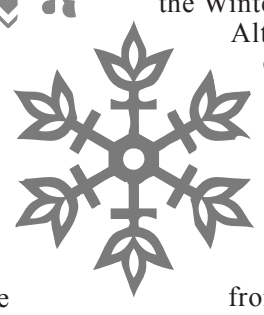
Snowflakes are hexagonal crystals, meaning they always have six sides. Snowflakes can grow in different forms, including columns, needles, plates, dendrites, columns with plates, and irregular shapes. Complex shapes emerge as the flake moves through differing temperatures and humidity levels.

When snowflakes melt and refreeze they may come down from the sky in the form of a ball instead of a flake. These are known as graupel.

Snowflakes are unique in that no two are the same. Because they are ice crystals, they are also clear in colour. However, when gathered on the surface of roadways or other items, they collectively reflect the light and give off that white hue.



A snowflake is often the universal symbol for winter or wintertime conditions. In Russia, people have long made paper snowflakes during the Christmas season and hung them in the windows. A snowflake also was the symbol of the Winter Olympics in 2002.



Although snowflakes are cold, snow can actually act as an insulator. The intricate shapes of snowflakes trap air in between the flakes as they pile up. These tiny pockets of air prevent air from circulating, thus preventing heat from being transferred by convection.



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Many thanks for your support this year.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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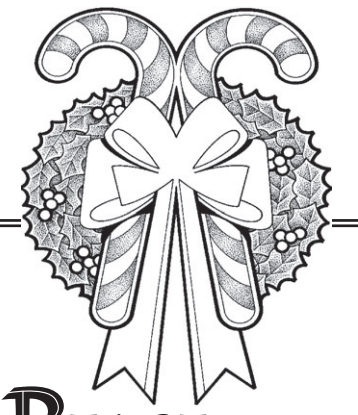

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Merry Christmas

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Please accept our sincere thanks and best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season.

We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

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Playhouse's *Dear Santa* fun for all ages

MORRISBURG

Looking for a laugh this holiday season?

Well, Upper Canada Playhouse artistic director Donnie Bowes said you will get exactly what you're after from the theatre's latest production, *Dear Santa.*

The play, written by Norm Foster, features a cavalcade of characters scurrying about the North Pole in preparation for the once-a-year Christmas Eve expedition.

"A fun aspect of the show is getting a 'behind the scenes' look at the hustle and bustle with Santa and his staff working round the clock as that magic time approaches," Bowes said in a press release.

However, things are even more hectic this year as trouble brews, and everything seems to go wrong, leaving Santa to deal with a ton of problems before he sets out on his journey.

Firstly, there's a glue shortage, then the elves start complaining, while a pushy travelling salesman arrives on the scene, attempting to sell a rocket-powered sleigh. To top it off, Santa's housekeeper is distracted, his chief-of-staff is losing control, the foreman is confused, the choir can't sing, a stowaway teen is discovered hiding in a North Pole Express boxcar, and a child has put in a special request that the big guy is desperately trying to fulfill.

Heading up the cast is Doug Tangney, who stars as Santa Claus, while remaining cast members include Richard Bauer, Jamie Williams, Susan Greenfield, Liz Gilroy, Timm Hughes, and Travis Seetoo. Meredith Zwicker is also part of this varied ensemble, and she doubles as the musical director.

> Only three dates remaining in holiday run

"As in past years, the show will also feature an extended musical scene filled with Christmas songs, and dances to put everyone in the holiday spirit," Bowes said.

Dear Santa started its run on Thurs., Nov. 24, and continues with showings on Fri., Dec. 16 and Sat., Dec. 17 at 8 pm, plus a final matinee performance on Sun., Dec. 18 at 2 pm.

For tickets or more information, contact the box office at 613-543-3713 or visit www.uppercanadaplayhouse.com.



Dear Santa *is this year's holiday production at the Upper Canada Playhouse. Final performances will take place Fri., Dec. 16 and Sat., Dec. 17 at 8 pm, with a matinee performance scheduled for Sun., Dec. 18 at 2 pm. Pictured above, Travis Seetoo flying high in Santa's workshop.*



Liz Gilroy (left), Seetoo, Meredith Zwicker, Doug Tangney, and Richard Bauer preparing for Santa's departure.



Timm Hughes (left) and Tangney discussing the purchase of a rocket-powered sleigh.

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Thinking of skipping out on Christmas? Go for it!



Confessions of a Country Convert

by Adele Eyman

Do you enjoy creating a traditional Christmas holiday for your family and friends? Do you look forward to preparing certain kinds of food, decorating your home, putting up a Christmas tree, wrapping gifts, and gathering everyone together for Christmas dinner?

If so, you had better skip this article because you fit into the cultural mainstream for how to have Christmas. Even if you don't follow all of "the rules," you probably know what they are, and our commercial culture makes sure everyone is on track in the countdown to Christmas.

But, if making a customary, family-oriented Christmas no longer works for you, then read on. For some folks, the thought of decking the halls, singing carols, or roasting a turkey brings grief, not joy. Some folks quietly slide into a depression at the very thought of having to spend another holiday with their families, host or attend another holiday meal, Christmas pageant, gift exchange, carol sing, or cookie bake-off. But, when you try to deviate from the predominant social customs of your community, you'll see how strongly rooted these are for many people.

That's why the holiday movie, *Christmas with the Kranks*, is such fun: It skewers our overdone rules and expectations for the holidays by showing the social pressures on a couple who decide to skip Christmas altogether in favour of going on a cruise.

Some people might be horrified by the thought of skipping Christmas; others would argue that remembering the true meaning of Christmas is all that really matters. I agree, but I also began to think: Has celebrating the true meaning of Christmas become a one-size-fits-all straight jacket of permitted activities, both secular and religious? Do these culturally specified holiday "dos and don'ts" make sense to the individuals and families with unique needs and circumstances?

I'm thinking about individuals and families dealing with illness, or someone who is dying over the holidays. What's a good way for them to have Christmas? Perhaps a family has lost a loved one, and now must have their first Christmas without him or her. Maybe a person is separated from loved ones over the holidays, and the emphasis on family connections at Christmastime just makes him feel lonelier. If Christmas is all about the children, as many good-hearted people say, then how do infertile couples get through the holidays? Or, the singles, the divorced, those struggling with mental and emotional illness, the homeless, and those living in poverty? The truth is, there isn't a right or a wrong way to celebrate Christmas – it is as individual as each person, couple, and family.

With this in mind, I looked at the various ways that people can skip Christmas in the traditional sense, and find satisfying ways to celebrate the true meaning of the season, as it applies to themselves, their family, and their unique life circumstances. Here are some ideas for planning your alternative Christmas:

• First, tell yourself that it's perfectly alright to skip Christmas altogether, if that's what you want to do. The easiest way would be to **take a trip** over the holidays. Go to a Christmas-free country like China or Egypt, where people don't celebrate this particular holiday. Or, travel somewhere sunny and warm. Popular Christmas vacation destinations include Florida, Mexico, and the Caribbean, as well as New Zealand and Australia (because their seasons are opposite to ours). You may still encounter things that say "Christmas," but at least you'll be in a setting that says "Ole!" A third option is to take a cruise. Many cruise lines offer a Christmas vacation package, and some even provide all the festive holiday trimmings. You wouldn't necessarily be skipping Christmas, but you would be exploring new and exciting places, in grand style.

❄

'The truth is, there isn't a right or a wrong way to celebrate Christmas – it is as individual as each person, couple, and family.'

❄

• If you prefer a winter holiday, or a vacation closer to home (and less expensive), **consider booking a Christmas getaway.** Many resorts, lodges, hotels, and B&Bs offer specials for the Christmas week, which include lodgings, meals, and group activities with a holiday theme. Or, plan your own holiday package around an outdoor activity like skiing or snowboarding. Find nearby accommodations and dining to suit your plans and budget. Many city hotels run special rates during the Christmas week, allowing visitors to explore a museum, art gallery, or theatre nearby.

• If travelling over the holidays isn't possible, then there are ways to **skip Christmas at home.** Follow the Jewish New Yorker tradition: take in a movie, and then go out for Chinese food on Christmas Day. The number of people with the same idea may surprise you. Or, instead of a movie, take in a play, concert, or other live theatre event. Many families enjoy the matinee performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet on Christmas Day.

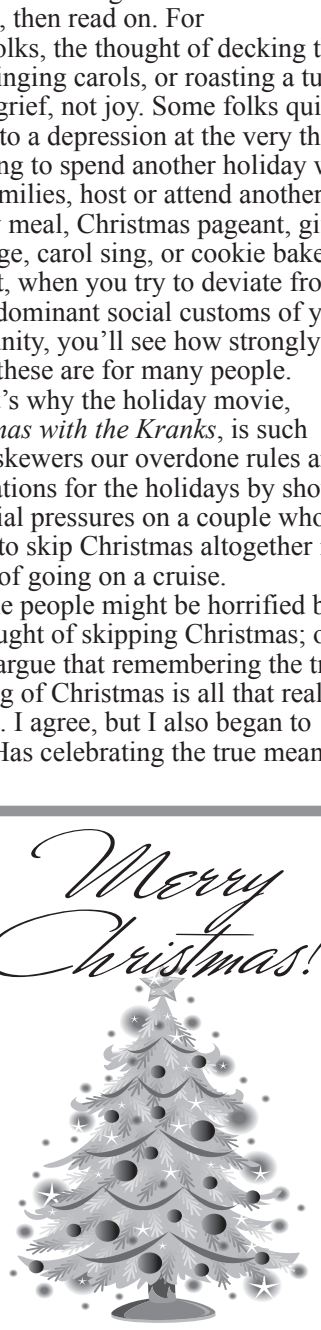
• Alone over Christmas? How about **offering to work a shift** on Christmas Day? Employees with children will be grateful to have that time off, and you won't notice being alone as much. Call your local hospital or seniors' residence and ask about visiting on Christmas Day. Who would most appreciate your company for an afternoon? You can still make the day special for yourself and another person with the gift of your time and companionship.

• Alone and too broke to do anything on Christmas? **Take a walk** and admire all the Christmas lights. Ask if you can walk the dog for a friend. See if you can identify all the constellations of stars at night. Tap dance in your kitchen. Do whatever makes the day feel special for you.

Since I started writing this piece, my mother phoned to tell me their Christmas plans. My parents are going on a cruise over the Christmas holidays. My own parents are skipping Christmas this year! And, why shouldn't they? They gave us warm, wonderful, and memorable Christmases for nearly 50 years. Now they want something different, and I'm glad they are able to do what matters for them. If you are thinking along the same lines – that this year, you want and need something different for yourself – then I say, "Go for it!" And have fun skipping Christmas.

❄

Adele Eyman is a South Mountain resident and volunteer opinion writer for the Winchester Press. *Her column, Confessions of a Country Convert, examines the quaint, quirky, and sometimes contradictory realities of the rural lifestyle.*



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Put some 'green' into your holiday plans

With the holiday season in full swing, many people's thoughts turn to charitable giving and other altruistic efforts. Amid giving a helping hand to those who need it and donating to worthy charities, individuals can think about giving back to the planet as well.

Many people equate the holiday season with trying to do more or give more. While these efforts are well-intentioned, the "bigger is better" mantra often turns into a season of excess. From thousands of twinkling lights adorning homes to pounds of wrapping paper used on gifts, the toll the holiday season takes on the environment is substantial.

Millions of tons of waste is generated during the holidays – part of this amount is wrapping paper and shopping bags. Incandescent twinkle bulbs consume considerable power, especially when every house in the neighborhood is lit up. Extra food is often purchased to make holiday meals lavish, and plastic or disposable dishes and utensils are commonly chosen for convenience. All of this adds up to considerable excess.

There are several ways to reduce the impact the holidays have on the environment. Making smart choices and being conscious of when you could be adopting the "bigger is better" philosophy could help.

• Switch holiday lights to LED ones. LEDs use 80 to 90 per cent less energy than incandescent bulbs. Plus they are supposed to last longer before burnout. Although their initial cost is higher than standard bulbs, energy savings and longer lifespan mitigate these initial costs.

• Place lights on a timer so that the light display turns off overnight. If you don't have a timer, simply turn the lights off when going to bed.

• Buy items with less packaging to reduce waste. If you plan to purchase the same items as other friends and family (i.e. adhesive tape or tissue paper), think about buying one bulk package and splitting the contents.

• Reduce reliance on wrapping paper. Many people now forgo wrapping paper for gift bags because they are easily portable and can be used over and over. If you select wrapping paper, choose types that can be recycled and papers that are already made of recycled materials. You can also use unique materials for wrapping items, such as cloth with ribbon.

• Trim the tree with handmade items. Stringing popcorn and berries to make a homemade garland is a much greener option than plastic tinsel. Use pine cones collected at the end of autumn and decorate with acrylic paints and hang with ribbon. To add to a Christmas decoration collection, shop at thrift stores or tag sales to find gently used decorations that are new to you.

• For those who want a real Christmas tree this year, buy one with the root ball intact. Then plant the pine tree in the yard after the holidays are over.

• Choose locally grown or organic food for holiday feasts. These foods might be more fresh, and you will know they were raised in a way that doesn't compromise the environment.

• Limit gifts that require batteries. Batteries routinely end up in landfills and damage the environment when they are carelessly discarded. Select toys and gadgets that use rechargeable batteries or ones that can be easily recycled later on.

• Reduce reliance on disposable entertaining items. Skip the plastic cups and paper napkins. While it may take a little extra effort to clean up, using china dishes and stainless flatware reduces waste that ends up in the garbage. Plus, all of those plastic and paper products that will end up in the trash require energy and resources to make.

This holiday season, when the spirit of giving reigns supreme, don't forget to give back to the planet as well.



Using recycled wrapping paper and turning to LED lights on the tree are green ideas for the season.

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Are hosts responsible for their departing drunken guests?

An op-ed submission by Winchester lawyer Leslie Ault

At the end of a New Year's get-together (BYOB) at your residence, an intoxicated guest drives himself home.

A few hours later, you are informed that your guest – who apparently consumed 12 beers over a two-and-a-half-hour period – drove into oncoming traffic, killed one person, and injured three others.

An 18-year-old woman, Zoe Childs, is now a paraplegic.

Are you, as the social host, liable to pay damages to Zoe Childs?

The recently deceased Barry Laushway – who was both a lawyer from Prescott and a friend of mine – represented Childs in court following the 1999 crash. After losing at two lower-level courts, Laushway took the case to the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) in 2006.

At the time of the Childs tragedy, a host's responsibility for guests leaving a party remained unchartered legal territory. Some people were starting to suggest that, perhaps, a new law should be introduced that imposed a duty of care – and therefore a liability – on the host. That's why the outcome of the Childs case was of enormous interest to Canadian home insurance companies, homeowners, hosts, and victims. If the court imposed on the host a duty of care to a potential victim – requiring that hosts ensure their guests are not impaired while leaving the party scene – the victim could obtain a judgment against the host.

In a nutshell, the SCC did *not* find the host responsible for the driver who put himself in an inebriated state at that fateful Bring Your Own Booze (BYOB) party in 1999.

Therefore, social hosts of such parties (as opposed to commercial hosts) appear to be able to continue to permit their guests to drive away in a drunken condition – without taking reasonable steps to prevent them from leaving.

❄

'Drunk driving has evolved from something done by a few on occasion to an evil that is never acceptable.'

❄

In spite of the above, no one should use the court's decision this holiday season (or at any other time) as an excuse to disregard the condition of guests leaving our homes – particularly when we, as hosts, supply the alcohol. The SCC noted the party in Zoe Child's case was BYOB. A host nonetheless could be found liable if his or her conduct results in, or increases the risk of, the damage. (Two examples I can think of: The host serves doubles when singles are requested, or the host urges a guest to drink more.)

Drunk driving has evolved from something done by a few on occasion to an evil that is never acceptable.

If Canadians no longer think the present law is a good law – and the right case comes along – the SCC may be persuaded to revisit the issue of a host's liability.

None of us would want to be the defendant host if, and when, that happens.

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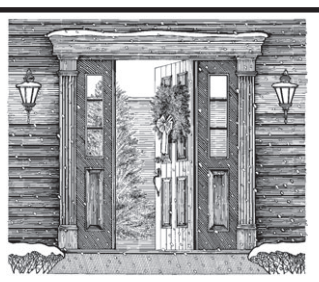
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Christmas traditions around the globe

Families across the globe cherish their Christmas traditions. Customs may be unique to every family, but many countries boast their own unique traditions as well.

• Australia: Many Australians celebrate Christmas by coming together at night to sing carols outside. That's not as chilly as it might sound, as Christmas in Australia actually falls during summer vacation. In fact, many of the country's most popular Christmas traditions occur outside.

• England: Contrary to Australia, England's weather around Christmastime is much colder. Many of England's traditions resemble those popular in North America, including hanging stockings over the fireplace and gathering around the Christmas tree. Kids in England write a letter to Father Christmas, but unlike mailing those letters like many North American children do, English children toss their letters into a fire so their Christmas wishes can go up the chimney.

• France: Christmas celebrations in France begin several weeks before December 25, but Christmas Eve is special to many natives of France. On Christmas Eve, church bells ring as people sing noels, or carols. The next day, a feast is enjoyed upon returning home from church.

• Germany: In Germany, the weather is cold during the Christmas season, and in the weeks leading up to Christmas families bake sweet bread, cakes with candied fruits, and spicy cookies. Advent wreaths are popular in Germany and are purchased four Sundays before Christmas begins. The wreaths have places for four candles, and families light a candle on the wreath each Sunday.

• Mexico: Families in Mexico celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes with lilies or evergreens. Because the weather is warm, many families also cut designs into brown paper bags before inserting a candle and then setting the designs, called farolitos, along the sidewalk, on windowsills, and along outdoor walls. Many communities in the southwestern United States have adopted this tradition, which they often refer to as luminaria.

• Sweden: Christmas celebrations in Sweden begin on December 13 – St. Lucia's Day. Celebrations for St. Lucia, the patron saint of light, are intricate and involve the whole family. A couple of days before Christmas is when many families select their Christmas tree.



Reindeer trivia

• Reindeer are also known as Caribou in North America.

• Females generally weigh between 170 to 260 lbs., while males are often much larger, weighing as little as 200 lbs. but as much as 460 lbs.

• Reindeer reside in both the Arctic and Subarctic, and hunting of wild reindeer and herding of semi-domesticated reindeer is important to several Arctic and Subarctic people.

• Reindeer fur can vary considerably. In northern populations, reindeer tend to have white fur, while southern populations are darker in color.

• Reindeer size can also vary depending on location, as southern reindeer populations tend to be larger than their northern counterparts.

• In most reindeer populations, both males and females grow antlers. Among deer, reindeer have the largest antlers in relation to body size.

• Males often battle with each other by locking antlers for the right to mate with certain females.

• During migration, some reindeer reach speeds of 37-50 miles per hour.

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Origins of a holiday favourite

The thick, spiced drink we know as eggnog has become synonymous with the holidays. It is so linked with the Christmas season that a person may be hard-pressed to find it sold in the supermarket any other time of the year. But eggnog wasn't always the holiday beverage it has become.

Eggnog is believed to have originated in 17th century Europe, primarily as a drink for the elite, since the ingredients in the beverage were hard to come by and thusly relegated to the very rich.

There are different theories on the origins of the word eggnog itself. Some believe it has gotten its name from the Old English word "nog," which meant "strong beer." The "egg" refers to one of the ingredients in the beverage, fresh eggs. Others surmise that it comes from the word "noggin," which was a vessel for serving drinks in taverns. The drink was called "egg in a noggin," which was shortened to "eggnog." Still, there are others who say its name is derived from the term "grog," which was another term for booze. "Egg n' grog" was eventually abbreviated to "eggnog."

Although there is little certainty to the origins of the name, the recipe for eggnog has essentially remained unchanged throughout the centuries. It consists of beaten eggs, cream or milk and sugar mixed with some sort of alcoholic spirit. The Old English were believed to mix it with wine, though once the drink was brought to the New World, colonists substituted rum for the wine. Rum was readily available through tradesman running between the Americas and the Caribbean and therefore less expensive than another spirit. Eventually rum was replaced with regional spirits, including bourbon or grain alcohol. Other ingredients were also added to give it a customized flavor. However, the use of nutmeg, cinnamon, and cloves has become traditional flavors for the holiday brew.

Although eggnog is widely enjoyed throughout the holiday season, in the past it was served at special events.

Love it or hate it, eggnog is a drink that can evoke strong feelings of the holidays. Try your own homemade eggnog with this recipe, courtesy of Cooks.com.

Holiday Eggnog

1 dozen eggs
1 pound powdered sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup vanilla
8 cups evaporated milk
3 cups water
1 quart spiced rum
Nutmeg, to garnish

Beat eggs until light in color, gradually add sugar, salt and vanilla. Then add milk and water. Stir in rum (brandy, bourbon or rye may also be used). Cover the nog and ripen for 24 hours in the refrigerator. Stir again and serve sprinkled with nutmeg.



Smile... It's Christmas!

Wishing you a season filled with bright moments that develop into fond memories.
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Have yourself a veggie little Christmas

What to do when your guests don't eat meat



The Lighthearted Vegetarian

by Janice Atkey Videto

Horrors! Someone has invited a vegetarian to Christmas dinner! What on Earth do you feed them? This is a situation that will be faced by many folks this year. A relative has gone vegetarian or someone decides to bring a guest who is vegetarian. You have never cooked vegetarian and have no idea what they eat or don't eat. Don't worry, it is easy! Let's start with...

❄

"While [vegetarians] might welcome an opportunity to discuss their lifestyle, they shouldn't be placed in a position of ridicule or having to defend it."

❄

The basics

There are different types of vegetarians, but there are some basic rules you can follow to make your Christmas a fault-free festive food experience for all your guests. Vegetarians do not eat traditional butter, gravy, or stuffing, as these items usually contain chicken broth or animal fat. Vegetarians do not eat meat or any food cooked with meat, or cooked in a pan that has just been used to cook meat. Note: Meat means all meat, not just red meat. I can't tell you the number of times I am offered chicken as a vegetarian option. Though well intentioned, this did not work. Meat means all animal products. If it had a mother, it is considered meat and therefore off the plate, so to speak, for a vegetarian. Please do not do what I have experienced several times – hand them something and cheerily say that it doesn't have meat in it because you removed it, i.e., soup with the chicken chunks fished out does not make it vegetarian. Some vegetarians do not eat any cheese, milk, eggs, or seafood either. If possible, it is best to ask.

The ethics of vegetarianism

Vegetarians choose this lifestyle for a variety of reasons. These can be deeply personal, they can be for ethical or moral reasons, they can be connected to their spiritual beliefs, or can be a choice they made for health reasons. Most are respectful of other choices and, while they might welcome an opportunity to discuss their lifestyle, they shouldn't be placed in a position of ridicule or having to defend it. The flip side of that is, of course, as a vegetarian guest in someone's home, preachy or judgmental remarks regarding meat consumption are not appropriate.

The myths

Vegetarians miss out on vitamins.

Bzzzt! Wrong. When done correctly, vegetarianism provides all the vitamins and minerals a person needs without special supplements. My doctor describes my blood work as "pristine" and says she wishes all her patients had such healthy "insides."

Vegetarians live on salads.

No way! No one can live on salads and vegetables alone. That is not a healthy diet. Our diet is as interesting and varied as anyone's, and, in my experience, much more so.

Vegetarians don't get enough protein.

Hogwash! Or I should say, Broccoliwash! We have a huge arsenal of protein options available to us, without the cholesterol and other additives in meat, such as beans, pulses, legumes, tofu, tempeh, seitan, edamame, just to name a few.

The plague of eggplant parmesan

Now, to the food. I don't want to suggest that you now have to cook two separate meals because a vegetarian is coming. You absolutely do not. A couple of simple adjustments or additions are all that is necessary.

Consider using or adding to your menu a packaged gravy that uses soy instead of meat. Club House makes a very tasty "turkey" gravy in an envelope that takes three minutes to make and even offers a reduced-salt version. Be sure you label the vegetarian gravy boat separately so everyone knows which is which.

Stuffing can be tricky as most boxed stuffings contain bits of meat or are made with chicken/turkey broth. Let the person know that it is not vegetarian, and they will simply skip it. Another option is to make the wonderful homemade stuffing from our recipe section that will please everyone at the table. I use generous amounts of vegetable broth and herbs to keep the flavors rich in my homemade stuffings. Note: It cannot be placed in the bird for obvious reasons.

For vegetables, the only adjustment is not to add butter before serving. Allow guests to add it (and gravy) at the table so the vegetarian can forego it if they prefer.

Now the main event. The simplest course of action is to offer a dish that everyone can eat but that provides the vegetarian guest with a protein source. Depending on your guest's food limitations, this can be as simple as a cheese platter or a shrimp ring with cocktail sauce. Many people think of eggplant parmesan when they think of a vegetarian dish. I personally dislike the dish and wonder why anyone would do something so cruel to an innocent eggplant! Okay, okay! Don't write me! I know many people love the dish and that is fine. Just be sure your guest is okay with cheese. My best advice is to think simple. From the freezer aisle, Loblaws' Blue Menu has breaded fillets of fake chicken or bbq'ed seitan "meat" that are a snap to prepare. Even simpler, grab a package of Yves Veggie Cuisine faux turkey deli slices that team beautifully with cranberry sauce. Simpler still, open a can of baked beans in tomato sauce, warm them up and place them on the table for everyone to enjoy a scoop. Not as odd as you might think! In fact, no Quebecois holiday meal would be considered complete without them!

Dating a vegetarian and want to really go all out? Drop in to a health food store and pick up a Tofurkey roast by Turtle Island Foods. These little gems are tofu roasts about the size of a small football, filled with wild rice stuffing, are simple to baste and roast and make a delicious and spectacular centerpiece for the vegetarian Christmas or holiday dinner. This is what you call "cooking to impress," and you will blow their tastebuds out of the water!

Desserts require little adjustment. Fresh fruit, your favorite pies, cookies and cakes, minus the lard and butter, are sure to please.

Most importantly, don't stress about it. The holidays are all about spending time together. You are not under any obligation to adjust your menu for your individual guests. Most vegetarians are very accustomed to working around a carnivore world. I always offer to bring a side dish that everyone can enjoy but that serves as my main protein source, like a baked squash stuffed with cranberries and walnuts. It is a festive decorative dish and an easy solution that doesn't tax the hostess with having to come up with something herself.

Happy hostess squash

Choose a large round squash and chop off the top so you can access the insides. Remove the seeds and pulp, cleaning the seeds and putting them aside for roasting later (see my previous column in the *Fall Car Care* supplement).

Carefully trim the bottom so the squash will stand up securely. Place in a pan of water about an inch deep, cover with tin foil and roast in a 400 degrees Fahrenheit oven for 45-50 minutes.

Remove and allow to cool. Carefully scoop out the cooked squash from the shell, mix well with a splash of olive oil, about ½ cup chopped walnuts and about ½ cup dried cranberries. Return the filling to the shell. Heat and serve.

Until next time...

January is Heart and Stroke Month and, with the cholesterol connection to good heart health, we will be exploring a question I am often asked: How do you bake without eggs? Until next time, enjoy a festive holiday season of tolerance and peace, filled with friends, family, and, of course, healthy food!

❄

Janice Atkey Videto is a Winchester-area resident, volunteer columnist for Winchester Press *supplements, and long-time vegan ready to pass on her experiences with the veg life to two-legged omnivores, herbivores, and carnivores alike.*

Now try it on your plate

Vegilicious recipe du jour

Easy festive stuffing

1 Tbs olive oil
1 Tbs sesame oil
1 large onion chopped
1 cup fresh mushrooms chopped
1 cup celery chopped
3/4 lb bread or cornbread cubes (or combination)
1-1/2 cup vegetable broth
½ - 1 tsp each sage, thyme, rosemary and savory (to taste)
½ tsp poultry seasoning
1 Tbs fresh parsley chopped
salt and pepper to taste

Saute onion, mushrooms and celery in oils until soft, add some broth if needed. Remove to a large oiled casserole dish and add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Bread should be moist, if not add more broth. Gently press the stuffing down into dish, cover and bake at 325 degrees Fahrenheit for an hour.

Season's Greetings

Best wishes for a happy holiday season from all of us



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Holiday RECIPES

From our kitchens to yours

Press staffers have sifted through their recipes to share some of their secrets with readers.

Here's a selection of our holiday favourites that will hopefully become your holiday favourites, too.

Maid of Honour Tarts

Submitted by Nancy Torrance, graphic designer
(Can't take the credit for this recipe - it's a really old recipe and a long-time family favourite usually only baked at Christmas at our house.)

Pastry sufficient for a double crust pie
1/4 cup raspberry jam
1/4 cup butter, softened
1/4 cup white sugar
1 egg
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp almond extract
2 tsp icing sugar for dusting

Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Lightly grease 12 two-inch tart tins.
Roll out pastry and cut 12 three-inch circles. Fit one pastry circle into each tart tin. Spread one teaspoon of raspberry jam into the bottom of each tart shell.
In a medium mixing bowl, cream together softened butter or margarine and white sugar until light and fluffy. Combine egg, flour, baking powder and almond extract, stirring well. Pour 1 tablespoon of batter into each tart shell. Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes, until risen and firm. Dust tarts with icing sugar.

Pumpkin Pastries

Submitted by Marlene Harper, administrative assistant

2 eggs, slightly beaten
1 cup sugar
1 can (398 ml) pumpkin
1/4 tsp cloves
1/2 tsp allspice
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp ginger
1 can (370 ml) evaporated milk
9 oz pie crust (enough for 2 single pie crusts)

Combine all ingredients except for pie crust pastry and bake in a large casserole dish at 425 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes, reduce heat to 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until a knife inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool on a wire rack.

Make or purchase pie crust pastry. Roll thin and cut into circles approximately 4" in diameter. Put a spoonful of the cooled pumpkin mixture towards one side of the centre of the circle. Fold over the crust into a half circle and firmly crimp the edges closed. Slice 3 small slits in the top for venting, place on a greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees only until crust is a light golden brown. Great served at room temperature.

Makes 3 dozen miniature pastries.

Whole-Wheat Antique Classic Shortbread Cookies

Based on a recipe from Lactantia

1 cup Lactantia Antique Culture Salted Butter (at room temperature) may substitute unsalted butter
½ cup fruit sugar (instant dissolving sugar)
2 ½ cups flour (fine-ground whole-wheat, or resifted whole-wheat, recommended)
1/8 tsp salt

In a large bowl, cream butter until soft. Blend in sugar and cream until fluffy. Sift and measure flour. Mix with salt and beat into butter sugar mixture until smooth. Gather and press together with hands to make dough.

Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead 4-5 minutes. Flour rolling pin and roll about 1/3 inch thick and cut into bars or shapes as desired. Using a metal spatula, carefully place on ungreased cookie sheet about 2 inches apart. Prick bars with fork 3 times.

Bake at 300 degrees Fahrenheit for about 35 to 45 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Cool completely and store in an airtight container.

Makes 2-3 dozen pieces, depending on size.

Irish Cream Liqueur

Submitted by Linda Johnston, graphic designer

1 cup light cream
1 can sweetened condensed milk (300 ml)
1 to 1 2/3 cups Irish whiskey
1 teaspoon instant coffee
2 Tbs chocolate syrup
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp almond extract

Combine all the ingredients in a blender and blend at high speed for about 20 seconds. Transfer to a clean bottle with a tightly fitting cap. Store refrigerated, and shake well before using. Will keep for 2 months if refrigerated.

Blue Cheese Ball

submitted by Janet LaPierre, production manager

1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
1/2 cup process cheese spread
1 (250 g) pkg. cream cheese
2 Tbs grated onion
1/4 cup finely chopped toasted pecans
2 Tbs finely chopped parsley
1/4 tsp MSG (optional)
dash Tabasco sauce
1/2 tsp Worchester sauce
1/4 cup finely chopped celery leaves
chopped olives
1/2 cup salted toasted pecans - to roll ball in

Let cheeses soften, mix in onions, liquid. Add rest of ingredients. Chill until starts to firm. Shape into ball. Roll in pecans. Refrigerate. Remove 1 hour before serving.

Crab Dip

submitted by Janet LaPierre, production manager

1 can crab meat
1 (250 g) pkg. cream cheese
horseradish
salt & pepper
Tabasco sauce
Ketchup to colour

Mix and heat for half an hour.



There's no place like home for the holidays, especially when there are people like you for neighbors!

Merry Christmas
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Holiday RECIPES



Cranberry White Chocolate Squares

Submitted by Matthew Uhrig, reporter

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
2 cups packed brown sugar
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup dried cranberries
6 oz coarsely chopped white chocolate, divided

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Coat or generously spray a 9 x 13 glass baking dish with oil, or grease with butter. In a small bowl, whisk flour with baking powder and salt. Place butter in a large bowl. Using a wooden spoon or an electric mixer on low, beat butter until smooth. Beat in sugar. Beat in eggs until evenly mixed, and then stir in vanilla. Gradually stir in flour mixture until just blended. Batter will be very thick. Add half the cranberries and 4 oz of the chopped white chocolate. Stir until evenly distributed. Spread out as evenly as you can in prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cranberries. Bake in centre of oven until golden and toothpick inserted into centre comes out clean or with crumbs clinging to it, 30-35 minutes. Let cool completely. In a small bowl, microwave remaining chocolate until almost melted. Stir until melted. Using the tines of a fork, drizzle chocolate over uncut squares. Let stand for a few minutes, and then cut into 12 or 24 squares. Squares will keep well stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 2 days (or, if frozen, up to 2 months). Makes 12 large squares or 24 minis.

Peanut Butter Candies

Submitted by Sharon Holmes, administrative assistant

1 cup butter
4 cups icing sugar
1 1/2 cup smooth peanut butter
1 cup or 10 whole graham crackers, crushed
1 bag chocolate chips (6 to 8 oz.)

In a large saucepan melt butter, add next three ingredients and blend together well. Press mixture into a 11x16 cookie sheet.

In a small double boiler, melt chocolate chips and spread evenly over peanut butter mixture. Chill and then cut into squares.

This recipe freezes well.

Gingerbread Cookies

by Elan Slack, advertising sales

1/4 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup molasses
1/3 cup water

3 1/4 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp ginger
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp cloves
1/2 tsp salt

Mix together butter and sugar. Add molasses and water. Mix in remaining ingredients. Roll out on lightly floured board. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters. Arrange on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 8-10 minutes. Cook thicker cookies a bit longer. Makes 2 dozen men and circles.

Glaze and Decorations: Brush tops of cookies with warm corn syrup. Apply decorations to your liking.

Rice Pudding

Submitted by Connie Hart, office manager

1 cup Minute Rice
2 cups water
3 cups milk
1/2 cup sugar
3 Tbs (heaping) cornstarch
1 tsp vanilla
3 eggs
1 cup raisins (optional)
1 tsp cinnamon (optional)
1/2 tsp nutmeg (optional)

Bring water to boil, add rice and raisins and cook until tender. In a bowl combine sugar, eggs, cornstarch and vanilla. Gradually add milk, beat until well mixed. Add to rice and cook over low heat until desired thickness. Remove from heat, add cinnamon and nutmeg.

Broccoli and Walnut Salad

Submitted by Linda Johnston, graphic designer

6 cups small raw broccoli florets
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup chopped red onion
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese (or more)
3 Tbs sugar
2 Tbs white vinegar
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1 cup low-fat mayonnaise

In a large bowl, combine broccoli, walnuts, onion and cheese. In a separate bowl, stir together sugar, vinegar, salt, pepper and mayonnaise until well blended. Pour dressing over broccoli mixture and toss to coat well. Chill for about 1 hour before serving. Seves 6.

Christmas Morning Wife Saver

Submitted by Donna Rushford, co-publisher and advertising manager

16 slices bread with crusts removed
16 slices Canadian back bacon or ham
16 slices sharp cheddar cheese
6 eggs
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1/2 - 1 tsp dry mustard
1/4 cup minced onion
1/4 cup green pepper, finely chopped
1 - 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
3 cups milk
dash Tabasco sauce
1/4 lb butter, melted
Special K or cornflakes, crushed

The night before: In a 9"x13" (4L) buttered glass baking dish, place pieces of bread on the bottom of the dish making sure it is completely covered. Cover bread with slices of bacon or ham. Lay slices of cheddar cheese on top of meat and cover with slices of bread to make like a sandwich. In a bowl, beat eggs, salt and pepper, add dry mustard, Tabasco, Worcestershire sauce, milk, onion, and green peppers. Pour this mixture over the sandwiches and let stand overnight. In morning pour melted butter over it and top with crushed cereal. Bake at 350 degree F (180 C) for one hour. Let stand at least 10 minutes before serving.



Merry Christmas

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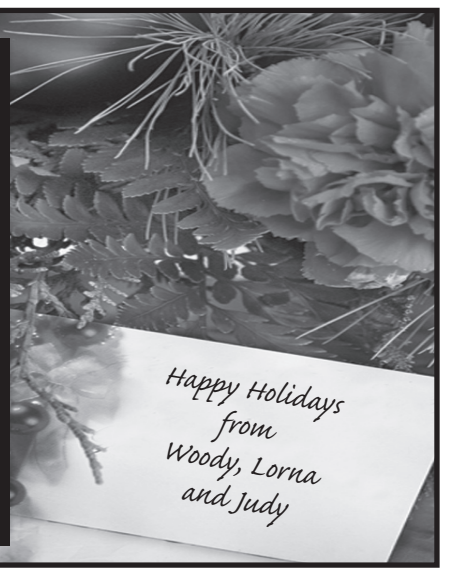



We wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Parade lights up the town





Weagant Farm Supplies (below) and Reis Equipment (above) had two of the parade's biggest entries in the 15th annual North Dundas Country Christmas Parade of Lights.

Right: *Councillors Al Armstrong (left) and John Thompson aboard the Township of North Dundas' float.*







Above: *Brian (left) and Tammy McIntosh of Inkerman's Bri-Mc Farms.*

Left: *Reindeer Station was the theme of the entry from Happy Face Nursery School.*

Photos — Uhrig

Sweet facts

Candy canes are popular holiday treats and are often used to decorate Christmas trees. That hooked shape certainly makes them whimsical and able to hang on tree boughs. But candy canes weren't always the curved and colorful treats they are today. In the 1700s, candy canes were nothing more than straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorate Christmas trees. A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral decided that having the ends bent to depict a shepherd's crook and passing them out during church services would help keep children quiet. It was not until roughly the 20th century that candy canes acquired their red stripes. Some surmise that the candy cane is shaped like a shepherd's crook to represent Jesus Christ, who tended to his flock of supporters. Others say that it's a "J" for Jesus. Regardless of their shape, hundreds of thousands of candy canes are now manufactured for the holiday season each year.





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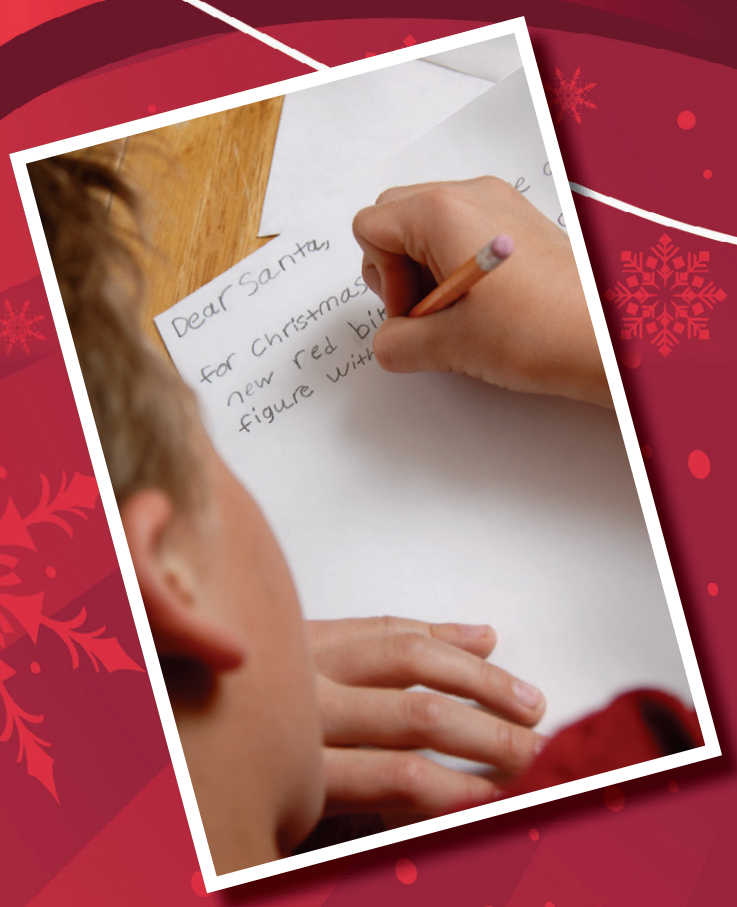

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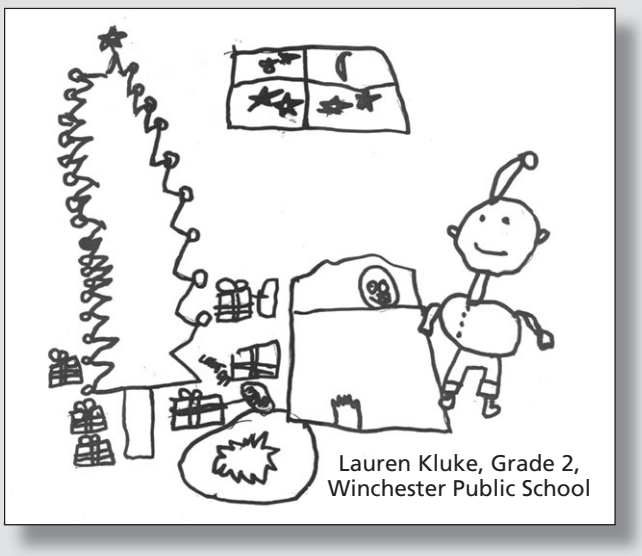
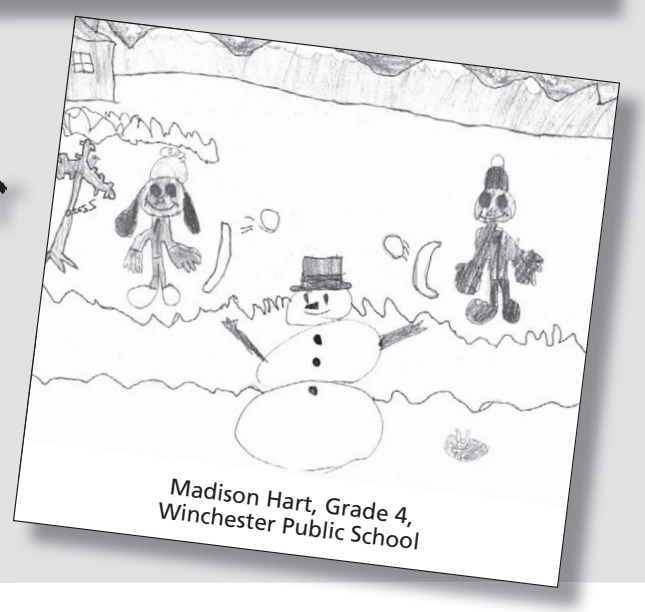
Sebastien Lafrance, Grade 1, Winchester Public School


Lauren Kluke, Grade 2, Winchester Public School


Alicia McNaughton, Grade 1, Winchester Public School


Mackai Robinson, Grade 2, Winchester Public School

Winchester Public School


Madison Hart, Grade 4, Winchester Public School



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Happy Holidays



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In this spirit it is a pleasure to say 'Thank you' and extend sincere appreciation for the very pleasant association enjoyed with you.

May a bright and prosperous New Year bring happiness to you and yours.

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Season's Greetings

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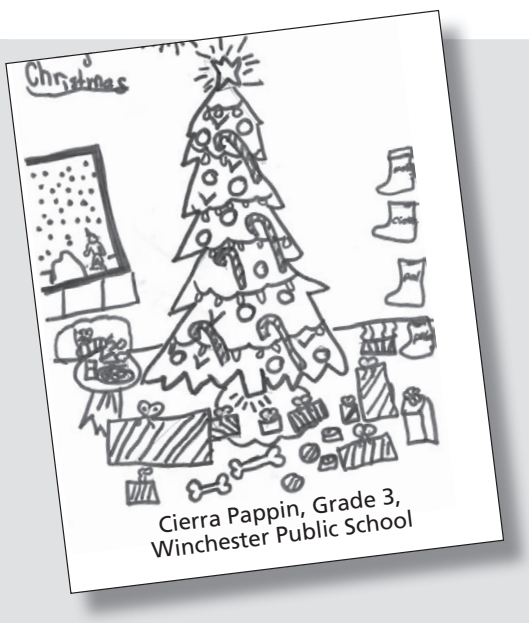
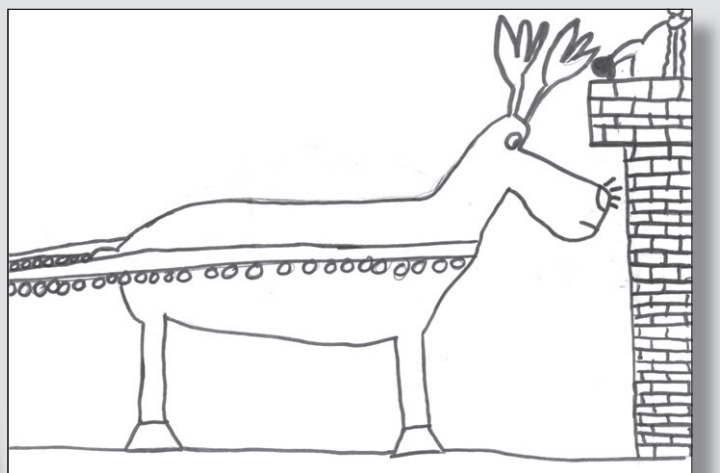
May the coming season bring peace, joy and harmony for you and your loved ones.

For your trust, we are truly thankful.



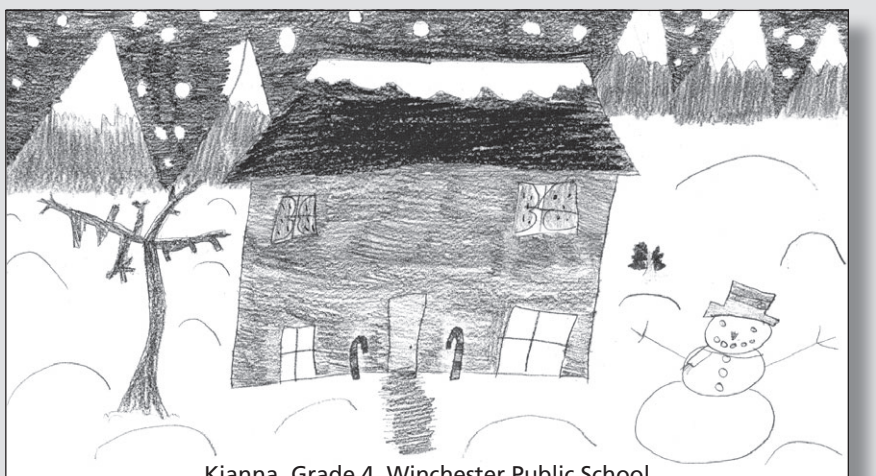
Cierra Pappin, Grade 3,
Winchester Public School



Madison Lennox, Grade 5, Winchester Public School



Jarid Byers, Grade 5, Winchester Public School



Kianna, Grade 4, Winchester Public School

Winchester Public School



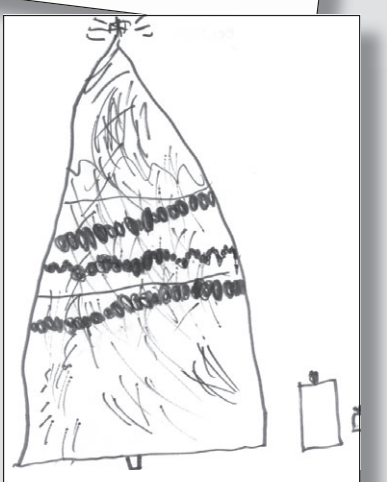
Bella St-Marseille, Grade 5,
Winchester Public School



Leila Bennett, Grade 4, Winchester Public School



Gavin Byers, Grade 6, Winchester Public School



Thomas Van Bridger, Grade 1,
Winchester Public School

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He Knows You've Been Good...

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Cheers To You!

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Brett Esnard, Grade 2,
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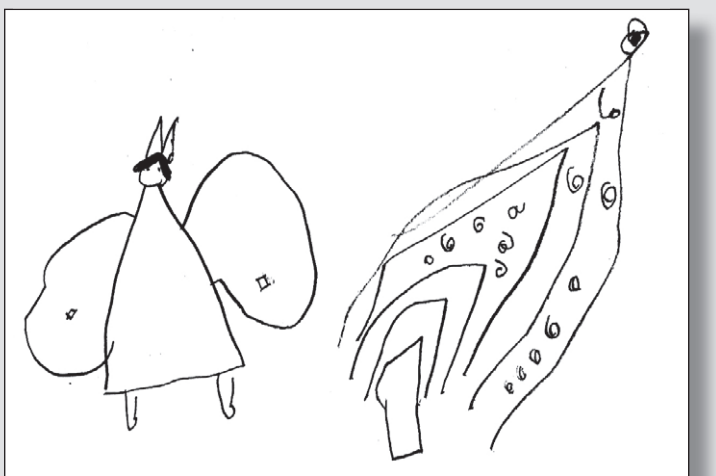
Jack Armstrong, St. Mary's Chesterville

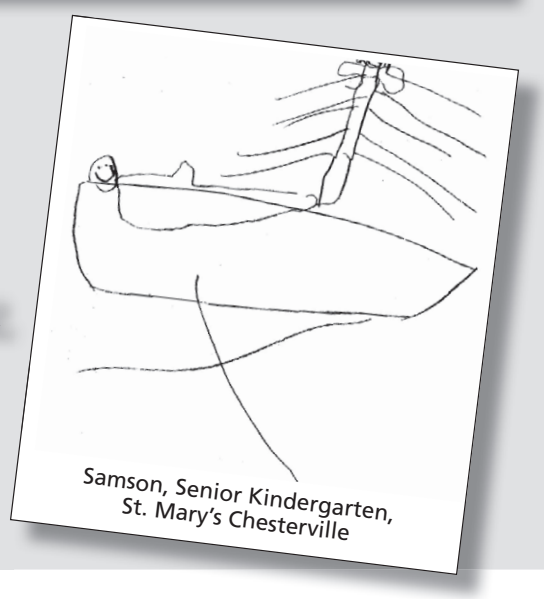


Emmalyn, Senior Kindergarten, St. Mary's Chesterville



Beth, St. Mary's Chesterville

St. Mary's Chesterville



Samson, Senior Kindergarten,
St. Mary's Chesterville

Glad Tidings To You!

Wherever you go this holiday season,
please know that our best wishes go with you.

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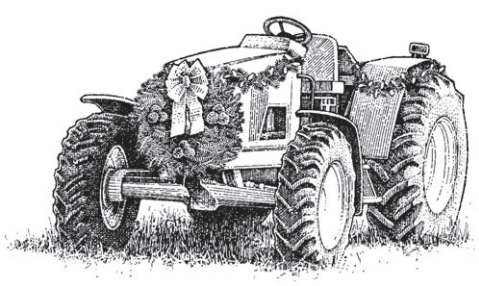
HOLIDAY GREETINGS

It's our favorite time of the year, when we pause to thank our many good friends in the area for making business easy to do around these parts.



Campbell & Stewart
Equipment Repair Inc.
RR1, Winchester • 613-774-5708
Murray Campbell • Res. 613-774-3065 Wilson Stewart • Res. 613-774-3160



Deck THE HALLS

This note is trimmed with best wishes, and our gratitude too,
plus a string of glad tidings to each one of you!
Happy Holidays!

D&J Motors

Wincrest Business Park
Winchester
613-774-2703

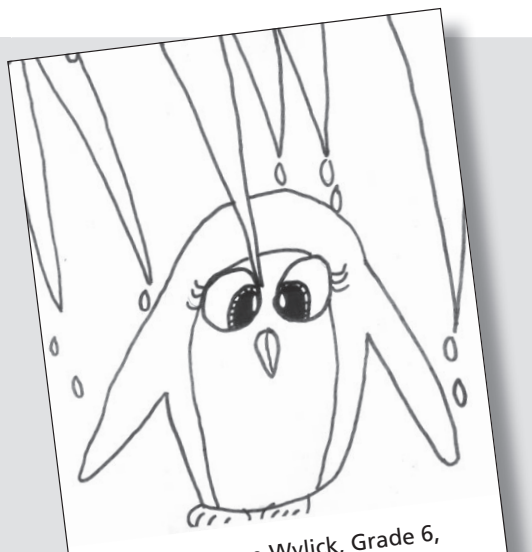
ACDelco

ONTARIO'S DRIVE CLEAN

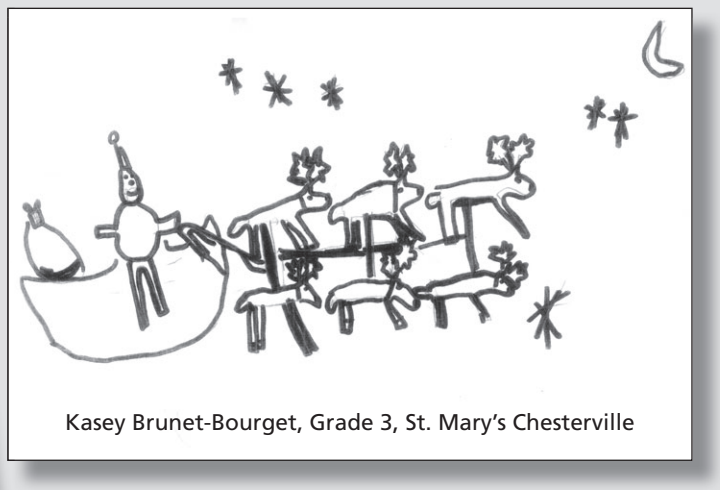
All The Best!

May good times come naturally this season.

G. & J. Yelle Inc.
Material Handling Equipment & Ventilation
2068 County Rd. 12, Crysler, Ontario, K0A 1R0
613-987-5336 • Fax 613-987-5787 • Cell. 613-223-4836



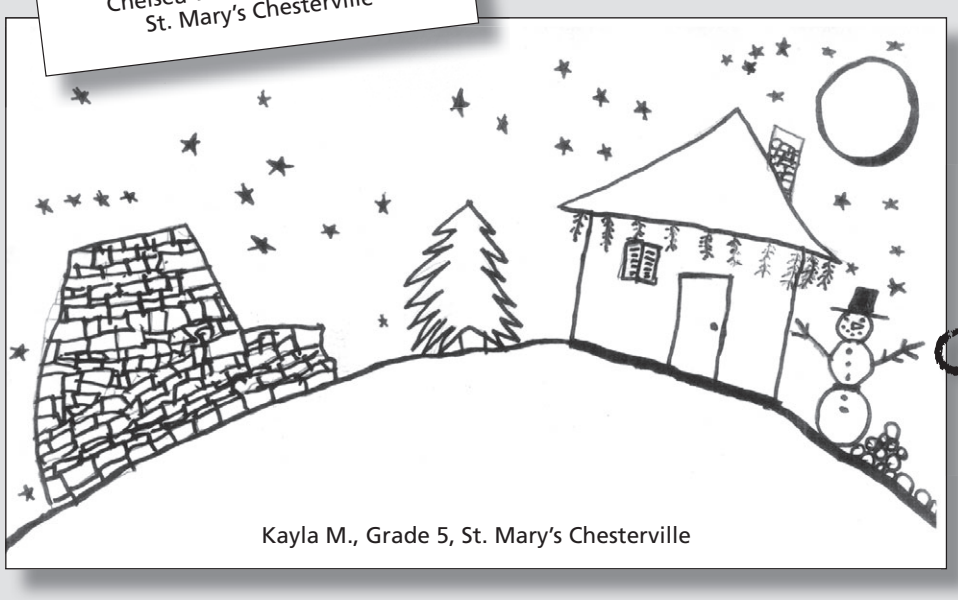
Chelsea van Wylick, Grade 6, St. Mary's Chesterville



Kasey Brunet-Bourget, Grade 3, St. Mary's Chesterville

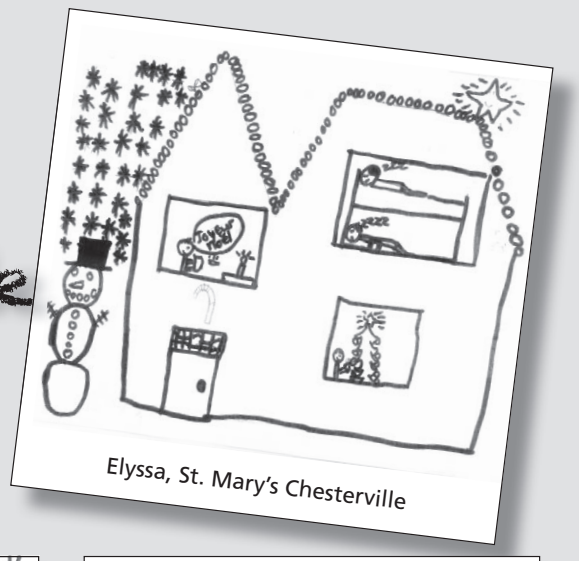


Madison Boucher, Grade 2, St. Mary's Chesterville



Kayla M., Grade 5, St. Mary's Chesterville

St. Mary's Chesterville



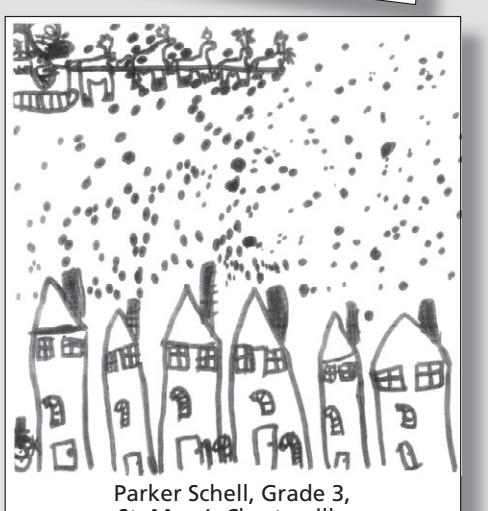
Elyssa, St. Mary's Chesterville



Toby, St. Mary's Chesterville



Sarah Hynes, Grade 6, St. Mary's Chesterville



Parker Schell, Grade 3, St. Mary's Chesterville



Here's hoping your holiday season hits all the high notes.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you this past year.

Merry Christmas!

Hope It Plays Your Way!

Dundas Machine
The Fabrication Specialists
12205 Gypsy Lane, Winchester, ON, K0C 2K0
Office: 613-774-1672 • Fax: 613-774-6612
Toll Free: 1-888-877-0714





Straight From The Hearth

... And from the heart, too, Go our very best wishes To each one of you!

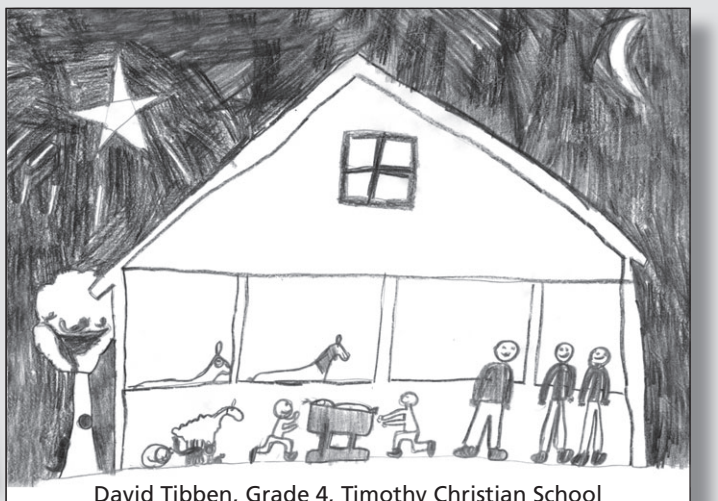
Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday.

www.harbers.ca

HARBERS
FLAME CENTRE & MASONRY INC.
Closed Thurs., Dec. 22 at 12 noon, open Tues., Jan. 10
4385 Billy Lane, RR 3, Williamsburg
613-535-2301

"Keeping You Warm Is Our Business!"

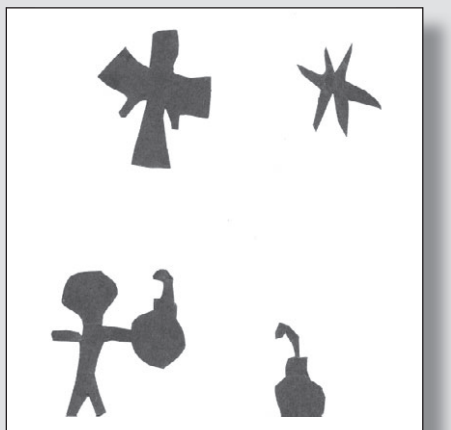

Jillian Westervelt, Grade 6, Timothy Christian School


David Tibben, Grade 4, Timothy Christian School

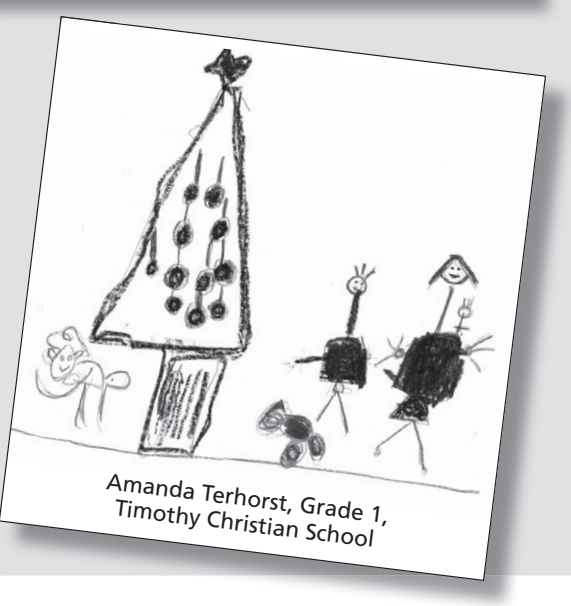

Jessica, Grade 6/7/8, Timothy Christian School



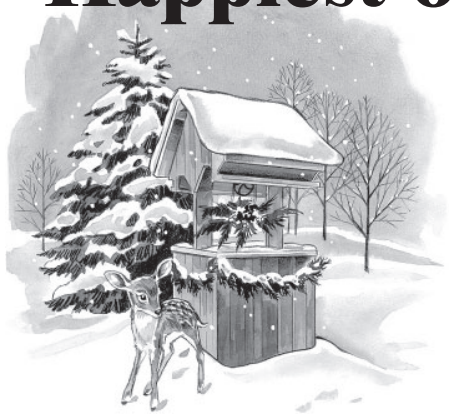
Jacqueline Terhorst, Grade 6, Timothy Christian School


Lucas Van Den Broek, Grade 8, Timothy Christian School

❄ Timothy Christian School ❄


Amanda Terhorst, Grade 1, Timothy Christian School

WISHING YOU THE
Happiest of Holidays



You've helped make this past year everything we wished it would be. Thank you for your generous support.

from Glen & Heather Whitteker and the staff at:

Whitteker Meat Market Ltd.
Williamsburg 613-535-2310

With Glad Tidings from All of Us!



Here's hoping your holiday season contains all the ingredients for success: fun, family, friends and festivity!

Dundas County Milk Producers

"Providing Consumers With Nothing But The Best"

MILK MAKES GOOD FOOD BETTER

CANADIAN DAIRY PRODUCTS *"THE TASTE OF HOME"*

PEACE ON EARTH



...And to all of our neighbors, many thanks for your goodwill this past year!

TRIPLE B STRUCTURES LTD.
Butler Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings
Commercial and Institutional
WILLIAMSBURG, ONT. 613-535-2820

BUTLER GSI



Welcome Christmas into your heart
Let faith and family play a part;
And wherever you may roam
You will always be at home!

•••••

May the spirit of Christmas reside with you this holiday season and beyond.
With special thanks and best wishes from all of us.

Welcome Christmas!

BRISTER Group INSURANCE

BRISTER INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.
BRISTER LIFE INSURANCE LTD.
BUSH-ARMSTRONG INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.
BRUYERE INSURANCE BROKERS
PATTERSON HADDEN INSURANCE BROKERS
SUMMERS INSURANCE BROKERS

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Village Plaza
613-543-3731

EMBRUN
1025 Notre-Dame
613-443-3666

PRESCOTT
270 Edward Street
613-925-5901

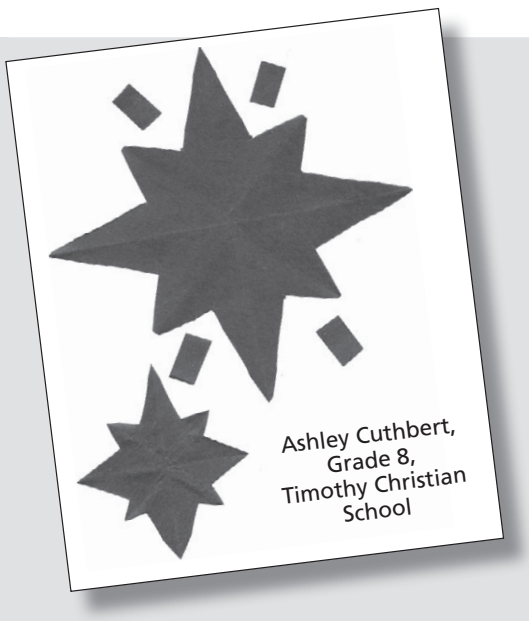
CRYSLER
12 Queen Street
613-987-2117

CHESTERVILLE
11 Industrial Drive
613-448-2398

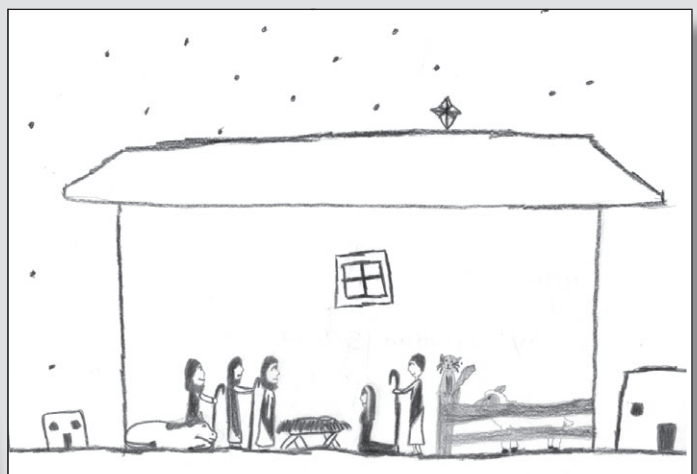
Warm Wishes

All the best to you and yours this happy time of year.
We send our thanks out to all and wish you much good cheer!

Monast Backhoe & Haulage Service Ltd.
Chesterville 613-448-2856



Ashley Cuthbert, Grade 8, Timothy Christian School



Sarah Don, Grade 4, Timothy Christian School

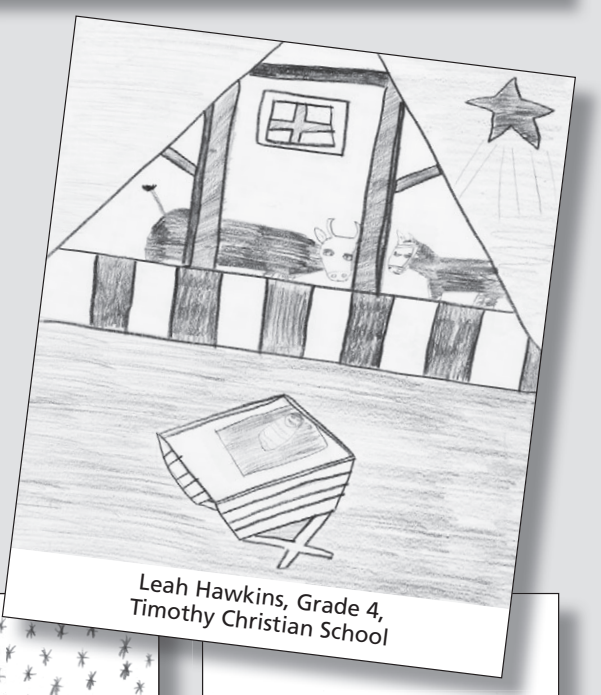


Rachel, Grade 8, Timothy Christian School

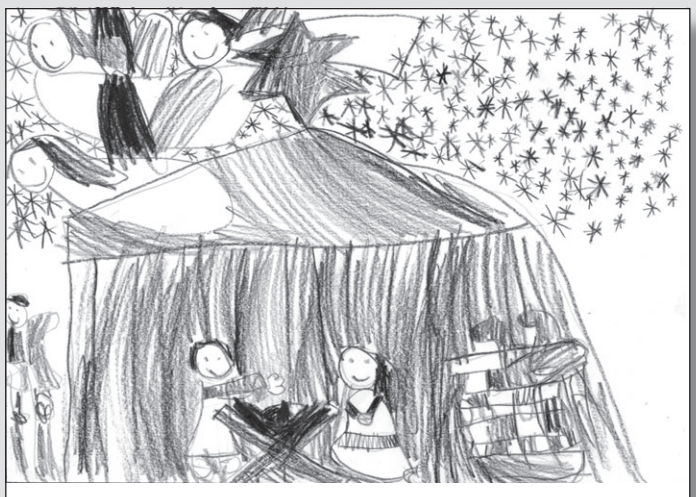


Haydn Preston, Grade 5, Timothy Christian School

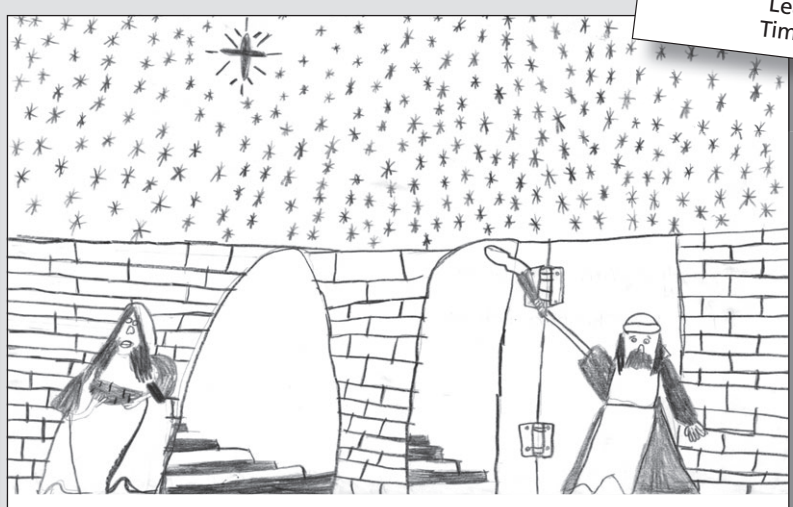
Timothy Christian School



Leah Hawkins, Grade 4, Timothy Christian School



Leah Don, Grade 1, Timothy Christian School



Peyton Van Den Broek, Grade 4, Timothy Christian School



Larissa Westervelt, Grade 6, Timothy Christian School

All the Best

Wishing you and your loved ones a beautiful season with all the trimmings.

Gateway Enterprises

SALES, SERVICE, INSTALLATION

Garage Doors, Rolling Steel Shutters & Dock Equipment

Shawn Backes

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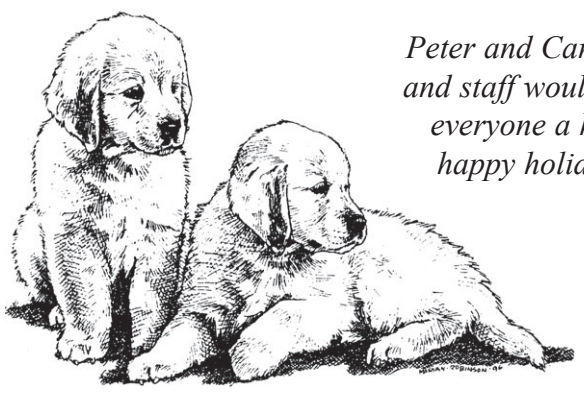
Shaynedoro Perm. Reg'd



Peter and Carole Brechbill and staff would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

Shaynedoro (Perm. Reg'd.) **Kennels**

Breeders of Quality Golden Retrievers Since 1972

• Boarding • Training
• Handling • Grooming

Ormond Road, RR1, Winchester, K0C 2K0
613-774-3091

MERRY Season's Greetings! CHRISTMAS Noel

All The Best...

To the best bunch of people we know — our customers!
Our heartfelt thanks from all of us to all of you.

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

Berends Automotive

Jason, Robin and Damien Berends

Stagecoach at Belmeade Rd., RR#4, Osgoode

613-826-2304

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

LETTERS TO SANTA

Here's a peek at some of the letters sent to the North Pole by the good girls and boys of Winchester and area. May all of their holiday wishes come true!



Dear Santa

Hi! My name is Paige and I am 4 years old. I live in Williamsburg and I am in Kindergarten. I have been really good this year.
For example, I
1. Cleaned up my toys.
2. Made my bed.
3. Read a book.
For Christmas I would like a box of candy canes and some Barbies.
Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours truly,
Paige Boomhower,
Jr. K, Nationview Public School

Dear Santa

Hi! How are you today? Are you bizzee today? Heres my three things I want for Christmas from you. If you can get me a ds game and if you can get me a Barbie doll and if you can get me a Wii game for Christmas. How are your raindeer today? How are your elves? How is Mis. Claus today? If you come to my house you will see presents under my tree. Have a mary Christmas.

Love Anatasia Yakabuski,
Grade 2, St. Mary's Chesterville

Dear Santa

Hi! My name is Dakota and I am 5 years old. I live in South Mountain and I am in Kindergarten. I have been really nice this year. For example:
1. I got the mail.
2. I helped Dad.
3. I did the calendar.
For Christmas I would like Ninjas, a toy tank and Lego hero factory with toy aliens, garbage Ninjas PLEASE.
Thank you for reading my letter. Hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Dakota Nevins, Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School

Dear Santa

Hi my name is Cadence. I am 9 years old. For Christmas I would like an air hockey table, a bean bag chair, and Zoobles.

Love Cadence Logtens

Dear Santa

Hi my name is Ethan. I am 7 years old. For Christmas I would like Harry Potter Lego, Lego Ninjago, Heroica Lego game.

Love Ethan Logtens

Dear Santa

Hi! My name is Kayden and I am 4 years old. I live in Mountain and I am in Kindergarten. I have been really good this year.
For example, I
1. Made my bed.
2. I have been good to Kayley.
3. Share my toys.
For Christmas I would like: Spiderman web sprayer and some stamper markers. Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours truly,
Kayden Bradford,
Jr. K, Nationview Public School

Dear Santa

My name is Cynthia. I'm 5. I live in Mountain. I have been good this year because I made my bed, I asked my babysitter if I can play on the computer and I read my books. For Christmas I want a toy puppy, a toy monkey, a new computer and I want a 4-wheeler for my mom and a Barbie one for me. Thank you for getting my mom's 4-wheeler and my 4-wheeler.

Yours truly,
Cynthia Tupper,
Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School

Oh St. Nick

I am going to leave cookies for you, and carrots for your reindeer.
Is it hard making toys for everybody?
How do you deliver all those presents in one night?
Do your reindeer get tired from delivering lots of presents for lots of kids?
Do you have breaks?
What do you feed your reindeer?

Adam Barkley,
Grade 3,
Nationview Public School

Dear Santa

Hi my name is Arwyn. I am 4 years old. For Christmas I would like drums, Baby Zoobles, baby dollies and stroller.

Love Arwyn Logtens



Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

May your heart be light, and your troubles few at this festive time of year.

JED EXPRESS LTD.

Ed Duncan
11060 County Rd. 3, South Mountain
613-989-2838

Glad Tidings Are On The Way!

North, south, east or west... We're sending you our very best,
Because one thing that we know is true, we wouldn't be here without friends like you!
Merry Christmas and many thanks from all of us.

North Pole

Kirk Allison
1 Main Street
Winchester Springs
Fax: 613-774-5555
Res. 613-774-2847
613-774-3323
or 613-774-2925
Toll Free: 800-267-8336

FEED & FARM Allison's DEPOT



KEEP YOUR TREE FIRE FREE

Keep all candles away from the Christmas tree.

Make sure the base of the tree is immersed in water at all times.

NORTH DUNDAS FIRE SERVICES

Season's Greetings
from the
North Dundas Fire Services

Dear Santa

Hi! How are you? And how are your reindeer doing? Please may I have Kirby Returns to Dreamland for a Wii game? I wonder if your elves can make that game? I'm going to leave presents for you!

From Matthew, Grade 2,
St. Mary's Chesterville

Dear Santa

Hi! My name is Kayley. I am 5 years old. I live near the railroad tracks with a rooster and lots of farms. I have been really good this year because I have been listening to my mommy, I am a good friend at school and I share my toys with my brother. For Christmas I would like a cat, a wagon, a 100 hats and a fish. Thank you Santa!

Yours truly,
Kayley Piepers, Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School

Dear Santa

Hi, how are you? Hi Mrs. Claus. Santa how are your elves? Your elves are good at making presents. Do you get presents? Could you get me a Christmas dolle? It's Jesus birthday too.

From Paige, Grade 2,
St. Mary's Chesterville

Dear Santa

Hi how are you doing? How are your reindeers? For Christmas I would like some remote control trucks. How many reindeer do you have? I think you have 9 reindeers. Is that right? I will leave you a present. Will you come to my house? Is Miss Claus good? How is your elves? I hope you have a happy Christmas.

Love Logan Verspeek, Grade 2,
St. Mary's Chesterville

Dear Santa

Hi how are you? I love you. Do you like to deliver presents to children? Do you like to be Santa? Do you like Rudolf? Does Rudolf really have a red nose? I would like a trip for Christmas. You will like it at my house because there will be cookies for you. Thank you for toys.

From
Sadie Thompson,
St. Mary's Chesterville

Dear Santa

Hi, how are you doing? I am fine. Will you come to my house this Christmas? Will you have a great Christmas? I know I will! I love Christmas Eve, because I get presents. Happy Christmas Santa!

From Amber, Grade 2,
St. Mary's Chesterville

Dear Santa

Hi! My name is Riley and I am 4 years old. I live in South Mountain and I am in Kindergarten. I have been really, really, really good this year. For example, I put my toys away, helped my mommy clean, shared my toys with my brother. For Christmas I would like 2 Barbies and a bike. I want my mommy to get me a toy. Merry Christmas!

Yours truly,
Riley Meunier, Junior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School

Dear Santa

Hi! My name is Spencer and I am 5 years old. I live in Winchester and I am in Kindergarten. I have been really good this year. For example: 1. I clean my bedroom, 2. helped my mom, 3. and sharing my toys. For Christmas I would like X-man wolverine bike, wolverine, wolverine animal. Thank you Santa for giving me my presents.

Yours truly,
Spencer Gagnon, Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School

Have A Radiant Holiday

May you find yourself at the center of good tidings this holiday.
Thanks for your support this past year.

Dillabough's Garage
Domestic and Import Parts and Repairs, Welding
Morewood 613-448-3171

All Things Bright And Beautiful

Wishing you and yours an abundance of glad tidings at this special time of year.
We feel blessed to have neighbours like you and look forward to seeing you again, soon.

RILEY'S valu-mart
MORRISBURG PLAZA - 613-543-2802

Merry Christmas

Best wishes for the happiest of holiday seasons to all of our friends and neighbours

Kevin Barkley
CARPENTRY SERVICES
RR#1, Inkerman
613-989-3637

Merry Christmas

To all our associates and friends, we wish a happy and healthy holiday season filled with the joy of family and friends.



Clayton Oldford, Broker; Orman Savage, Sales Representative;
Butch Oldford, Broker/Manager; Nathan Lang, Sales Representative;
Helen Kennedy, Sales Representative; Robert Peddle, Sales Representative

It's been our pleasure serving you this past year and we look forward to serving you again soon. Thanks!

ROYAL LEPAGE
GALE REAL ESTATE
BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED
613-774-4253

HAPPY HOLLY DAYS

With our sincere thanks for your valued business.

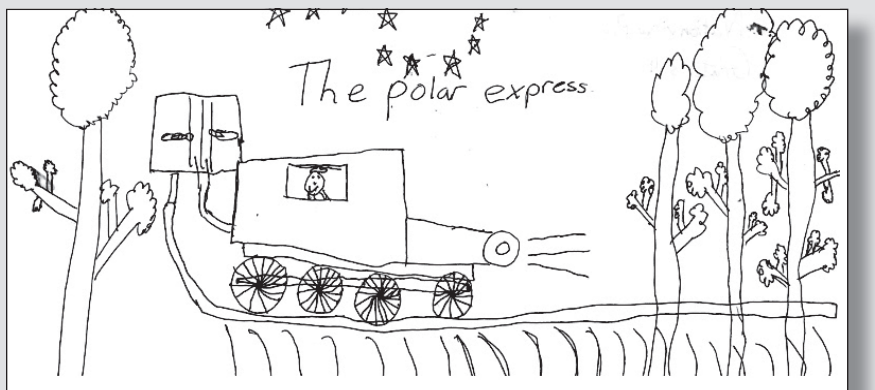
Rideau Auctions Inc.
Civic #2250, Corner of Hwys. 31 & 43, Winchester, Ontario
613-774-2735 Fax: 613-774-5559

Winter is awsome!!
Icicles are like diamonds in the sky.
No grass to be seen
Toboggoning with my friends
Extra marshmallows in my hot chocolate
Resting by my fire

Caitlin Begg,
Grade 3/4,
Nationview Public School



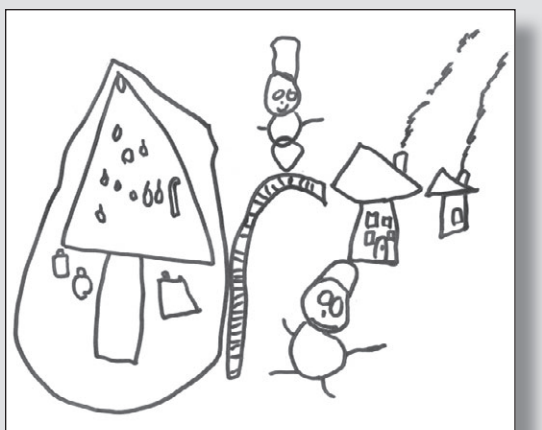
Charlie Lowthian-Rickert,
Senior Kindergarten, Nationview Public School



Owen Richardson, Grade 3/4, Nationview Public School



Ketana Vandemheen,
Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview
Public School



Devlin Fraleigh, Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School

Nationview Public School



Breydan Cowan Kennedy,
Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School



With Our Thanks

When it comes to our customers,
our gratitude runs deep.
With best wishes and many thanks to all.

Dale Stewart & Sons

CUSTOM WORK AND EQUIPMENT RENTALS
• Manure Spreading
• Snow Removal
• Dump Truck and Hi Hoe available
613-989-5232
Cell.: **613-292-7742**



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

May happy hours, beautiful memories and many holiday blessings shared by your family and friends make this your best Christmas ever!

PIVOTECH DOORS INC.
• Overhead Doors • Electrical Garage Door Openers
• Automatic Doors • Loading Docks • Rolling Doors • Partitions
1700 Cayer Rd., Winchester 613-774-1361

Winchester Chiropractic Centre

Dr. Kelly Schuller, B.A., B.Sc., D.C.
Dr. Dieter Hardtke, D.C.
Carla Richer, RMT

569 Main Street West
Winchester, ON
K0C 2K0
613-774-3944

MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you all a very healthy and happy holiday season

Merry Christmas



To old friends, new friends and friends yet to be made, all of us at Jim's Performance Plus Ltd. send our best wishes for a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year

can-am BRP ski-doo BRP

JIM'S Performance Plus Ltd.
Jim Primrose, *Proprietor*
5474 Flagg Rd., RR1, Iroquois
613-652-2245 Fax: 613-652-2561
www.jimsperformanceplusltd.com
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FESTIVE Greetings

We hope the holidays bring much laughter, warmth and good fortune for all those you hold dear.
Happy holidays to all our friends and neighbors!
Winchester Grain Elevator
Division of Parrish & Heimbecker Limited
Winchester 613-774-2720

The Little Blue Dove

Little blue Dove, Little blue Dove,
With a little red Ribbon,
Above the snow flakes,
Little blue Dove, Little blue Dove,
Above the Christmas Trees,
Swaying in the wind,
Little blue Dove.

Megan Tibben, Grade 3,
Nationview Public School



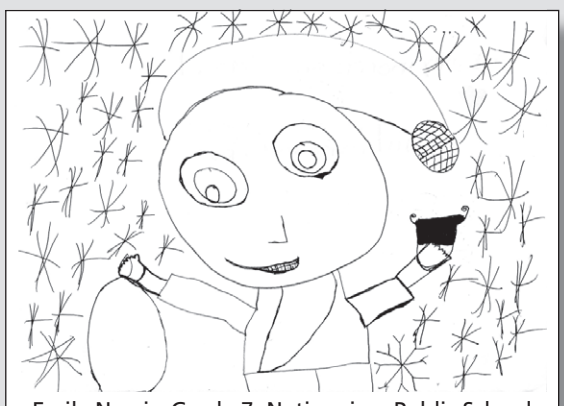
Jordyn Francis, Age 10, Nationview Public School



Caleb Machan, Senior Kindergarten,
Nationview Public School

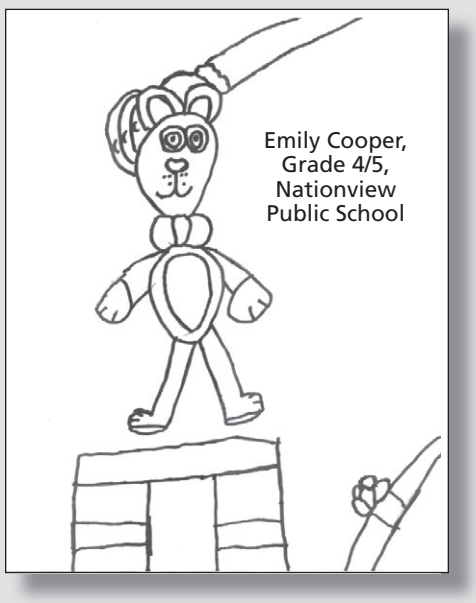


Laura Burrell, Grade 4/5, Nationview Public School

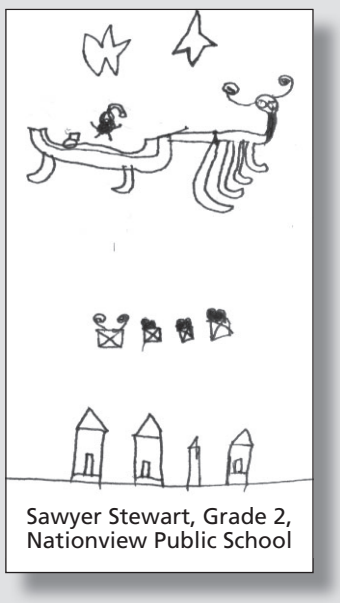


Emily Norris, Grade 7, Nationview Public School

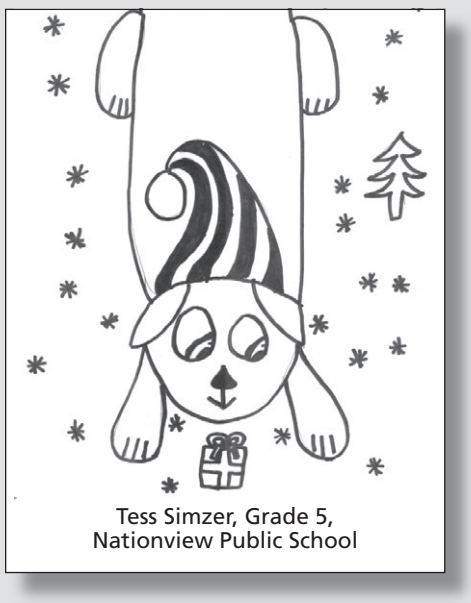
Nationview Public School



Emily Cooper,
Grade 4/5,
Nationview
Public School



Sawyer Stewart, Grade 2,
Nationview Public School



Tess Simzer, Grade 5,
Nationview Public School

Snowflakes

Snowflakes flying all around,
Making snow hills on the ground,
Falling lightly without a sound.
With each individual side,
They swiftly glide,
With none to guide,
The wind they ride,
Like a crazy slide.
There is no snowflake that needs to hide.
The beautiful light,
As they take flight,
Such a peaceful white,
An amazing sight.
Snowflakes flying all around,
Making snow hills on the ground,
Falling lightly without a sound.

Madeline Hubbard,
Grade 5,
Nationview Public School

Season's Greetings

TRI-PRO
TRI-COUNTY PROTEIN CORP.

613-774-0141 Fax: 613-774-2013
Email: tricounty@bellnet.ca www.tripro.ca

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS
to our Neighbors, Associates, Customers & Friends

From our family to yours
go our very best wishes for a
very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

the co-operators
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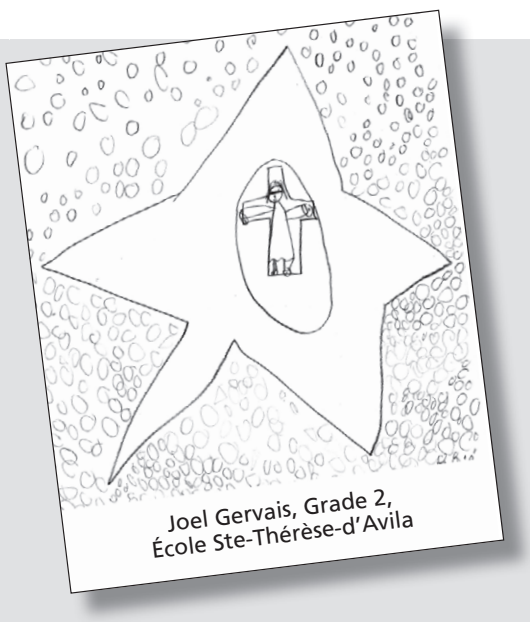


Joel Gervais, Grade 2,
École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Mathieu Fortin, Grade 2, École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

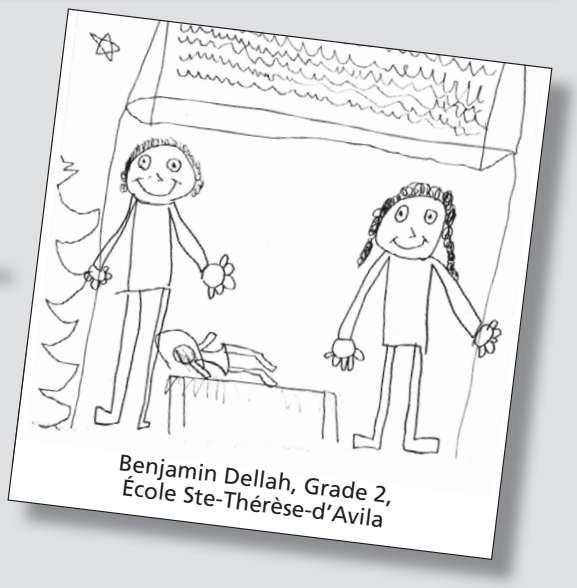


Mélodie Roy, Grade 2, École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Adéle Rodrigue, Grade 2, École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

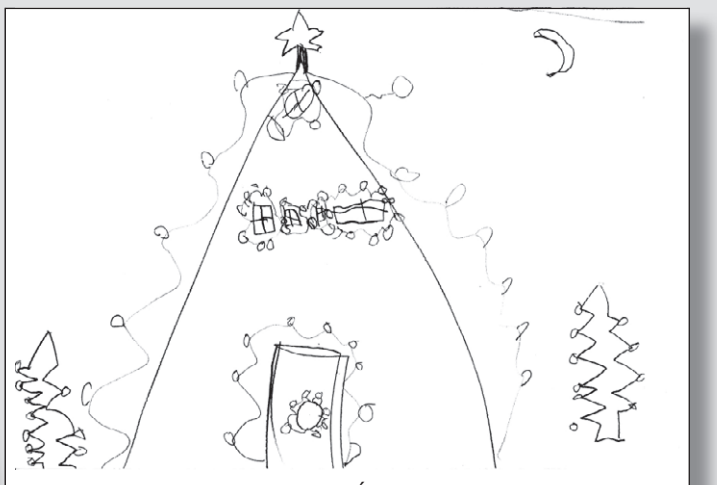
École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Benjamin Dellah, Grade 2,
École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Jonah Klein Swormink, Grade 2,
École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Sébastien Matte, Grade 2, École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila



Taylor McLaughlin, Grade 2, École Ste-Thérèse-d'Avila

Season's Greetings & Many Thanks

Here's hoping all your dreams come true this holiday season.

Vandemheen Construction

Lubbert & Wanda Vandemheen

South Mountain, Ont.
613-989-2103



Wishing you all the beauty of the holiday season
and the best in the year to come.
We appreciate your patronage and
look forward to serving you
in the future.

Happy holidays and thank you from all of us at

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RR2, Chesterville **613-448-2894**



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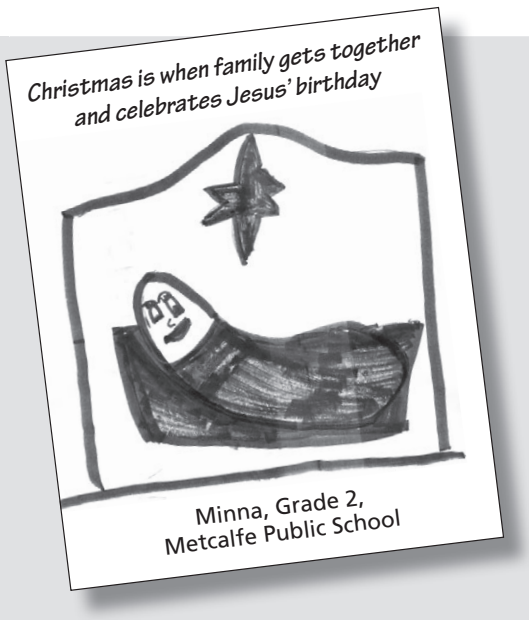


Minna, Grade 2,
Metcalfe Public School



Xavier, Grade 2, Metcalfe Public School

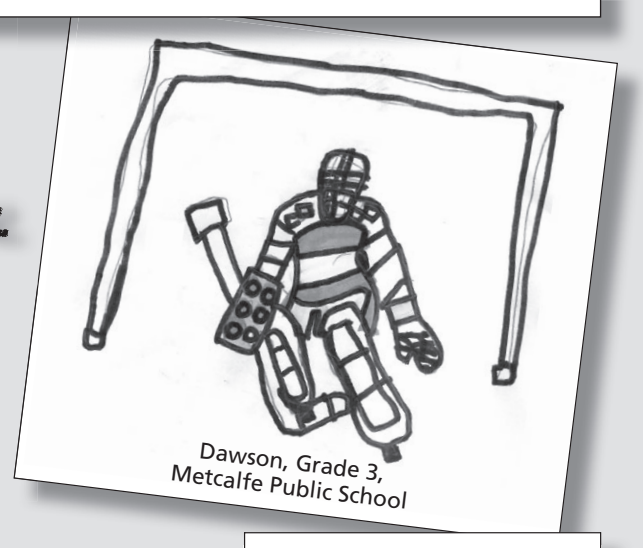


Ryan, Metcalfe Public School



Thomas, Metcalfe Public School

Metcalfe Public School



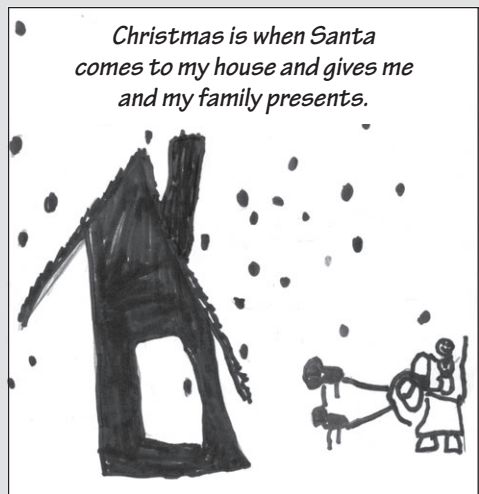
Dawson, Grade 3,
Metcalfe Public School



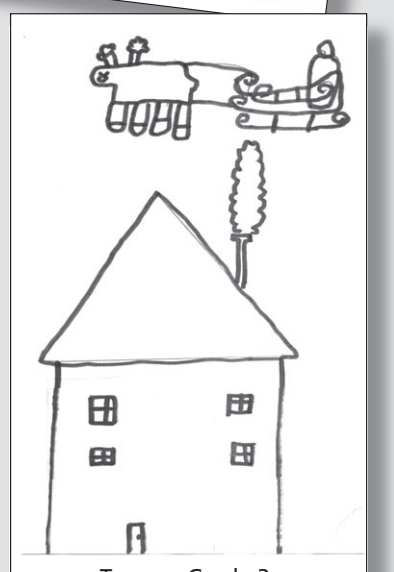
Olivia, Grade 2, Metcalfe Public School



Erin, Metcalfe Public School

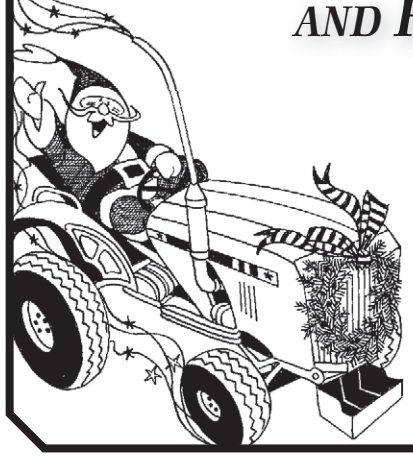


Nick, Metcalfe Public School



Tommy, Grade 3,
Metcalfe Public School

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



With best wishes and gratitude
to all of those who have made doing business
here such a pleasure
for all of us!

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To Our Valued Customers At The Holiday Season

The thing we value most about our business is the chance to meet people like you!
Thanks for your patronage over the past 27 years.
Merry Christmas and much happiness to you this holiday season.
– Garry, Linda and Staff

GARRY Munro PLUMBING & HEATING

Chesterville
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Season's Greetings

Many thanks to you, our neighbours and friends, for your valued patronage. We look forward to serving you again next year.



Jeff Riddell
CFA, CFP

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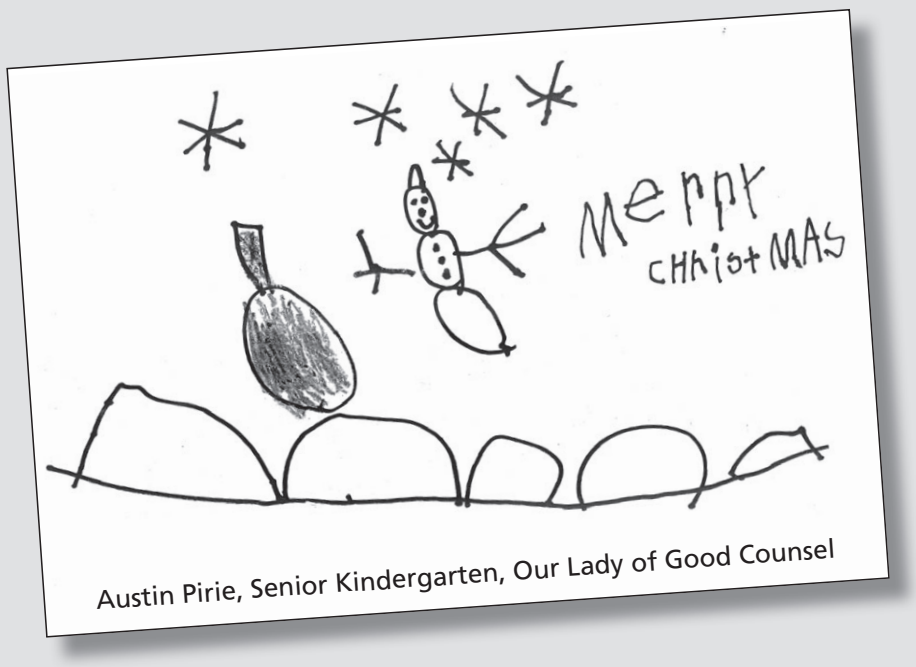
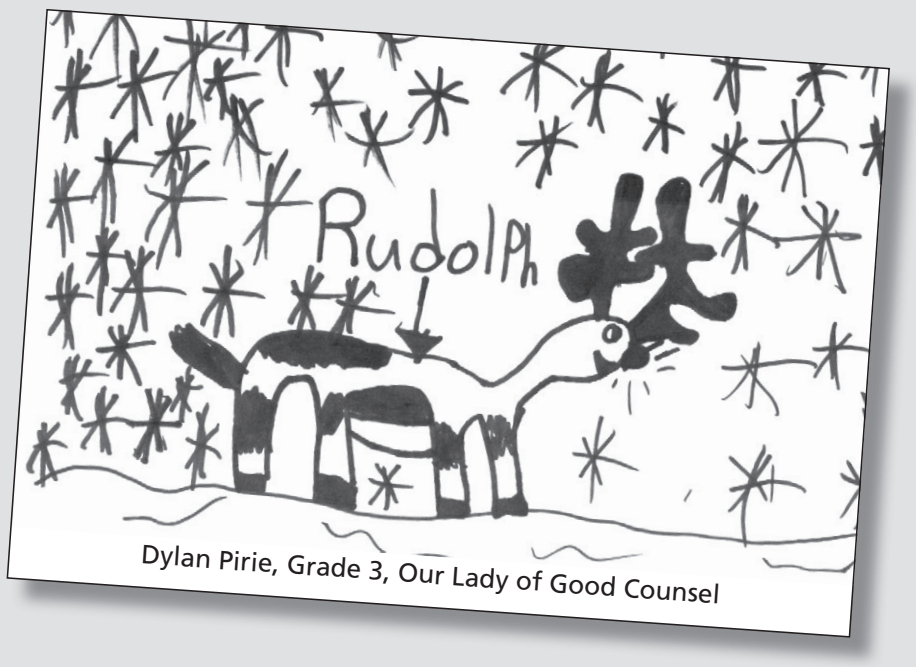


Austin Pirie, Senior Kindergarten, Our Lady of Good Counsel



Dylan Pirie, Grade 3, Our Lady of Good Counsel



Let The Good Times Roll!

Here's hoping your holiday is a blast, from the first day to the last!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Madeleine & Michel Laplante
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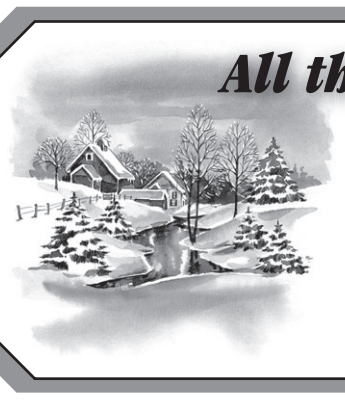

All the Best for the Holidays

May your holiday be a great time to reflect and relax.
We appreciate your support.

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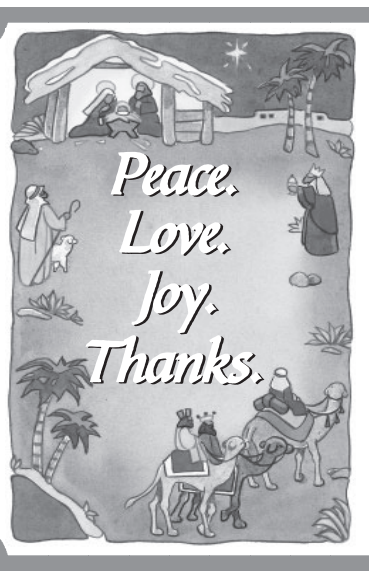
Peace on Earth

With warm wishes for a joyous Christmas to all the people we've had the pleasure to serve this year.

Winchester Springs Repair

TRACTOR TRAILER AND AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

David Durant
3301 County Rd. 31, Box 35
Winchester Springs
613-227-1875 613-774-0666



With our most sincere gratitude and best wishes to all of you. Have a happy and joyous holiday season.

DERKS ELEVATOR INC.

Gary Derks & Family
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Chesterville, 613-448-2522



RING IN THE SEASON

Ring in peace and joy and love
Ring in blessings from the Lord above
Ring in hope and ring in cheer
Ring in our best wishes for a joyous year!

Merry Christmas and many thanks

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We would like to thank our customers for their friendship and support. Merry Christmas!

Many blessings to all and to all great peace, joy and good health.



glad tidings to you!

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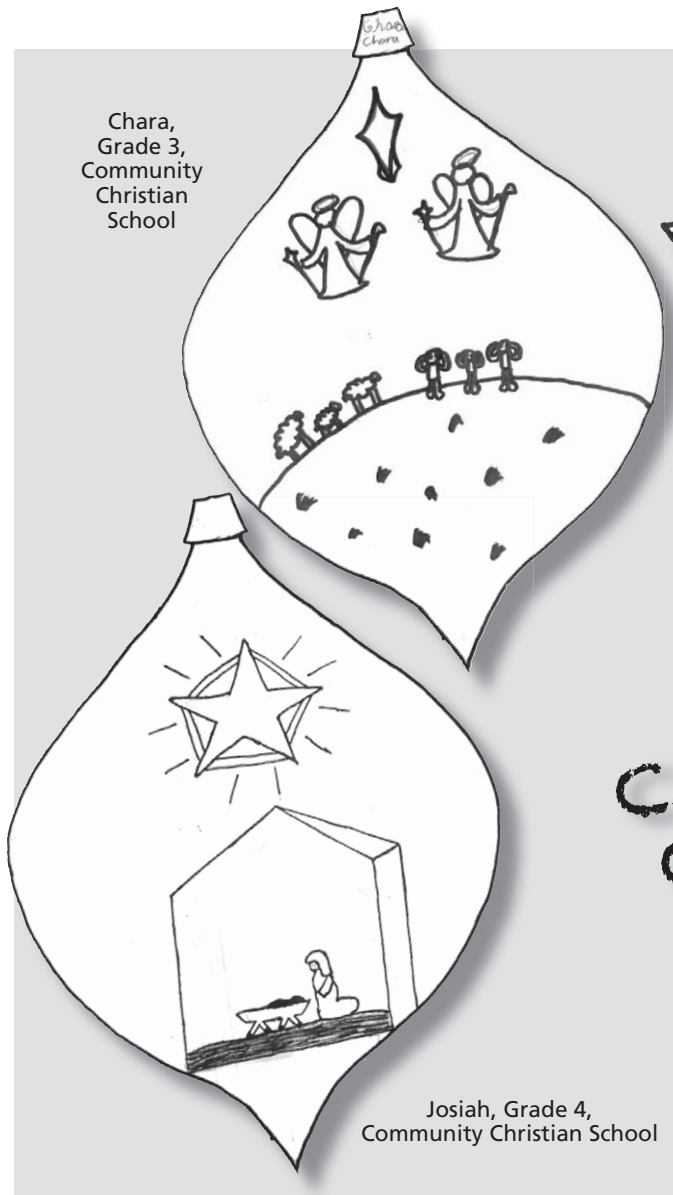
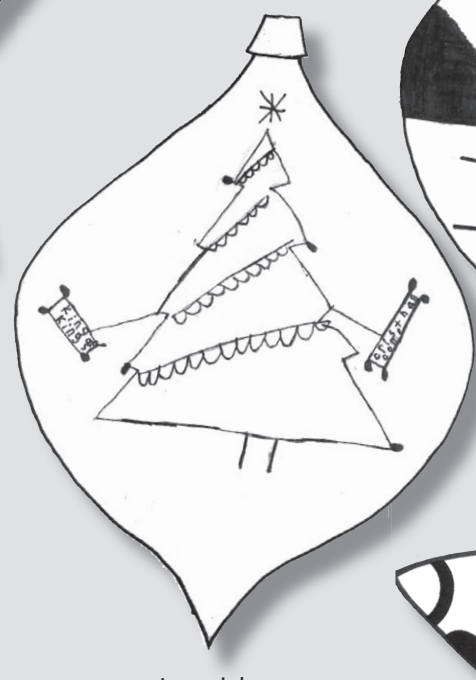
Community Christian School



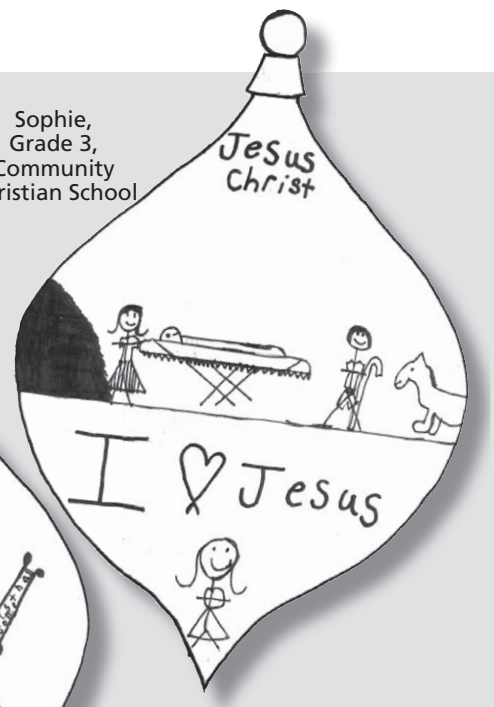
Chara, Grade 3, Community Christian School



Eden, Grade 2, Community Christian School



Jeremiah, Grade 3, Community Christian School



Sophie, Grade 3, Community Christian School

Josiah, Grade 4, Community Christian School



Gannon, Grade 2, Community Christian School

With Bright Wishes

We're all aglow this holiday season… And your kind friendship is the reason. So without any fanfare or further delay, Go our warm wishes for a great holiday!

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FROM ALL OF US

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Deck The Halls!

Wishing you all the trimmings of a beautiful holiday season. Your presence has been the best present for us this year. Thanks!

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ALL THE BEST FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

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Home For The Holidays

Merry Christmas

In this season of peace and goodwill, we would like to extend our gratitude and best wishes, and wish you all a very merry holiday season.

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Peace
AT CHRISTMASTIME
With Wishes Warm and Bright
May the holiday season deliver
an abundance of peace, love and joy
to you and your family.
For your generous
support please accept
our heartfelt gratitude.
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