









5 tips for stress-free holiday hosting

The holidays are a time of joy and celebration, but they can also be a time of stress. If you're hosting a holiday gathering, you don't want to be so busy running around that you forget to enjoy yourself. Here are five tips for stress-free holiday hosting.

1. Plan and create a checklist. Start by creating a detailed checklist that includes everything from the guest list and menu to decorations and cleaning tasks. Begin early to allow ample time for preparation and to avoid a last-minute rush. Break down the tasks into smaller, manageable steps and set deadlines for each. Having a well-organized plan will help you stay on track and reduce the chances of forgetting anything important.



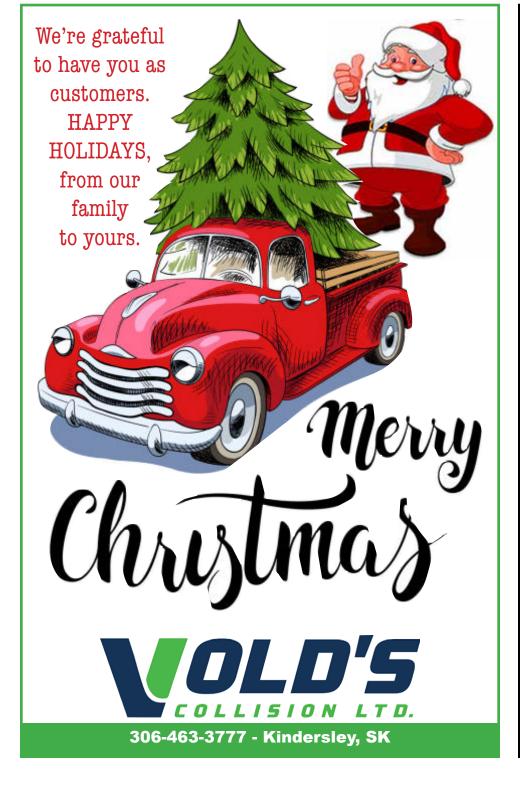
- 2. Simplify your menu. While you might be tempted to prepare an elaborate feast, remember that the holidays are more about spending time with loved ones than impressing them with an extravagant spread. Simplify your menu by choosing dishes that can be prepared in advance or that require minimal last-minute attention. Don't hesitate to ask guests to bring a dish or dessert, making it a potluck-style event, which adds a fun and communal touch to the gathering.
- 3. Set up a self-serve beverage station. Set up a designated area with a variety of drinks, including water, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, if appropriate. Include all the necessary items like glasses, ice buckets and cocktail napkins, so guests can help themselves without constantly asking for refills. This frees up your time and allows you to focus on other aspects of hosting.
- 4. Delegate and ask for help. You don't have to do everything on your own. Enlist the help of family members and friends or hire temporary help, if needed. Delegate tasks such as setting the table, greeting guests or hanging up coats. Letting others assist you eases your workload and gives them a chance to contribute and feel more involved in the holiday celebration.
- **5. Create a cozy ambiance.** A warm, inviting ambiance can work wonders in reducing stress during holiday hosting. Create a cozy atmosphere with fes-



tive lighting, candles and seasonal decorations. Play soft background music to set the mood. Arrange comfortable seating areas where guests can relax and socialize. A relaxed environment will make your guests feel at ease and contribute to the overall enjoyment of the event.

Following these tips will help you host a stress-free holiday gathering that everyone will enjoy. Relax, have fun and enjoy the holidays!









Helpful elves assisted little shoppers at Santa's Hut

BY JOAN JANZEN

Once again the Crisis Centre did a wonderful job of setting up Santa's Hut for young shoppers. The Kindersley Mall was a busy place for three hours on Thursday afternoon, December 14th when kids lined up, waiting their turn to purchase gifts for their family. Misty Leismeister from the Crisis Centre had recruited a group of Santa's helpers to assist the kids as they browsed through the tables of merchandise available.

There was a good selection of gift items for men, women and kids. And thanks to monetary donations, Misty was able to purchase additional items that were needed.

Kids in the community look forward to Santa's Hut at Christmas, and it's made possible because of the generous donations from people in the community. The staff and volunteers at the Crisis Centre take time out of their busy schedules to organize and make this event happen, which is so appreciated.



Above left: This group of Santa's helpers was ready to help young shoppers before opening the doors of Santa's Hut on Thursday afternoon, December 14th at the Kindersley Mall.

Above: Grade 12 student, Emily Grassing was one of the volunteers who stepped up to help at Santa's Hut on Thursday afternoon, December 14th at the Kindersley Mall. PHOTOS BY JOAN JANZEN





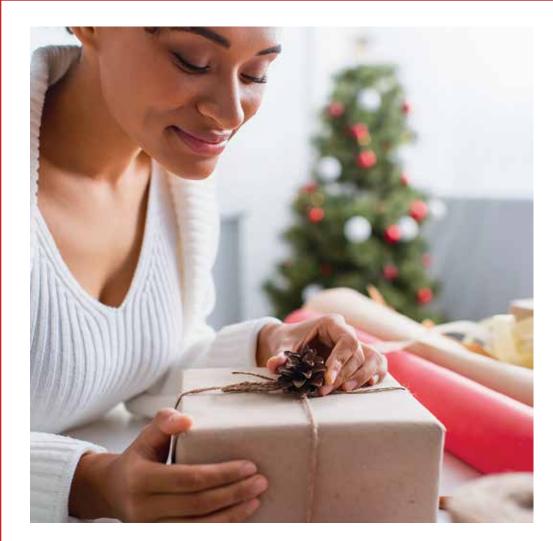
HAPPY HOLIDAYS & Warm Winter Wishes

FROM

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The origins and symbolism of Christmas gift-wrapping

One of the most cherished traditions during the Christmas season is the art of giving gifts. Have you ever wondered why we wrap the presents we give? The practice of gift wrapping holds fascinating origins and deep symbolism.

THE HISTORY OF GIFT WRAPPING

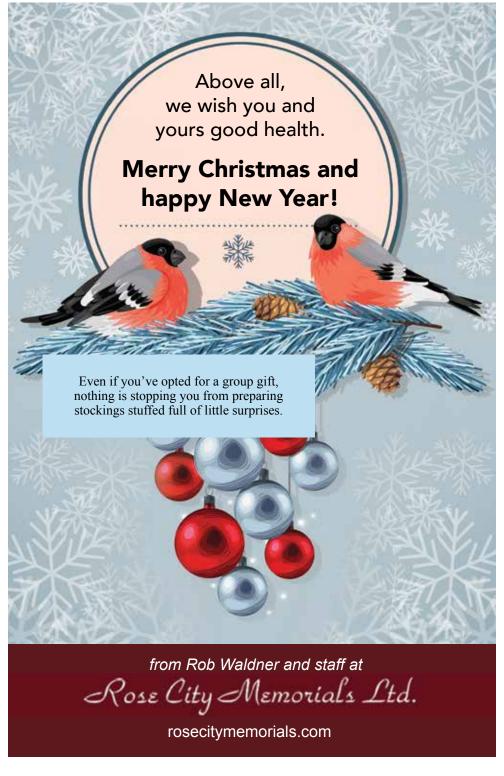
The custom of gift wrapping can be traced back several centuries. In ancient China, monetary gifts were wrapped in paper envelopes. In eighth-century Japan, a tradition called *tsutsumi* emerged, where gifts were wrapped in an ornate cloth to symbolize respect and appreciation for the recipient.

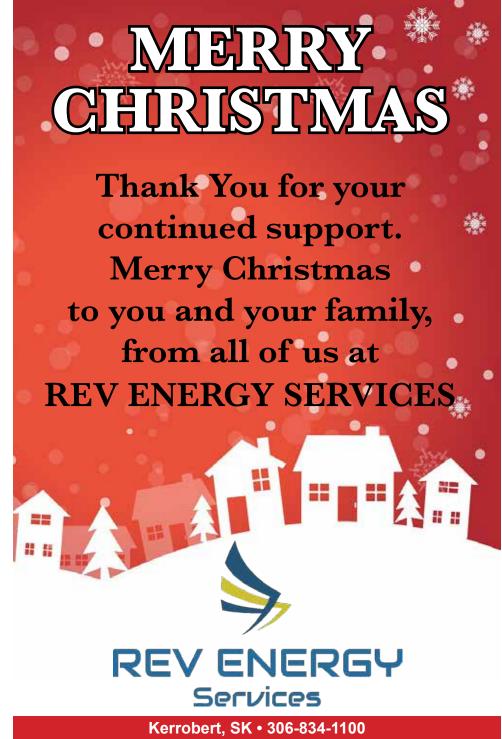
Modern Christmas gift wrapping has its roots in 19th-century Victorian England. At that time, it was fashionable to wrap gifts in decorative paper and tie them with ribbons. The Victorians believed that beautifully wrapping gifts was a testament to the care and thought put into the present, expressing love and good wishes.

WRAPPED IN MEANING

Symbolically, gift wrapping fosters a sense of surprise and wonder as recipients eagerly unwrap their presents, anticipating what's hiding inside. Moreover, wrapping gifts signifies the importance of presentation and emphasizes the value of the recipient and the thoughtfulness behind the gesture.

As you prepare to give gifts to your loved ones this Christmas, remember to visit your local stationery store and stock up on beautiful festive gift wraps to show how much you care.









For many years the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints performed a live reenactment of Jesus' birth in an outdoor stable setting in Kindersley. PHOTO FROM THE CLARION DEC. 21, 2005

Remembering Jesus' birth

BY JOAN JANZEN

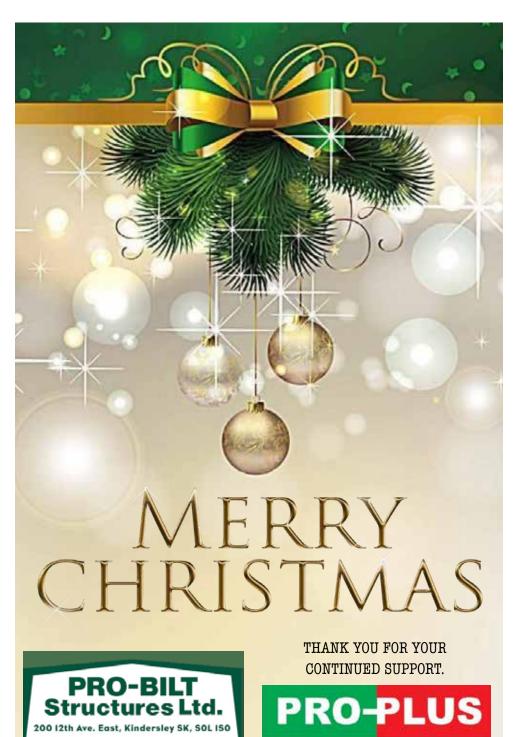
A familiar Christmas scene in Kindersley several decades ago was the reenactment of the birth of Jesus. This

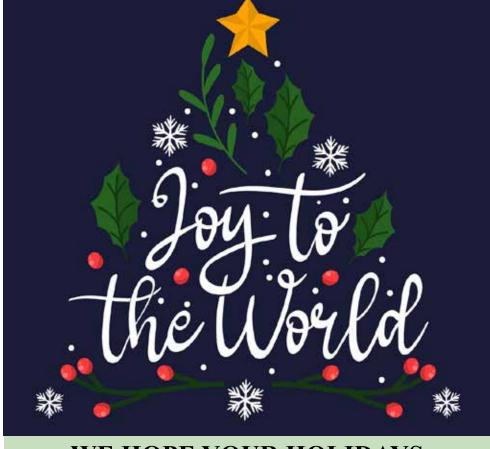
DESIGN - BUILDERS

photo was published in the Dec. 21, 2005 issue of The Clarion which shows actors from the Kindersley Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints illustrating the story of Jesus' birth. Joseph

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and Mary were seated outside in a Bethlehem manger. The scene depicted the reverence paid by area shepherds and travelling wise men during performances in the church yard on a Sunday evening in December. This was a Christmas tradition that took place in Kindersley for many years, no matter what the temperatures were at the





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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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5 fun Christmas party themes

The holiday season is the perfect time to celebrate with loved ones. Hosting a themed Christmas party can add extra excitement. Here are five fun party themes.

- 1. Winter Wonderland. Transform your home into a magical winter wonderland. Use white and silver decorations to create a snowy atmosphere, hang twinkling fairy lights and set up a hot cocoa station to keep everyone warm.
- **2. Ugly Christmas sweater.** Embrace the tacky side of Christmas and invite your guests to wear the most outrageous, overthe-top holiday sweaters they can find. Hold a contest to see who has the ugliest sweater
- **3.** Christmas movie marathon. Gather everyone for a cozy Christmas movie marathon. Select a lineup of classic holiday films like *Home Alone*, *A Christmas Story* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. Set up a snack station with popcorn, candy canes and hot apple cider.
- **4. Gingerbread house decorating.** Provide plain gingerbread houses, an assortment of icing and an array of candies for guests to use as decorations. The friendly competition will bring out everyone's artistic skills and result in some tasty and creative



gingerbread houses.

5. Christmas karaoke. Create a playlist of holiday tunes and let guests take turns showcasing their vocal talents. Encourage duets and group performances and have a prize for the best holiday performance.

Whichever theme you choose, these Christmas party ideas are sure to spread joy, laughter and festive cheer among all your guests.

What to gift a Christmas host

Have you been invited to a Christmas party at someone's home? To make a good impression and break the ice, ensure you don't arrive empty-handed. Here are a few examples of host and hostess gifts that are sure to please.

- A flower arrangement. Be environmentally conscious by choosing locally grown species. Ideally, you should also gift your host or hostess a vase so that they can quickly display your superb flowers.
- A luxury candle. Look for handmade soy or beeswax candles scented with essential oils. Unless you know the specific tastes of your host or





hostess, opt for a classic scent like pine or citrus.

- A sweets basket. Gifting your host or hostess a delicious assortment of local gourmet products is a winning choice! The gift basket could include hot sauces, flavoured oils, spreads, chocolates, sweets or beers.
- A houseware item. Look for a useful, high-quality accessory, such as an organic cotton Turkish towel, a pair of crystal wine glasses, an elegant throw, a set of stone coasters or a linen tablecloth.

Once you've bought your gift, wrap it beautifully and include a thank-you card









The Wednesday morning Kindersley Playschool class was happy to show off their Christmas sweaters which they all wore in honour of Christmas Sweater Day at playschool. PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

Everyone needs a Christmas sweater

BY JOAN JANZEN

The kids at Kindersley Playschool were displaying their excitement about Christmas last week when they came

to their class. Tuesday and Wednesday, December 12th and 13th were designated as Christmas Sweater Day for each class, and the children were happy to wear their fuzzy holiday sweaters for everyone to see. Their teacher Roxanne Atkinson joined in the fun, because evervone needs a Christmas sweater!

The playschool kids are also getting ready for their Christmas concert on December 20th when they'll perform for all their family and friends. During the week there are also plans for Christmas cookie decorating and a pyjama day, which will add to the holiday fun.

3 homemade Christmas treat recipes

As the festive season nears, spread holiday cheer with these homemade Christmas treats. Here are three easy-to-make recipes for your celebrations.

1. Peppermint fudge delights. Melt semi-sweet chocolate and sweetened condensed milk over low heat,

then stir in crushed peppermint candies. Spread the mixture onto a parchment-lined baking sheet, top with more crushed candies and let it cool. Once set, slice into delectable squares that melt in your mouth.

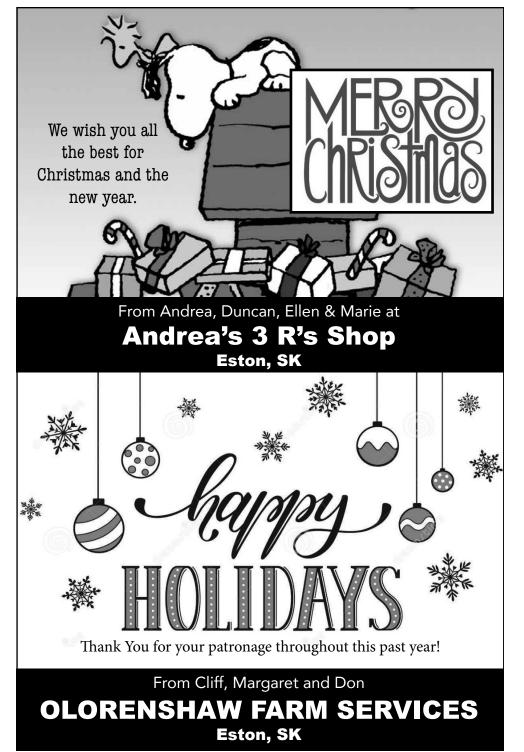
2. Festive snowflake sugar cookies. Mix up some butter, sugar, egg and vanilla extract, then gradually add flour and baking

powder until a dough forms. Roll it out, cut it into snowflake shapes and bake to golden perfection. Once cooled, let your imagination run wild as you decorate them with icing and sprinkles.

Cinnamon-spiced hot co**coa.** Warm up beside the fire with this cozy drink. Prepare a hot cocoa mix with milk and add a pinch of ground cinnamon. Top it off with whipped cream, a sprinkle of cinnamon and miniature marshmallows. Hang a mini-candy cane from

the mug's edge for extra holiday charm. Be sure to stock up on all your baking and kitchen needs in advance, and don't be afraid to create magical moments in the kitchen this holiday season!



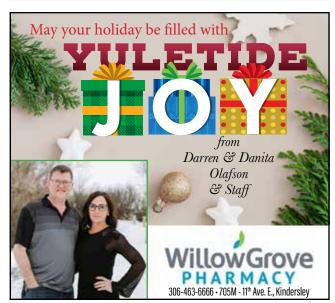






The Drummond Clan (circa 1978): Back Row (L-R) Pam, Garth, George, Kristine, Bev. Front Row (L-R) Valarie, Carrie, Kate







Wishing Our
Valued Friends
& Customers
A Joyous & Beautiful Holiday Season



306-460-8621 Kindersley

Remembering a not so well-known Christmas classic

BY KATE WINQUIST

When you ask people what their favourite Christmas movie or special is, you are sure to get several responses of "It's A Wonderful Life", "Miracle on 34th Street", "Christmas Vacation," or "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

I love relaxing during the Christmas season, putting my feet up with a bowl of hot buttered popcorn and watching "The Sound of Music" even though I've probably seen it over twenty times. I can watch "Home Alone" or "The Polar Express" and recite the lines word for word.

I can honestly say that I don't care for "A Christmas Carol" or "Scrooged". I have not even seen "Elf" or "Fred Claus".

If you ask my husband what his favourite Christmas movie is, he will probably tell you "The Godfather" or "Die Hard". I've tried to explain that just because a movie takes place during the Christmas season, it does not make it a Christmas movie!

When I was a little girl in the late seventies, I remember watching a show called "Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas." It was a Jim Henson production with narration by Kermit the Frog.

The story tells of Alice Otter and her son, Emmet, who live along the river in the village of Frogtown Hollow. Ma and Emmet struggle to make ends meet through odd jobs and projects for neighbours and villagers, but this Christmas, they dream of having enough money to buy each other a special gift.

As Christmas approaches, they hear of a talent contest in the nearby town of Waterville and separately decide to enter to buy lovely presents for each other - an excellent guitar for Emmet or a piano for Ma. However, in a twist on The Gift of the Magi, they must sacrifice each other's livelihood for the talent contest - Ma hocks Emmet's tools for dress fabric, while Emmet turns Ma's washtub into a washtub bass for a jug band

Emmet and Ma each do an excellent job only to be defeated at the last minute by a hoodlum rock and roll group called The Riverbottom Nightmare Band. However, as Ma and Emmet's jug band sing a song together on the way home, they are overheard by Doc Bullfrog, owner of a local restaurant, who hires them to sing for his customers, thus granting them the bigger prize.

It just wouldn't be Christmas in the Drummond household without watching Emmet Otter. I remember Mom convincing my grandfather to sit down and watch, and even though Grandpa was hesitant at watching a kid's show, he did indeed sit and watch and had a tear in his eye like the rest of us.

You can't help but sing along to songs like "Ain't No Hole In the Washtub" or "Bar-B-Que."

Although Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas may not be a standard Christmas show to everyone, it deserves to be placed alongside the more ubiquitous holiday classics.

Trust me, if you have never seen it, you must. It is sure to become one of your favourites, too!



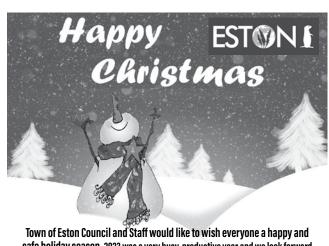
Joan Janzen at about age 10 with her new Ernie puppet that she received for Christmas.



Christmas memory

BY JOAN JANZEN

As a kid I was a big fan of the program Sesame Street. Even at the advanced age of ten years, I'd still take every opportunity to watch the show on school holidays. My siblings labeled me as a "Cookie Monster" for obvious reasons, which still apply to this day. One of my favourite Christmas gifts was an Ernie puppet. I can't recall who gave it to me, and don't know what happened to it after I outgrew it, but it did provide plenty of entertainment value. Although my puppeteering skills were never anything to boast about, my Cookie Monster skills continued to develop for many years to come.



Town of Eston Council and Staff would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. 2023 was a very busy, productive year and we look forward to serving our residents in 2024.

For more information on the 2023/2024 projects please visit eston. ca/planning-reporting/

A family gift: an original solution for Christmas



Even if you've opted for a group gift, nothing is stopping you from preparing stockings stuffed full of little surprises.

Are you struggling to find multiple presents for each member of your family? Consider buying one big gift for everyone instead! This option has multiple benefits, such as saving you time and energy from running to different stores, treating your family to something enjoyable and creating a moment of happiness for everyone at once.

What exactly is a family gift? It can vary depending on your family's interests, ages and preferences. The key is to ensure everyone agrees on the gift to avoid disappointment. Here are some ideas to consider:

- A home cinema system for entertaining evenings in high definition.
- An upright or grand piano, so everyone can practice their
- A trip, like a ski weekend or a getaway to an exotic destination. A gourmet dinner to treat your taste buds to a memorable expe-
- rience.
- A stay at an inn. For even more fun, opt for establishments offering activity packages.
- Tickets to a show now's the time to choose a big one!
- A spa or swimming pool so you can relax or have all the fun you
- A pet, ideally one adopted from a shelter.
- An all-terrain vehicle, like a side-by-side that can accommodate four to six passengers.
- A snowmobile, so you can explore the groomed trails in your

Visit your local retailers and merchants today to find the gift that will delight your whole family.

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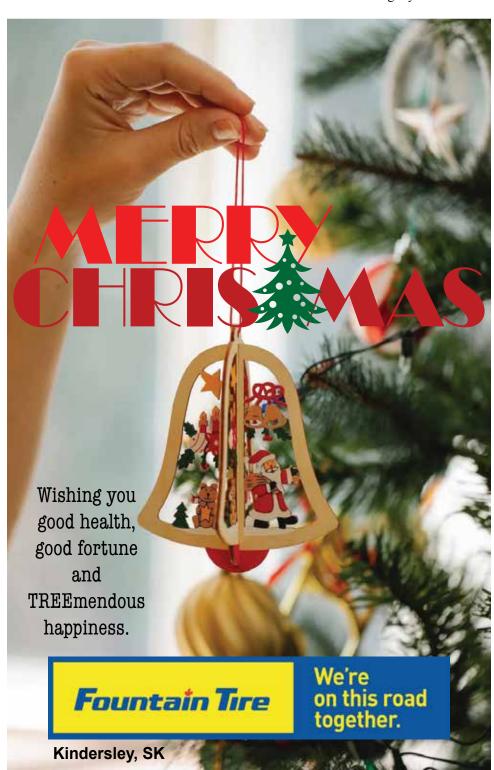


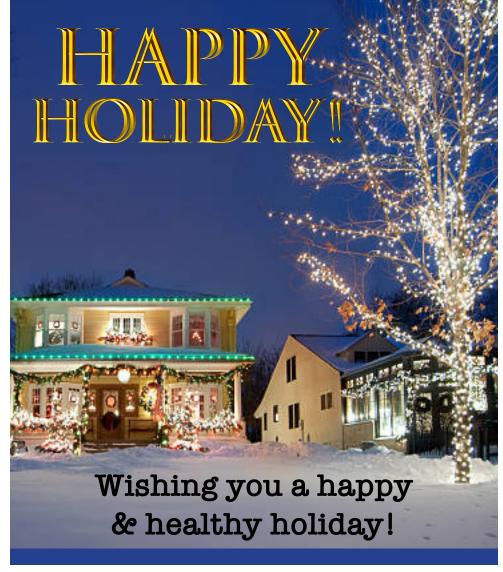
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- 2. Festive snowflake sugar cookies. Mix up some butter, sugar, egg and vanilla extract, then gradually add flour and baking powder until a dough forms. Roll it out, cut it into snowflake shapes and bake to golden perfection. Once cooled, let your imagination run wild as you decorate them with icing and sprin-
- 3. Cinnamon-spiced hot cocoa. Warm up beside the fire with this cozy drink. Prepare a hot cocoa mix with milk and add a pinch of ground cinnamon. Top it off with whipped cream, a sprinkle of cinnamon and miniature marshmallows. Hang a mini-candy cane from the mug's edge for extra holiday charm.

Be sure to stock up on all your baking and kitchen needs in advance, and don't be afraid to create magical moments in the kitchen this holiday season!





from Brad Edgerton, Jenny Wozniak and Kelly McGrath







3 alternative ways to give back this Christmas

The holidays are a time for giving, but it doesn't always have to mean buying gifts. There are other ways to give during Christmas that are just as meaningful, if not more so. Here are three alternative ways to give back during Christmas.

- 1. Volunteer. Many community organizations need volunteers during the holidays. Consider helping out at a soup kitchen, homeless shelter or animal shelter. You could also volunteer to help with holiday events, such as carolling at a nursing home or wrapping gifts for children in need.
- **2. Donate.** Many organizations help vulnerable people during the holidays. You could donate money, food or clothing to a charity you care about. You could also donate your time to help with fundraising or other activities.
- **3. Be kind.** The holidays are a time for kindness, so do something simple like holding the door open for someone or giving up your seat on the bus. You could also get more involved, like organizing a food drive or lending a helping hand to a neighbour.

By exploring alternative ways to give back during Christmas, you can spread the true spirit of the season and make a lasting impact on the lives of others.





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Happy Holidays from our family to yours!



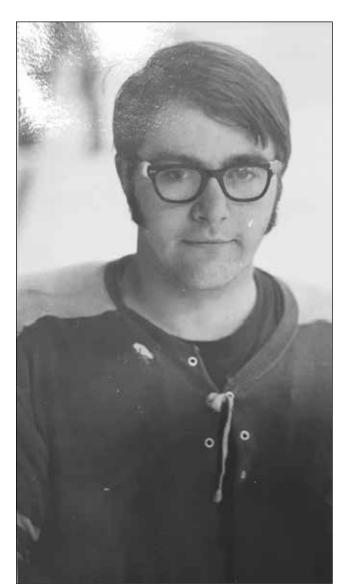
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CONVENIENCE

STORES





Shinny and homemade tarts!

BY HARLAND LESYK

Growing up in the small town of Birsay, Saskatchewan at Christmas time meant two things. The rink would be open early in the morning and wouldn't close until nine at night. That meant shinny all day long. And then you top it off with Christmas with your family, Mom's homemade tarts and turkey and stuffing. Magical.



Slow down and take time with your families and remember why we celebrate.

BY PASTOR GRANT COTTON

Clearview Community Church

I read this article the other week and wanted to share with those who will

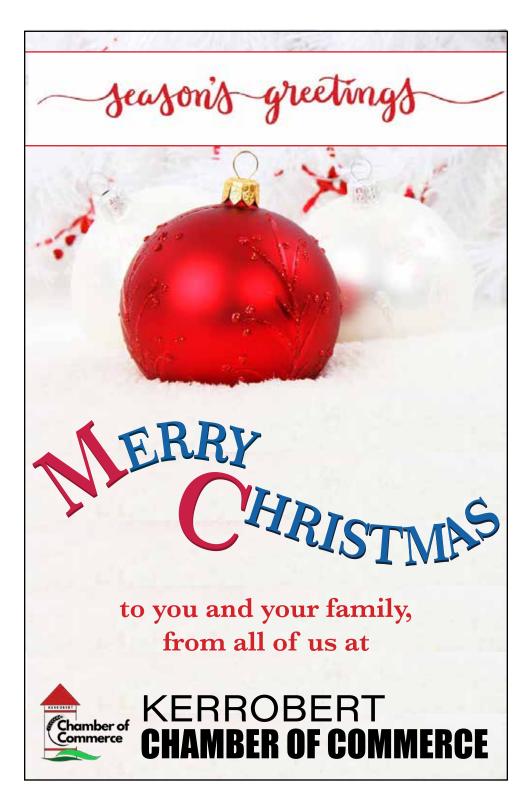
"At a metro station in Washing on a January morning a man with a violin played for 1 hour. During that time many passed by. A man noticed that there was a musician playing, slowed, then hurried on. A short time later, the violinist received his first dollar from a woman who threw money in the violin case but continued walking. A young man leaned against the wall to listen then looked at his watch and walked on. A 3 year old boy stopped but his mother moved him along as he continued to look back. This was repeated often. As the musician continued people would briefly stop and listen. A few gave money. The man collected \$32. When he finished playing no one

The violinist was Joshua Bell, a

world class violinist. He played Bach with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before he sold-out a theatre where seats averaged over \$100. The social experiment organized by the Washington Post raises many questions but maybe the most important one is this: If we cannot stop and listen to a great musician, playing wonderful music, with a beautiful instrument... How many other things are we missing as we rush through life?"

We hear the Christmas songs and Scriptures year after year which causes their wonder to wear off. But what if we imagine that we are reading and hearing them for the very first time? What if we stop, listen and experience the wonder of what we are celebrating like we did the very first time? Just maybe we could find our joy renewed. This is my prayer for all who read this, slow down and take time with your families and remember why we cele-

Merry Christmas to all!





Museum hosts an old-fashioned **Christmas**

BY JOAN JANZEN

It was a postcard scene from the past at the Kindersley Museum Saturday evening, December 16th. The historic buildings were lit up with colourful lights, children were playing outdoors and four teams of horses were trotting around the yard taking anyone who

wished on a tour of the lights.

Inside a half dozen vendors were selling their wares, and others enjoyed hot beverages and snacks while visiting with friends. Of course everyone was also able to tour the museum and do some last minute shopping.

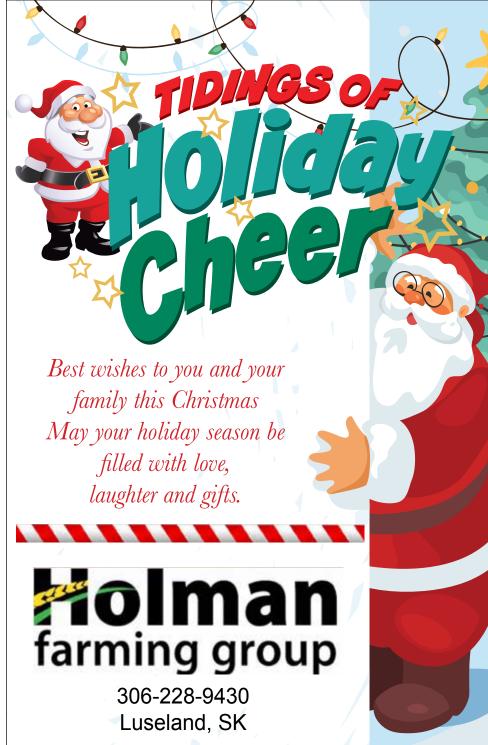


Four teams of horses were busy at the museum taking their passengers on a tour of the lights at the Kindersley Museum Saturday evening, December 16th.

PHOTOS BY JOAN JANZEN







5 random acts of kindness for a meaningful Christmas

Christmas is a season of love, joy and giving. What better way to embrace its spirit than by spreading kindness to others? Here are five random acts of kindness to make this holiday season truly meaningful.

- 1. Gift of warmth. As the winter chill sets in, consider donating blankets, coats or warm clothing to local shelters or organizations supporting people in need.
- 2. Surprise treats. Prepare a batch of homemade cookies or treats and share them with your neighbours, co-workers or even strangers you encounter during your day.
- 3. Help the elderly. Reach out to senior citizens in your community who may be spending Christmas alone. Offer to run

errands, decorate their homes or simply spend quality time with them.

- 4. Secret Santa for a cause. Organize a Secret Santa gift exchange among friends or colleagues, but with a twist. Instead of gifts, each participant donates to a charity.
- **5. Spread positivity.** Write heartfelt letters or cards expressing gratitude and love to individuals who have made a difference in your life. Whether it's a mentor, friend or family member, your words of appreciation will brighten their day and strengthen the bond you share.

By performing these random acts of kindness, you can create cherished memories and inspire others to do the same.



Gift ideas for someone who's always cold

Is there someone on your Christmas wishlist who's always cold? If so, their propensity for feeling chilly could be a great inspiration for selecting a present that will warm their body — and their heart, too. Here are a few cozy suggestions:

- · A lined toque, headband or trendy
- · A long, thick, hooded bathrobe
- A small portable heater
- A large, heavy blanket
- An insulated bottle or mug
- A pair of soft, one-piece pyjamas that also cover their feet
- · A handmade wool scarf
- A set of comforting hot drinks, like herbal teas and coffees
- · A heated mattress cover
- A towel warmer
- · A cozy fleece jumper
- A heated accessory, like slippers

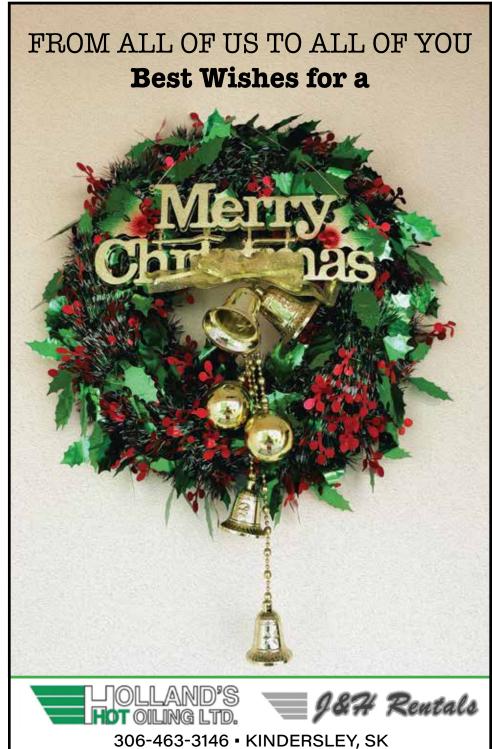




a coverlet

- Fleece underwear, such as leggings or an undershirt
- Merino wool socks
- · Hand and foot warmers for outdoor activities

What about scented candles, an electric fireplace, hot yoga classes or an all-inclusive getaway in the sun? Depending on your budget, there's no shortage of ideas to satisfy someone who's shivering from morning to night. Visit your local shops to find the perfect gift.





Thank You for your continued support.

Merry Christmas to you and your family, from all of us at











"Peace on earth, and goodwill to all." We read it on cards, see it in TV spots, and hear it echoing in many songs. It originated with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in his 1863 poem: "Christmas Bells." It was written at a time when the author's inner-peace was in ruins. I have often disliked my teachers asking, "what did the poet have in mind." Once you get passed the usual analytical gobbledygook about the verse and rhyme and syllables, the message appears straightforward - Longfellow writes from despair, and yet he writes of (and with) hope his faith gives him.

Peace nowadays seems to be in short supply. It is also a very fragile reality. From global conflicts staring at us from our daily news feeds, through political posturing, down to sometimes exchanges with friends peace seems very elusive and easily dismissed.

So how do we find ourselves in this reality, while getting ready to celebrate the birth of "Prince of Peace"?

As faith community we sing such texts as: "Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands" or "Let There Be Peace on Earth." The implication is that we have that peace to give, to share. One might ask where we are to get that peace from. Well, that cute Baby Jesus, whose images we see everywhere, will grow up to be a man known as Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Christ. That "Gentle Jesus, meek and mild" as the hymn goes, will turn over the tables of those mocking the temple (Matt. 21:12-13). He will be critical of religious leaders (Matt. 23) and of those collaborating with the oppressor (Matt. 22:15-22). He will even call Peter: "Satan"

Then ... he will also call his followers to continuous forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-22) and will pray "that all may be one" (John 17:21). He will also say: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you" (John 14:27). The meaning of that peace will be later echoed in Paul's letter to Philippians as "peace of God which surpasses all understanding" (Phil.4:7).

Theologian, Stanley Hauerwas, suggests that the church is to be a peaceful community living in a violent world. We are to portray the love of God, by being a people who follow Jesus, the non-violent Messiah. We are to be the peacemakers (Matt. 18:15-22) in such a way that it will baffle the outside observers.

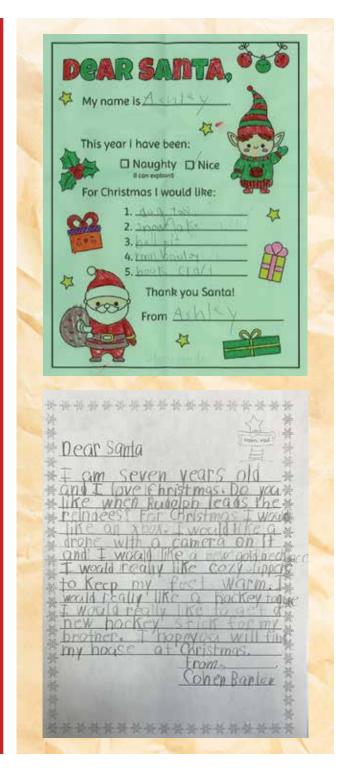
We were once known as people of whom the world spoke: "see how they love each other." Looking around, I ask: 'so what happened?"

Here is what I think. I think we have lost touch with our story, with our heritage. Whether we are thinking about Christian story or any other story. We put up walls between ourselves and started competing in Christmas tree decorations. We forgot that neighbour is a moral concept, not a geographical one (Rabbi Joachim Prinz). We forgot that the "other" is also a child of God, thus our brother and sister. Sometimes misguided, sometimes making mistakes, sometimes committing evil acts. Yet ... a beloved child of God, nonetheless.

We are not the first to forget. The people of the Old Testament forgot as well. That is why prophets came, that is why Jesus came. The story of us being reminded that God loves us all unconditionally, no matter what, began that memorable night in the stable because there was no room in the inn, with poor shepherds in attendance, with animals (created before us) hanging around, with pagan wise men acknowledging that God came to dwell among us.

As we celebrate Christmas, I wish you peace. May whatever troubles you be overshadowed by peace. May that "peace of God which passes all understanding" give you hope for a better tomorrow for you, your loved ones and for the world. And may you have the grace and courage to share that peace and make a difference in the world.

> Your brother, Piotr The Rev. Piotr (Peter) Strzelecki VDM St. Paul's United Church

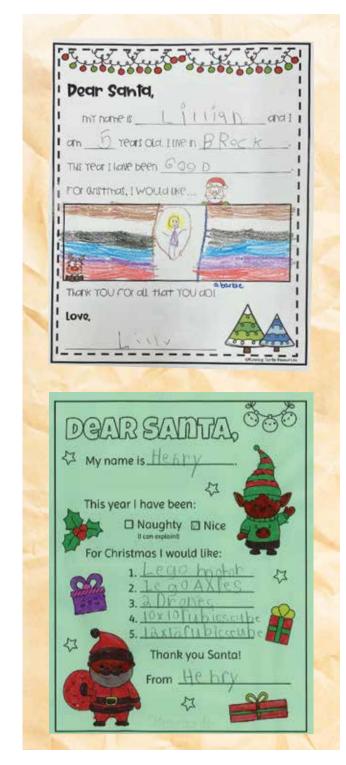












Kindersley Christian Fellowship Christmas Message

The Christmas season in our western culture places a great deal of emphasis on giving gifts. The entire completed process requires much time, energy, shopping, wrapping and resources. You may have reached a point in your life when you don't bother with gift bags and tissue; you simply place cash in envelopes to give to your children and grandchildren. And next Christmas you will do it all once again.

But what if someone came and cleaned your house while you were at work and you were told your house would stay clean forever? Wouldn't it be incredible if you never ever had to clean your house again?

What if someone came along and paid all your bills; not only your current bills, but all the bills you'll ever have in the future. Once and for all you would never have to pay another bill. Wouldn't you be ex-

There's somebody who has done something for you that you will never have to do for yourself. His name is Jesus and he paid for your sins once and for all. He did it one time and it lasted for all time. All you have to do is receive the forgiveness he provides.

Although there are consequences for sin, even murderers can be forgiven. A forgiven inmate can experience more freedom than people who are living freely in the world, because genuine freedom comes from within one's heart. Jesus has done it all for us once and for all. Once and for all means it never needs to be done again.

Imagine a cancer patient visiting her doctor and finding out she is cancer free; her treatments are done and she never has to come back. That would be good news!

It's equally exciting when you realize Jesus has paid for your sins and you never have to feel guilty again. All you have to do is admit your wrong doing, be willing not to do it again, and receive his forgive-

Ezekiel 36: 26 says, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."He'll give you a heart sensitive to the touch of God.

And after you've received this blessed free gift, he encourages you to give it to others. The Bible tells us "It's more blessed to give than to receive". It is amazing how happy you will be when you focus on what you can do for other people. It's the secret to having a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2024.

On behalf of Pastors Dana and Marge Bailey and everyone at Kindersley Christian Fellowship, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

"Away In a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus no crying he

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

> Lyrics courtesy of LyricsforChristmas.com













Festive orange and beetroot salad

Bursting with flavour and colour, this salad is the perfect way to liven up your festive

meals!

INGREDIENTS Servings: 2

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 3 cups mesclun
- 2 purple carrots, thinly sliced
- · 1/4 cup pomegranate
- 1/4 cup roasted pecans, chopped



- 1 orange, cut into half
- · 1 cooked beet, sliced into rounds
- · 2 slices mild cheddar
- Salt and pepper, to taste



- 1. In a small bowl, combine the olive oil, orange juice and Dijon mustard. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
- 2. Arrange the mesclun, carrot slices, pomegranate seeds, pecans and orange slices on a pretty serving plate.
- 3. Using cookie cutters, create pretty shapes from the beet slices and cheddar cheese. Arrange the shapes on the plate. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 4. Place the bowl of vinaigrette in the centre of the plate before serving.



Pork roast with bacon and winter vegetables

When placed at the centre of a festive table, this juicy, fragrant roast will have everyone salivating. Bon appétit!

INGREDIENTS

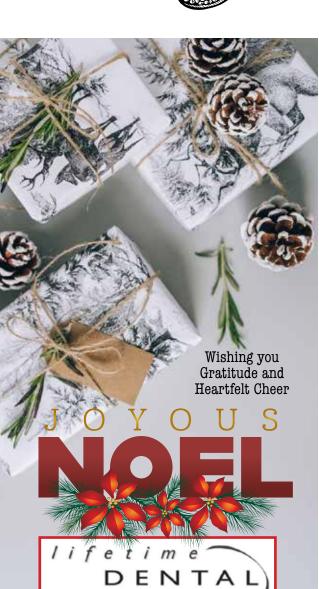
Servings: 6

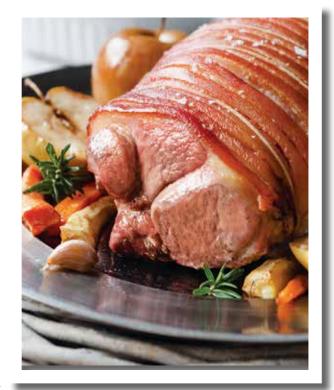
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- Zest of one lemon
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon rosemary, finely chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pork loin roast, 1 kilogram
- 8 slices bacon
- 4 carrots, peeled and cut into large sticks
- 4 parsnips, peeled and cut into large sticks
- 2 apples, quartered
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary

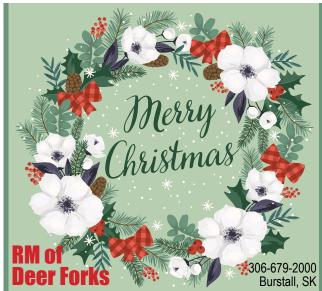
DIRECTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
- 2. In a small bowl, combine the mustard, lemon zest, garlic and rosemary. Season with salt and pepper and set aside.
- 3. Heat the olive oil in a large ovenproof frying pan and brown the roast on all sides. Place on a plate and coat with the herb mixture. Arrange the bacon slices in a single layer on top of the roast. Tie the roast up with kitchen string or butcher's twine to hold the slices of bacon in place.
- 4. Place the carrots, parsnips and apples in the bottom of the pan and place the roast on top. Cook for approximately 45 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 140 F. 5. Remove the pan from the oven, cover with aluminum foil and let rest for 15 minutes. Arrange on an attractive serving dish and garnish with fresh rosemary.

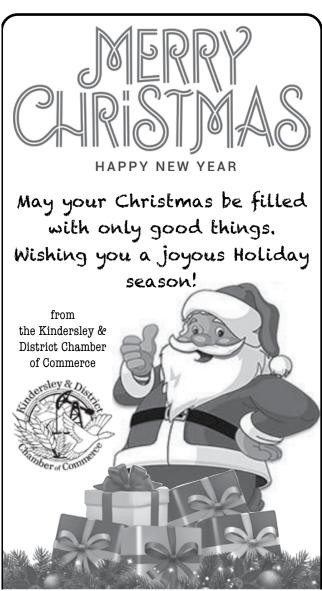








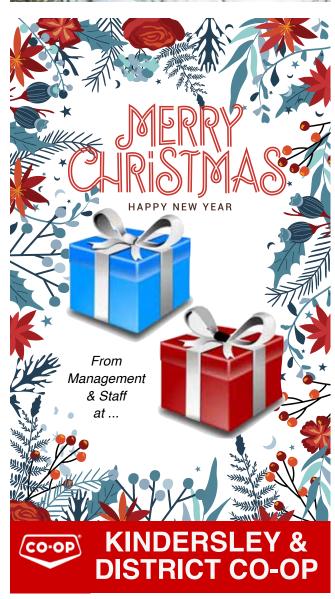














Cheese tart with frosted berries

Craving a gourmet dessert for Christmas or New Year's Day? This tantalizing cheese tart is a pure delight in every bite.

INGREDIENTS

Servings: 8

- · 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 1/2 cups nuts of your choice, chopped
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten
- 450 grams cream cheese at room temperature
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups mixed berries

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Preheat the oven to 325 F. Grease a pie dish and set aside.
- 2. In a bowl, mix the melted butter, walnuts, 3 tablespoons sugar, salt and egg white until smooth. Pour into the pie dish and press into the base and sides to form a crust about 5 millimetres thick. Bake the crust for 20 minutes. Allow to cool completely.
- 3. In a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whip the cream cheese until smooth. Gradually add the condensed milk, then the lemon juice and vanilla extract. Pour the mixture into the cooled pie crust. Cover and refrigerate for at least 3 hours.
- 4. Meanwhile, combine 1/2 cup of sugar and 1/2 cup of water in a small saucepan. Heat until the sugar has completely dissolved. Let cool for 15 minutes, then pour the berries into the syrup. Remove the berries with a slotted spoon



to drain and place them in the remaining sugar. Arrange the berries on a large plate and leave to dry for around 15 minutes.

5. Remove the pie from the fridge and garnish with the frosted berries.



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Aperol spritz with rosemary

This classic cocktail becomes even more festive with the addition of rosemary. Give it a try!

INGREDIENTS

Servings: 1

- A few ice cubes
- · 2 orange segments
- 2 ounces sparkling wine
- 1.5 ounces Aperol
- 0.5 ounce rosemary simple syrup
- Club soda
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Place a few ice cubes and the orange segments in a pretty glass. Pour in the sparkling wine, Aperol and simple syrup. Top up with club soda.
- 2. Stir gently with a cocktail spoon and garnish with the rosemary sprig.

ROSEMARY SIMPLE SYRUP

Pour 1 cup of white sugar and 1 cup of water into a saucepan. Heat until the sugar has completely dissolved. Remove from the heat and add 3 sprigs of fresh rosemary. When the mixture has cooled, pour into an airtight container and store in the fridge to use in your favourite cocktails.











The freezer is full of Christmas dinners-to-go. FoodMesh shoppers who were not able to attend the free Christmas dinner at KCF on November 25th, are welcome to receive a turkey dinner to take home for the holiday. PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

Christmas greetings from the Foodmesh team

BY BARBE DUNN

Here at Foodmesh / Loaves and Fishes we offer a food recovery program operating out of the facilities at Kindersley Christian Fellowship. Notably this year we have seen a steady increase in the numbers of individuals and families that we serve. A big shout out to the Foodmesh team which consists of over 20 individuals who are committed to ensure people's needs are met 4 days a week.

Without a doubt the Foodmesh program would not be a success if it were not for the constant support of our local grocers, numerous private donations of vegetables and other produce. Several families have donated ground beef-over 5 animals at this time. Overwhelming support from our local Hutterite colonies has kept us in good stead.

High school fund-raisers, large cash donations from families and oil companies, people making deliveries and many words of encouragement have made a huge impact.

The value in the Foodmesh program is firstly to help someone who is struggling in their food budget but along with that the friendships and connections have filled many voids. Our volunteers are quick to offer

assistance and encouragement to those coming to the Foodmesh program 3 nights a week. The Cozy'nCare program providing warm winter wear for our Foodmesh folks

Thank you to Kindersley and outlying communities. Your support ensures Foodmesh / Loaves and Fishes Food recovery program continues to expand to serve those in need.

Merry Christmas and a Big God Bless you in 2024.

The Hope of Christmas

BY PASTOR SCOTT HOLLOWAY

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." - Luke

For so many of us, Christmas is a time to gather as a family and make memories together. While we wish that things could remain the same, we know that with the passage of time change inevitably comes. Our children grow up, start families of their own and begin to establish their own Christmas traditions. As well, due to age or illness others family members pass away, and we must learn how to celebrate Christmas without

One of the many blessings of the Christmas story is that Jesus Christ came down to this earth to be the Saviour of all mankind, to give us the blessed hope that though we may be parted from loved ones for a time, we can know that one day, all that have trusted in Christ as Saviour will gather together again in His presence in Heaven, never to part again. In that day there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain; knowing Christ, and knowing that day will come because of His sacrifice for us, gives us both comfort and hope in the

On behalf of Redemption Baptist Church, I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Museum of Lights







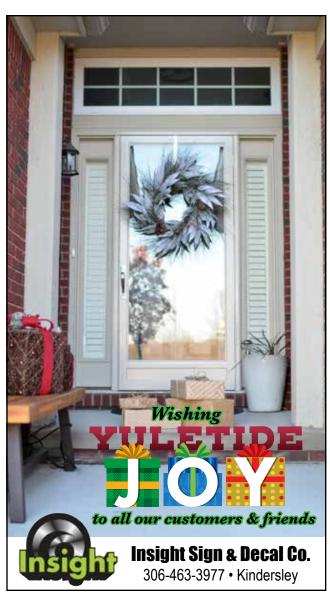




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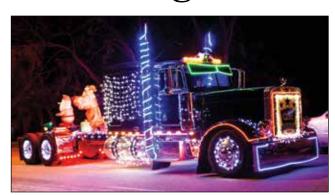
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Kerrobert Paint & Body Ltd.







Eston Parade of Lights







PHOTOS BY HELENKA BERNARD

Stir our hearts LORD

BY PASTOR KELLY FROESE

New Life Church, Kindersley

"Stirred" by definition:

1. move a spoon or other implement around in (like hot chocolate mix in liquid) in order to mix it thoroughly. move or cause to move slightly.

I was reading the Book of Ezra (in the Bible) and, as is often the case, there was something that caught my attention. The more I read the more my heart was 'stirred'.

Ezra 1:1 (NLT)

"In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, the LORD fulfilled the prophecy he had given through Jeremiah. He stirred the heart of Cyrus to put this proclamation in writing and to send it throughout his kingdom:"

Everything that follows in the book of Ezra is the result of what is stated in this one phrase: "[the LORD] stirred the heart of Cyrus". Just to be clear, this stirring is definition #2 above.

It is just one short, simple statement, but it is the ge-

nesis of something huge!

One, it gives credit to the LORD for what was all about to take place.

Two, it reminds us that the LORD is sovereign over all earthly kings or kingdoms.

Three, it reminds us that blessings and the will of God can be accomplished from unexpected places, in unexpected ways, and in unexpected circumstances.

Four, it reminds us that the LORD never forgets His people.

Five, it confirms the life changing result that occur when the LORD stirs our hearts.

The LORD stirred the heart of Cyrus", and as a result, Cyrus made a proclamation, and he put it in writing. The proclamation was that the Jews in exile could return to Jerusalem and rebuild. The proclamation included provision and temple items to be returned to them so they could rebuild and worship. The proclamation was followed up by edicts in support of this and more provisions were given. As you read Ezra and realize how many people were affected by this 'stirring' it is incredible. Included is a detailed and lengthy list of family names and the numbers of other family asso-

ciated with each. The lives of all these people suddenly changed. It meant a relocation of a mass of people to return to their homeland and start rebuilding the ruins left behind from war. It was a time of great emotion for all of them. Ezra goes on and on about all that transpired because of this one statement: "the LORD stirred the heart of Cyrus".

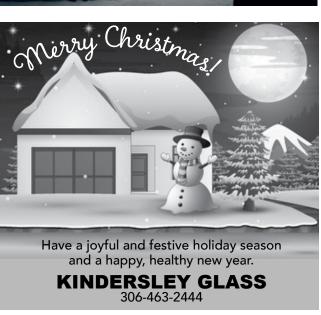
This brings me to Christmas. Christians are celebrating the birth of Jesus and the gift to the world that he was. He is the resurrected Saviour and Redeemer who died for the sins of mankind and all who repent and put faith in Him will be washed clean of their sin and receive everlasting life. We put emphasis on the birth of Jesus because we know how significant this gift from God was. My hope and prayers are that, even if we recite famous Christmas poetry such as "not a creature is stirring not even a mouse", you find that the LORD is stirring your heart as you remember God's love demonstrated by a baby in a manger. A Saviour has been born! The LORD stirred my heart one specific day, and it changed my heart and my life, and I have never looked back. Stir our hearts LORD.

Merry Christmas!















Champagne cocktail

1. Place the sugar cube in a champagne flute

2. Fill the flute with champagne or sparkling

wine, and garnish with the lemon peel spiral.

Celebrations mean bubbles! Add a touch

of effervescence to your evening with this elegant cocktail.

INGREDIENTSServings: 1

• 1 sugar cube

DIRECTIONS

A few drops of Angostura

• 1 lemon peel spiral

· Champagne or sparkling wine

and pour the Angostura over it.

Christmas tree bites

These hors d'oeuvres are so pretty that they should be photographed before they magically disappear!

INGREDIENTS

Servings: 12

- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and halved
- 1 cup fresh Italian parsley
- 150 grams spreadable cheese, such as Boursin
- 12 savoury tart shells
- 1 English cucumber, cut lengthways with a mandolin into 2-millimetre-thick slices
- Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

- Finely dice half the red bell pepper. Set aside.
 Cut the other half into small stars using a cookie cutter. Set aside.
- 2. Finely chop the parsley, reserving a few whole leaves. In a bowl, combine the chopped parsley, diced pepper and cheese spread. Spoon 1 tablespoon of the cheese mixture into each tart shell.
- 3. Spear a star on one end of a toothpick. At the other end, thread a strip of cucumber in a zigzag pattern to create a Christmas tree form. Repeat this step for the other bites.
- 4. Attach a Christmas tree to each tart. Garnish with fresh parsley leaves and serve on a pretty plate.





Have a Wonderful Holiday! From the Council & Staff at the TOWN OF LEADER













Purple delight

With its surprising colour, this slightly tart cocktail made with verbena tea is a delight to sip!

INGREDIENTS Servings: 1

- A few ice cubes
- 2 ounces chilled
- blue verbena tea • 2 ounces lemonade
- 2 ounces gin, optional
- 1 ounce cranberry juice

DIRECTIONS

1. Pour all the ingredients into a cocktail shafair Di ker. Shake vigorously, then pour through a cocktail strainer into a pretty glass.

Mocktail friendly

2. Garnish with blue verbena tea leaves.



Festive orange and beetroot salad

Bursting with flavour and colour, this salad is the perfect way to liven up your festive meals!

INGREDIENTS

Servings: 2

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 3 cups mesclun
- · 2 purple carrots, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup pomegranate seeds
- 1/4 cup roasted pecans, chopped
- 1 orange, cut into half slices
- 1 cooked beet, sliced into rounds
- · 2 slices mild cheddar
- Salt and pepper, to taste

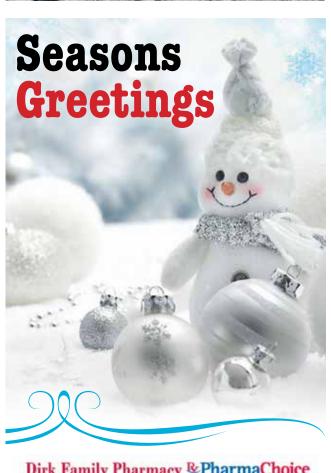
DIRECTIONS

- 1. In a small bowl, combine the olive oil, orange juice and Dijon mustard. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
- 2. Arrange the mesclun, carrot slices, pomegranate seeds, pecans and orange slices on a pretty serving plate.
- 3. Using cookie cutters, create pretty shapes from the beet slices and cheddar cheese. Arrange the shapes on the plate. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
- 4. Place the bowl of vinaigrette in the centre of the plate before serving.









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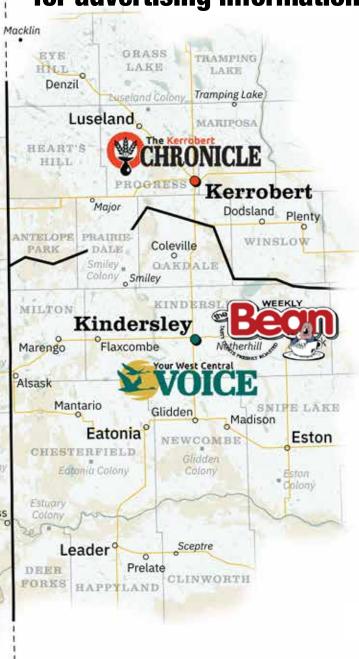
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Merry Christmas and may all your news be good news in 2024!





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