

  
*The*  
**Santa Claus Book**  




Manitoulin Gospel Fellowship Church in the community of Aundeck Omni Kaning on Highway 540.

## Manitoulin Gospel Fellowship Church

For nearly a half-century, since the early 1970s, the Manitoulin Gospel Fellowship Church has been a familiar part of the landscape in the community of Aundeck Omni Kaning where it sits in a place of prominence on Highway 540.

Pastor Charles Nahwegahbow is the founding pastor and has held the role of pastor in the church since its founding.

Georgina Nahwegahbow, Pastor Charles' wife, notes that, "there has always been a fellowship in Sucker Creak (the community's former name) with people gathering in house meetings." The church building was built, she said, in the early 1970s "so people could have a central place of worship outside their homes."

The church is still in use, she explained, although not for regular Sunday services. "Presently, the church is used for special occasions: weddings, baptisms, funerals. On

Christmas Eve, there will be a service at 8 pm and everyone is invited," Ms. Nahwegahbow said.

When the church was constructed, it was built by local people. Ms. Nahwegahbow explained that there were also mission funds, contributed to the project from churches in southern Ontario and Michigan.

The church community, once thriving with a busy and active Sunday school with local teachers, has diminished in activity as older members have passed on and the people who once attended Sunday school there and who are now in their 30s and 40s have other obligations on Sundays.

Ms. Nahwegahbow explained that the cost of heat and general upkeep of the church now falls primarily on her family.

Pastor Charles Nahwegahbow is ordained through the Elim Gospel Fellowship based in Hamilton, Ontario. He remains an active

preacher, Ms. Nahwegahbow explained, "doing evangelical work through Northern Ontario but primarily in Michigan. He has also been to Minnesota and Wisconsin. In Michigan, he is hosted by various native missions. She added that 'camp meetings' are still popular in the summer in southern Ontario and in the United States.

"In fact, our church used to be closed for services during most of July and August because we would be attending camp meetings elsewhere and so would many of our local church members," she recalled. "Charlie at the time preached a lot at Wikwemikong and M'Chigeeng and when our church was built, those families came here."

Ms. Nahwegahbow reiterated hers and her husband's invitation to everyone to worship with them on Christmas Eve at 8 pm.

Published  
yearly  
by:



and its sister  
publication

The Manitoulin West  
**RECORDER**



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From your friends at Northern Credit Union



**WISHING YOU AND YOURS  
A PROSPEROUS HOLIDAY  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR FULL OF  
LOVE, HEALTH & HAPPINESS**

## VISIT US IN BRANCH

### Espanola Branch

91 Centre Street • 705.869.3001

### Little Current Branch

3 Manitowaning Road • 705.368.3222

### Mindemoya Branch

6143 King Street • 705.377.4635

## HOLIDAY HOURS

Sunday, December 25    CLOSED

Monday, December 26    CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27    CLOSED

Monday, January 2    CLOSED



[northerncu.com](http://northerncu.com)  
[truenorthstrong.ca](http://truenorthstrong.ca)



## Welcome the good news

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” These are the words which the angel speaks to the shepherds tending their flocks in the Christmas story from the Gospel of Saint Luke. These words from so long ago are words that we need to reclaim today: “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.” We live in a hurting world where people both at home and abroad are scared and afraid because of situations that are beyond their control; chaotic political situations both at home and around the world that we see play out in front of us on TV and in newspaper headlines, but also very personal issues which we keep to ourselves and hold in our hearts.

The good news to the shepherds and to all the world is that a Messiah is coming who is good news and great joy for all people regardless of their situation. As Christian people we affirm that this saviour is Jesus Christ who was born in a lowly stable over two thousand years ago. Jesus Christ was born into a world full of chaos much like our own world today. The Christ child was good news for the world then and is still good news for the world now.

In the Anglican Church and in many

other Christian traditions during the season of Advent where we wait on the coming of the Messiah one of the time honoured and special traditions is the lighting of the Advent wreath. Each candle that is lit each week represents something that the Messiah will bring. The first week of Advent we light the hope candle in which we acknowledge that Jesus is the hope in this chaotic world. During the second week of Advent the Church lights the peace candle and prays for peace for the world, for our homes and we look to Jesus to bring that peace. On the third Sunday of Advent we light the candle of love in which we give thanks to Jesus for his love for us and the world. Lastly, during the final week of Advent we light the candle of joy in order to acknowledge the Joy that Jesus brings to the world. On Christmas Eve the Church lights one more candle the Christ candle, in which we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, which the darkness of the world cannot overcome.

So at this time of year with all its hustle, bustle and festivity I would invite you to reflect on the words that the angel brought to the shepherds who were watching over their flocks in the fields so many years ago; I would invite you to welcome the one who is the good news and great joy for all people, the one who

brings hope, peace, love and joy—that is Christ Jesus our Lord. On behalf of the people of the Anglican Parishes of Manitoulin Island I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Father Aidan  
Armstrong  
The Anglican  
Parishes of  
Manitoulin**



## Warmest Wishes!

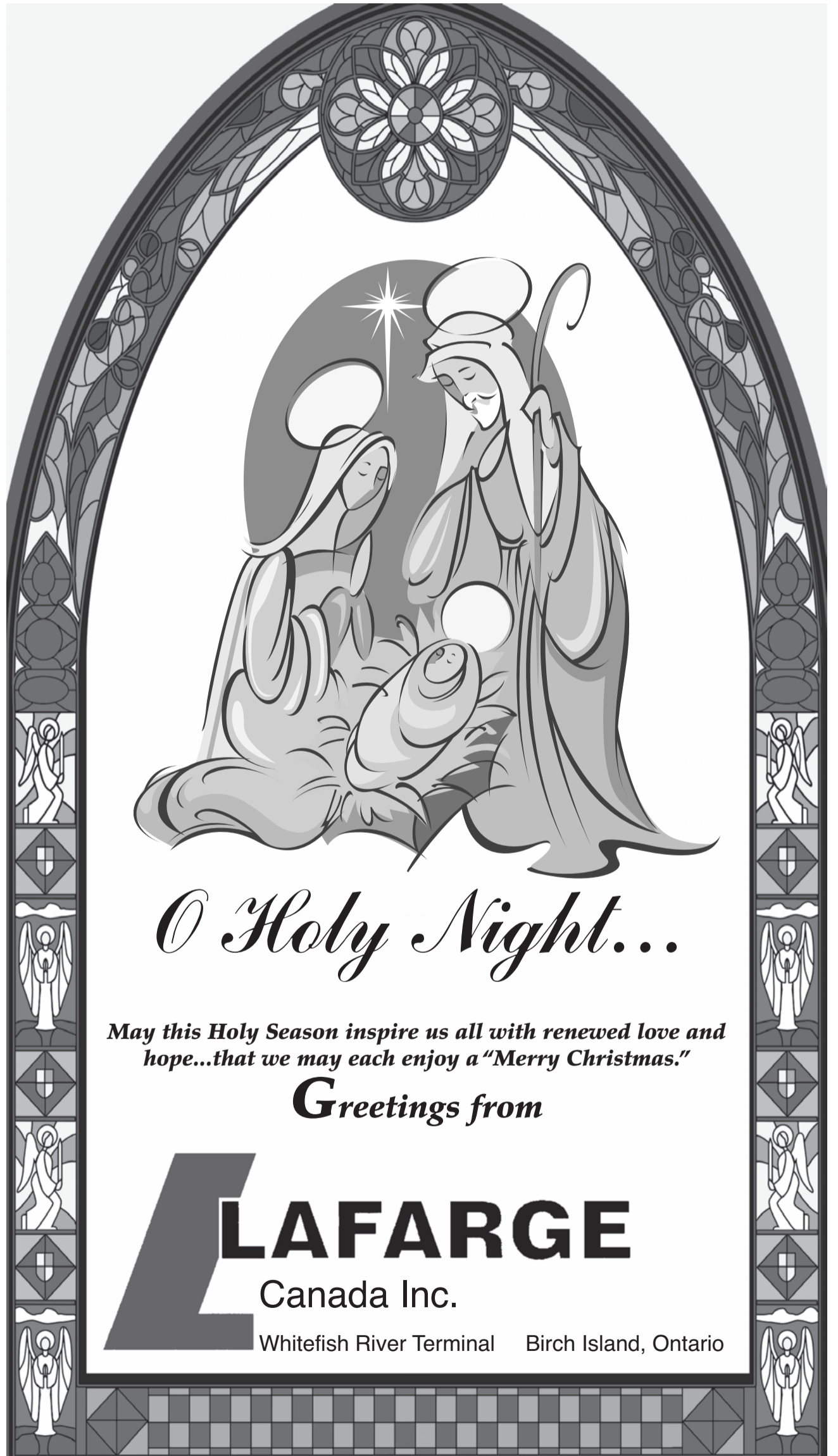
from  
*Dr. Harald Simon,  
Laurie & Angelle*

**MINDEMOYA AND WIKWEMIKONG  
CHIROPRACTIC CLINICS**

[www.drsimon.org](http://www.drsimon.org)

**Proudly serving Manitoulin since 1985!**

May your winter solstice celebration reflect the joy of family, friends and good health



*O Holy Night...*

*May this Holy Season inspire us all with renewed love and hope...that we may each enjoy a "Merry Christmas."*

**Greetings from**

**LAFARGE**  
Canada Inc.

Whitefish River Terminal Birch Island, Ontario



**Manitoulin Financial**

May you have a  
warm and wonderful  
Holiday Season

**Merry Christmas**

from  
*Maurice, Carole,  
Eric & Elyse*

[mlabelle@vianet.ca](mailto:mlabelle@vianet.ca)



## Joseph's decision

Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph, her husband to be, was a righteous man, and because he did not want to disgrace her, he intended to divorce her privately. When he had contemplated this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: "Look! The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel," which means "God with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep he did what the angel of the Lord told him. He took his wife, but did not have marital relations with her until she gave birth to a son, whom he named Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25, NET

Joseph faced two sets of dilemmas. First, his concern for Mary and her unfaithfulness and her pregnancy proof of her apparent unfaithfulness or her pregnancy a miracle and proof of God's faithfulness. The Law required punishment, but he was merciful and kind. He could not bring himself to humiliate her further by publically divorcing her. How odd that someone who was shamed by her seeming misbehaviour looked to make certain that she did not suffer public humiliation. In calling Joseph a righteous man, Matthew points to a quality of goodness tempered by mercy and grace. We know so little of Joseph—not even if he was alive during Jesus' ministry. Who was Joseph? Why did God pick this man to father the Messiah? By no means would I speculate that he was perfect, but his compassion in the face of grievous hurt suggests a man of

deep character and faith.

While the first choice he makes in his dilemma suggests much of his character, the second choice reveals much more for he chooses to believe the impossible. What shred of evidence does Joseph rely upon to take Mary as his wife? It is but words in a dream from which many would shake off as fantasy. "God spoke to me in a dream so I took Mary as my wife. I will raise this child who as not mine as if he were even though society will see him as a bastard-son." The preposterous nature of this story surely makes the telling of the gospel much more difficult to tell to a Jewish audience yet Matthew includes it here with little hesitation. Sometimes it seems that God goes out of his way to make decisions to believe impossible. For Joseph, it is believing a virgin can give birth. For us, Joseph's decision to believe it and then to marry Mary only further compounds our dilemma. Should we believe this absurd, outlandish story or not?

Yet Joseph obeys God when the only evidence he has is a dream. True righteousness does not seek to expose the faults or weaknesses in others. Moral integrity does not guarantee faith. Faith builds on an adequate knowledge of God. Zeal (i.e., sincere devotion) must be based on knowledge (Romans 10:1-4). True righteousness drives us to have compassion for others. While deploring the ignorance of the Samaritan faith (John 4:22), Jesus applauds the compassion of a fictional, Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). If we truly know Christ, we will clothe and feed those in need—especially in spiritual terms. Compassion is getting so shook up inside that we have no choice but to aid our neighbour (1 John 3:16). Sometimes God poses impossible dilemmas in our path. Do we take the hard path and face ridicule all of our lives? Do we believe God, take him at his word, believe in the impossible and follow his instructions? In looking at what little this tells us of Joseph, I can see why God chose such a

man to rear his son—to be his earthly father. I dare say we have much to learn from his story. The world needs more of his kind—more fathers willing to risk it all to follow God and be his man.

**Steve Davis**  
Church of Christ  
Ice Lake

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



*May you be surrounded  
by all the things  
that bring  
Christmas cheer.*

*From Greg & Heather Niven and staff*

Providence Bay 705-377-4055

*Wishing Everyone a  
Safe and Happy Holiday Season*

*from all the staff!*



82 Bay Street in M'Chigeeng, across from MSS

**705-377-6244**

*Massage Gift Certificates Available!*

## Keller's Garage

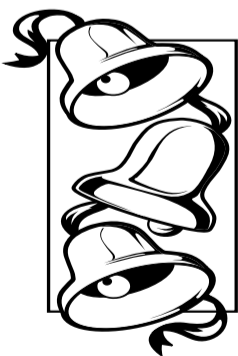


**Auto Repairs ... Auto Body Repairs**

Tel (705) 377 - 5444

Fax (705) 377 - 5245

- Cars • Trucks
- Heavy Equipment • Fleet Service



# SEASON'S GREETINGS

*to all our friends, neighbours and loyal customers.*

*Thank you for another great year!*

*Sincerely,*

*Perry, Janice, Kathy, Peter, Tim,  
Shanelle, Darren, Richard & Tom*

**Centrally Located on Manitoulin in Mindemoya**

**KELLER'S GARAGE, AUTO REPAIRS AND AUTO BODY**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# Have a Happy and Safe Holiday

*All the best to  
you and yours  
this Christmas Season!  
And a very happy  
New Year indeed!*

From your friends at



## Bus Lines

**1-800-461-4622**

**705-368-0262**



## Show kindness this Christmas

The season of Advent is upon us, a time to prepare our minds, hearts and homes for the coming of the birth of Jesus, our Christmas celebration. We take time to reflect on the year that was, hoping it gives us encouragement and strength for the festivities to come. We may see those that are struggling around us but as a family of faith we have the opportunity to show our faith. We can do this by sharing the hope, peace, joy and love of the season.

How would you show your faith? Could it be by holding a door for a shopper with their hands full, letting the person with one item in line behind you go ahead, sharing a candy cane with a friend or simply wishing someone Merry Christmas? These are all very easy tasks expressing love and compassion yet at this busy time of year sometimes forgotten.

The world needs more random acts of kindness and the Christmas season is open to endless opportunities to do this. It does not matter what

your age is, anyone can do this. Showing an act of kindness releases a feeling of joy within and reveals love, a love which brings the feeling of peace and hope to others. There is so much complication and noise around us; why not make it simple and show your faith today. Start with one act of kindness towards someone else to help bring the Christmas spirit to yourself.

Love is an easy and very important gift to give. The goal is to lift one another up in love so no one will feel left out. Hopefully it will ease their struggles for just a few minutes. Everyone is equal and in need of love. We hope you take time to show your faith and embrace the hope, peace, love and joy of the season.

Merry Christmas from the family at the Community of Christ Church.

**Elder Dawn Dawson**  
**Community of Christ Church**  
**Providence Bay**

**Betty's**  
Downtown Gore Bay • 705-282-2580

All the best over the holidays!  
Dave, Betty, family and staff

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Holiday Hours**

*We're open New Year's Day!*  
Dec 24: 8am - 4pm  
Dec 25: Closed  
Dec 26: 11am - 6pm  
Dec 27: 8am - 9pm  
Dec 28: 8am - 9pm  
Dec 29: 8am - 9pm  
Dec 30: 8am - 10pm  
Dec 31: 8am - 4pm  
Jan 1: 12 noon - 6pm  
Jan 2: 8am - 9pm

Now Open Every Sunday 9am - 8pm

DVD Rentals, Groceries, Lottery and much, much more!

## Glory to God in the Highest, and Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men

The announcement that changed the world was brought to us by angels to shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. The announcement that by the grace of God, Jesus the Prince of Peace had come to earth to bring good will to men. This declaration still rings out to many over 2000 years later and the Bible teaches that those who are true followers of Christ will demonstrate love, joy and peace to the world in which they live. This supernatural peace was declared to be peace which could not be understood by the natural mind. Maybe you have experienced this peace in your life or have seen it in someone else's life. It is the

type of peace that God gives to those who trust in Him and is shown in one's life in the most difficult of times.

I believe that most people crave this peace, but just don't know how to achieve it in their own life. Everywhere we look we hear of terror and violence and we see a world that is torn apart by hatred, crime, terror, war and violence. Many people live in fear, and yet they desire peace. The nation of Canada has been known as a nation of peace, in fact the peace tower in Ottawa declares these truths over our nation the declaration of peace on earth good will to men is engraved on the main bell. Also over

the east window it declares He (God) will have dominion also from sea to sea.

Yet it seems that many people want nothing to do with this God of peace because they have observed someone or some organization that claimed to be a representative of God failing to demonstrate the love of God. We have taken this God of peace out of our schools, out of our government, out of our justice system and even out of Christmas. As we approach the holiday season many have ceased calling it Christmas and now simply refer to it as the holiday season or x-mas.

My challenge to you this season is to take

some time and investigate this man Jesus and His call to peace on earth. Do not allow the misrepresentation of someone tarnish your image of Jesus, that baby, born in Bethlehem. Take time this season to reflect on the angel's declaration of peace on earth, good will to men. Find out what it is that makes this baby so special. God said that "you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13

This Christmas remember to make sure to keep Christ at the center of Christmas. We here at Gateway to Life Church wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and may the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

**Pastor Phil Hovi**  
**Gateway to Life Church**  
**Little Current**

**WISHING EVERYONE THE BEST OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!**

From the Chief, Council, & Staff of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation

## How to find a peaceful Christmas

"Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas season." A phrase we hear throughout the Christmas season. But how do we achieve this goal? Consumerism and coemptiveness during this season will not find us peace.

During the busy time of preparing for Christmas we must remind ourselves that this preparation is for the coming of the Christ Child. This time is called Advent. It is a time of reconciliation, a time of alertness, a time to remind ourselves there is peace out there. But where do we find this peace? We will find this peace we search for through reconciliation with our Creator—our God. We

find it in prayer, with Jesus Christ.

Bring Christ back into Christmas. This is what Christmas is—the birth of Jesus Christ, the birth of love for all humankind. Help someone in need this Christmas, give them

the gift of peace and love and bring a smile to their face.

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

**Father George Gardner**  
**St. Bernard's Parish**  
**Little Current**

**Al's Corner Garage**  
Gore Bay • 705-282-2591

Al, Denise, Jake & Zoe would like to thank everyone for your business and support in 2016

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Season's Greetings**

The Municipality of Assiginack Family Health Team along with its board members and Dr. Bedard would like to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas** and all the best in 2017



## Jesus' lowly birth lays a path for us today

While quickly approaching Christmas, once more in our thoughts we journey together with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. It is striking that incarnation of Jesus includes also submitting both of them to the troublesome demands of census. We notice the anxiety of Joseph and tiredness of Mary on their faces. Will they find a place to stay or anyone helping Mary during her labour? And yet they continue without any complaint, trusting fully in God's providence. Mary ponders the additional mental burden of how to explain to her husband the mystery of Jesus conception.

It was God Himself who put Her in that tense situation and it will be the same God who will find a magnificent solution to it.

Jesus described Himself as the Way. It is the fitting definition even prior to His birth. What does it imply for me? First of all that I have to know Him closely and stay always on the trail blazed by him for me. Thus, I should display the same trust in God as Mary and Joseph did. Jesus started His earthly pilgrimage surrounded by the striking poverty of the manger. Am I sensitive to the plight of the poor? I am very grateful for the material support of many

Christians for less privileged brothers and sisters during Christmas.

The lowly shepherds are the first ones who ran to meet the Baby Jesus. They believed the incredible message of the ange and recognized in a small child the true God. They tried to spread the Good News around. Am I on my way to share the Good News as they did? On the first Christmas Mass, the whole of Bethlehem was sound asleep. Nowadays, many are indifferent to any religion. How am I to convey the joyful message of God becoming Emmanuel to them? I will rely on the intercession and inspiration of Mary the Mother of Jesus the patroness of three Catholic churches on the Manitoulin Island.

**Father Antoni Baranowski**  
**Holy Cross Parish, Wikwemikong**  
**Church of Our Lady of Canada,**  
**Mindemoya**  
**Church of the Immaculate Conception,**  
**M'Chigeeng**  
**Church of the Immaculate Heart of**  
**Mary, Gore Bay**  
**Church of St. Gabriel Lalemant,**  
**Birch Island**

## The Lock family Christmas tree

I won the battle this year and got permission to go looking for a Christmas tree instead of buying one or putting up a yuppie fake one. So, on a beautiful Saturday afternoon we bundled up. The wife and I on a four-wheeler pulling a trailer with three boys behind, we headed out to look for the Lock family Christmas tree. Wow, did we ever find a beauty. Beautiful day, saved some money, family memories, only lost one kid in the bush...things couldn't be better.

We got the tree home and into the living room to discover that she was just a touch too big. With all the excitement and my head swelling from so many successes in one day I made a slightly rash decision and went for the chainsaw. Did you know you can make a pretty big mess in four seconds with a chainsaw and a Christmas tree in 20' x 20' living room? The mess, however, you can clean up. What I've learned is that it's

the smell that won't go away. The lingering exhaust smell from an oil/gas mix engine running full throttle. Memorable. A smell that can be quite enchanting on a winding snowmobile trail is quite overpowering in your living room. That real tree fresh pine smell is overrated anyways.

We all know this time of year is about more than the battles that wage between consumer and buyer, friend and foe, husband and wife. That out-buying our neighbour, upgrading beyond our budgets, and over-filling our schedules drains us and our families from the true gifts of the Christmas Season. Knowing this and living this is often two different realities. Even when I intentionally plan for things that will help me avoid those traps, as I was trying to do with the Lock family Christmas tree...slow-

ing down, being authentic, taking the road less travelled, making a lasting family memory, avoiding consumerism, etc.

The reality is we can quickly resort to our worst selves when small problems hit and things get difficult. I went for the chainsaw. What happened to slowing down, being authentic and making a lasting family memory? The road less travelled, maybe. I went into get-er done mode. Quick, thoughtless, worry about the mess later. Clark Griswold would have been impressed. My wife wasn't. The smell doesn't go away. A reminder of my humanity.

Christmas is a celebration of a God who stepped into that humanity. The lingering gas mix exhaust smell of our humanity. There have been times and places throughout my life when I've gone for the chainsaw and made a

mess of things and needed forgiveness, needed grace, and needed to be shown a better way to walk, live and love in this world. The story at Christmas that I hold dear is about a God who took on flesh in helpless babe in order to offer a world these exact gifts. Forgiveness, grace and a better way to live and love with our families, our neighbours, our friends and even our enemies in this season and throughout the year. May the smell of those gifts overpower the smell of our chainsaw moments. Blessings to you and your family this Christmas Season.

**Pastor Joel Lock**  
**Island**  
**Community**  
**Church**

### Maggie's Cafe

*M'Chigeeng*  
Our very best wishes from the  
"Maggie's family" to your family.

## Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year



Closed Friday, December 23, 2016  
Re-opening Monday, January 9, 2017  
(winter hours until April, 9am - 4pm)

**To our loyal, valued customers**  
**Merry Christmas from**  
**"The Mother and Daughter Team"**  
**Celebrating 33 yrs in 2017**

## We're Saving Our Best Smile For You!



*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
from all of us at*

## Manitoulin Denture Clinic

Leanne Bentley Hon. B.Sc., DD

73 Centre St.  
Espanola, P5E 1S4  
705-869-4544

**1-866-233-5233**

58 Worthington St.  
Little Current, POP 1K0  
705-368-0723




## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from **Madore** Sports & Electronics




**Madore Sports & Electronics**  
Downtown Gore Bay  
705-282-2361







Thank you Manitoulin for a terrific year.  
Wishing you all a healthy New Year.



### Office Hours

Tuesday • Wednesday • Thursday  
8:30am - 5:00pm - Evenings by appointment  
**705-368-0700**  
103-15 Worthington Street, Little Current  
[www.littlecurrentchiropractor.com](http://www.littlecurrentchiropractor.com)



## Does the Star call you?

Christmas season, or the holiday season, may not be the happiest time for some folks. Call it what we may, it is a difficult time for many. We see the rushing around, the spending of money, impatient people in lineups. The frantic drivers and lonely people in the malls, or wherever we may shop. We see people checking their phones, texting, updating Facebook, listening to music, or calling home to stay in touch. Do we stop (or even slow down) to wonder how life situations might be for many of these people. Or are we some of those happy people rushing around to find just the right gift for our loved ones, our workmates, or our friend. Some of us can relate to both situations perhaps.

Not long ago we had an unusual event happen. We had a Super Moon. It lasted for quite a few days, and people would go to Ten Mile Point and view it and take pictures. When I saw it, it reminded me of the Star on a winter night long ago. I just had to look up and admire the heavenly body brought close for us all to see. I compare it to the Star those smelly shepherds saw on a cold night. The Star that shone when the Angels came to visit them. These roughly dressed everyday people who were invited to come to another smelly place, and see a great thing. Who knows, if this event had happened in this day and in this year 2016, the message might have been on their smart phones. Would they have taken that chilly walk into that little town to see the great thing! I wonder if a smart phone is as impressive as a choir of Angels.

We too are invited to come to a place to see a great thing. Even if we do not accept the invitation, it will continue to be brought to us; brought to us by others, who come into our lives, searching for help, or comfort or love. Who come following their Star of hope. Who come to us needing to know they belong someplace or to someone. Can you get that feeling from your phone, or Facebook etc., no matter how convenient it might be?

There are those who follow their Star because they want to offer their gifts to those in need. The 'well to do' Magi followed their Star, the same star the Shepherds saw. They had seen the Star brought close. They brought their gift offerings to the Holy One. The child sent by God, as all children are. Gifts from God. But this child was a special child. This special child was chosen to come to our world from the beginning of time. The one who comes, inviting us to find comfort and caring. The one who can become as personal to us as we allow.

Slowdown from all that rushing, and find time to ponder. We are all gifts from God, and are all invited to come to that place where we can meet God's gift. Christmas is a time for us to find the chosen one, Jesus Christ, perhaps for the very first time, or perhaps to re-acquaint ourselves after a separation, or to remind us again that we too have been called by the One who created the Star. Come.

**Gail Cronin, lay worship leader  
Little Current Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada**

## Merry Christmas!

We are fast approaching Christmas again. Looking back at the previous Christmas seasons and the many changes we have seen in our country and communities concerning this time of the year leaves me wondering if the next generation will know who Jesus is, why He came and the significance of His birth death and resurrection, Christmas is a time for recognition and celebration of Christ who was born of the virgin Mary.

Math 1:20-25. NIV  
But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his

people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

It is important we make the connection between Jesus (English) names, with "He Will Save." In Hebrew it would be "yohia" which means "He Will Save" which is Hebrew root word for Yeshua thus the Messiah's name is explained on the basis of "what He will do."

Save His people from their sin. This child, this baby born of a vir-

gin, God in the flesh, Immanuel, "God with us" came to save his people from their sin and provide eternal life.

Luke 1:35 New King James Version

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Oh that name the name of Jesus the Son of the "The Most High God" there is something about that name, heals the wounded soul, sets the sinner free, gives purpose and destiny to all who seek Him, we know not His riches and our own poverty therefore we don't run to Him, we don't see we are lost and perishing therefore His name means nothing.


This Christmas let's put His name back in

our homes, schools, communities bringing respect and honor to our Lord our Saviour, Jesus who came to "save his people from their sin and provide eternal life."

Merry Christmas to all and let the name of Jesus be lifted up at this time.

**Pastor Barry Lee  
Springs of Living  
Waters Church  
Manitowaning**

*Behold  
the Glory  
of Our Lord!*



May you celebrate a joyous and peaceful Christmas with those you hold close to your heart. We truly appreciate your friendship and devotion.

**Thanks for a great year from,  
Linda and Staff at the  
Law Office of Linda McDonald  
Little Current**

*Blessed Tidings  
to you...*

*May the Gift of Christmas  
Bring you great Joy  
and Peace This  
Holiday Season.*

Many Thanks for  
your continued  
Trust and Friendship

**The Brown Family  
and Staff of  
Carl Brown Bus,  
South Baymouth**

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year  
Nous vous souhaitons  
Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année  
Bebaada miinwaa Minwaanquod  
Minnwaa Nimbodaading*




**Carol Hughes, MP/Députée**  
Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskaing  
carol.hughes@parl.gc.ca

**Michael Mantha, MPP/Député**  
Algoma-Manitoulin  
mmantha-co@ndp.on.ca



**WITH WARM REGARDS**

*We wish you peace, happiness and good health.  
Thank you for your loyalty.  
It's been a privilege to help you with your financial needs!  
Your friends at*

**BMO Bank of Montreal**

*Mindemoya, Manitowaning, Gore Bay, Little Current*



## Do you hear what I hear?

A baby's first cry! That sound announces to the world that a miracle has happened and invites us into the hope, peace, joy, and love of all that is to come.

The story at Bethlehem unfolds as Joseph and Mary anticipate the birth of a child. This is at the very heart of this and every Advent season. The story calls us to the manger to reflect and to care about the most vulnerable in our midst.

Babies depend on us for their very survival and yet within that frailty lives a powerful sense of hope. Everything else falls away as attention and energy focus on that precious bundle of joy. Unconditional and overwhelming love are undeniable at the birth of a child.

The message of Christmas is a cry for a radical hospitality for the inclusion of our most vulnerable people—the poor, the elderly, the lonely, the sick, the unwanted, the unloved, the addicted, the stranger, the lost, and all who find themselves being pushed into the fringe of society—that place of disparity and brokenness. Jesus lived his life advocating for social reform for an extreme sector of the population. He taught us through his actions—feeding the poor, healing the sick, sitting with outcasts, modelling a radical hospi-

tality everywhere he went. This message is a twinkling of hope that can change the world if we have ears to hear it. It holds transformative power when put into actions.

We feel the anxiety of Joseph and Mary at the inn that night, exhausted after a very long journey. We cheer for the radical hospitality of the innkeeper's wife as she takes action to bring comfort to Mary. We witness the wonder of a babe born in a stable with no crib for a bed. A baby of hope, peace, joy, and love; vulnerable yet filled with the hope of transforming a hurting world.

St. Benedict said, "Listen with the ear of your heart."

Do you hear what I hear? The miracle and wonder of Christmas in a tiny baby's cry to us.

May this Christmas bring us to places where we can live out a hospitality that speaks of a world that cares for all God's people and creation. That would be an awesome blessing of Jesus in our midst today!

Blessings upon blessings to all,

**Rev. Laurie Howard**  
**Lyons Memorial United Church**  
**Gore Bay**

## Make room for Him this Christmas

On that night in Bethlehem there was no room for Him in the inn, and this was not the only time during the 33 years of His sojourn in mortality that there was no room for Him.

Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem to slay the children. There was no room for Jesus in the domain of Herod, so His parents took him to Egypt. During His ministry, there many who made no room for His teachings—no room for the gospel He taught.

There was no room for His miracles, for His blessings, no room for the divine truth He spoke, no room for his love or faith.

He said to them, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head." Mathew 8: 20

Even in our day although two thousand years have passed, there are many that say the same thing that was said on that night in Bethlehem: "there is no room, no room" Luke 2:7

We make room for gifts, but sometimes no room is made for the giver. We have room for the commercialism of Christmas and even pleasure seeking on the Sabbath day, but there are times when there is no room for worship. Our thoughts are filled with other things—there is no room.

While it will be a beautiful sight to see the lights of Christmas... it is more important to have human lives illuminated by the acceptance of Him who is the light of the world.

On the eve of His birth angels sang, "On earth peace, good will towards men," Luke 2:14

If men would follow His example, it would be a world of peace and love towards all men.

I Hope all will remember the Saviour this Christmas Season and all year long.

**Edgar Sagle, branch president**  
**Manitoulin Branch of The Church of**  
**Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**

## Open your eyes to precious things

Hi, I'd like to send my Christmas greetings to you and your family.

As a new guy in the community, I really look forward to sharing my first Christmas season with you.

I have just experienced one of our very impressive and awesome community events, Journey to Bethlehem. It is obvious that there are many talented people here and you know how to work together as a team. There are many things that you should be proud about in this community and I am very happy to be on the team.

As the season of Christmas approaches, we tend to open our eyes wider to the precious things that we might have forgotten or have taken for granted: friendship, family, resting, sharing, peace, joy, grace, forgiveness, salvation, worship and God.

From a Christian perspective, the meaning of Christmas is all about God's giving of the greatest and the perfect gift for you and me. The gift is God himself in a baby called Jesus Christ for our salvation: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child,

and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, 'God with us.' (Matthew 1:23).

When God's greatest gift to you and I is Himself, our greatest Christmas present to the Lord can be the giving of ourselves to Him in worship.

If you have no home church to attend on the Island or you have been searching for the truth, I'd like to encourage you to attend one of the Christian churches in our community. They are

...continued on page 9

**COMPLETE AUTOMOTIVE**  
Spragge St. in Manitowaning.  
705-859-3431  
*Wishes everyone the best of the*  
*Holiday Season*  
*from Scott, Marcie and Staff*




**Our Best Holiday Wishes**  
Keeping things in order is our business, but serving our customers is a pleasure. Warmest thanks.  
**Ellie's Cleaning Service**  
*Ella & Staff*

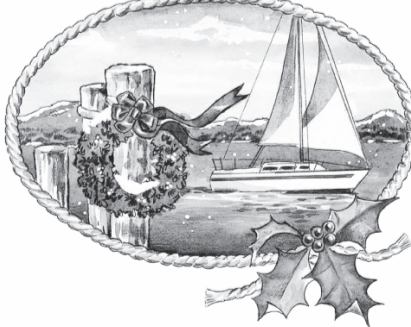
**Good Wishes**  
**to all for Christmas**  
**and New Year**  
**From Loves Carpentry**  
*Ed Love*  
(705) 377-5820  
(705) 210-9270



**Merry**  
**Christmas**  
**and Happy New Year**  
from  
**Bridal Veil**   
**THE**  
**COTTAGE SUPPLY**  
**STORE**  
LCBO Agency  
*We look forward to serving*  
*you in the New Year!*  
**Brad, Deb, Family and Staff**  
31 Main Street, Kagawong  
**(705) 282-2593**



**DRIVING**  
**SCHOOL NORTH**  
*Wishes to thank everyone*  
*for their patience and*  
*understanding with our students.*  
*Wishing all a happy and*  
*safe holiday season!*

**Tidings of**  
**Comfort and Joy**  
  
We hope the holidays bring you serenity, happiness and all the comforts of home. We're grateful for the blessing of your friendship.  
**Pat and Marlene Boyle and staff**  
**Boyle Marine**  
Little Current





## A Christmas message

At this time of year, as I listen to all the beautiful Christmas music, I find myself becoming quite sentimental—remembering past Christmases, especially from the time when I was a young boy: Christmas with my parents, my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

I was looking through some old Christmas cards the other day while I was listening to Jim Reeves sing 'An Old Christmas Card': "There's an old Christmas card in an old dusty trunk. And it brings back sweet memories dear to me. Though it's faded and worn, it's as precious as the morn when I found it 'neath our first Christmas tree." Memories are an important part of Christmas for me!

When I listen to Perry Como sing, 'I'll be home for Christmas,' I wish I could go back home to my parents just one more time: "I'll be home for Christmas; you can plan on me. Please have some snow, and mistletoe, and presents on the tree. Christmas will find me, where the love light gleams. I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dream."

I can only go home for Christmas in my dreams anymore because my parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles are all dead now. But in the midst of this sadness that

comes over me, I can really celebrate the real meaning of Christmas—that God, out of his overwhelming love for all his children, including you and me—came into the world in the form of a baby, Jesus. And by his birth, life, death on the cross, and resurrection, ascension, and second coming, I know that one day I will be reunited with God, and with loved ones not just for one more Christmas, but for an eternity. That is exciting! That is the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas!

Each Christmas Eve we have the tradition of gathering together as a worshipping community to give thanks to God for the birth of his Son Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. We read the Christmas story from the gospels according to Matthew and Luke and we sing some of our favourite Christmas carols. The Knox service is at 6 pm and this year it is St. Andrew's turn at 7:30 pm. Hope you can make it. Maybe even invite someone who hasn't been before, or not for a long time. Wishing you all the very best at Christmas!

**Rev. Martin Garniss**  
Manitowaning Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada

## Receive the gift

Have you ever given a gift to someone to find out later that the gift was put on a shelf somewhere and never opened and never appreciated? Perhaps you even put great thought into that gift and went to considerable sacrifice to obtain the gift that you felt was the exact expression of your love to that individual. Do you recall the disappointment that you felt when you came to realize that all of your efforts were ignored and never appreciated? Oh, there may have been some acknowledgment by the receiver at the time of receiving the gift, but the real test of appreciation is found in what is done with a gift once it is given. To receive the gift and

then put it on a shelf never to be opened is like a slap in the face to the giver.

At this Christmas season please allow me to remind you that the reason Christmas happened in the first place was God sent His one and only son, Jesus, to planet earth as a gift to provide mankind with a way to come back into right relationship with his creator. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Paul the Apostle wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 urging us "Not to receive God's grace in vain, for he says, in the time of my favour I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation."

Yes, God sent Jesus

to planet earth over 2,000 years ago as a gift to mankind. Jesus came as a baby so that he could identify with every one of us. None of us in ourselves are worthy of God's forgiveness for our sinfulness, but God in His love and grace has sent us the gift of His son. Jesus was born to die on the cross of Calvary to pay the full penalty for the sins of mankind. He offers forgiveness and salvation to all who will confess their sins and call on him for mercy.

The question this Christmas is "What have you done with this gift?"

**Rev. Dan Thompson**  
Spring Bay  
Pentecostal Church



**Greetings from Dave, Cheryl, Rachael & Jonathon**

*Santa called us up to say,  
His entourage is on the way.  
Led by heartfelt thanks  
and best wishes too,  
From all of us, to all of you!*

**Har-Cor**

**Diesel** • Repairs • Parts  
**Farm Supply** and  
**Greenhouse**

*Come visit our Greenhouses  
in the spring!*

Green Bay 705-368-1168

*The*  
**Hawberry Florist**

*Wishes Merry Christmas and  
Best Wishes to you and yours*



For all your Christmas floral needs  
call us today  
**705-368-1100**

## ...Open your eyes to precious things

...continued from page 8

all good churches because Christ is the head of the church. If you want to worship with my own church community, Mindemoya United Church Pastoral Charge or just to a new interesting minister in our neighbourhood, you are more than welcome. Our regular Sunday worship during the winter months is at 11 am at the Mindemoya United Church (6070 King, St). Our Christmas candlelight service will take place on December 18 at 7 pm at Mindemoya United Church and our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 pm at Providence Bay United Church (5227 Hwy 551). There will be no Christmas Day service to allow us to worship at home.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Christ,

**Rev. Joshua J. Kang**  
Mindemoya Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada



**Hair Trends**

*Pamper the one you love with a*  
**Gift Certificate**

Merry Christmas  
from  
**Linda and Danielle**

Corner of Hardbargain and Dupont in Little Current.  
Call 705-368-2043



**JOYEUX NOEL**

*Season's Greetings  
and cheery  
good wishes!*



**Doug's Barber Shop**  
Downtown  
Little Current



**Happy Holidays**

*We hope you  
have a wonderful  
holiday season  
with all the  
trimmings!*

**Harbor Vue Marina**  
72 Ferguson Road  
Little Current

www.harborvue.on.ca



## The who's and why's

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus records that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and placed him in a manger because there was no room in the inn (Luke 2:7). Admittedly, some have correctly questioned whether it was an inn, as you or I would think of it. It's not exactly as though the local motel, hotel, or their version of a Super 8 was all booked up for the night. It is unlikely that anything like an "inn" existed in Bethlehem. In first century Judea, travellers were dependent on either the guest room of a relative or the hospitality of a stranger. Newer attempts to accurately and meaningfully translate Luke express this vague piece of trivia like this: Mary "wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" (NIV 2011). In the first century, Bethlehem was not a tourist destination, as it is today. There was "no room" in an inn, no guest room with family, and no hospitality from a stranger. Regardless of how one renders the text into English, one fundamental fact remains—there was "no room."

"No room"—how eloquently those two little words express the essence of our modern lives. I called it a bit of trivia. But it's not really so trivial. We are tyrannized by the urgent. Our lives are overcrowded. The 'to do' list seems endless. The gift list is bottomless. The seasonal events and parties create a schedule that can be exhausting—not to mention the cooking and cleaning and baking

and decorating and wrapping and... (You can fill in the blanks.). Eventually, the 'whats' that we have to do leave "no room" for the most important things in life—the who's and the why's. The who's and why's boil down to relationships—family, friends, neighbours, and community—the stuff of life and meaning.

Now that leads to a critical question: What does all this have to do with Bethlehem and Christmas? Let me express my response like this: You cannot have Christmas without family, friends, neighbours, and community and you cannot have family, friends, neighbours, and community without Christmas, because Christmas is about the ultimate Who and the ultimate Why.

In this season, we celebrate the arrival in our world of the "Ultimate Who." Jesus, whom we celebrate, is the Word who is God, who became flesh, that is, a human being, and lived among us (John 1:1, 14). He is the one who created everything and brought us humans into being. Who he is shows the tragedy of the "no room" at Bethlehem, two millennia ago. There was "no room" for the Creator, the Source of Life.

"No room" for Him also shows the ultimate tragedy of our lives. Our self-preoccupation and attachment to the what's of life have estranged us from the most fundamental relationship in life, our relationship to our Creator. Our ruptured relationship to the Creator leads to broken relationships with ourselves, with

...continued on page 11

# Manitoulin Midwifery



*To all of our wonderful families, friends and colleagues!*

## Happy Holidays

from  
**Christina & Earlene**

**705-368-2362**  
[babies@amtelecom.net](mailto:babies@amtelecom.net)

Facebook - Manitoulin Midwifery

**Your Body, Your Baby, Your Choice**



Peace  
Be  
With  
You

*May you enjoy a glad and glorious Yuletide season.*

*We have truly valued your kind support this year.*

*Thank you from all of us.*

**Melvin E. VanHorn**  
**Insurance Brokers Ltd.**  
Mindemoya 705-377-5777  
[www.vhinsurance.ca](http://www.vhinsurance.ca)



We wish you and yours a happy holiday and make it a healthy New Year!



Sudbury & District  
Health Unit  
Service de santé publique

À vous et aux vôtres nous souhaitons une heureuse période des Fêtes et la santé et la sûreté au cours du Nouvel An!

Sudbury & District  
Health Unit  
Service de santé publique



## Advent Message: 'O Come, All Ye'

When I was a child, decorating the Christmas tree in the corner of my family's living room was a group effort, almost always tackled with a recording of Tennessee Ernie Ford—and his own choir of studio

angels—emanating from the floor-model stereo console. The scratches on the old vinyl LP couldn't mar the confidence and the power of Tennessee Ernie's voice. When he sang "O come, all ye faithful..." I knew he

meant it: something special had happened in Bethlehem long ago, and I was invited to be a part of it. I felt like a door was being flung open, just for me. And the pleasure of receiving such an invitation took the tedium out of

placing the tinsel on the Christmas tree, strand by clingy strand.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" has remained a favourite Christmas Carol since it was written nearly 275 years ago. Sung by countless soloists, congregations, and choirs—in countless worship services, school Christmas pageants, carol sing-alongs, and tree decorating parties—"O Come,

All Ye Faithful" is still an invitation to be part of something special. A door is being flung

open, just for you... whether or not you consider yourself one

...continued on page 12

## ...The who's and why's

...continued from page 10

each other, and even with the creation and the creatures with which we share it. This relational brokenness points to the "Ultimate Why"—"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ." The why of Christmas is that Jesus came to effect reconciliation, to create a new relationship with him. Our Creator became the mediator of a new relationship. Jesus' birth, live, sacrificial death, and resurrection created the possibility for that new relationship. However, reconciliation requires trust—making room for the other person in our lives once again.

There is a wonderful metaphor for reconciliation in the last book of the Bible (Revelation 3:14-22). Jesus pictures himself standing at a door, knocking, and seeking entrance into the life of those for whom he cares very much. He longs to come in and share the joy of hospitality and table-friendship. He asks them to trust Him by opening the door of their lives. However, they think

they are rich and have need of nothing, while, in reality, they are "wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked." It's meant to be a picture of people who have all the "what's" but are missing out on the "who's" and "why's." Most of all, they have left the "Ultimate Who" standing at the door—they had "no room" for the One who created them and reconciled them for the joy of relationship with Him and with others.

Here is Jesus' invitation for you this Christmas: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Open the door of your life to Him and begin a relationship that transcends and transforms all other relationships.

May God's richest blessing be yours this Christmas season—a deep, abiding relationship with Jesus that creates a new future for all other relationships.

Pastor Ray Kloetstra  
Mindemoya  
Missionary Church

Here's a very special holiday greeting to all our special friends and patrons. We hope this joyous season brings you joy, love and happiness.

**The Royal Canadian Legion**

**Western Manitoulin Branch**

**(ONT. NO. 514)**

**Gore Bay, Ontario P0P 1H0**



## Season's Greetings!



**THE Agromart GROUP**

**705-282-1508 • 1-877-282-2476**

From the people who really know the seasons!

We thank you for your patronage this past year and we look forward to working with you in 2017.

from

**All of us at  
Northland  
Agromart**

## NORTHSHORE TRACTORS

Phone: (705) 248-2208 Fax: (705) 248-3170

Website: [www.northshoretractor.com](http://www.northshoretractor.com)

Email: [sales@northshoretractor.com](mailto:sales@northshoretractor.com)

**To all our friends in the  
Manitoulin farming community,  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!**



## You've Been So Nice!

This year has been a dream-come-true,  
And we owe it all to you,  
For being such good friends to us,  
And being so very generous,  
We thank you each and every one,  
And wish you all loads of fun!

### Holiday Hours

**Closed DECEMBER 24th at 12 noon**

**Re-opening Tuesday, December 27th**

**8:00am - 5:00pm**

**Saturday, December 31st 8am - noon**

**Closed January 1st & 2nd**

**Open for regular hours**

**Tuesday, January 3rd**

Here's hoping you and yours enjoy this holiday season,  
and we look forward to seeing you again, soon.

Merry Christmas from the management and staff of



**RONA**  
Little Current Building Centre

1 Vankoughnet St. E  
Little Current  
705-368-2090



# Letters to Santa!

**Dear Santa,**  
I am Harmony Peape of Sudbury. I would like some things and see my Grandpa and Uncle Tyler from Little Current. I would like to say Merry Christmas to my Great-Grandpa in Little Current and to my Mom Megan and Dad Steve. A hug for my dog and two cats.

**Thanks Santa Claus,**  
**Harmony Peape,**  
**age 5**  
**Sudbury**

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Rowan McCann. I am 4 years old and my Mom and Dad say that I've been a pretty good boy this year. Thank you for the gifts from last year.

They were awesome! For Christmas I would like the Ninja Turtles with their party wagon and the technodrome. I would also like to put in a good word for my brother Patrick. He is my big brother and my best friend and he would really like a telescope for Christmas. Can you also bring something

special for Brayden and Brianna? Mom says they have been good-so why not?

We will leave you milk and cookies for your big night and carrots for your reindeer. Safe travels!

**Love Rowan McCann**  
**Gore Bay**

**Dear Santa,**  
Hi, how are you and Mrs. Claus? Myself, I am a young man, I don't need toys. Well maybe one. I have been

*...continued on page 13*

## A Christmas Prayer



May your faith sustain you for all your days, and may His love and grace live in your heart always. Have a joyous Christmas.

*Our grateful thanks to all of our friends. Thank you for your support over this past year!*

**Barb, Wade and Staff**  
**Green Acres Tent & Trailer Park & Family Restaurant**

## ...Advent Message: 'O Come, All Ye'

*...continued from page 11*  
of The Faithful.

We live in an increasingly secular society, where fewer and fewer people choose to connect themselves to a church family. And so the Good News story of the birth of the Christ Child is unfamiliar, and God's love expressed through the encouragement and support of a faith community is unknown. In the face of this reality, the invitation from well-intentioned church folk to "O come, all ye faithful..." may sound foreign or hollow to anyone who has kept organized religion at arm's length.

So, maybe we need to mess with John Francis Wade's lyrics just a bit. In the spirit of true invitation, with a wish to really fling the door open for everyone to be a part of the "something special" that happened in Bethlehem long ago, maybe we need to sing new lyrics that speak to the reality of our secular world, and the distance from which many of our neighbours hear the story of Christmas.

Maybe we need to sing something like, "O come, all ye skeptics, bring your doubts and questions,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem..."

Or, "O come, all ye seekers, searching for a purpose..."

Or, "O come, all ye lonely, we will walk together..."

Or, "O come, all ye grieving, come find peace and comfort..."

Because, you see, the gift of God's grace, the gift of the Spirit's presence, and the gift of the Christ Child are not gifts reserved only for those who consider themselves The Faithful. They are gifts for all. They are gifts for the skeptic, the seeker, the lonely, the grieving, and for everyone who—in the joys and challenges of everyday living—needs to hear an invitation to be a part of something special.

No matter who you are or where you've been, the invitation is for you. A door is flung open for you. O come, all ye. Come to Bethlehem.

**Rev Janice Frame**  
**Western Manitoulin Pastoral Charge**  
**with United Churches in Meldrum Bay,**  
**Silver Water and Elizabeth Bay**

## Finn's Gas Bar & Convenience Store

Hours 7am-11pm • Open 7 days a week

# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

*Basil, Janice and Staff*

*Open 7 days a week*  
187 Hwy 551 M'Chigeeng, ON (705) 377-4479

# This Holiday Season Choose Your Ride



## ARRIVE ALIVE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

## Stay Safe and Happy Holidays





# Letters to Santa!

**Dear Santa,**

Hi Santa. It's Gage, remember me from last year? I was wondering when our elf will come? Santa, when you were little did you ever have an Elf on the Shelf? For Christmas this year I want a transformer and his name is Optimus Prime. I also want Starscream, he's a Transformer too. Santa, I think I should deserve my present because I help clean the house and sometimes also help to clean the dishes. Santa, also for

Christmas I want another good guy, please and thank you. Have a good trip.

**From Gage Patterson**

**Age 8  
Gore Bay**

**Dear Santa,**

Hi Santa. Did you have a good day? For Christmas I want a Transformer. I really want Optimus Prime and Bumblebee. My brother Gage, is also asking for Transformers and I am going to play with my him. We both want Optimus Prime. I'm being a really good boy this year. I helped my dad work. Santa, I am wondering what colour your sleigh is? If I had a sleigh it would be red!

**From Garrison**

**Age 5  
Gore Bay**

*...continued on page 16*

*...continued from page 12*

asking for an army tank. I still want it. I collect the—help! Anyways, I want a new PlayStation 4 and some games like Watch Dog, Walking Dead, Hockey, anyones will do. My grandma a huggable pillow, new Oil of Olay and clothes. Papa Glen a new shaver, weed cutter and television. Auntie Tracy one year of massages and facials. Uncle Wesley new PJs maybe a new car. Izzy and Wasskone toys and clothes, Hayden more games so we can share.

Oh yeah, Auntie Lena. I don't know, anything. I guess she likes anything and everything, new winter boots like grandma or mittens and scarf.

That's all for now Santa, I love you very much, I will leave some Coke and cookies that I will make myself, and some carrots for your reindeer.

**Love Wassnodeh  
Wassnodeh Recollet  
Wikwemikong**

REVIVE YOUR SPIRIT!



*Seasons Greeting from the staff at  
Rainbow Ridge Golf Course*



**NEW NORTH FUELS INC**

**Manitoulin  
TRANSPORT**

**Wishing you a warm and wonderful holiday season and all the best in 2017!!**



**Gore Bay • 154 Hwy 540 B • 705-282-2640**

**Little Current • 120 Harbour View Road • 705-368-2512**

**www.manitoulintransport.com**

**www.newnorthfuels.com 705-368-2640**

# Manitoulin nonagenarians share tales from Christmases past



Allan and Alma Tustian in their Lake Mindemoya home. photo by Jan McQuay

## Off we go to grandmother's house

by Robin Burridge

MINDEMOYA—Manitoulin's oldest veteran Allan Tustian was born just outside of Kagawong in 1919. The 97-year-old just celebrated his birthday in October. He and his wife Alma live in their home on Lake Mindemoya near Brookwood Brae Golf Course.

"Christmas was a big deal back in those days," Mr. Tustian told The Expositor. "My whole family got together at my grandmother's. There were about 30-35 of us and we all squeezed into her house, which wasn't that big."

Mr. Tustian said that the men of his family would cut down and bring in a big tree on Christmas morning, and take it back outside the same day.

"We would all put a gift on it for someone else in the family, that's how we decorated it," he said. "We would play a lot of games together Christmas day like fox and the goose. You would draw a big circle in the snow and we would chase each other around."

"We didn't have a lot of money, but we always had lots to eat," reflected Mr. Tustian. "My grandmother was a wonderful woman and everyone would help make the big Christmas dinner. She would play this game with us—'scramble'—she would get all us kids to kneel on the ground and

she would throw candy and nuts and we would race to get it all. It was a lot of fun."

Mr. Tustian said he would normally get one small gift, and a few special years he got new shoes.

"Times were different, but it was a time of year we always looked forward to," he said. "We would get together again as a family to celebrate New Year's. It wasn't quite the same, but also a lot of fun."



Elizabeth Debassige on her 95th birthday.

## M'Chigeeng's oldest resident reflects on Christmas in Spanish

by Robin Burridge

M'CHIGEENG—M'Chigeeng's oldest resident, Elizabeth Debassige, was born in 1921 in Wikwemikong at South Bay. The only girl in a family of eight boys, Ms. Debassige went away to the Spanish residential school for girls, St. Joseph's School. She lives today at her M'Chigeeng home.

"I didn't get to go home for Christmas," Ms. Debassige told The Expositor. "I spent my Christmases at the school."

"We would hear sounds from the basement during the holidays and thought it was angels

singing, but it was the nuns," she joked. "We would also sing songs together on Christmas and we always had a big Christmas dinner with turkey."

For gifts Ms. Debassige said she remembers getting stockings and fruit.

Although she never spent Christmases on Manitoulin growing up, she made up for it with wonderful holiday celebrations when she returned to the Island with her late husband Norm Debassige and their children. Ms. Debassige has 22 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

## It was the best of times, it was the worst of times

by Alicia McCutcheon

MANITOWANING—It wasn't about the gifts for the Hutchinson's of Sandfield; Christmas was about the spirit of the season, the time spent with family and friends.

"When we were very young we didn't have much money," said Jean McLennan, age 98, of Manitowaning. "All of our Christmas presents were made by our mom and dad."

The girls, four of them, received homemade doll cradles and doll clothes, and sometimes even dolls. "Our brother would usually get a toy car or something like that." Ms. McLennan, still busy, lives in her Manitowaning home.

The cradles were made from old packing boxes that came from the grocery store, each handpainted with loving care for the girls.

On Christmas Day, the family would head to Ms. McLennan's grandmother's. "On Christmas Day, our dad would hitch up the horses and take us for a sleigh ride."

At grandma's, the family always enjoyed a dinner of turkey and all the trimmings, "lots of vegetables," cookies, donuts and, of course, Christmas pudding.

In the lead-up to Christmas, the Hutchinson family would get a Christmas tree and decorate it with acorns picked from the bush, strung, then hung up along with strings of popcorn and decorations made from tissue paper. "Of course we didn't have Christmas tree lights then."

The Sandfield School always had a Christmas concert for the community which was held at the community hall. The evening's programme would include plenty of singing, drills, and monologues and dialogues.

After the death of her grandmother, Ms. McLennan and her family moved to having Christmas dinner at one of her aunts, but as they got married and had families of their own, the Hutchinson family began to have Christmas on their own.

When Ms. McLennan married Happy McLennan, Christmas took on a life of its own with her late Husband making the very most out of Christmas each and every year.



Jean McLennan, 98, poses with the handmade doll cradle given to her many years ago for Christmas by her father Elias Hutchinson. The doll cradled in it belonged to her daughter Jill.

Mr. McLennan was well known for his stops around Manitowaning, dressed as Santa Claus. He'd visit all of the community's seniors, bringing them bags of candy, as well as all the homes with children, paying for toys out-of-pocket.

"Christmas was one of his specialties," Ms. McLennan recalled. "Every year, he'd set up a speaker system and blare Christmas carols outside for about two weeks."

"After my mother passed away, I'd have the family over for Christmas—it was nothing to have 25 people over," she said.

Ms. McLennan shared her worst Christmas memory on record, which happened over 20 years ago when her sisters gathered at her Manitowaning home for Christmas.

"I was a real blustery day," she recalled.

When her sisters were ready to leave, sister Doris announced that she wasn't going anywhere; she'd be spending the night with Jean due to the inclement weather. Sister Betty, however, always the stubborn one, was bound, bent and determined to get home to Sandfield. Despite her sisters' pleas, she set out for Sandfield with assurances that she would call as soon as she arrived.

"Well 11 rolled around, then midnight, then one o'clock and no phone call," Ms. McLennan continued. "Finally Doris said, 'Jean, I can't sit here any longer—we have to find out where that woman is'."

The two pondered what to do and decided to call Ms. McLennan's neighbour, Wayne Pennie.

Mr. Pennie loaded the two elderly women in his 4x4 truck and headed off to Sandfield in the dead of night on Christmas.

By 2 am they made it into Sandfield and found Betty's car in front of Watson's Store—Betty's house was the equivalent of two blocks away from the store but the deep snow had stopped her from going any further.

"How are you going to get home?" Ms. McLennan asked her sister. "I'll wade," Betty responded.

Betty again assured her sisters that she would call when she reached home, and off they went back to Manitowaning. By the time Ms. McLennan got home an hour later, her sister had called saying she had made it safely inside.

"That was the worst Christmas experience I have had—she was so stubborn."

These days, Ms. McLennan has Christmas dinner at the Trimmer house on Lake Manitou, home of her nephew Ed and family. "Thank goodness, because it's just Melanie (Carr, her granddaughter) and I now—that's a long way from 25."

While some families saw Christmas as just another holiday, Ms. McLennan said it's always been very important to her family, both growing up and into her adult life.

SEE MORE STORIES  
ON PAGE 24



# Letters to Santa!

...continued from page 13

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a good boy. I am in grade 3. I would like for Christmas a GT snow racer, nerf mega mastodon, lego ninjago ultra stealth raider, hot wheels, criss cross crash, nerf terra cout battle drone, rubiks cube, millennium falcon playset from galactic heroes, Crayola air marker and qixels 3D marker. I will leave cookies and milk for you and carrots and apples for the reindeer.

**Love Fielding  
Age 8**

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Brenna and I am 3 years old this year. I have been a busy and good girl this year helping my Dad work on our camp and my Mom with projects at our house. I would like pj's, masks, toys and costumes please. I will leave you cookies and milk. Please tell me what kind is your favourite.

**Love Brenna  
Little Current**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a good boy. Please bring me a drone, new mitts, a zombie set, and some new lego. I am 8 years old.

**Cambon Hoy  
8 years old  
Manitowaning and Sudbury**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 6 years old. I go to Assiginack Public School. I like school. Please bring me a Christmas American doll and a hatchable. Also I would like a troll movie and toy stuffies.

Thank you,  
**Sunday Rush O'Leary  
Tehkummah**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am 8 years old. I am a good helper. Please bring me a drone, a hatchable and a rainbow loom set. Please leave treats for my little dogs Captain and Lily.

Thank you,  
**Faer O'Leary  
Tehkummah**

**Dear Santa,**  
Please can I have lego chima. Santa please can I have some poke-mon. Please can I have some transformers? I have been very very good. I wish you a Merry Christmas.

**From Jack  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack  
Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I was very very good so can I have a lot of nerf guns please Santa. Can I have a machine gun please Santa. Can I have a lego set please Santa. Have a good Christmas.

**Noah D  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public**

...continued on page 17

Showcasing Manitoulin - LaCloche Businesses  
A project of  
  
**Manitoulin  
TRADE FAIR**  
*Wishing you all the best this  
Holiday Season!*  
[www.manitoulintradefair.com](http://www.manitoulintradefair.com)

**Manitowaning  
freshmart™**  
AI and the team at Manitowaning Freshmart wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**  
Open Friday, December 23rd and 30th until 8pm  
Open Saturday, December 24th and 31st, 9am - 6pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday, December 25th and 26th  
Closed Sunday and Monday, January 1st & 2nd  
Open all other days 9am - 6pm



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Santa's 'Nice' List**

-  White's Shell, Manitowaning
-  Highway 6, Little Current
-  Manitowabi's Shell Service, Wikwemikong
-  Carl's Trading Post, South Bay Mouth
-  Gamiing Gas & Convenience, Sheshegwaning
-  Manitoulin Trading Post, Sheguiandah
-  Wilson's Corner Store, Mindemoya
-  Ritchie's Supply, M'Chigeeng
-  Hilltop Shell, Little Current
-  R A Ward & Son General Store, Tehkummah
-  Little Wally's Dock Service, Little Current
-  Bayvilla Lodge, Whitefish Falls
-  Spider Bay Marina, Little Current

**THANK YOU FOR LOCAL SUPPORT!**  
[www.manitoulinfuels.com](http://www.manitoulinfuels.com) 705-368-2421

*From all of our families to yours*

*peace  
love  
joy*



 **MANITOULIN  
FUELS**  
[www.manitoulinfuels.com](http://www.manitoulinfuels.com) 705-368-2421



...continued from page 16

School

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you for taking all the presents to good kids around the earth. I wish for a dragon and a train.

Love Darius  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
Can I have a computer to play pro digimon, thank you.

From Bazi  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been very good in school. Can I have smell markers for Christmas? If not can I have an emoji pillow. I wish you a good Christmas.

From Maddy  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
This Christmas can I get a pack of smelly markers and emoji pillows and a robot cat. Merry Christmas

From Lena  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
Happy Christmas to you Santa. I love Christmas, please can I have a ninjago lego set. Your eyes work hard.

From Dexter  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a leopard print ballet suit and a regular. I am good.

From Mouriey  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I know it is hard work to make toys for kids. I don't want so much toys OK. I hope you have a good Christmas, very good Christmas. I have been very good girl. This is what I want for Christmas, I want ten toys. Washable markers and crayons and math games.

From Jayda  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like some smelly markers, and shopkin. As well can I have the shopkin please.

From Arabella  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like the Troll movie and a hatchable. I also want an American doll.

From Sunday  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like a shoppy doll and a robot. I would also like a Grace doll. That is the doll of the year!

From Zoe  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like an ipod please. I have been very good. I am.

From Levi  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good. Can I have the wrestlers and three playdough sets and shopkins.

From Natalie  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
Can I have a camera drone, can I have an ipod, can I have an xbox, can I have a chasfarm.

From Ayden  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

...continued on page 18

## Buie's Grocery

Post Office • LCBO • 705-377-5734

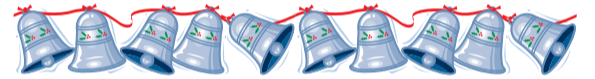
### Holiday Hours:

December 24: 7am to 4pm  
December 25: Closed  
December 26: Closed  
December 27 - 30: 7 am - 7 pm  
December 31: 7am - 4pm  
January 1: Closed



*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!*

From Rick, Wendy and Staff



It is a



doing business with you.

**Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year**  
from the Bergeron family  
& staff at

**guy's Auto & Glass SERVICE**

70 MCCULLOCH DRIVE, ESPANOLA, ON P5E 1J1

**(705) 869 - 3478**

- COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR
- AUTO GLASS REPAIR & REPLACEMENT
- ALIGNMENTS • BRAKES • EXHAUST
- AUTO AIR CONDITIONING
- AIR LIQUIDE DEPOT

**Stepping Stone TOYS**

**The Stoneman Enterprises**

and our newest venture...



We would like to give a heartfelt thank-you to all of our friends and customers for their continued support throughout 2016.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*We look forward to seeing you in 2017!*







# Letters to Santa!

...continued from page 17

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been good. Can I get a computer that has Lexi 2. I also want a puppy dog. Merry Christmas!

**From Hudson**  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
Can I please have an iPod for Christmas? I hope you get lots of cookies on Christmas Eve. I've been very good. Hope your reindeer get lots of carrots.

**From Preston**  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like a todlight and my dad to come home. Thank you for the work that you have done for us. I would really like a chocolate pen and a lego set and they a bareby that I would really like please.

**From Mya**  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like thundertracks that transforms into a spy robot. Merry Christmas

**From Keenan**  
Grade 1/2 Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Cindy Laface; I am 4 years old. I would like a Barbie from monster high and a game that I can play with Daddy and Mom, sorry or a fishing game.  
Thank you

**Love, Cindy Laface**  
Age 4  
Manitowaning

**Dear Santa,**  
Hello how is everyone doing in the North Pole? I'm turning 6 years old soon. Thank you for the presents last year. I've been a good girl all year long. For Christmas I would like a new desk and some new clothes for my doll collection. A new jewelry box for all my earrings and a new game for my Wii U. I would also like a companion for my fish his name is Snowflake and some peanuts for my 2 doves their names are Mad and Pretty Girl. I will leave cookies and milk for you and carrots and marshmallows for the reindeer. Merry Christmas everyone.

**Love from Naturelle Kegadonse**  
Age 5  
Wikwemikong

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Lauren and I just turned 4. Mommy says that I have been a pretty good girl this year. Thank you for the presents last year! For Christmas, I would like a blender and Peppa Pig House. I will leave you some milk and cookies and some apples for the reindeer.

Love,  
**Lauren Musquetier**  
Little Current

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Nathan and I am 1 1/2 years old. I think I have been a good boy. Mommy says I'm busy! I don't remember much about last year's Christmas but my sister seems excited! Thank you for the present last year. This year I would like a monster truck.

**Love Nathan Musquetier**  
Little Current

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you doing? I have been good this year. Please may I have a remote control snowmobile, an electric guitar and a GT. Thank you,

**From George-Michael Lentir**  
Grade 2  
Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you doing? I have been nice because I m making friends. Please may I have a Wii U supper smash brothers and Air Hawks.

Thank you.  
**From Noah Lemega**  
Grade 2  
Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
How is Mrs. Claus doing? I have been a good girl. Can you please bring me orbeez, trolls and sparkly high heels? Thank you, I will leave you pepsi and cookies

**From Jordyn Holmes**  
Grade 3  
Assiginack Public School



**Dear Santa,**  
Hi Santa how are your reindeer? I hope we have carrots at my house on Christmas Eve. Can I please have at least ten Pokemom cards; some little lost pet shop toys and lip-gloss marker kits?

Thank you from  
**London Pitawanakwat**  
Grade 3  
Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are things in the North Pole. I try to work hard at school. May I have a laptop, an xbox one and paper for writing. Thank you and I will leave you cookies and milk, and carrots for the reindeer.

**From Jacob Jones**  
Grade 2  
Assiginack Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are things at the North Pole? I have been good this year. I help my mom with the dishes. May I please have an electric guitar, drums and an AMG, an Ipod for my guitar.

Thank you,  
**From Daniel Roque**  
Grade 2  
Assiginack Public School

...continued on page 19

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**  
from  
**Robinson Auto Supply**

To all our valued customers & friends

Thank you for your continued patronage over the years.

Sincerely,  
*Chris and Joyce*

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to serving you in the New Year!

**Merry Christmas and best wishes to you!**

*From the Gore Bay Lions Club*

*In the True Spirit of Christmas*

At this holy time of year, we celebrate all life's blessings and special joys with family and friends.

May you find inner peace and spiritual contentment all through the season and beyond.

**Merry Christmas to All**  
Stewart & Staff

**Simpson Funeral Home and Sentimental Flower Shop, Gore Bay**

**G.G.'s FOODLAND**  
Little Current - Hwy #6

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**  
to all our friends, family and customers from G.G.'s Foodland management and staff.

Open December 24 until 5 pm  
Closed December 25 and 26  
Open December 27 - 31  
Closing December 31 at 5pm  
Closed Jan 1



...continued from page 18

**Dear Santa,**  
How are the reindeer? I have been nice this year because I try to keep my room clean. Please bring me high heeled boots, roller-skate guards and flat shoes. Thank you and I will leave out cookies and milk for you, and water for the reindeer.

**From Lily Stewart  
Grade 2  
Assiginack Public School**



**Dear Santa,**  
How's it in the North Pole? How are you? I've been really nice. I did all my work without complaining. Please bring me pokemon, Suna and more for 3ds, and an xbox one.

Thank you,  
**From Tanner Leblanc  
Grade 2  
Assiginack Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
Are the reindeer happy for Christmas? I have been helping my mom and dad, may I please have a Canadian girl doll, a hatchimal and shopkins.

Thank you,  
**From Saveen Clayton  
Grade 3  
Assiginack Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
Aanii, aaniish na? I have been nice because I put my laundry away. Please may I have a scooter, pokemon cards and a camera. Miigwech and I will leave you milk and cookies.

**From Evan Pitawanakwat  
Grade 3  
Assiginack Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a good girl, I have been helping my mom and dad cleaning up. I think I deserve some presents, I want a phone and a Barbie and I want a table and some crayons. I will leave you some milk and cookies.

**From Tessa Ense-Wabanosse**

**Dear Santa:**  
I hope you have a safe trip I'm going to leave cookies and chocolate I want the nerf terra scooter I will go to sleep before you get there  
  
**Love Jaymison**

**Dear Santa,**  
My name is Jace and I'm one year old, my Mommy and Daddy say I've been a good boy. This year I'd like toys that play music, so I can sing and dance, also a truck to play trucks with my Daddy. I will leave you milk and cookies.

**Love you Santa!  
Jace Middaugh**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been very good this year. I have done these nice things this year: I didn't bully, I've been friends to others, and I've tried to cheer up friends when they are sad. My Christmas wishes are: A big pack of Shopkins, a unicorn stuffie, bright blue nail polish, chocolate that I can't resist, and a scooter. I wish a Merry Christmas to my momma, daddy, Trenton, Olive, Marissa, Coach Saul, and all my mamas and papas

Love,  
**Mylah Trudeau  
age 5**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a very good boy. I have done these nice things this year: Pass the puck at hockey, played tag with friends, and chores. My Christmas wishes are: an iPad, A buddy Koda, a ball, and exercise equipment. I would like to say Merry Christmas to my mom, dad, and Mylah, Santa, Uncles, Papa!, and Mama.

**From Trenton Trudeau  
age 5**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are things in the North Pole? My Grandpa Joy went on Facebook and you put a video of Rudolph playing with his friends. What I want for Christmas is a chocolate pen, an Ipod and a small T.V. please.

**From your good girl Sapphire  
Grade 3  
Assiginack Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you doing in the North Pole? I have been doing all my chores. May I please have a lego table extension and a chrome book.

Thank you,  
**From Samuel Pennings  
Grade 3  
Assiginack Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
Hi Santa. How are things in the North Pole? At my house I listen to Mom. For Christmas can I please have Pokemon cards, robot puppy and a remote control snowmobile.

Thank you,  
**From Camdon Hoy  
Grade 3  
Assiginack Public School**



...continued on page 20

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

QUALITY DINING  
**SEASONS**  
FAMILY RESTAURANT  
DELICIOUS DESSERTS

**and Happy New Year!**

from Basil, Janice and Staff  
Downtown M'Chigeeng • 705-377-4344  
Thank you for your support this year!  
We look forward to seeing you  
in the new year

Holiday Hours: Closed Christmas Day  
and New Year's Day

**Seasons Greetings**  
from the Farm Fresh Manitoulin  
and the Manitoulin Island  
Community Abattoir!

We look forward to seeing you in 2016 as we continue to improve and provide quality service and Manitoulin-raised meat products.

**Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.**

Looking for a unique and useful Christmas gift idea? Give a gift of meat!  
\$50 Assorted Meat Packages or  
\$100 Manitoulin Beef Packages available  
and other assorted meat boxes

Call 705-377-5622 for more information.

**RELIEVE IT.**

**Physiotherapy**

**Best wishes for a relaxing Christmas holiday season.**  
We look forward to serving you in the new year.

Sincerely,  
Tim Renwick, P.T., DPT Orthopaedic  
Bracing Physiotherapy Services

**16 Worthington Street  
Suite 102, Little Current, Ont  
email: timrptcan@gmail.com  
phone 705-368-0782  
or 705-348-1715**

...continued from page 19

**Dear Santa,**  
Hope you have had a great year and I know your busy getting ready for Christmas I have been trying hard to be a good girl this year, I sure hope I've made the nice list! This year I would like a new paw patrol stuffed animal, new winter boots and pink socks for my nanny! Please say hi to Rudolph for me. I will leave you milk and cookies and carrots for reindeer.

**Love Aubrey  
Age 2.5**

**Dear Santa,**  
I would like a Barbie camper and a paw patrol pup and look out and the Barbie starlight adventure. I am going to make cookies for you.

**From Nahdaya  
Green Bay**

**Dear Santa,**  
How have you been lately? We have been good. Our names are Taylor and Collin. I'm 8 and Collin is 6. I would like Bad Kitty books and a make up kit. Collin would like Hulk toys and a giant robot. We will leave you milk and homemade cookies. Thank you

Yours truly

**Taylor and Collin Goodfellow  
Aundeck Omni Kaning**

**Dear Santa,**

# More Santa letters!

Did you know that I am playing hockey again this year? I like it a lot. Could you please bring me a hockey net and a Supergirl hockey jersey? I will leave you some cookies and milk on Christmas Eve.

Love,

**Savannah  
Kindergarten Year 2  
Charles C. McLean  
Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I go to school now! I really like school. My dad says I just jump out of bed in the morning. I have been a good girl. Please bring me a special gift. I will leave you a special treat on Christmas Eve.

Love,

**Sydney  
Kindergarten  
Year 1  
Charles C.  
McLean Public  
School**

**Dear Santa,**

Are you in the North Pole or not? If I want to see you then where are you? I have been skating. I am super duper good at skating. Sometimes I don't want to go to school, but sometimes I do. Check on me if I go to sleep. If I'm sleeping or if I'm awake. Please if I'm not sleeping pretend that I am sleeping. Give me presents when I don't go to sleep. Give me presents when I go to sleep real fast. When it's nighttime, I just want to play. Could I please have a train?

Love,

**Tristan  
Kindergarten Year 1  
Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**

I love my toys. I wish you will bring me a new toy and a new train and a new doll and a new parrot. I go make you a card. I wish I had a toy button with a heart on it and a toy brick to build a person house. I will leave you chocolate cookies and chocolate milk.

Love,

**Morgan  
Kindergarten Year 1  
Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**

What were you doing? I was trying hard to be good. I go to ballet every week. I roll on the mats with Mrs. M. Could you bring me make-up and a new heart picture frame. Could you bring my brother a new toy dump truck. A red one please. I will leave you cookies, milk, and carrots on Christmas Eve.

Love,

**Emma  
Kindergarten Year 1  
Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**

Have you been colouring a picture? I colour pictures everyday! I would like a choo-choo train with three wagons on the back. I will leave you Christmas skates on Christmas Eve.

Love,

**Cole  
Kindergarten  
Year 2  
Charles C. McLean Public School**

...continued on page 21

# Happy Holidays from All of Us!

**Mayor MacNevin, Council & Staff of  
The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands**

## What's happening over the holidays at the NEMI Recreation Centre:

- December 19** - After School Activities: Ornament Making 3-4:30pm
- December 20** - After School Activities: Make & Take Gifts 3-4:30pm  
FREE After School Skate 3:30-5pm
- December 21** - After School Activities: Gingerbread Houses 3-4:30pm
- December 22** - After School Activities: Mini Wreaths 3-4:30pm
- December 23** - After School Activities: Snow Globes 3-4:30pm  
After School FREE Skating 4-5pm
- December 27** - Tim Hortons FREE Skate 3-4pm
- December 28** - Kids Creation Station 11-1pm  
Pick-Up Hockey - Full Equipment Required 1-2pm
- December 29** - Silly Science for Kids 11am-12pm (noon)  
Public Skating 12-2pm \$2 per person
- December 30** - Get Active Family Activity in Main Hall 11am-12pm (noon)  
Tim Hortons FREE Skate 7-8pm
- December 31** - Sleigh Riding at Low Island Sliding Hill (Please bring own sled) 2-4pm  
Family New Year's Eve Party at Rec Centre 4-7pm
- January 3** - Paper Airplane Fun for Kids 11am-12pm (noon)  
Public Skating 12-2pm \$2 per person  
Pick-Up Hockey - Full Equipment Required 2-4pm
- January 4** - Mad Hatter Tea Party in Lion's Den - Wear your craziest hat! 11am-12pm (noon)
- January 5** - Let's Go Camping Activities for Kids 11am-12pm (noon)  
FREE Afternoon Skate 12-2pm  
Pick-Up Hockey 2-4pm
- January 6** - Kid's Beach Party 11am-12pm (noon)  
Public Skating 8:30-10pm \$2 per person

*For more information about holiday activities in NEMI,  
please contact Lisa Hallaert at 705-368-2825.*

### Your safety is important to The N.E.M.I. Fire Department

We want you to enjoy the holiday season but be cautious with your Christmas tree!

- ★ Buy a Freshly Cut Tree
- ★ Keep the Stand Full of Water
- ★ Keep it Away from all Heat Sources
- ★ Make Sure it Doesn't Block a Doorway
- ★ Check All Decorative Lights and Discard Any Frayed or Damaged Lights and Cords
- ★ Never Place Lit Candles On or Near the Christmas Tree
- ★ When Needles Begin to Fall Off, It's Time to Get Rid of the Tree




**Family New Year's  
Eve Party**  
Saturday, December 31  
4-7pm  
NEMI Recreation Centre  
Skating, activities and canteen  
Countdown to the New Year!

...continued from page 20

**Dear Santa,**  
Did you know that I go to school now? I like to do everything! Are your elves helping you build presents? Please can you give me two bunkbeds for me and my baby dolls, please? I will get you a glass and Gabe will pour the milk and Mom and Dad will make cookies for you.

Love,  
**Alex**  
Kindergarten Year 1  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
Happy Birthday! My brother Hunter is having his birthday after Christmas. My birthday is after Hunter's. I want a big dirt bike. I

# Letters to Santa



will leave you some milk and some carrots and some cookies.

Love,  
**Owen**  
Kindergarten Year 2  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I love you. How are you, Santa? How are you doing? How did you make presents? We're going to make you cookies and milk and carrots for your reindeer. Could you

please bring me a big present and a little present?

Love,  
**Bryce**  
Kindergarten Year 1  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I love you, Santa. I am going to school now, Santa. I like to play everyday! I think I want for Christmas is a special toy. I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Love,  
**Allie**  
Kindergarten Year 1  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you for bringing me presents last year. I love to play Barbies. Could you please bring me a Barbie Camper? And can you bring a new stuffed toy for Maxim? I will bake some cookies with Mommy to leave for you on Christmas Eve.

Love,  
**Layla**  
Kindergarten Year 2  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I am a big sister now. I love to make my baby brother laugh. I want a toy house and a fairy school with fairies and a witch who likes to eat fairies. Could you

please bring Brodie a new baby toy. We will leave you some cookies and milk under the Christmas tree.

Love,  
**Jaynah**  
Kindergarten Year 2  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I've been being kind today at school. At first play time, I was letting Kendall play with me. On the bus I was being kind. I was being kind at school with my friends and my friends were being kind with me. Could you please bring me a bike and a Christmas tree? I'm going to leave you some milk on Christmas Eve.

Love,  
**Isabelle**  
Kindergarten Year 2  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I love building with polydrons at school. My arm is all better now. I'm glad I can run and play again. Could you please bring me a dirt bike helmet that's green? I will bake some sugar cookies with my mom for you and leave you some carrots for the reindeer.

Love,  
**Levi**  
Kindergarten Year 2  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a good girl. I have been playing hockey. I really skate hard and go after the puck. How do you get to my house? Is your sleigh all ready to go? I have milk and cookies for you, Santa. Could you please bring me a dolly? Please bring a new blankie for my sister, Kaydence. Travel safely on Christmas Eve!

Love,  
**Kendall**  
Kindergarten Year 2  
**Charles C. McLean**  
Public School

...continued on page 22



From: Preston  
Dear Santa:

Can I please have an ipod for christmas? I hope you get lots of cookies on christmas eve. I've been verry good. hope you and reindeer get lots of carrots.

Armi Preston

**Merry Christmas!**  
and all the best  
in 2017  
from Mike and Paula  
**Mike Varey and Son**  
Excavation  
and  
**The Groundskeeper**  
(705) 368-1799  
Little Current

**Home For The Holidays**

*Wishing you the very best this holiday season!*  
From the entire staff!

**Mindemoya**  
**Home**  
hardware  
building centre

...continued from page 21

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a good boy. I make pies with my mommy. I will make you some cookies and leave you a glass of milk on Christmas Eve. Could you please bring me a surprise this year?

Love,  
**Finn Kindergarten Year 2**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I love to build with the polydrons at school. For Christmas could you bring me a bike and a teddy bear and maybe some polydrons, please? I have been a good boy. I will leave you milk and cookies. Have a safe trip!

Love,  
**Waylon Kindergarten Year 2**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I am going to Florida this year for Christmas. You can find me there. Would you please bring me ninja turtles and all their stuff. I will leave you cookies and milk and a carrot for your reindeer.

Love,  
**Rowan Kindergarten Year 1**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been a good girl. I go to school now. I love to draw with the markers. I want a new reindeer 'cuz I don't have one. I want it to have a button inside, so I can press it to go to sleep. I will leave you biscuits on Christmas Eve.

Love,  
**Sadie Kindergarten Year 1**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I want a new spider-man costume because my old one has holes in it. Please, please, please. Because that would be the best present in the world. I will leave you cookies and milk.

Love,  
**Vilho Kindergarten Year 2**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
Are you working



# Letters to Santa!

hard in the North Pole? Is it cold there? Could you please make me a nice present for Christmas? I have been a good boy. I will leave you a candy cane on Christmas Eve.

Love,  
**Isaac Kindergarten Year 2**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I love Lego. I want more toy Lego sets. We don't have to have instructions for the one that's free. I can make up my own ideas! I would also like a toy car that drives inside. One that the door opens. I will leave you some cookies (any kind I can find).

Love,  
**Marquis Kindergarten Year 2**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I love to play with dinosaurs. At school, I really like the Magnatiles. Could you please bring me a transformer for Christmas? I will leave you a carrot, milk, and cookies on Christmas Eve. I like dipping cookies in my milk. Do you?

Love,  
**Garrison Kindergarten Year 2**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**



**Dear Santa,**  
How are you? I go to school now! I like to play everything! Could you please bring me they toys on my TV? I will leave you a cookie

and a drink with one muffin that is split with butter on it.

Love,  
**Adrienne Kindergarten Year 1**  
**Charles C. McLean Public School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you have a safe trip, I'm going to leave cookies and hot chocolate. I want the nerf terka scouter. I will go to sleep before you get there.

Love,  
**Jay Mason Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and



Mrs. Claus? I am doing good. I hope the elves are having fun making presents. I want a cat.

Love,  
**Courtney Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope the elves are having fun! I really like you Santa! I really want more of those war men, can you get me a big lego star wars set and can you get me a lego chee set too.

Love,  
**Biish Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope the elves are having fun making presents and the reindeer are getting ready for Christmas Eve! P.S.

Don't forget I want Doom and a nerf gun and that is it. I will leave cookies and some milk.

Love,  
**Kaleb Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
For Christmas I want an apple watch and the time set, and a xbox and remote control bot and a remote control cat and ninjago lego set.

Love,  
**Auden C Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
Are you and Mrs. Claus happy? Are you happy that the Elves are there? Please I would like a nerf gun and a slide. My Mom would like an Ipad. Thank you xbox one kinenroir.

Love,  
**Christian V Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope the elves are having fun making presents and the reindeer are getting ready.

Love,  
**Zack Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

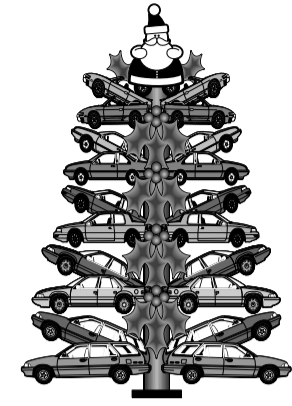
**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope the elves are having fun making presents and the reindeer are getting ready for Christmas Eve, and for Christmas. I want an elve on the shelf, and I want a project Mr. Square, and I want a makeup kit, and I want a nice Christmas.

Love,  
**Aria Grade 2/3 class Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you an Mrs.

...continued on page 23

## Shift Into Holiday Gear

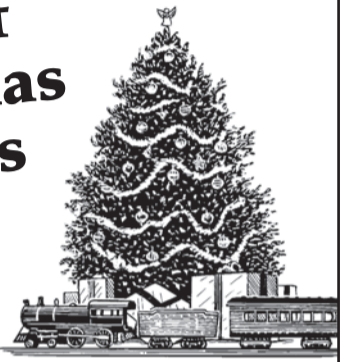


Thank you to all our customers for your support. May your Christmas holidays be filled with joy and happiness, as we spend quality time with our families!

**Jewell's Collision Centre**  
705-282-2091  
**Jewell's Automotive**  
705-282-2080  
Keith, Kathy, Tyler, Murray, Tim and Jamie

## Best of Christmas Wishes

**Hunt's**  
Kagawong



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM COLE, DUSTIN, TAMMY AND CHRIS  
**LIDLAY STATIONERY AND OFFICE FURNITURE!**  
34 Manitowaning Road, Unit #2, Little Current 705-368-2525  
info@laidley-stationery.ca

## Happy Holidays and Best Wishes For 2017

**CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH TO DECEMBER 27TH 2016**  
**OPEN REGULAR HOURS WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 28TH 2016 9AM TO 5PM**  
**CLOSED JANUARY 2ND, 2017 OPEN JANUARY 3RD FOR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS 9AM TO 5PM**

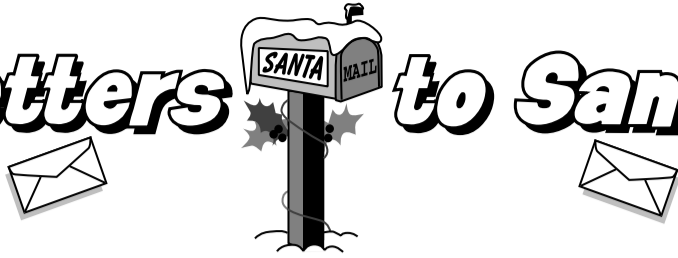


The Little Current Lions thank the public for another year of generosity and support in all our endeavours. We're looking forward to another amazing year with great things ahead -  
Hawewater here we come!  
**Merry Christmas to you and yours and all the best in 2017!**  
**From the Little Current Lions Club**

**JEFF'S TAXI & DELIVERY**  
705-377-6222 Merry Christmas  
www.jeffstaxi.ca DON'T DRINK & DRIVE Serving Manitoulin and Espanola 1-877-223-2269  
"We run a fare business" Owned & operated by Jeff Bebonang



# Letters to Santa



...continued from page 22

Claus doing? I hope the elves are having fun making presents and the reindeer are getting ready for Christmas Eve! Can you please give me a Mc Spy kit, and my very own Barbie house and, I want everything in it. Please get me more arts and crafts. I want a make-up kit. I love make-up.

**Love Damara**  
Grade 2/3 class  
Lakeview School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you right now? I want a GT for Christmas and an Ipod too. A remote control car and NHL 15, PS4 controller, and a phone.

**Love Ethan**  
Grade 2/3 class  
Lakeview School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope you have a safe day. I will leave you cookies and milk, can you get me a colouring book with markers and a drone. I love Christmas.

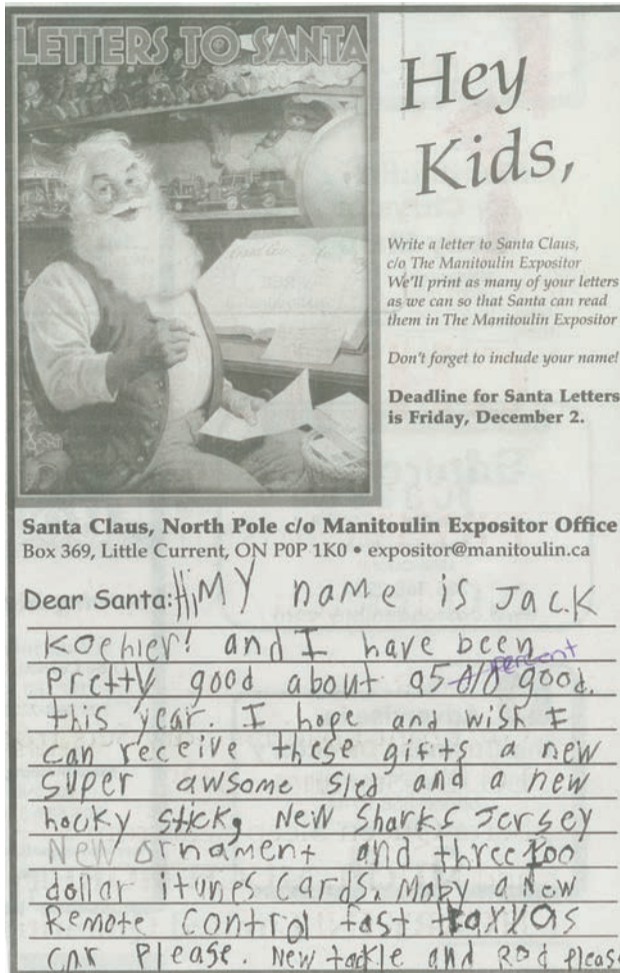
**Love Aurora**  
Grade 2/3 class  
Lakeview School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and the Elves doing? What do Elves eat? How is Buddy doing Santa? You're the best Santa! Do you have magic? Can you teleport? Do you go around the earth? I'm going to have five presents can you give my baby brother a present to! I will tell my mom to give you cookies and milk and carrots and water. Can you make anything? Is Buddy aloud to come back? I got the seven grandfathers teaching for two years in a row, my mom will tell you my five things.

**Love Trytan**  
Grade 2/3 class  
Lakeview School

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope you are doing well. I hope the elves are doing good too. Please could I have a red Indmanous Rex, and please could I have a car set.

**Love James**  
Grade 2/3 class



Santa Claus, North Pole c/o Manitoulin Expositor Office  
Box 369, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0 • [expositor@manitoulin.ca](mailto:expositor@manitoulin.ca)

Dear Santa: Hi MY name is JACK KOEHLER! and I have been pretty good about 95-100% good this year. I hope and wish I can receive these gifts a new SUPER awesome sled and a new hockey stick, new Sharks Jersey, new ornament and three \$100 dollar iTunes cards, Maybe a new Remote control fast Haxxas car please. New tackle and rod please.

**Lakeview School**

**Dear Santa,**  
I hope everything is good at the North Pole. I hope the Elves are doing good and feeding the reindeer. Can you please bring me a remote control car, a mini drone and a nerf gun? I will leave cookies.

**Love Ayden L.**  
Grade 2/3 class  
Lakeview School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? What I want is a project Mr. Square kit. Also a diary and some shopkins, and a suitcase set. I will leave you a ginger bread cookie and milk and carrots and water for the reindeer.

**Love Lourdes**  
Taukei  
Grade 2/3 class  
Lakeview School

**Dear Santa,**  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I hope the Elves are having fun making presents. Are the reindeer getting ready for Christmas Eve? This year I want a nerf hyper rifle, t-rex, remote control car and a superman costume. But I hope everybody is happy and safe too. Have a safe trip!

**Love Liam**  
Grade 2/3 class  
Lakeview School

**Dear Santa,**  
Hi my name is Jack Koehler and I have been pretty good about 95% good this year. I hope and wish I can receive these gifts a new super awesome sled and new hockey stick, new sharks jersey, new ornament and three \$100 iTunes cards. Maybe a new remote control fast Haxxas car please, and new tackle and a rod please.

**Jack Koehler**  
Little Current

**Dear Santa,**  
Aanii Santa, Anishinaa? Miigwetch for the gifts that you brought me last year, I enjoyed them all. You know me too well. You must know that I've been keeping busy by being a good girl. I love my new school; my teacher's, classmates and school pet nimosh wassagun are all great! A few things I'd really like are a sleeping bag, new thermos for my lunch bag and slippers.

I wish you and the reindeer safe travels. Tell Mrs. Clause and the elfs my family says Aanii.

**G'Zaagiin,**  
Lynndra  
Madahbee -Peltier  
Aundeck Omni  
Kaning

**Dear Santa,**  
I have been very good this year. I hope all is well at the North Pole. I am writing a letter to you so I can tell you what I would like for Christmas. The first thing that I want is a pair of Stephen Curry's new shoes, the Curry 3s. I am a size 12k by the way. The second thing I want is NBA 2k17. NBA 2k17 is a video game about basketball and it's a great game to play. I would love to play it on our Play Station 4. The third thing I want is a fishing rod. I just love to go fishing with my dad in the summer time and I think it would be great to have my very own fishing rod! The fourth and last thing I want for Christmas is a pair of basketball socks. Wearing regular socks in basketball shoes gets very hot, but basketball socks are much better. In conclusion, for Christmas I would like Curry 3s, NBA 2k17, a fishing rod and a pair of basketball socks.

**Merry Christmas and safe travels,**  
William  
McCutcheon, age 6  
Toronto



We would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers & friends for their continued support & patronage.

## Merry Christmas!

from Randy and the staff of  
**H&R NOBLE CONSTRUCTION**



**GORE BAY**  
705-282-2496



**Randy Noble Trucking Ltd.**  
Little Current  
705-368-3565

**ISLAND GUNS & PAWN**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We look forward to a successful year with you in 2017!

705-919-5584



### In the Spirit of the Season...

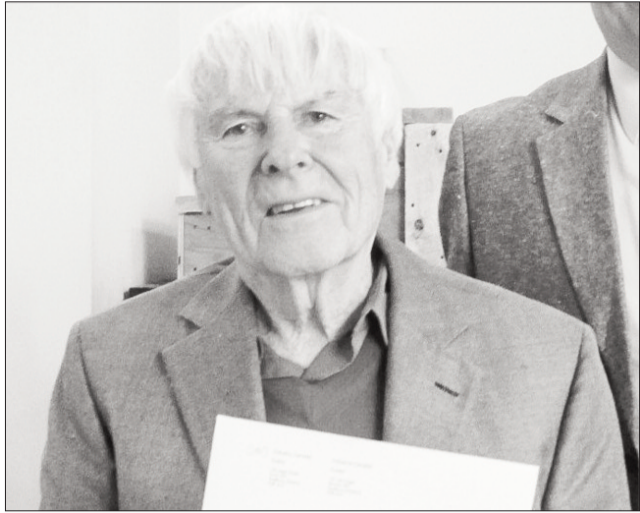
The Bondi and Hart families and their staff at Little Current, Mindemoya, and Manitowaning Guardian Pharmacies and Island Foodland, wish everyone the peace and joy of Christmas and may the coming New Year bring you much happiness and keep you in good health. We sincerely appreciate the loyalty and support you have shown to us during the past year. We look forward to continuing to provide you with superior services and value during the coming year.

**Celebrate and enjoy the festive season but please DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE**

Sincerely,

Michael & Wendy, Steven & Rhonda,  
Michelle & Steve

# ...Manitoulin nonagenarians share tales of Christmases past



Austin Hunt on his 90th birthday.

## A Kagawong Christmas

**by Robin Burridge**  
**K A G A W O N G** — Billings Mayor (and Canada's longest serving municipal politician) Austin Hunt was born in Kagawong in 1925 and grew up in his family-owned Havelock Hotel.

Growing up in a hotel made for some pretty special Christmases. "Christmas was a big event in my family," said Mr. Hunt. "Family from all over the Island would come for a big dinner and party on Christmas Eve."

One year, when Mr. Hunt was a teenager, he was feeling a little cheeky and hung the Christmas tree upside down, lights, decorations and all.

"It caused quite the stir," laughed Mr. Hunt at the memory. "For dinner there was no end to the food. There was always goose, turkey and ham—turkey was always my favourite."

For a few years, Mr. Hunt explained that musicians stayed at the hotel during the holidays, visiting Manitoulin to play Christmas concerts, and they would play following Christmas dinner.

"My parents were also musicians and my mom (Stella Hunt) would play the piano after dinner and we would all sing," he shared.

Though Mr. Hunt couldn't recall a specific gift he was excited to receive, "I always looked forward to getting lots of presents."

The village of Kagawong was always

wasn't often used, only a couple of times at night."

Mr. Hunt noted that while many things have changed over the

years in Ontario's prettiest village, the Christmas spirit in Kagawong is everlasting.

## Manitoulin winters were a rude awakening for a BC girl

**by Robin Burridge**

**TEHKUMMAH**—In the year following the end of World War I a very young Jean McCauley left her native England and arrived on the Alberta prairie with her parents, where her father worked as a fireman for the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

"In those early days we were what you might call pretty deprived; we didn't get a lot of stuff," she recalled of her first Christmases in Canada. It took a while before the impact of the world war had worn off and there was a lot less consumerism (or the wherewithal to indulge) in those days. "It certainly wasn't anything like today."

Although her earliest years were spent on the prairie, she never warmed to the locale. "I hated it," she confided. "It was so cold there." It did not break Ms. McCauley's heart when the family later relocated to British Columbia where the climate was a lot more benign.

Then came 1947 and Manitoulin and Tehkummah in December. "We moved here and stayed at my husband's brother's place," she recalled. "I was pretty homesick for the first little while. The weather was a lot different than it had been in BC." How different? "There was snow up to my knees," she laughed.

But with six children in tow, Ms. McCauley didn't have that much time to reflect on the weather; she was kept pretty busy.

"We moved onto a farm in March," she recalled. That brought a whole new set of changes. In those early years, going back to the land was really going back. Being off the grid was not an optional lifestyle. "There was no hydro, no running water, nothing really, just snow and cattle."

There were still plenty of hard times in the

...continued on page 25

## Things you learn from a dog

Run, romp and play daily. Be loyal. Scratch where it itches. Never pass up the opportunity to go on a joy ride. Play every chance you get.

Always be happy to see those you love. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do. When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

When loved ones come home always run to greet them. Take naps and stretch before running. When someone's having a bad day be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.



Season's Greetings from  
 Mark, Reg and Staff  
 Hwy 6 Shell Gas Bar

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



- Diagnostics • Tune Ups
- Tires • Suspensions
- Brakes • Exhaust
- A/C • Batteries
- Safety Inspections
- Tire Storage



Thank you to all our customers for their continuing patronage and support.

Joe & Kim Moor  
 Curtis & Charles

1428 Lakeshore Rd.  
 "On top of the hill" in Kagawong  
**705-282-CARS (2277)**

## With Warm Wishes



Christmas is coming and we'd like to say, hope lots of glad tidings are heading your way!  
 Happy Holidays

Gloria, Tony & the Kids

Island Funeral Home

Little Current

Wishing all our customers and friends best wishes for joy throughout the holidays, and happiness in the new year.

Jerry & Sharon



10<sup>th</sup> Line, Tehkummah, 1/2 Mile North of Hwy.#6  
 ph/fax(705) 859 -2393 • Retail/Wholesale



Tehkummah's Jean McCauley on her 100th birthday.

## ...Manitoulin winters

...continued from page 24

years ahead and Christmas remained a little sparse, but over time, with hard work and determination, things improved. "All my life, things have been a little up and down, but altogether I think I have done pretty well."

When it comes to memorable Christmas Days past, Ms. McCauley settled wistfully back onto the topic of the weather.

"I remember one winter when there was no snow," she said. Not only was there no snow, but the weather overall was uncommonly warm. "We all sat out on the porch in summer clothes and some of the kids were even wearing shorts," she laughed.

One of the most touching Christmas events in her life happened in BC. "We were living in Ladysmith and my husband had been sick. He had had a back operation," she recalled. "We had absolutely no money and things were pretty rough. We had five kids at that time."

When the family woke up on Christmas Day, two big boxes had been dropped off at their home. "One was full of toys for the kids and the other was filled with food. It had a turkey and all the things for a Christmas dinner," she said. "It turned out to be one of the best Christmases ever." Ms. McCauley discovered that her benefactors were the local Lions Club.

"I had many wonderful Christmases on Manitoulin," she said. "But that was pretty special."

Although she has recently celebrated her centenary, Ms. McCauley is still famed for her baking

skills. "I just finished baking my Christmas cake," she admitted when asked about her favourite recipe. "That one is a little bit long."

But when it comes to a short recipe, "that would be my shortbread," she said, pun intended.

The simple recipe calls for a quarter cup of icing sugar, three-quarters of a cup of corn starch, two cups of flour, and most importantly—at least a half-pound of butter. "I really like butter in just about everything," she laughed. "Oh, and don't forget to add a pinch of salt."

Although many recipes call for the dough to then be chilled, Ms. McCauley said that with the right amount of butter that isn't really all that necessary. "Just roll it out, cut it into shapes and pop it into a hot oven," she said. "But not too hot, and you just leave them in for a few minutes. You don't have to leave them in for very long." If you leave the cookies in too long, they will quickly turn brown and hard. "You want them to be nice and soft," she said.

## A Christmas crokinole board

by Michael Erskine  
SANDFIELD—Christmas has changed a lot during the 99-and-a-half years that Andy Watson has called Manitoulin home, but the Sandfield resident has one cherished Christmas present that, like himself, has seen a few refurbishments over the decades.

"It wasn't like it is today," recalled Mr. Watson. "We usually would get an orange in our sock, maybe a little game. But we were just as happy."

There was one special present that Mr. Watson had wanted that arrived under the tree one December 25. "I was a little bit older by then, but I had really wanted a crokinole board."

Crokinole is a distinctly Canadian game, developed in rural Canada in the 1860s and is a blend of several older English, French, German and East Indian games. The game of crokinole is played on a circular wooden board with a hole in the centre surrounded by wooden pegs. Players flick one of their 12 round discs of two different colours towards the central hole, taking alternating turns, attempting to set one in the hole or to knock out their opponent's disk. Points are assigned from 20 for a centre hole disc to 15, 10 or 5 points depending on which concentric ring on which your disc winds up. Disks knocked from the playing surface don't count.

"Everyone was playing it in those days," recalled Mr. Watson.

Mr. Watson enjoyed many hours of play with his friends and family over the years, so much so that the centre



Sandfield's Andy Watson.

hole eventually wore out. "Can you imagine?" he laughed. "Have you ever heard of such a thing?"

"My son Bob was working in Toronto for IBM for about 10 years. He took the board down with him one time and cut a new hole, put in new pegs, and it came back looking better than new," explained Mr. Watson. "It really is a nice board, with a metal edge all around the outside of it."

Mr. Watson is the last of his siblings. "I was the middle boy, it was boy, girl, boy, girl," he recalled. "I'm now halfway into my 100th year," he said (his birthday is May 26). "But I have had quite a few problems over the years."

Mr. Watson has dodged lung cancer, dealt with back problems and hernia operations but, like his crokinole board, is still going strong after a few refurbishments.

"I still golf a bit," he said.

But the crokinole board holds a very special place in his heart, a reminder of many cherished Christmas memories shared with friends and family.

# SEASONS GREETINGS

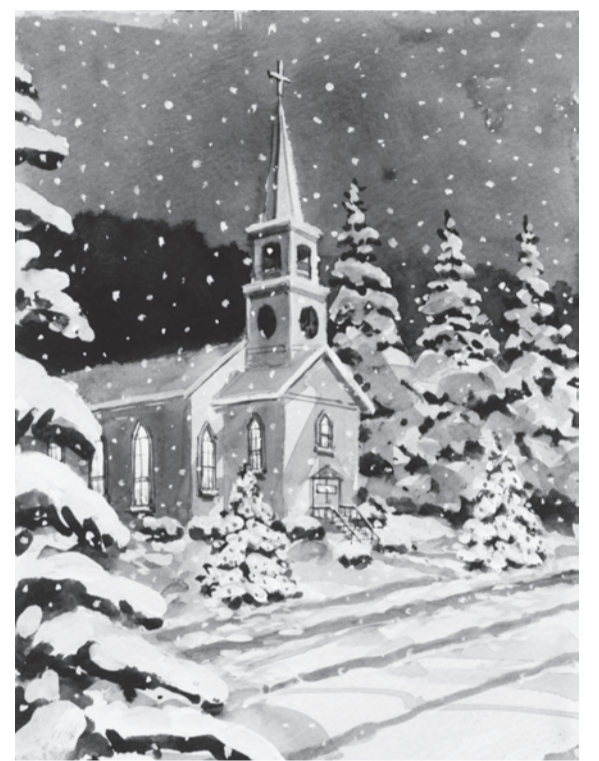
To all of you who have made our business a success ~  
thank you all so very much

**Merry Christmas**

Fluff, Laurie and Keith

**NBS AUTO REPAIR**

Little Current • 705-368-1307



Thank you to all of our friends and customers from the management and staff of

**West Bay General Store and**

**The Discount Store**

Highway 540 in M'Chigeeng  
**705-377-4535**

Open Over Christmas



**Merry Christmas**  
and  
**Happy New Year**  
from

**Morden Leeson Monuments**

**Sales & Complete Service**

705-859-3915 • 705-822-3946 (Cell)

redlogshack@hotmail.com

Follow us on Facebook!

\* Now offering plaque engraving  
and site restoration,  
serving

Manitoulin - Espanola



...a piece of  
Island history...



Mail leaving Turners by dog team and sled in the 1800s.



**Turners**

WISHING MANITOULIN A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR  
SINCE 1879





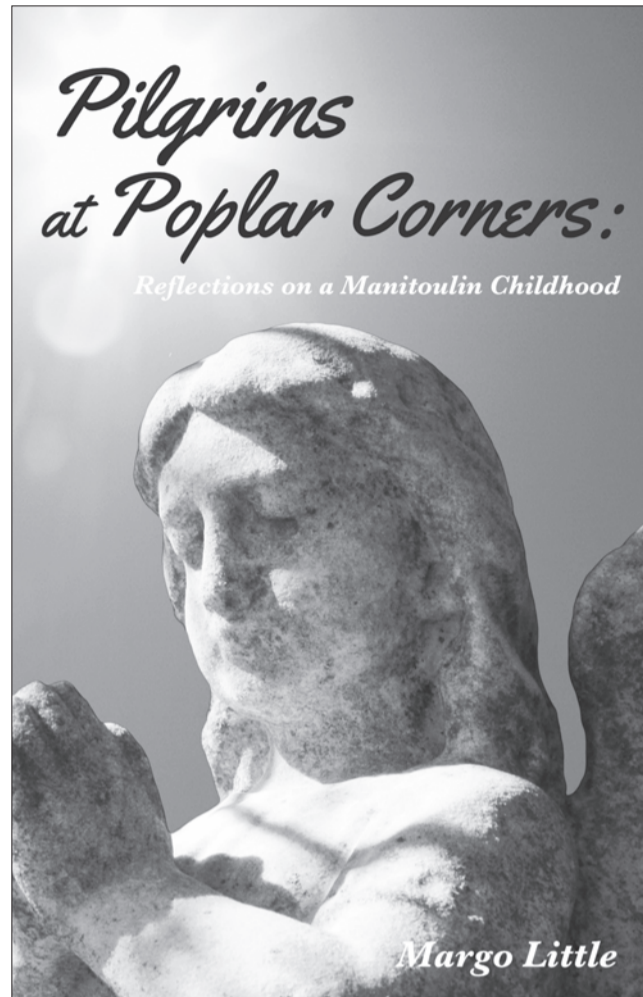
# Christmas: Before the Advent of Television, Texting and Tweeting

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Gore Bay writer Margo Little is the author of a number of books, the most recent of which is titled 'Pilgrims at Poplar Corners: Reflections on a Manitoulin Island Childhood.' This seasonably appropriate excerpt from the new collection of Ms. Little's work is generously shared with readers by the author. The book, with its 35 seasonal reflections of a rural 1950s era Manitoulin childhood spent in Mills Township, south of Gore Bay, is a fine read and a good gift idea. It is priced at \$23.95 per copy and is available at Print Shop Books at The Expositor Office in Little Current and at Robertson's IDA Pharmacy in Gore Bay.

by Margo Little

As an adult, I think I have adapted fairly well to the demands of our technological society and I certainly utilize some of the electronic gadgets we all feel we can't do without. I have tried not to become a complete Luddite or a rigid person who shuns modern conveniences. However, every Christmas, as I watch the children of my large extended family flit from one electronic amusement to another, I feel a twinge of sadness and even alienation. It always appears to me that they take their prosperity and leisure for granted. With so many treasures vying for their attention, they have trouble concentrating on just one toy.

In truth, I am offended by the excess so prevalent today. Inevitably, I am reminded of the relentless passage of time and the ever-growing chasm that marks the perennial generation gap. It is during the Christmas holidays, that I am more acutely aware that the post World War II babies (myself included) and today's techno savvy youngsters have difficulty finding common ground. At seasonal family gatherings, I experience anew the frustration of trying to connect with great nieces and nephews immersed in television, texting and tweeting. And for most of the day I am distracted by



memories of Christmas past, by memories of a Manitoulin childhood before our family could afford a television. Almost impossible to imagine how we spent Christmas Day in those lean times.

In the 1950s, Christmas was a stripped-down, bare-bones occasion on our remote farm located in Mills Township on Western Manitoulin. We kept a few pigs, some dairy cattle, chickens and turkeys. Subsistence farming meant that we might have freshly churned butter, milk, eggs and turkey for Christmas, but actual cash was scarce. There would be no special treats or longed for presents, unless our parents were creative and enterprising. Some years the prices for pulp wood or beef and pork were high enough to allow for the purchase of extras. During other years people in our area cut down evergreen trees and trucked them to the cities to sell. Trapping beaver, muskrat and mink also brought in badly needed revenue.

Of course, the cost of staples was much lower in that era (circa 1957.) Gasoline was 31 cents a gallon, bread was 19 cents a loaf and a stamp was three cents (US funds). Television was definitely coming into its own in 1957. RCA, one of a handful of manufacturers mak-

ing colour sets, sold 85,000 colour TV sets that year. If your family didn't have a television, you felt like you were being left behind. A TV set was high on everyone's Christmas wish list. In fact, it was a symbol of social standing for many.

Like most rural folks in Canada during that period, my parents ordered our Christmas presents from the Eaton's catalogue. Since money was tight, the emphasis was on practical gifts, especially warm winter clothing. With four of us

watching expectantly for Santa in that drafty old farmhouse, it must have been difficult to use some of the hard-earned cash to let each one of us have at least one frivolous toy. My sister and I were thrilled to receive dolls and my two little brothers played for hours with Lone Ranger gun and holster sets. There might also have been a toboggan or sled for all of us to share.

The Christmas tree itself was decorated with silver foil icicles shimmering under strands of hand-threaded cranberries and popcorn. Cotton batting was used to simulate snow on the branches. Christmas cards we received in the mail, from distant relatives, were also placed on the tree. At that time there were no electric lights encircling the tree. Power for the house and the barn was provided by a Delco battery plant and we used that energy source sparingly. Additional illumination came from coal oil lamps and lanterns.

During the wild rush to open our presents on Christmas morning, we were never allowed to forget that essential chores come first. The

...continued on page 27

**Glory**  
to the  
Newborn King



"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2:10

*May you be blessed with every joy!*  
**R.A. Ward**  
General Store  
LCBO Agency  
Tehkummah

Ross & Susan

**Woods Bros. Clothing  
M & R Jewellery**



*Wishing Everyone a  
Very Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy and Healthy  
2017*



*From Jim, Jo and Staff*

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year**

May you get lots of Kisses  
under the Mistle "Tow"



**Moore Auto Services**  
Russ and Staff

**TD Canada Trust**

*We appreciate  
your business!!*




**From all the staff in Little Current:**  
*Pam, Susan, Dena, Cheryl, Lou,  
Pam, Felicia, and Riley*

**Happy Holidays!**

*Giving winter a warm welcome...*



Many thanks to all who  
helped make our year one  
worth celebrating

**Merry Christmas!**

from Scott, Ryan, Alan,  
Mike and Mitchell at

**O. BOND & SONS**

Licenced Plumbers  
Mindemoya 705-377-5335






# ...Christmas: Before the Advent of Television, Texting and Tweeting

...continued from page 26

Protestant work ethic reigned supreme even on December 25th. It was the same as any other day on our farm. The cows had to be fed and milked. The pig pens had to be cleaned, the hens and horses attended to.

If the roads were passable, we might make the long journey to maternal Grandma's house in Mindemoya or to paternal Grandma's house in Tehkummah. Winter conditions sometimes disrupted that reunion with relatives. As my mother often observed, "When you live on a farm, you don't travel too far because of the animals waiting at home."

If we had to stay home, we spent the day drawing or colouring or listening to Queen Elizabeth's Christmas day message to the Commonwealth via the radio. Whenever I could steal a few hours from cleaning stables or other chores, I enjoyed reading Thornton W. Burgess tales such as "Peter Rabbit and Reddy Fox" or "How Peter Cottontail Got His Name." If neighbouring kids visited us, we might work on putting puzzles together or try our hand at paint-by-number scenes. We could also be found playing Old Maid or Rummy. Of course, all that fun would end when evening chores rolled around again.

There are no farmers in our clan anymore; they are all town folk. As I observe my relatives with their smart phones and gaming systems, I marvel at how they spend Christmas Day. I am continually struck by the dramatic contrast between my long ago childhood and their present day reality. Clearly, the quality of life in Canada has improved to the point where many island children now live a relatively luxurious life with brand name clothing, top of the line electronics and a multi-channel universe.

Of course, I don't begrudge this generation their

lives of relative comfort and prosperity, but I do think something has been lost along the way. I feel a need to pry them away from the various hypnotic screens throughout the house, and to introduce them to some old-fashioned amusements. Christmas is the perfect time to try to break through the hyperactive hubbub generated by electronic devices and to try to forge a more meaningful connection with these hard-wired children. Perhaps I will invite them to work on a jigsaw puzzle with me or to play cards or a board game. Maybe I can capture their attention for awhile with the story of "The Littlest Christmas Tree" crafted by Thornton W. Burgess in 1954. A set of watercolour paints and sketch pad might just be the ticket to spark their creativity. And if I am feeling especially spry, I might take them sleigh riding. If I make an effort to share with them the traditional pastimes of my formative years, they may develop an appreciation of quiet pastimes, of family history. Perhaps it won't be as hard as I think to wean them away from the DVDs and the remote control. After all, some traditions are worth preserving amidst the brain-numbing buzz of cell phones and computer chips.



**Wikwemikong Tribal Police**



*From the Board,  
Administration  
and Officers*

Merry Christmas ... From Our Family To Yours



**VALLEY FARM & FEED**

Thank you for your support in 2016.  
It was a pleasure serving you.  
We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

256 Centre Street, Espanola 705-583-1099  
(Beside Farquhars Dairy)

**Winter Store Hours**  
Tues-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-2 Sun/Mon/Holidays CLOSED



## Season's Greetings from MNP

Mindemoya: 705.377.5661 Sudbury: 705.523.0272

ACCOUNTING > CONSULTING > TAX

MNP.ca

Wherever business  
takes you.



# Best wishes for the holiday season!



From the management & staff of

**Farquhar**  
DAIRIES LTD.



# It's Time for Christmas!

We just couldn't wait one more minute to deliver our best wishes to all the kind folk who have helped make this past year a merry and bright one for us. Thanks!

**McQuarrie Motor Products Inc**   
Your ONE STOP Automotive Care Centre: Full Service Centre, Insurance, Undercoating, Finance, and more!

Scott Robertson (Little Current) 705-368-2500  
Ken Lariviere (Gore Bay) 705-282-2400

Denise Blais & Mike Scoyne 705-869-1351

or visit us at [www.mcquarriemotorproducts.ca](http://www.mcquarriemotorproducts.ca)

  
**PRO-GAS**  
energy services  
MANITOULIN

HEATING & AIR  
CONDITIONING

Sales-Service-Installation

Call 705-377-6380

[www.progasenergy.com](http://www.progasenergy.com)

Thanks from Tim and Staff!