

The
Santa Claus Book



Kaboni's St. Anthony Daniel Roman Catholic provides a cosy welcoming service to worshipers who like to get an early start to the day. Inside the church are many examples of Anishinaabe religious art, including paintings by Zoey Sullivan of the stations of the cross and the Last Supper.

St. Anthony Daniel Roman Catholic Church

by Michael Erskine

KABONI—Nestled in the heart of Kaboni, one of the five villages of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, St. Anthony Daniel Roman Catholic Church is a popular centre of worship for many people across the territory.

“We probably have about 30 or 40 people at mass in the morning,” said Shirley Shigwadja, the parish’s DOS (Diocesan Order of Service), who assists the priest. “In the summer we have more people because a lot of tourists like to come to the church.”

For folks in the community, the 9 am start of services is a likely draw, surmises Ms. Shigwadja. “If people want to go shopping or something they can. The masses at the other churches start later in the day.”

Built in 1954, the church is named for Father Anthony Daniel, a contemporary and student of St. Jean de Brebeuf born in Dieppe, France in 1601. The saint was canonized by the

Catholic church in 1930. Saint Anthony Daniel was martyred at Teanaustaye (near present day Hillsdale, Ontario) during the Ojibwe-Iroquois wars while trying to protect the Huron women and children parishioners who had taken refuge in the local church while the heavily outnumbered Huron warriors tried to repel the invaders. A later expedition of Jesuit brethren to the site of the attack sifted through the wreckage of the church, but the priest’s body was never recovered.

A cosy and welcoming church, the interior of St. Anthony Daniel features many examples of Anishinaabe art, including stations of the cross and the Last Supper painted by local Anishinaabe artist Zoey Sullivan. Fellowship with coffee, tea, cookies and snacks follows the Sunday morning service.

RIGHT: The intricate door of St. Anthony Daniel Roman Catholic Church in Kaboni.



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Christmas is a time for reflection

Several weeks before Christmas are devoted to frantic shopping. It starts on Black Friday and continues even beyond the Boxing Day. Many are looking for best gifts to be bought for their beloved ones. The time of Christmas should be, however, primarily spent on reflection.


Firstly, on almighty God becoming man. He must have seen the misery of humankind: the wars, the incurable diseases, lack of hope in existence after death, just to mention a few. Fortunately, our triune God cares. After Adam rebelled in the paradise, God did not give up on him but looked for him asking: "where are you?" The Holy Trinity made a communal discernment of intrusting the task of reconciliation to Jesus.

Secondly, we might question why the incarnation took place only 2017 years ago. It is not a long period comparing to the long history of humankind. What does it mean that Christ was born in the fullness of time? It is certainly connected with Mary the Mother of God. A perfect woman free of any sin had to be found to be worthy to give birth to the Son of God. One of our tourist attractions on the Manitoulin Island; the unique Catholic church in M'Chigeeng, is named "Immaculate Conception" which refers to Her privilege of being born without the original sin. God waited anxiously for Mary's birth as did Israelites for the coming of the Messiah.


Thirdly, the choice of birth place asks for some pondering. Yes, the prophecy about Bethlehem had to be fulfilled. On the other hand, it indicates the fullness of incarnation. Even before His birth, Jesus subordinated Himself to earthly authority as ordinary Israelites had to do. Mary and Joseph had to travel to the latter ancestral place to register. Unfortunately, they could not find hospitable place to stay at their destination. A poor manger had to suffice. Christ was rejected by some already when He was still in Mary's womb. Most of the scribes and Pharisees were soundly asleep when The Light of the World manifested Himself to the lowly shepherds.

The shepherds received the Good News from the angels. Without hesitation, they ran hastily to greet the newly born baby. Genuflecting in front of him, they showed their belief in His divinity. Afterwards, they shared their insight with others. It is our task as Christians to continue their mission as the Apostles did after the Resurrection. We should provide a link to Jesus for many who lost correct navigation in their lives despite all modern computers. Whenever we drive on the bridge connecting our Manitoulin Island with the mainland, we can recall Jesus becoming in Bethlehem The Bridge between God and all humanity and us extending It to our brothers and sisters.

Father Antoni Baranowski
*Holy Cross Parish,
Wikwemikong
Church of Our Lady
of Canada,
Mindemoya
Church of the
Immaculate
Conception,
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Are you ready for Christmas?

"So, are you ready for Christmas?"

Sometimes it seems like a race to see who can blurt out that question first. Then, inevitably, we all rhyme off the many reasons why we're not ready for Christmas: so much shopping, wrapping, baking, cleaning, decorating, travelling, and visiting to do. So much to do, so little time!

One of the traditional pre-Christmas tasks that I frequently don't get to is the Christmas card ritual. Every year I think to myself, "This year I'm going to get those cards in the mail early." And every year, I don't.

Perhaps the best loved Christmas cards are those that have beautiful quiet scenes: snow softly falling on pristine woodlands, or clear skies filled with twinkling stars, or a young Mary holding her sleeping baby in a dimly-lit stable. Those sentimental images that tug at your heart strings and make you sigh, "Ahhh, now that's

what Christmas is all about."

But when we listen carefully to the ancient prophets who anticipated the birth of the Messiah, tranquility is not even close to their visions. Isaiah and Jeremiah imagine a time of chaos, when life as the people know it—life as we know it—will cease to be. But they're not talking about an end of life, period. They're not talking about death and destruction and the end-of-the-world misery of big-budget Hollywood movies. They're talking about a reversal of life as we know it, a change from life as it is now to life as it will be when God's promise is fulfilled dramatically, and forever.

Christmas is about that change. Christmas is about the promise of new life, a reversal of life as we know it. Christmas is about the hope, peace, joy, and love that is possible in the new life, when God's promise is fulfilled. Are we ready for that? Are we ready for

a reversal of life as we know it? Are we ready for Christmas? I am. I'm ready for Christmas.

I'm ready for Christmas when I think of Earl, who only wants to hold my hand and call me "Dear" because that contact helps him forget, just for a minute, his profound loneliness. When I think of Earl, I'm ready for Christmas.

I'm ready for Christmas when I think of Allen, whose 20+ years of homelessness and drug addiction have left deep lines on his face and a cold hardness in his eyes. When I think of Allen, I'm ready for Christmas.

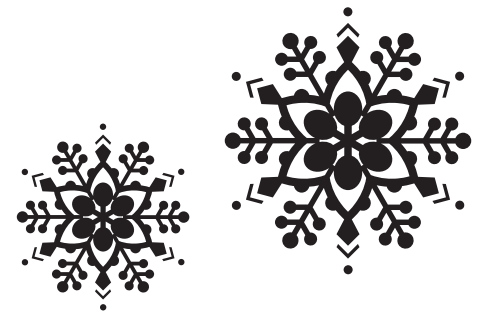
I'm ready for Christmas when I hear the morning news, and listen to the seemingly endless abuse and misery we humans inflict upon each other. When I hear the morning news, I'm ready for Christmas.

I'm ready for Christmas. I'm ready for the world as we know it to be changed,

and a new way of life to take its place. But, as the gospels remind us, we don't know when that time will come. It probably won't be today, or tomorrow, or December 25, 2017. It probably won't be in our lifetime. But as we wait for the birth of the Christ Child, we have time to prepare with anticipation and hope. We have time to get ready for a future when Christmas will come, when the world will be changed, and when the promised hope, peace, joy, and love of God's reign will rule the hearts, minds, and souls of people the world over. So, go ahead, ask me: am I ready for Christmas? Yes. Yes, I am.

Are you?

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



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



God sent his son

The Christmas season has once again rushed upon us and it is time to pause and ponder just why there is a Christmas anyway. The trend of the world in which we live is to consider it just another holiday. Most of the greeting cards say "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings," but for me this is not just a holiday. This is the celebration of the coming of a Saviour and his name is Jesus the Christ. Christmas includes the name – Christ, whose birth we celebrate. Therefore to me it is time to wish you all a very "Merry Christmas."

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whosoever believes in him might not perish but have everlasting life." If you stop and consider all the preparations

that God made for the birth of His Son Jesus you will begin to realize just how much he loves mankind. The Old Testament gives numerous prophecies about the coming of a Saviour or The Messiah. Things like where he would be born and that a virgin would conceive and his name would be called Jesus.

Galatians 4:4 tells us that this birth took place "when the time was right." I was reading from Galatians chapter 4 the other day in the New Living Translation and I was challenged by what I read. It says: "Think of it this way. If a father dies and leaves an inheritance for his young children, those children are not much better off than slaves until they grow up, even though they actually own everything their father had. They

have to obey their guardians until they reach whatever age their father set. And that's the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir."

Jesus was born at exactly the right time in history. His coming to earth from heaven

was to provide a saviour for mankind. The provision is still the same today as it was when Jesus came. We still need a saviour and God invites all mankind to believe that the saviour has come. I personally believe that Jesus is the saviour who came to redeem fallen mankind. His invitation is still the same as it was when Jesus came. It is "whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope that you will personally know that God loves you and that Jesus came to this earth to redeem you and bring you into right relationship with God.

Rev. Dan Thompson,
Pastor
Spring Bay
Pentecostal Church

A twelve-day birthday party

You've got to hand it to the Christian church when it comes to celebrating Christmas. What a stroke of genius to sanctify 12 whole days to celebrate Jesus' birthday! It is beyond the realm of possibility for anyone to cram in all the festivity necessary to herald the wonderful news that "the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14) into a single day. Thankfully, there is no need to bemoan the fact that Christmas has been "hijacked" by the corporate retail world. They strategically focus all their business guile and persuasion on only the first day, then discard it like some disposable convenience item. On December 26th, most secular society households have put Christmas behind them, and are preparing to chip the tree into mulch for the spring, or are dragging it out to the curb for pick up. This may sound like a sad comment for such a wondrous event for humanity, but this development certainly opens up the 12 days of Christmas for Christian households to revel in the time that is the season of Emmanuel - "God with us."

So how shall we celebrate these 12 days, you say? Perhaps we should take a page from our Jewish friends who mark each day of Chanukah with the

Menorah. We Christians are an imaginative bunch, so we should be able to find creative ways to mark the twelve days of God's Incarnation. For instance, maybe we could light 12 Christ candles (one per night) formed in a wreath like circle to signify the love of the "Light of the World" is everlasting and without end. Or, maybe we could hold 12 Christmastide meals hosted at 12 different households each night? That would surely afford us the opportunity to spread Christmas cheer! How about performing 12 acts of kindness or service for others? Gee, that would get a lot of chores merrily done at your neighbour's house and your home too wouldn't it? Those are only a few ideas which may serve as a springboard for your own plans of celebrating the 12 days of

Christmas. But I'm sure that you already have your own family traditions which are great too.

The point here is that no matter how we mark, celebrate or honour the 12 days of Christmas, it is our children who will grow up remembering with fondness those magical 12 days marked by our loving determination to keep celebrating Jesus' birthday right up until the 12th night. And if our children's memories are formed in such a manner, perhaps when they become sage seniors they will know the true meaning of Christmas in their golden age hearts and tired bones. Then they will realize that not only the bygone years have been blessed by Jesus Christ, but their lives too.

On behalf of myself and the congregations of the Little Current and Sheguiandah

United Churches, it is my wish that you find all the hope, peace, joy and love that God offers you in this season. If you would like to join us in celebrating the beginning of Christmastide, our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service will be held at 7 pm at our church located at 5 Robinson St. in Little Current. All are welcome!

And so, Happy Birthday Jesus! A very Merry Christmastide to you all and a blessed New Year!

Paul J. Allard
Designated Lay
Minister
Little Current and
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Merry Christmas
and all the best in 2018



I believe in miracles: robust red and divine

There was a story going around when I was a kid that Santa wasn't real. I was confused because everywhere I went at Christmas, there he was ho, ho, ho-ing. Really, you couldn't miss him. You must have seen him; big fellow, red suit, white beard, big black boots, always jolly. You could touch him, see him, and talk to him as proof of his existence. Children would send letters to Santa with long wish lists after spending hours pouring over the toy sections in the Eaton's and Sear's catalogues. Stockings continued to be hung by the chimney with glee and snacks were mindfully set out for jolly old St. Nick and sometimes carrots for the reindeer. Santa Claus was a real person long ago and his selfless generosity continues to deliver a tradition filled with wonder and

awe as the delightful personification of parental kindness. Every Christmas morning, the simple pleasure of giving and receiving inspires a scene of mystery and enchantment. Blessings abound as we revel in the magic and the spirit of Christmas. With full and grateful hearts, thanks are given for the spirit of cordial goodness, for the playfulness of young and old, and for the sheer joy in benevolence.

There was also a story going around when I was a kid that God wasn't real. After all, God was not visible; no red suit, black boots, nor a team of flying reindeer. You couldn't touch God, or see God, but every morning at school we would pray to God. At Christmas, additional prayers, said in private, were anxiously whispered as children asked forgiveness for

indiscretions in fear of the almighty naughty list. On Christmas Eve, families gathered at church to hear the Christmas story once again and to feel the miracle of that most Holy night. Carols were sung, candles would glow, emotions would flow, and the air was filled with a sparkle and a glitter of awe and wonder that was undeniably real. Jesus, God's only son, was born that Christmas night and was a real person long ago. His pure and simple message to love one another continues to deliver a tradition filled with hope and peace as the personification of Christian discipleship. The simple pleasure of giving and receiving inspires a world filled with the blessings of hope, peace, joy and love for all people. With full and grateful hearts, thanks are given for the spirit of compassion and for

tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

These two stories are still going around after centuries of debate and discussion because miracles undeniable happen. Awe and wonder surprise us again and again when we least expect it and aged cherished traditions are lovingly lived out through the generations. This holiday season spread some good cheer and be an angel to someone who could really use one. Oh wait, there was a story going around when I was a kid that angels aren't real.

May this holiday season be filled with kindness and love that amazes and inspires peace and goodwill toward all! Merry Christmas and blessings for a happy and healthy New Year.

Rev. Laurie Howard
Lyons Memorial
United Church
Gore Bay

A Christmas truce

WWI history tells us about the Christmas that will never be forgotten. On Christmas Eve 1914 in the midst of fear, death, uncertainty, could be heard in the distance of the enemy lines the singing of the German soldiers. Silent Night was the song on their hearts. The British could not believe their ears. Was this singing across the trenches in the middle of a war? As they listened more intently their thoughts were confirmed. Yes, in fact, they were singing. And so, the British soldiers decided to join in on the wonderful carol, a taste of home!

Suddenly there was a head that popped up from a distance, and a wave. And then yet another up and a quick down again. Was this a joke or was this our enemy trying to get our attention? With much caution the British and Germans began to leave their dark cold muddy trenches to come and give a Christmas greeting to their enemies across the way. Soon this greeting turned into a night of coming together on common ground and putting aside all the fear and concern of the war. Tonight, the only thing on their minds was the

Christmas season, the night Christ was born.

What can we learn from this wonderful and inspiring story? In the midst of troubled times there is always hope. The news is constantly filled with horror and uncertainty reminding us yet again that our world is not always a happy place to be in. Some find it hard to even put the TV on because it brings so much concern and worry.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if for this short season we could put away all our differences and opinions and simply enjoy the "Reason for the Season?"

Christ came to this earth as a baby, born in a humble setting, a simple feeding trough and hay for a bed.

Young parents who were fearful of what was to come and what was to be. But some how knowing inside this child came with a special purpose in life. To bring peace and joy to our world for not only then but for now and future generations to come.

This Christmas season let's all join together in a Christmas truce, just like the one in the middle of WWI back in 1914. Let's sing together 'Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is Bright.'

Christ's purpose to coming to this earth was to bring peace to a dark world. He is there to walk with us through all the journeys we walk. He is that friend that will never leave us or forsake us. A true friend

who is always there with us in our moments of need. Make this the year you seek Him out and find that peace and assurance we all crave in this world of chaos. He is the only one who can bring us that perfect peace. He is calling your name! He knows your heart, your fears and concerns. Lean on Him. I promise you that you will not be disappointed.

Blessings to you and a Very Merry Christmas!
Pastor Wendy Payne
Manitoulin
Community Church
Tehkummah

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Be a light to the world all year

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, second counsellor in the first presidency The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, wrote, and I quote, 'To all who wish to understand who we are as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, I would like to offer a starting point defined by these three words: We Seek Christ. We seek to learn of Him, to follow Him, to become more like Him. Every day throughout the year, we seek Him. But especially at this time of the year—Christmas when we celebrate the birth of our beloved Saviour—our hearts are ever more inclined to Him' end quote. (For additional information visit Mormon.Org, Light the World.)

My most favourite time of the year is Christmas. For as long as I can remember the feeling of Christmas has always played upon my imagination and left me in utter amazement.

As a child I would sneak down stairs by myself turn the lights on the Christmas tree and sit there waiting, not for presents but for that feeling which would overtake my senses something which was so special and so indescribable I couldn't tell anyone, because I couldn't put these feelings into words. So, I would just

sit there looking outside as the frost weaved its majesty upon those old wooden storm windows, gazing in amazement as the light danced upon the snow like a billion glittering diamonds reflecting its light in every direction imaginable. On many occasions the white smoke from the house chimneys on our street would go straight up towards the heavens like an ancient prayer.

As I grew older and studied the holy-scriptures more closely I would try to imagine how shepherds who spent every night out of doors guarding sheep, would have observed the heavens. They didn't have computers, radios or televisions so they studied nature in its purest form reading the heavens like an open book. Their familiarity with the constellations, galaxies and star clusters would have been common, they knew how to take their bearings by the stars and navigate their travels using the very heavens themselves.

New Testament records the birth of Jesus Christ

"Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are coming to worship him" - Mathew 2: 1-2

Bring Jesus Christ back into Christmas and recognize that

we have seen his star in the east, and are coming to worship him" - Mathew 2: 1-2

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" - Luke: 2:8-11

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" - Luke 2: 13-14

Book of Mormon records the birth of Jesus Christ

And behold, there shall a new star arise, such a one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you. - Helaman 14: 5

Let's now think about this for a moment, many if not all of us have been camping at night. It's dark, our senses are heightened the only light comes from the stars or the campfire. You hear everything, the fire

crackle, branches break, night birds howl, the wind rustling through the trees. You are focused, you are aware of your environment you are there, you are in the moment. I can't even begin to imagine the pronounced impact the Angels and the Heavenly Hosts had upon these shepherds; it was monumental because it was recorded in the bible.

The Saviour's mission was foretold, recorded by the prophets, testified of by angels and wise men, recorded in the scriptures and sung to this day in the hymn 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing.'

A new star was created in the heavens as a witness to the whole world and to all of Fathers creations of the birth of the Saviour, His mission and His sacrifice, no wonder the angels and heavenly hosts sang.

Isn't it marvellous that the Father of Lights, would honour His Son Jesus the Christ with a new star, and testify to those who were most familiar with the stars the "guardians of sheep?"


The same mission the Saviour came to complete as a guardian of His flock, the children of light.

We can help by doing our part, by honouring the Saviour, by per-

forming small acts of random kindness for those in need, not only on Christmas Day but every day of the year.

Brother Ron Sommerville
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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

Let's prepare for the most blessed of arrivals

So often we heartily wish each other a Merry Christmas with peace on earth, but where in the stressed out hustle and bustle of the commercial feeding frenzy that too often characterizes the days leading up to that day do we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace?

Peace seems to be all sold out on store shelves no matter how hard we search the bargain bins. Only by pausing to remind ourselves that these days of advent leading up to the coming of the Christ Child should really be about preparing for that most blessed of arrivals can we truly find the treasure that we seek. Advent is a time of reconciliation, a time to be alert to the peace that can only be found when we stop to search

for his love within our own hearts. Only through reconciliation with our Creator, our God, will we come to know that peace and one of the surest paths to reconciliation with God lies in prayer—with Jesus Christ.

Bring Jesus Christ back into Christmas and recognize that

December 25 is the day we celebrate the coming of the greatest gift of all—our Saviour and Redeemer

Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born among us through God's deep love for all of humankind. So take time to help someone in need this Christmas and offer them the gift

of peace and love and you will soon discover that the peace you have been seeking in your life was there to be discovered all along.

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Father George Gardner
St. Bernard's Catholic Church
Little Current

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Nous vous souhaitons Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année

Bekaada miinwaa Minwaangwod Minwaa Ninkodaading




Carol Hughes, MP/députée
Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
carol.hughes@parl.gc.ca

Michael Mantha, MPP/député
Algoma-Manitoulin
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HAVE A VERY MERRY



Christmas

HOLIDAYS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Doing Nothing

Doing nothing is common. I heard on interesting Tedtalk that shows this human tendency. In Germany when you get your driver's licence (or renew it), they ask you to check the box if you would like to be an organ donor. Twelve percent check the box. You know how much work it is to check a box and it requires some extra time that nobody has and some extra thinking and so, 88 percent, by not checking, do not donate organs. In Austria they use a different tactic. Doing nothing is common, so when you get your driver's licence (or renew it) they ask you to check the box if you do not want to donate your organs. Only one percent check that they do not want to donate organs. Checking

boxes takes a lot of work some extra time and thinking and so most people do nothing. In both cases doing nothing is common, but with very different results. In Austria, by doing nothing 99 percent agree to donate organs when compared to 12 percent in Germany. Interesting. Way to go Austria! Simple, creative, wise. Doing nothing just saved lives. Don't tell the Terminator, Mr. Schwarzenegger, that his home country discovered you don't need a chopper full of ammo to save lives.

Doing nothing is common. However, there are times when doing nothing is quite remarkable. Each Christmas I celebrate the birth of Jesus. A gift God gave the world wrapped for a moment in a child who could do

nothing on his own. God entrusts this gift to a mother and father who socially, religiously and economically are disempowered and oppressed by the place they and their country find themselves in. Their child and they can do nothing on their own. As the story goes their son walks through this world offering himself both to those who chose to do nothing or worse those who choose to use political and religious strength, violence and pride to destroy him. He peaceably chooses the path of doing nothing. Way to go God! Forgiving, loving, wise. And again, somehow doing nothing just saves lives.

There is a complex irony here that I wish would be as simple as

checking or not checking a box. If we do nothing this Christmas families will go hungry, winter tires will not be changed, warm clothes will not be distributed, songs will not be sung, and the \$0.88/lb. Christmas turkey will go uncooked. Something has to be done wisely to bless others with the abundance of resources we have in this land.

Somehow, though, if you'll pause long enough in the silence of nothing you might hear other Christmas miracles happening. In the times when we wisely do nothing, walking away from a materialistic consumer frenzy. Choosing to say nothing, to hold on to those words that often tear down or hurt another person. Choosing to write nothing

on a Facebook post that would make you look better than you are and someone else worse than they are. Choosing less of something for yourself so that others might have more and doing nothing to bring attention to those moments. Choosing the right time to do nothing with open eyes and hearts that will allow

your faith in God and humanity to grow a little this season. These are the Christmas miracles I pray might happen this year. Doing nothing is common...it can also be remarkable. This Christmas, you get to decide what doing nothing looks like.

Joel Lock
Island Community Church

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

Don't let the Good News pass you by

While sitting in a local coffee shop I watched as a little child came in to the restaurant with his mother. He instantly rushed over to a table where an elderly couple was sitting. The little boy was carrying a stuffed toy that was obviously new and he was very excited. The elderly couple was thrilled at the arrival of this small child and did not find the interruption of their quiet coffee break to be a problem at all. The small boy proceeded, in a voice we could all hear, to talk about this new toy and how it had come to be his. He had good news to share and he wanted the people who were in his family to know all about it. I have found that from the very youngest person to the very oldest person we

always want to share what is most exciting to us. While I was interested in the event in the coffee shop it didn't impact me personally so it made only a small difference in my life. I was made happy to see someone obviously so happy but, like social media posts that I don't care about, I soon returned to what was happening in my own life. News is like that. We may be curious about it but when it doesn't change anything in our own lives we soon forget it.

I am in the business of sharing news because I am an Anglican priest. All of the ceremonies in which I am involved are meant to help with the process of telling people that the 'reason for this season' is that Jesus of Nazareth was

born among us as God's Anointed One in order for us to be rescued from a path that was leading to death. Over the next few weeks we will all be hearing more about the birth of this special child and we may be tempted to just let the news slide by. I am asking that you take a moment to consider the fact that this news may be more important than you think. If you don't already belong to a Church I suggest that you find a Christian Community which is celebrating this birth and go and learn a little more about how this news might affect your life. It is my hope that

the message that changed my life, that made me excited enough to tell everyone I meet, will find an open and receptive ear. On behalf of the Anglican Church on Manitoulin Island I wish you a very Merry Christmas.

The Ven. Glen Miller
Archdeacon of the
Anglican Deanery of
Sudbury-Manitoulin



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to all for
Christmas
and New Year
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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
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Little Current

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Christmas
and Happy New Year**
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The Greatest Gift

For many, the Christmas Season brings with it depression and anxiety. They spend countless hours planning and contemplating what gift to give that special person or persons in their life. As a result their stress level is maximized. While the majority of the time their financial position is minimized. Spending more they afford in hope of securing that "right" gift.

In reality, though, the very best gift that anyone can receive is not something that can be purchased with money. Rather, it is simply to receive it freely. This gift, of which I am

speaking of, is He who is the Reason for the Season.

In the Gospel of John we read: Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. - (John 4:10) KJV

In this story of the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus presented this woman with and incredible offer. A free gift. No purchase necessary. No long line ups to wait in. No worry about the ability to afford it. A Gift that was absolutely free!

Her only obligation to receiving the gift was to know of its availability and then simply ask Him to give it to her. That's it. No countless hours of planning, worrying, fretting or anything of the sort. Key to understanding what Jesus' was saying to this woman was that He was willing to give it to her!

This same "gift" that Jesus offered the woman at the well, my friend, is offered to you today as well. Jesus want you to know that if you only knew that this gift was available, "the gift of God," and believe that He is who He is, and then simply

ask Him, He would gladly give you Living Water.

This gift is given to the "whosoever." Earlier in the Gospel of John we find these words: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. - (John 3:16)

Why not this Christmas receive the "Greatest Gift"? It is freely yours. Wrapped in God the Father's love.

We at Springs of Living Waters Church in Manitowaning want to wish you and your

family a very blessed Christmas! May He truly be "the reason for the season" in a personal way, in each one of your lives.

Pastor John Sauder
*Springs of Living Waters Church
Manitowaning*



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!*

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Hope, at Christmastime, and throughout the year

Hope, at Christmastime, and throughout the year

At Christmastime, generosity and joy motivate us, and the season is filled with a sense of hopeful expectation.

But what about the rest of the year?

Is this optimistic hopefulness only found in a brief celebration, at a certain time of year? Is it also found in circumstances such as a job that pays more money, or finding a partner who pleases us, or having a government that we approve of? What is the source of this "confident expectation?" And what do you do if your circumstances don't work out in the way you wished?

Hope, for believers, is based in the way God has always cared for his people. It can be seen throughout the Old Testament, in rescue and renewal in the story of Noah and his clan from the flood; in Moses' mission to lead his people out of slavery; and in the family line that started with Abraham, and unfolded throughout history leading to the birth of Jesus. And since God always has cared for



us, we can believe he always will, and in response, we can show our gratitude in acts of love.

In our modern times, we can see this response in the people who invite strangers to share in their Christmas celebrations, who serve meals for the hungry in the community, or those who thoughtfully seek the perfect gift for friends and family. But a change of heart is where these acts of kindness are born.

Believers are taught that "if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,"

then we should be "like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." (Philippians 2:1-2) This passage reflects characteristics of Christ that can be reproduced in us. And these are characteristics that would be admired and appreciated in anyone. Could your heart be changed like this?

When Jesus was born, it was announced, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10) 'All the people' includes

you and me, and anyone can partake of this gift.

Where has God got you right now? Are you in a difficult place where you are anxious or worried about the future?

If you would like to be rejoicing in hope, look to the cradle where God's most hope-filled gift was laid.

And, after the season of celebration is over, friends at Aundeck Omni Kaning Fellowship would be glad to tell you about the hope he has given them.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Pastor Gerry Legault

Aundeck Omni Kaning fellowship



Wishes Merry Christmas and Best Wishes to you and yours



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from all of us at
Harbor Vue

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Christmas – the Saviour of the world is born!

The Bible says that an angel of the Lord reassured the terrified shepherds who had just witnessed the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounding them as they were tending their sheep in Bethlehem (Luke 2), "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem."

It is somewhat surprising that this amazing announcement of good news was made to some simple, humble shepherds rather than the leading religious figures of the day. There weren't any CBC or CNN reporters there. This is encouraging in that God uses ordinary people like you and me to do his good work. He comes to anyone who has an open heart and an open mind, to anyone who accepts him by faith.

The Good News didn't stop with his birth. During his ministry here on Earth, some 2,000 years ago, Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, fed the hungry, loved the needy especially, the poor and

oppressed, and he preached and taught the Kingdom of God as an alternative way of living. In the end, he gave his life for all, that all may enter the Kingdom at the end of the era.

The Good News continues today. We are still called in each generation to live that Kingdom Way by loving God above all else, and by loving our neighbour as our self. Perhaps this Christmas season we shall moved to love one another, to forgive, and to show kindness and goodness in our acts as God wishes, and to work for peace and justice in the world and to be good stewards of God's Creation. Besides, as DNA results are showing, we are all related. We are all connected to one another. We might be like Cousin Brucie (Sirius radio, '60s on 6, Wednesday, 5 pm. and start calling one another "cousin."

One other note: It is interesting that the angels were present bringing this good news to the shepherds. And they were full of praises to God. Do you

believe in angels? I do. I believe them to be all around us, including guardian angels who watch out for us. We sing about angels in most of our Christmas carols. They are more prominent than we might have thought.

The birth of Jesus and the presence of angels at the birth have inspired innumerable hymns over the past 2,000 years. Even nature gets involved. One such hymn says, "Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: Gloria!" Another hymn says, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come... And Heaven and nature sing!"

May each one of us be encouraged this Christmas season by the Good News of God's amazing grace and love!

Rev. Martin Garniss
Knox United Church,
Manitowaning
Fairview United
Church, Tehkummah
St. Andrew's by the
Sea United Church,
South Baymouth

Manitoulin Midwifery



To all of our wonderful families, friends and colleagues!

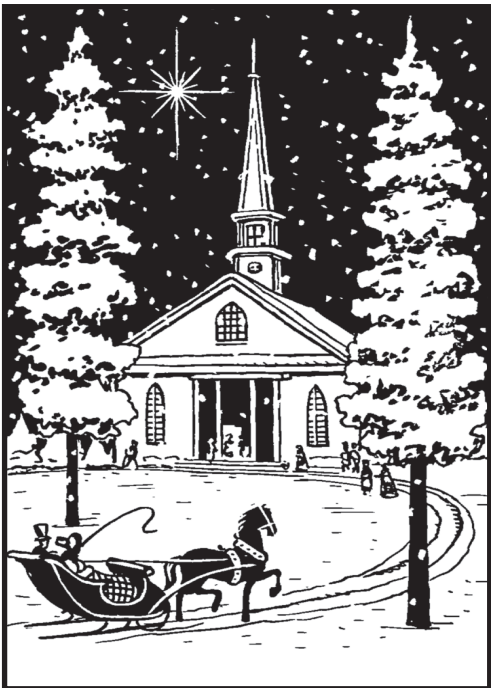
Happy Holidays

from
Christina & Earlene

705-368-2362
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.

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Joyeuses Fêtes
Mno-niibaanam'aag
Happy Holidays

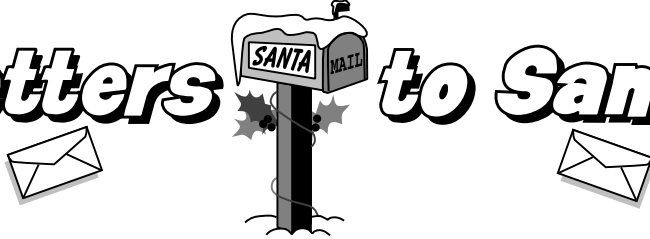
We wish you a happy holiday
and a healthy New Year!



Sudbury & District
Health Unit
Service de
santé publique



Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,

My name is Benjamin and I'm in grade 1. I would like a new bike, a new tool box with real tool's and a nerf gun. A remote-control drone and some cars and trucks, Star Wars toys, paw patrol toys. Also, I have been a good boy this year Santa.

Thank you,
Ben
Little Current

Dear Santa,

Ho, ho, ho. May I have a kitchen set for my sister Clara? I would like some putty and a tent for camping. Clara also wants a doll. Happy New Year!

From Adele, Grade 1
Central Manitoulin Public School

Dear Santa,

I want a toy elf. I hope you have a nice time on your sleigh.

Love **Aiden**
McFarlane, Grade 1
Central Manitoulin Public School

Dear Santa,

Thank you for my presents Santa. I love you Santa.

From Sarah Joyce,
Senior Kindergarten
Central Manitoulin Public School

Dear Santa,

I like Christmas because I get presents. Thank you, Santa.

From **Allaina**
Drummond,
Central Manitoulin Public School

Dear Santa,

My sister Meadow would like a doll. Damon needs a Spiderman sweatshirt. My mom needs new glasses. Alex likes video games. I don't want anything.

From Sydney, Grade 1
Central Manitoulin Public School

Dear Santa,

I like what you gave me last year. Thank you for the Lego.

From Mason Taylor
Central Manitoulin

Public School

Dear Santa,

I like snow!

From Muktar
Central Manitoulin Public School

Dear Santa,

Dad, Mom and I are spending Christmas in Little Current with Nana and Papa this year. I really love Paw Patrol and Thomas so please leave gifts on Manitoulin Island for me and my cousins.

Love **Michael**
Fournier

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa, my Papa Hoss said I was good all year Santa. So please can I have some Barbie dolls and something for my Papa.

Thank you, Santa.
Sydney Esquimaux
AOK



Here's a very special holiday greeting to all of 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



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



Merry Christmas!



Holiday Hours

Closed December 23 at 2:00 pm
Re-opening Wednesday, December 27
7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday, December 30 • 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed December 31 & January 1, 2018
Open for regular hours
Tuesday, January 2, 2018

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

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 7:30 am - 4 pm • Sunday CLOSED
9130 HWY 6, LITTLE CURRENT
705-368-2090
manitoulincottages.com
ronalc@hotmail.ca • rona.ca



Letters to Santa

Dear Santa Claus,

Thank you for the toys that you gave me last year. I loved them so much!!! How far is the North Pole? Does Mrs. Claus make good cookies? What kind of food do you eat other than cookies? How many children do you deliver toys to? How long does it take you? Did you put your Christmas tree up? Did you put your Christmas lights on your house yet? Are there other people that live in the North Pole? How big is Rudolph? Do the reindeer actually make fun of him? That's rude if they do. Do you lose your magic sometimes? Did you make a snowman yet? What do you do in the spring? Do you have a phone?

I have been a very good boy this year. I help my Mom and Dad as much as I can. I sweep the floor and I get along great with my brother Patrick. For Christmas, I would really like a real lizard, a remote-control Rescue Bot called Heatwave and a

Combiner Force Transformer with 2 swords, one blue one and one orange one. I would also really like it if you could bring Brianna something special and my big brothers Brayden and Patrick something cool too.

Be safe on your sleigh and we will leave you milk and cookies out for you on the big night.

**Love
Rowan McCann
Age 5**

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name, is Bryden Wheale I have tried really hard to be a good boy this year but I am in my terrible two's and it's sometimes hard! For Christmas, I would like a train set. I have a baby sister Maylee she doesn't get into trouble like me yet! She would like a fire truck I think.

**Thank you, Santa,
Bryden and Maylee
Wheale**

Dear Santa,

Hope you're well. My mom and my dad say I have been a good boy

this year. I would like a paw patrol boat and the new paw patrol tower. I also would like a nerf gun to be able to play with my brother Xavier.

**Thank you, Santa,
Love, Laine Coleman
Age 5
Little Current**

Dear Santa,

How have you been? I really like the elves. I am trying to be a good boy. I would like a Wii U, blayblades and two games for my DS 3D.

**Thank you,
Love, Xavier
Coleman
Age 9
Little Current**

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer doing? I really hope that I can get a whole bunch of LOL dolls for Christmas. I especially want the limited-edition LOL doll and the Barbie skiing family. I also want the Barbie dream house. I hope I have fun!

**Love,
Rowy H.A.K
Lakeview Public
School grade 1-2**

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer doing? I would like a Hatchimal nursery set. I would like a big slime making kit. I want to get my brother a trophy of John Cena.

**Love, Summer Lyn
Lakeview Public
School grade 1-2**

Dear Santa,

How are you Santa? I would like a mini ski-doo and a Nintendo switch with Mario 64. Have a jolly Christmas.

**Love, Cohen
Lakeview Public
School grade 1-2**

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa, how are the reindeers doing? Can I have a LOL? I love you, can I have the muve it?

**Love Honor
Lakeview Public
School grade 1-2**



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!

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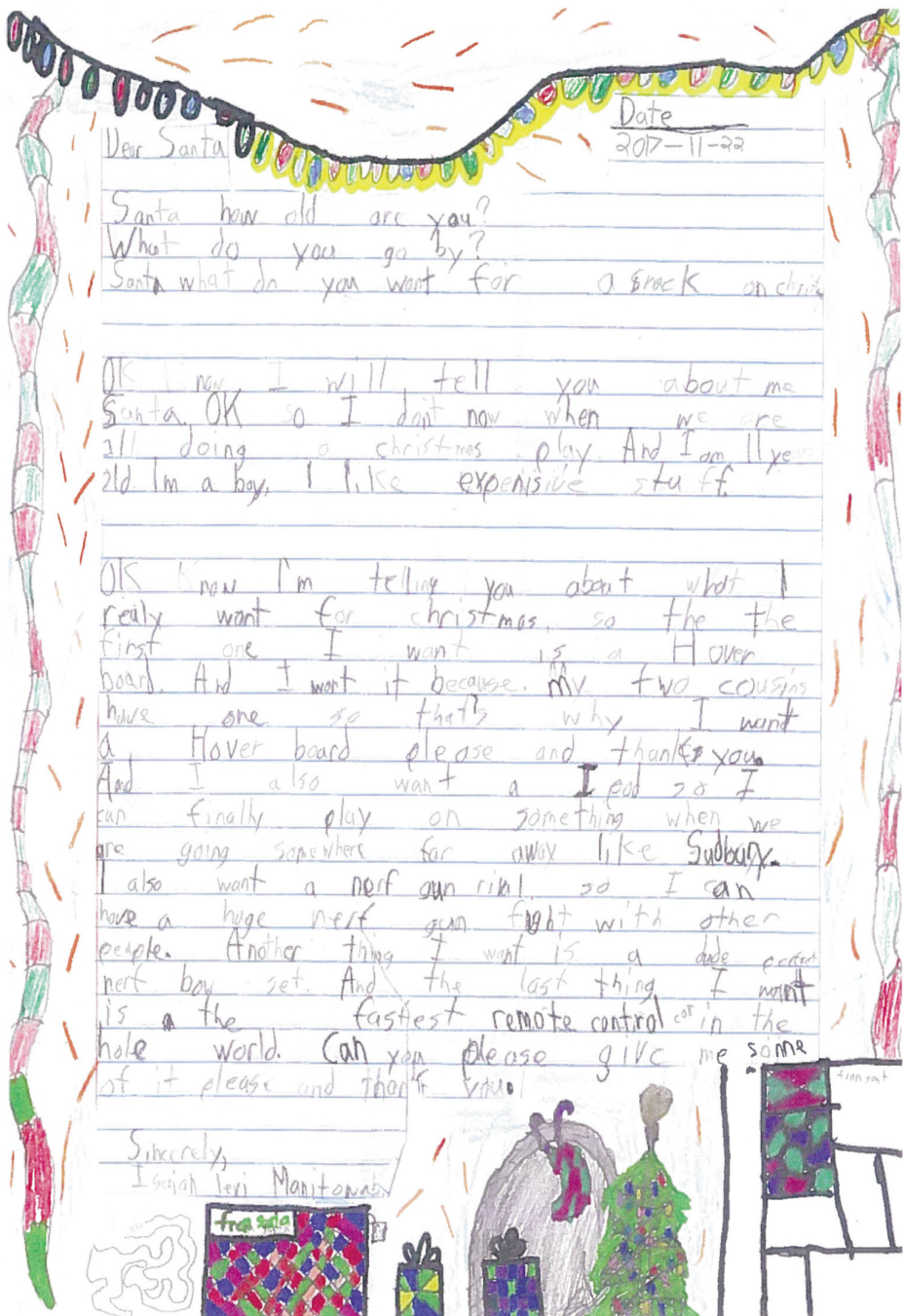
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We look forward to seeing
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Drive with reason this Holiday Season, Please don't drink and drive.



The Officers and Staff of The UCCM Anishnaabe Police services Commission extend their warmest wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.





Letters to Santa!



Hey Kids!

WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS
c/o The Manitoulin Expositor

We'll print as many of your letters as we can so that Santa can read them in The Manitoulin Expositor.

Don't forget to include your name!

Deadline for Santa Letters is Tuesday, December 5.
Santa Claus, North Pole c/o Manitoulin Expositor Office
Box 369, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
expositor@manitoulin.ca

Dear Santa: My name is Brenna and I'm 4 years old. my family is spending Christmas at our camp this year so I hope you can find us. I would like a toy tiger, a hatchimal and titanic toys please. I will leave you treats! love: Brenna Pollard
Little Current

REVIVE YOUR SPIRIT!



Season's Greetings
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The Manitoulin Amish community does Christmas old school



Amish entrepreneur Ruth Streicher sets out with her wagon through the snow to pick up cooking oil for the family-run Manitoulin Kettle Corn Company she operates with her husband Mahlor and their children.

photos by Michael Erskine

by Michael Erskine
MANITOULIN—The weeks leading up to December 25 have evolved into such a hectic bustling commercial frenzy that many a harried Christmas shopper could be forgiven for taking a brief moment to gaze wistfully back to a simpler time. Such yearning has even become a standard Hollywood trope, albeit those movie scripts usually involve a Coca-Cola-inspired Santa Claus, and/or his elves, acting as the catalyst that brings the “true” meaning of Christmas back. But for the Amish community, one of that group of folks known collectively (along with the Mennonites and the Brethren) as the “plain people,” Christmas is focussed very much on celebrating the birth of Christ. Manitoulin has become home to a significant Amish community in recent years, particularly in the West End

and Tehkummah regions, and the sight of a horse-drawn carriage or wagon trundling down the side of the road is a common sight on Island roads, but there still remains a lot of misconceptions about a community that tends to be somewhat shy and which eschews the lime-light. There are two recurring themes that come to mind when seeking to understand the underlying philosophy of the Amish worldview. The first is a rejection of ‘hochmut’, that is roughly translated from the German as being pride or arrogance, and the second would be its flipside, ‘demut’, which roughly translates as humility, calmness, composure and placidity. German is a fundamental part of the Amish religious practice as the service tends to use the Luther Bible and the dialect known as

Pennsylvania Dutch (sometimes called Low German or Pennsylvania German) is still to be found in many homes. Sermons are delivered in German, as is the service. An Amish Christmas is not so very different from the practice of many other Christian faiths, except perhaps in its simplicity, but there is always a danger when attempting to paint an accurate picture of any group of people, as there are subtle differences in practices of different groups, particularly those that are geographically dispersed among rural communities. For instance, some Amish communities are much stricter than others and there are variances even within communities. The “rules” that guide an Amish community follow an oral tradition, the Ordnung. While the Ordnung rules are very strict, they are not codified by being written

down in a kind of Amish “manual” or guidebook, but rather are passed down orally within families and communities through the generations. This means that there can be slight variations, particularly amongst geographically separated communities. Added to that variance is that, like most religious groups or communities, there are varying degrees of conformity or adherence to those rules even within groups. But when it comes to core values there does tend to be a universally accepted norm as to the proper way to conduct one’s life—hochmut and demut. “We celebrate the birth of Christ,” Ruth Streicher of Tehkummah smiled gently when asked about the Amish Christmas traditions. “But there are differences in how families observe Christmas. Some are more conservative than others.” Although Santa Claus is not part of an Amish

Christmas, some families are not so strict, said Ms. Streicher, quickly qualifying that she does not mean that to be critical of anyone in any way. “I think part of it is that people are concerned that if you play make believe with children about Santa Claus, they might start questioning whether Jesus is real or not.” Ms. Streicher is quite used to questions about her family’s faith and practices coming from community members she meets in the course of a day, and takes most of that curiosity well in stride. But unlike more evangelical faiths, the Amish are not a proselytizing denomination, preferring to lead by the example of how they lead their own lives rather than attempting to impose their beliefs on others. “People had a lot of questions when we first moved here,” she recalled. “They wondered if we eat pork (we do) and all kinds of other questions. People

had no idea about us and they were curious.” For some members of the Amish community that curiosity of outsiders can engender concern, and they prefer to remain apart and private in the details of their lives and religious practices. Small wonder when you consider that the Amish historically were heavily persecuted for their beliefs, as were many Christian groups that chafed under those aspects of the Catholic Church that seemed to have no foundation in the Bible or the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Amish tradition of adopting a plain and somewhat sombre style of dress, along with eschewing much of the technology that abounds in the modern world, does tend to make the Amish stand out in a crowd—and standing out from the crowd (aka being a visible minority) has often made people a target for those who fear anything or anyone different from themselves or what they consider the norms of society. The uniformity of dress practiced by the Amish (and that of many other Anabaptist-related denominations) is actually quite common and for much the same reason—witness the school uniforms worn by students in many Catholic schools or prep schools. When everyone is dressed the same, worrying about what you look like becomes a lot less important—hochmut and demut. Vanity isn’t an Amish tradition—but cleanliness is close to Godliness, so a clean and neat appearance is the norm. The beards of the Amish men are quite distinctive, being as they do not also wear mustaches to accompany their chin whiskers. The wearing of beards is, of course, well-founded in passages of the Bible,



Despite what their sombre dress might seem to imply, the Amish are generally a friendly and generous, if practical, community. Here a couple of young Amish hunters peruse the rifles offered for sale at the Manitoulin Deer Show in Assignack.

but mustaches have long held a martial connotation in the European birthplace of the Amish. British soldiers, for instance, were not allowed to shave their upper lips until as late as 1916. The Amish are very much a pacific people, taking quite literally Jesus’ admonition to Peter to turn the other cheek, so anything that associates with a soldier-like appearance is an ill fit. “That is one of the few ways you can tell the difference between Mennonites and Amish,” explains Mahlor Streicher, Ruth’s husband. “The Amish do not have mustaches.” Beards also serve another function, in that a man does not grow a beard until he is married—so sporting a beard is a clear indication that a man is “spoken for.”

Like many Christian denominations the Amish avoid graven images, you won’t find crèches, images of the three wise men or the baby Jesus displayed in the home or yard like you might a Catholic home, for instance, but simple decorations such as wreaths and candles are fairly common ways to dress up the home for Christmas celebrations. Christmas cards are also a fondly looked upon Christmas tradition. Christmas is a wonderful time for catching up with family and friends, and so it is with the Amish, with the Christmas season being a time when people might well drop by at any time of the day to visit. “It isn’t as common these days as it once was,” noted Ms. Streicher. “These days everyone seems to be

working so much.” Still, the Christmas season is a time for visiting and for ensuring that widows, and the sick and infirm, are particularly well looked after. “You really are expected to be prepared for visitors at any time.” That preparation includes plenty of baking and preparation of holiday foods. Amish pies, breads, puddings and cookies are legendary (although they won’t say so themselves). Along with baking there are fruits and nuts. Although many Amish families do follow the tradition of placing a candle in the window of their homes at Christmas, welcoming the birth of the Christ child and serving as a beacon to visitors, there are no brightly coloured

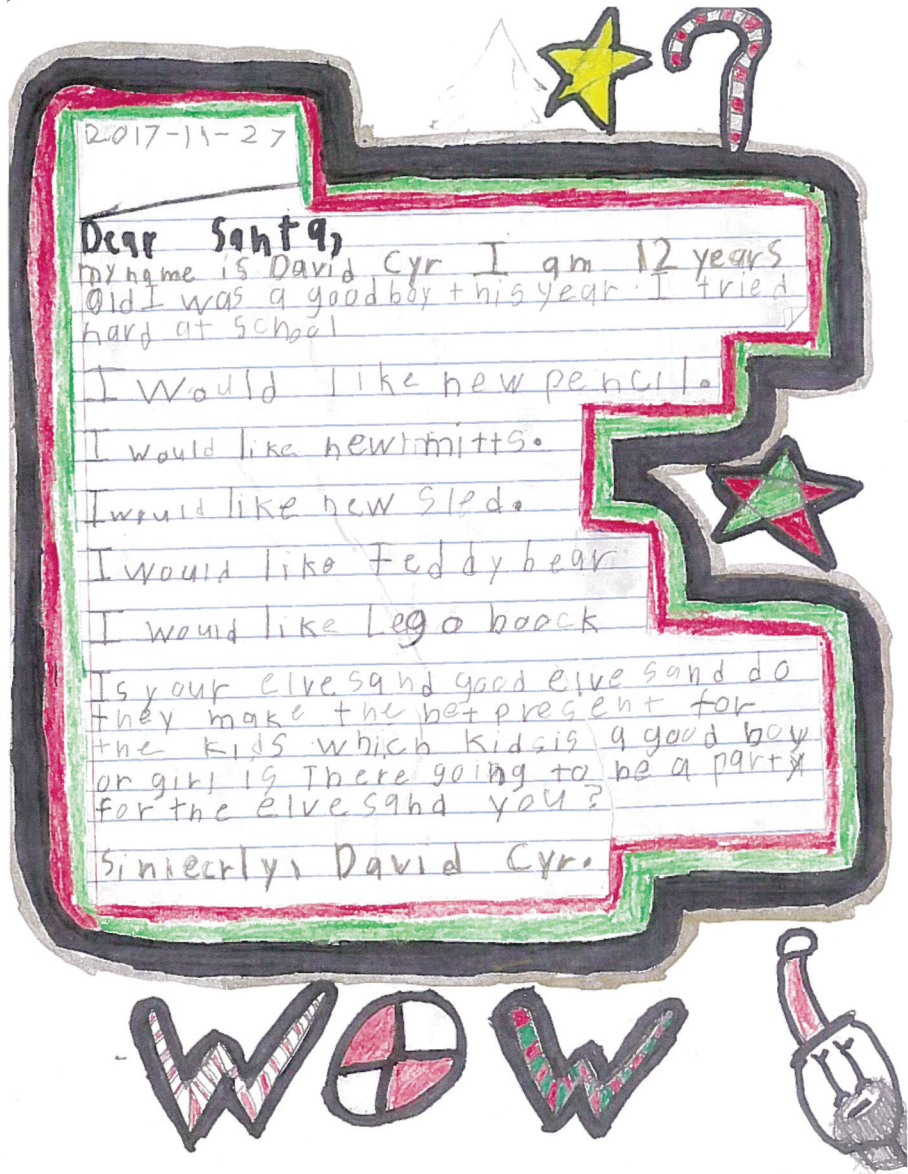
...continued on page 27



A small outbuilding at the edge of the property serves as phone booth for the Streicher family. Most Amish homes do not feature electricity or any of the other technological trappings of modern life. Some more conservative Amish families do not permit even an outdoor phone booth on their property.



Letters to Santa!



MERRY



CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR



LAMBAC
A Community Futures Development Corporation
Une Société d'aide au développement des collectivités



Manitowaning freshmart™

All and the team at Manitowaning Freshmart
wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Open Friday, December 22nd and 29th until 8pm
Open Saturday, December 23rd and 30th, 9am - 6pm
Open Sunday, December 24th and 31st, 11am - 4pm
Closed Monday and Tuesday, December 25th & 26th
Closed Monday, January 1st
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 Baymouth
- Gamiing Gas & Convenience, Sheshegwaning
- Manitoulin Trading Post, Sheguiandah
- Wilson's Corner Store, Mindemoya
- Ritchie's Supply, M'Chigeeng
- Hilltop Shell, Little Current
- RA Ward & Son General Store, Tehkummah
- Little Wally's Dock Service, Little Current
- Bayvilla Lodge, Whitefish Falls
- Spider Bay Marina, Little Current
- Kagawong Marina



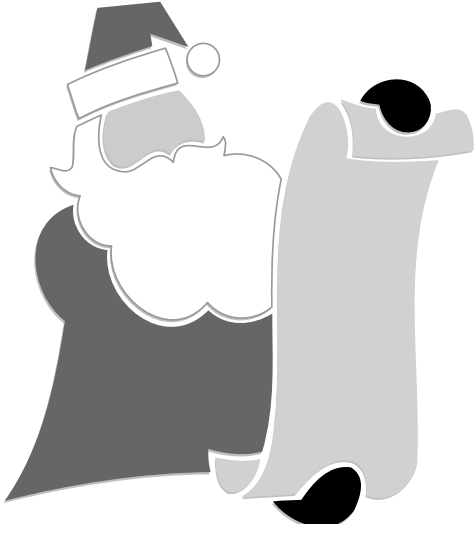
Thank you for local support!
www.manitoulinfuels.com 705-368-2421

From all of our families to yours

peace
love
joy



www.manitoulinfuels.com 705-368-2421



More Santa letters!

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? Santa, I would like a transformer for my brother please and I would also like a necklace for Aspen. I hope you have a good Christmas.
Love, Nova
Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa,
You're a busy fellow. I love you Santa, I want to give you a cookie for Christmas. I would like two bull dogs and Super Mario Oddessey.
Love Lux
Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? I hope you are having a good time in the North

Pole. How are the elves doing? I would like a nerf mega for Christmas. I will leave you milk and cookies, and carrots for the deer.
Love Riley
Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer doing? Can you bring me a I-phone 7 please? Can you bring me a Nintendo switch please?
Love Maria Lourks
Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa:
How are you? I would like a whole bunch of hot wheel cars and a pellet gun. Please and thank you. I will leave

milk and cookies.
Love Dylan
Bebanang Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa,
I would like all the LOL's please. For my sister, I would like a baby set Almo. For the girl, I would like a piano. I would like project mc-square.
Merry Christmas
Love Raelyn
Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa,
I wish I had a BMX bike. I wish I had a penetrator 9001 and more like sabre pieces. I would like a Nintendo switch and I wish I had Rudolph.
Love John
Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? How are you doing today? I would like a hatcha-mo and lego.
Bye Santa
Love Lakeview Public School grade 1-2

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. I want a new playstation 3 controller thats golden and a blue controller for Xander. Can I have cod bo3 and 2.can i have another playstation that's golden. Thats all.
Have a safe trip and don't crash.
Your friend,
Ronan
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
I try really really hard to be good. And to be nice to all my friends. And to make new ones. Would you please get me some more stuffies. And mini hatchimals and some of the ones that you can get two twin hatchimals? And please let me get more and more pokemon cards.
Happy Merry Christmas.
From your friend,
Ruby
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
I hope you are feeling good. How does Rudolph feel? For Christmas, I would like a surprise because I

don't know what to ask for. Love you lots. Have a safe Christmas.
Love,
Shae
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.

Buie's Grocery

Post Office • LCBO • 705-377-5734

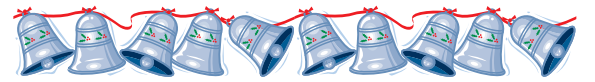
Holiday Hours:

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


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- ALIGNMENTS • BRAKES • EXHAUST
- AUTO AIR CONDITIONING
- AIR LIQUIDE DEPOT



Merry Christmas!

The new Anchor Inn Management, Denise & Chris Callaghan, would like to thank everyone for their support in the transition. We wish everyone a joyous Christmas & look forward to serving you in 2018.



Est. 1888

Anchor

INN HOTEL

Dining • Bar • Catering • Rooms

Downtown Little Current • 705-368-2023



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa Claus,

I hope you have a great Christmas. I hope you like that we are going to put out carrots for your reindeer. Will you please bring me a surprise for Christmas? How are you doing? I am doing good. Have a safe trip. I will also put out milk and cookies for you.

**From,
Brynn
HO HO HO
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.**

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you and the reindeer doing? I hope you have a safe trip. I have tried to be good but me and Cole can't get along. Would you please bring me a make-up kit, pink hair dye, and a pair of blue budweiser headphones please? I LOVE you Santa. How is Ralph doing? I will leave some Christmas Cookies and carrots. Merry Christmas Santa. Ho ho ho!

**Love,
Sydney (:
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.**

Dear Santa,

I have tried to be a good girl for you Santa. I would love to see your reindeer please. I hope you had a great year Santa. What is your real name Santa? I would love to have a pet horse. Can you get

me a horse? Can you get me a barn too, Santa? Please please please please? Can you get me a iPod too Santa, please?

Have a great and safe trip.
LOVE YOUR BUDDY,

**Tegan
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.**

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a great Christmas. Please bring a hatchimal and a lot of ex pokemon and a camera

drone. Have fun.
**Love,
Bella
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.**

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus? I forgot to ask about Rudolph. Is he a good boy? For Christmas I would love a dancing Groot from Hasbro. I LOVE to see you. Even though I don't really. I hope you have a safe trip and Christmas. I love you sooo much. See you on Christmas.

**Love,
Amara
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.**

Dear Santa,

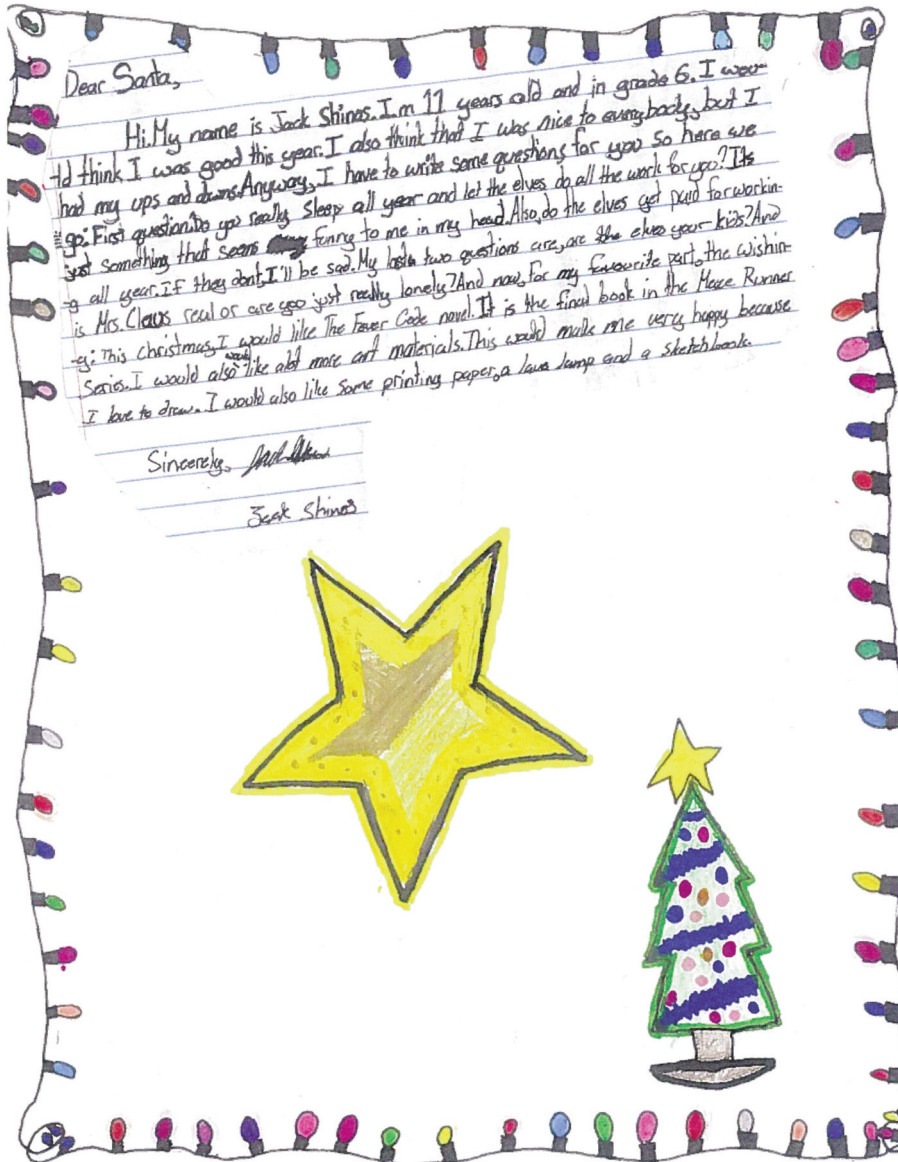

I have tried to be kind to all of my friends. I would like a toy dog and for my baby brother a toy cat. I like your reindeer. I will leave you cookies and milk. I will leave carrots for your reindeer.

**Love,
Faith
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.**

Dear Santa,

For Christmas can I have super smash bros for Wii and a computer and app store money and a camera toy drone? Thank you. I will leave you cookies and milk. I hope you had a good year.

**Sincerely,
Jaci
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.**

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**



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

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*

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





Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa,
I'm sending you another letter. I have a question. Wait, I don't. I wanted to tell you something. I'm making letters at school with my friends. It's nice to hear that I've been good so far. Also, good to hear that you want sugar cookies because that's what we're making. Wow.
From,
Leith
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
I hope you have a good year. I hope you have a good night flying around the world. I will leave you 5 cookies and milk. I hope you like them. Have a safe Christmas Eve. For Christmas, I want Mario Odyssey and a black robe with Mario's Face on it please. I love you Santa!
Love,
Gabe
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
I have tried to be my best. Can I have a remote-control tow truck with a remote-control car? Can I have a surprise for Christmas and a surprise for my mom and dad? Can you get something for our dog and cats too? How are your elves doing in the North Pole? How is Mrs. Claus doing at the North Pole? Is she doing fine? I'll leave you milk and cookies and carrots for the reindeer. Can you leave a really really big surprise for my whole family? Oh, and can you get a tool box for my dad? I might even leave cupcakes out too.
From,
Jeffrey
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy. Have you had a good year? For Christmas, I want a bike.
Love,
Anthony
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
You have a red soot. I have been a good boy because I help my brother I want poke-mon cards.
From,
Joseph
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
You are my Friend. You have good reindeer. I have been a good girl. I clean my room, I made boxes.
From
Joey
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
You are a maker and you deliver presents and you have a red suit. You have big presents. I have been a good boy. I clean the living room and I do the dishes. Please bring me a nerf gun. Please and thank you.
From
Jayden

Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
You make good presents. I have been a good boy
I help Mom and Dad clean the house. Please bring me a nerf gun.
From
Michael
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa,
You are the best female ever in history. I love your gifts! I have been a good boy. I clean the dishes. Please can you bring me a Pokemon card? What do you want to have for a snack?
From,
Jack
Grade 2
C.C. McLean P.S.



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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FABRIC • NOTIONS • MACHINE QUILTING • CLASSES

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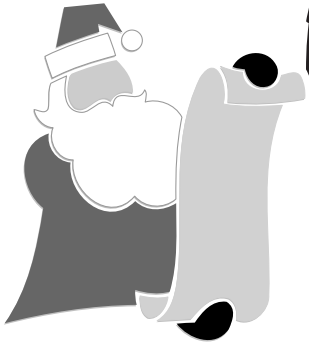



Season's Greetings
and a
Happy New Year
from the
Sheguiandah First Nation Chief, Council and Staff

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Up Top Sports SHOP
At D.A. Williamson and Sons
'The Hardware Store' - Mindemoya
705-377-5748
BEST WISHES FOR 2018!





More Santa letters!

Dear Santa,
You have lots of toys. You make me happy. You make lots of toys. You have lots of reindeer. You make good toys. You have a dog sleigh. You got cold. I have been a good boy because I listen. Please bring me a race car.

From,
Lucas
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.

Dear Santa Claus,
How is your reindeer? I hope they're healthy. If they're not I hope they get better soon. I will leave you treats and milk. Can you please give me a surprise for Christmas?

From,
Landen
Grade 3
C.C. McLean P.S.

Hi Santa,
My name is Track. I would like a remote-controlled Optimus

prime transformer, a remote-controlled dinosaur and a Cars 3 movie. And a logging truck. Santa would you please give my sister Timber a little owl stuffy, a tiny rocking chair with a seat belt to hold her in and a new fuzzy blanket.

Thanks, your friend,

Track Cyr
age 6

Hi Santa,

My name is Trapper. I would like a remote-controlled truck, lots of horses, weights for my stone boat and a harness & collars. And a white dump truck like Doug Thompson's.

Thank you,
Trapper Cyr
age 3

PS I will leave carrots and a beer

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? I love you so much. I hope you send me great gifts. I would please like an ice cream cart.

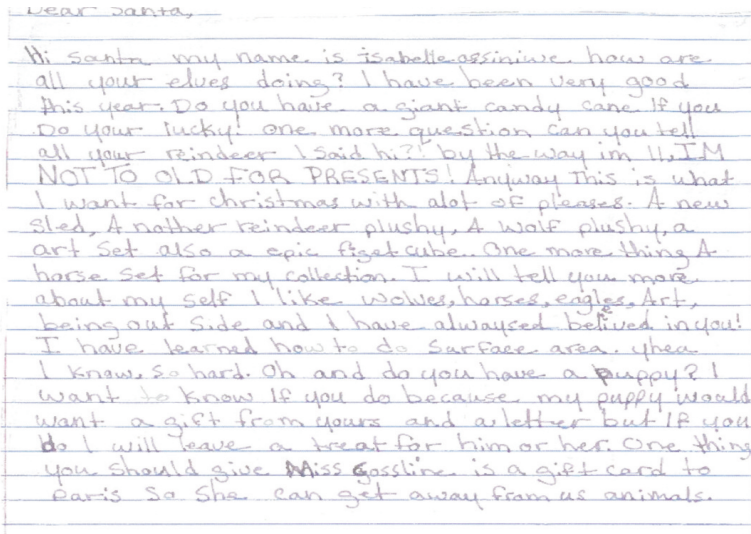
Thank you.
Merry Christmas,
Charlotte Hembruff

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Have the elves been busy?

Thank you for the gift you gave me last year. This year I would like some Walkie-Talkie's.

Mommy and I are going to bake some cookies for you!

Thank you, Santa,
Love,
Musquetier
Age 5
Little Current



Sincerely,
Isabelle Assinive



Orr's
valu-mart
40 Meredith St. E., Little Current, ON
705-368-0617
Have a safe & Happy Holiday!

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 - Adult Crafts-Christmas Crackers
- December 20 - After School Activities: Christmas Baking
- December 22 - Skating 7 - 9pm
- December 27 - Skating 4 - 5pm
- December 29 - Skating 7 - 9pm
- December 31 - Family New Year's Eve Party at Rec Centre 4 - 7pm
- January 2 - Skating 12 noon - 1pm
- January 3 - Skating 12 noon - 1pm
- January 4 - Skating 12 noon - 1pm
- January 5 - Skating 12 noon - 1pm

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



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

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





Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa,

How are you? Does Rudolph like apples?

I have been trying to behave this year. I don't like the sound of that naughty list.

Thank you for the gift last year. This year I would like a Paw Patrol tower.

Thank you, Santa,
Love, **Nathan Musquetier**
Age 2
Little Current

Dear Santa,

I wish for Christmas

is call of duty black ops III, because it is super fun, you get to choose your characters and you can play on live with your friends without even knowing. That is why I want call of duty black ops III. Have a safe trip, have some rest.

Love **Jacob Jones**
XOXO
Age 7
Manitowaning

Dear Santa,

My name is Bethany Lynn Shinos. I am eight years old but by

the time you come to my house I will be nine. I have three brother's names Jack, Cole and Thomas. Jack is older and Cole and Thomas are younger. I am in grade four and go to St. Joseph's School. My favourite colour is hot pink. I live in Shegwaning at ten A Spruce St. I should be on the good list because I help my baby brothers and do all of my school work and help friends with school work when needed. This year for

Christmas I would like Shopkins, finger lings, num noms, baby alive, snack'n noodles, sweet tears, and art supplies. I have a few questions. How many Elves do you have? How many houses do you go to on Christmas? What is your favourite colour?

Sincerely,
Bethany

Dear Santa,

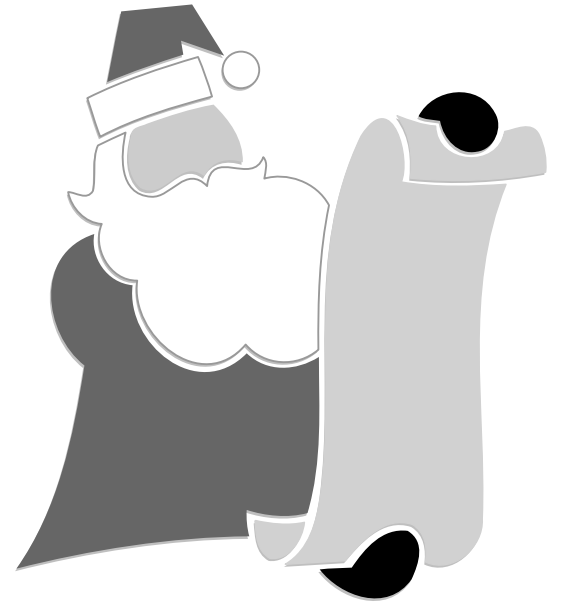
My name is Tala Tamara Tomaselli and I'm nine years old. I'm a student at St. Joseph's Anishnabek School and I'm in grade four. I have three siblings, one is in grade one and the other one is in kindergarten, and one is one and a half. May I have a easesy bake bater, num num's, have plais maker, num num's, lip balm, fingerlings, and a alive sweet tear. Santa can I come to the North Pole with you please? How many Elves do you have? How do you do all the presents in one night?

From, **Tamara Tomaselli**

Dear Santa,

My name is Tristen Jacko and I am 6 years old. I am a student at St. Joeph's Anishnabek School, and am in grade 2. I would like lego's, Timen, hockey sticks and ball, toy fish, marker and colouring book. I have two sisters, and no brothers.

Love,
Tristen Jacko



MANITOULIN
BREWING CO

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thank you to our customers, suppliers and fellow businesses for your support this past year.

Have a safe and Happy New Year, and please drink responsibly!

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS?

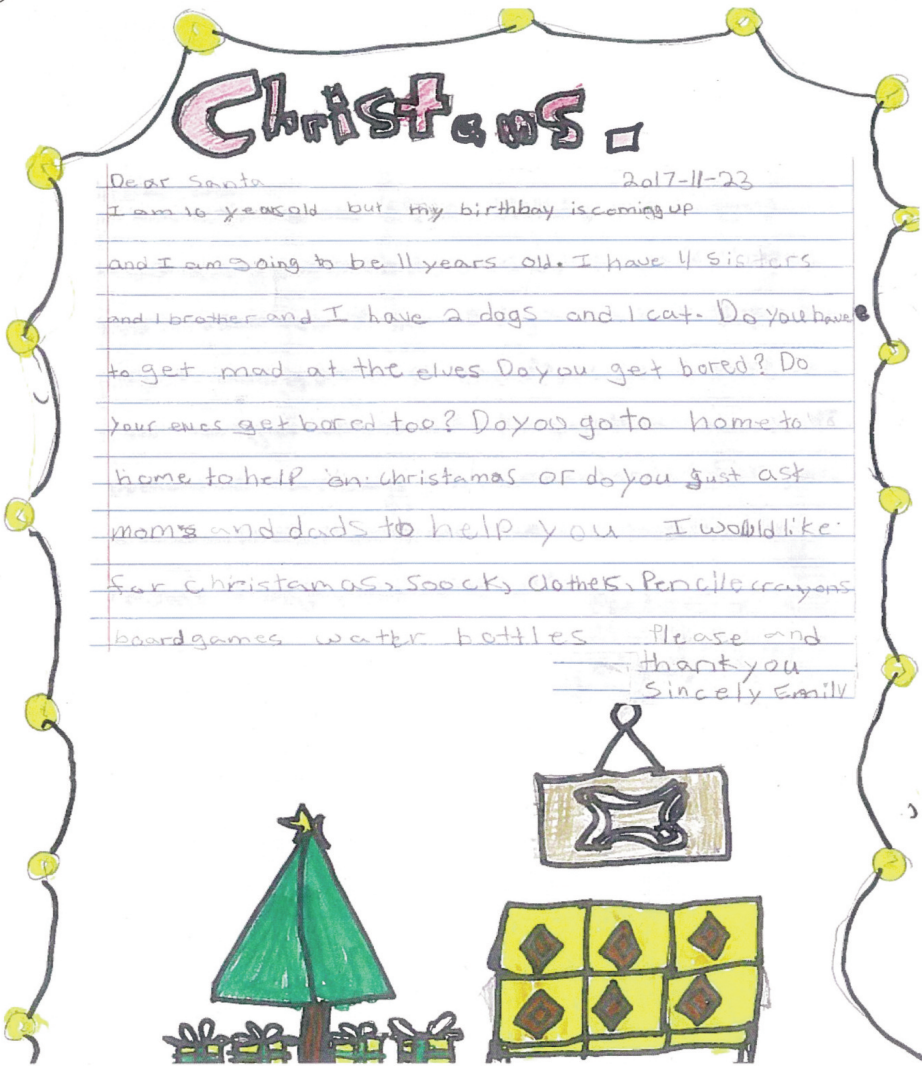
Come in Dec 21, 22 & 23 ONLY!

25% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE

& introducing **THE HOLIDAY MIXER 6-PACK**

Only \$15.00 + tax

705-370-5633 info@manitoulinbrewing.co



Wishing you the very best this holiday season!

From the entire staff!

Mindemoya Home hardware building centre

Merry Christmas!

and all the best in 2018 from Mike

Mike Varey and Son Excavation

and **The Groundskeeper**

(705) 368-1799
Little Current



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa,

My name is Niomi Tomaselli and I am 8 years old. I have four siblings two of them are girls and two of them boys. Two of them are older and two are younger. I am in grade three and go to St. Joseph's. I would like num noms, hot glue gun, shopkins, play dough, colouring book, markers, finger lings, num noms lip gloss, baby alive noodles, baby alive sweet tears, clothes, and easy bake mix. Santa where do you live? Who is your favourite elf Santa?
Niomi

Dear Santa,

My name is Nevan Bush. I am 7 years old. I am a student at St. Joseph's Anishnabek School, and I am in grade 2. I should be on the good list because, I am a good listener, I don't say bad words, I am a good guy, I am nice to my friends, I am good at school and I love Santa and Elves. I would like Thomas Train, woody, Batman, Buzz Lightyear, and a Star Wars Light Saber. Santa, why do you make toys? Do you have fox at the North Pole? Do Elves go on the good list?
**Love,
Nevan**

Dear Santa,

My name is Tyla Tomaelli, I am 6 years old. I go to St. Joseph's Anishnabek School, and am in grade 1. I would like a Barbie, play dough, remote car, and a pink elf.
**From,
Tyla Michelle
Tomaselli**

Dear Santa,

My name is Mia Tomaselli, and I am 6 years old. I am a student at St. Joseph's Anishnabek school. I would like a Bruins hat, shopkins, soccer balls, and a glue gun.
**From,
Mia Tomaselli**

Dear Santa,

My name is Vesta Roy, and I am six years old. I would like a glue guns, art supplies, a toy horse and markers.
**Love,
Vesta Roy**

Dear Santa,

My name is Tristin Cyr and I am in grade 3. I would like a toy yo-yo, soccer ball, toy zoo and Boston Bruins hat.
From Tristin Cyr

Dear Santa,

My name is Johnny I live in Zhiibaahaasing First Nation and I am ten years old. I like to play hockey. I have five questions. Does Mrs. Claus deliver presents with you because it would be boring doing nothing at home? Do you know when I was born because you have a pool and sauna because the north pole is cold? Are Elves really small because on TV they are? Do Elves sleep, because everything needs a break? For Christmas can you make a mini stick, hockey stick wax, hockey tape, mini stick net and a nerf gun please.
**Sincerely,
Johnny**

Dear Santa,

How are you feeling this winter? Do you like Subway? If you do I might be able to leave a sub out for you. How old are you? I want to know how long you have been giving people gifts. What kind of pie is your favourite? I could leave out a pie for you! I like tacos with lots of cheese and meat. I play lots of video games like GTA, Halo games. Some kid stole my phone, I want a new one but I know it's not a Santa gift. I like hot chocolate with lots of marshmallows. My favourite pie is apple. Some things I would like for Christmas are a sled so I can hit jumps made of snow on it. Another thing I would like is a new beanie that is black so it can keep me warm on my head. I would also like a cookie and a nerf gun please. One last thing I would like is some



stickers and a ton of potatoes.
**Sincerely,
Mitchell**

Dear Santa,

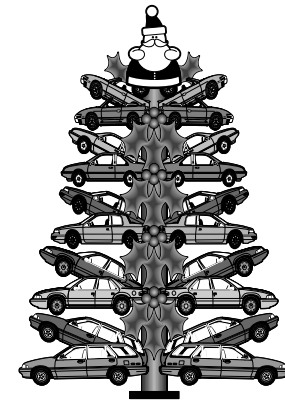
Santa how old are you? What do you go by? Santa what do you want for a snack on Christmas. OK I will tell you about me Santa. Ok so I don't know when we are all doing a Christmas play and I am 11 years old, I am a boy. I like expensive stuff. Ok, know I'm telling you about what I really want for Christmas so the first one I want is a hover board. I want it because my two cousins have one so that's why I want a hover board please and thank you. I also want an I pad so I can finally play on something when we are going somewhere far away like Sudbury. I also want a nerf gun rival so I can have a huge nerf fight with other people. Another thing I want is the fastest remote-control car in the whole world. Can you please give me some of it please and thank you?
**Sincerely,
Isaiah Levi
Manitowabi**

Dear Santa,

My name is Rhianna Spanish and I live in Sheshegwaning First Nation. I have a little sister named Randi. I would like to ask you some questions. Do you make presents all year

for the whole world? Also do you sometimes have sleigh troubles when you try to start it before you go on your long trip around the world? Do you wear your Santa suite all year or do you wear normal clothes? I also tried to be on my best behaviour all year at home and at school. I am very excited for Christmas I am already telling my mom and dad what I want for Christmas. For Christmas, I would like is all of the W. Bruce Cameron books with all of dog's and Wizard of Oz book. Also, I would like the Frosty the snow man movie because I love that movie! Another thing I would like is an I tunes card for my phone to download music and games. In my stocking, I would like new white board markers for my white board in my room. I would really like some sharpie markers please and thank you. Also, I will leave you some of my chocolate chip cookies and a carrot for your reindeers.
**Sincerely,
Rhianna Spanish**

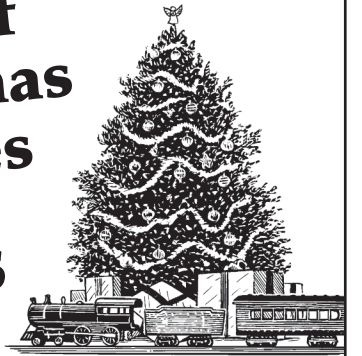
Shift Into Holiday Gear



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
24 Hour Towing • 705-282-2091**

Best of Christmas Wishes Hunt's Kagawong



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM COLE, DUSTIN,
TAMMY AND CHRIS
**LAIDLEY STATIONERY
AND OFFICE FURNITURE!**
17 Campbell St. East, Little Current 705-368-2525
info@laidley-stationery.ca

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes For 2018

**CLOSED DECEMBER 25TH TO
DECEMBER 27TH 2017**

**OPEN REGULAR HOURS
THURSDAY DECEMBER 28TH 2017
9 AM TO 5 PM**

**CLOSED JANUARY 1ST, 2018
OPEN JANUARY 2ND FOR
REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS
9 AM TO 5 PM**



THANK YOU

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 -
Haweaater here we come!

**Merry Christmas to you and yours
and all the best in 2018!**

From the Little Current Lions Club

JEFF'S TAXI & DELIVERY

705-377-6222 *Merry Christmas*

www.jeffstaxi.ca DON'T DRINK & DRIVE
"We run a fare business" Serving Manitoulin and Espanola
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Owned & operated by Jeff Bebonang



Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
My name is David Cyr, I am 12 years old. I was a good boy this year. I tried hard at school. I would like a new pencil, I would like new mittens, I would like a new sled, I would like a teddy bear, I would like Lego book. Are your Elves Good Elves, and do they make the best presents for the kids? Which kids are good boys or girls? Is there going to be a party for the Eves and you?

**Sincerely,
David Cyr**

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, my name is Isabelle Assiniwe, how are all your elves doing? I have been very good this year. Do you have a giant candy cane? If you do, you're lucky! One more question, can you tell all your reindeer I said hi? Anyway, this is what I want for Christmas with a lot of pleases. A new sled, another reindeer plushy, a wolf plushy, an art set, also an epic figet cube. One more thing a horse set for my collection. I will tell you more about myself. I like wolves, horses, eagles, art, being out side and I always believe in you! I have learned how to do surface area. Yeah, I know, so hard. Oh, and do you have a puppy? I want to know if you do because my puppy would want a gift from yours and a letter, but if you do I will leave a treat for him or her. One thing you should give Miss Gossline is a gift card to Paris, so she can get away from us animals.

**Sincerely,
Isabelle Assiniwe**

Dear Santa,
I am 10 years old but my birthday is coming up and I am going to be 11 years old. I have 4 sisters and 1 brother and I have two dogs and

one cat. Do you have to get mad at the Elves? Do you get bored? Do your Elves get bored too? Do you go to home to home to help on Christmas or do you just ask moms and dads to help you? I would like for Christmas, socks, clothes, pencil crayons, board games, water bottles. Please and thank you.

**Sincerely,
Emily**

Dear Santa,
Hi, my name is Jack Shinos. I am 11 years old and in grade 6. I would think I was good this year. I also think that I was nice to everyone, but I had my ups and downs. Anyway, I have to write some questions for you, so here we go. First question for so: Do you really sleep all year and let the Elves do all the work for you? It's just something that seems funny to me in my head. Also, do the Elves get paid for working all year? If they don't, I'll be sad. My last two questions are, are the Elves your kids? And is Mrs. Claus real or are you just lonely. And now for my favourite part, the wishing. This Christmas I would like The Fever Code novel. It is the final book in the Maze Runner series. I would also like a lot more art materials. This would make me very happy because I love to draw. I would also like some printing paper, a lava lamp and a sketchbook.

**Sincerely,
Jack Shinos**

Dear Santa,
How was this year for you in the North Pole? I hope it was a good year for you as it was for me. How are the Elves and how is Mrs. Claus? I hope that she and the Elves are doing well as you. And the Elves are working hard to make

toys for children to love. Did you do anything interesting over the year? Last year I submitted piece of art for a calendar and I won the cover and the month of March. What kind of cookie do you want me to put out this year? If you tell me what kind of cookie you would like me to put out I think I could find it maybe. I turned 13 this year in March and I ate a cake. One day while playing a video game with my brother we decided to have a drag race and I won with my little car, and I got My Lord of the Rings poster from the Library. I would like to get things this year please and those things are: parchment paper, sharpie pens, a little wooden toy, a little army dude, a piece of coal. If you do thank you very much for reading and answering my questions and I hope you have an excellent Christmas.

**Sincerely,
Kingsley R**

Dear Santa,
I am in grade four. I have been trying my best all year. I would like for Christmas a guitar and a laser tag shooting system. Thank you for the gifts last year, oh and anything Star Wars like my dad.

**Love,
Fielding
Age 9
Espanola**

Dear Santa,
Hi, I have been a good boy and I want a tablet and hats for Christmas. How are your reindeer doing?

**From, Keaton
W i k w e m i k o n g
Junior School
Grade 3**

Dear Santa,
Hi I am Aaron. I would like to have a computer on Christmas day. I want

to know if you have a reindeer with a glowing nose.
**By Aaron
W i k w e m i k o n g
Junior School
Grade 3**

Dear Santa,
Thank you for Christmas and for bringing us together and giving us presents. I would like a green onesie and a reindeer pyjamas onesie. How are your elves doing?
**From, Liam
W i k w e m i k o n g
Junior School
Grade 3**

Dear Santa,
This Christmas I want to spend time with my family and this is my list. I want a phone, Elf on the Shelf, new iPad, onesie with a flap on the buttocks so I can go to the washroom in the middle of the night, bullets for my BB gun, pictures of Rudolph and the reindeer, another note in my notebook and to tell my grandma I love her so much in heaven.
**From, Ryenn
W i k w e m i k o n g
Junior School
Grade 3**

Dear Santa,
How are you Santa? For Christmas, I would like an LOL doll, a Zoomers Zupps tiny pup and Hatchimals. I would like to know how Mrs. Claus is doing?
Love, Ariella



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
H&R NOBLE CONSTRUCTION LTD
GORE BAY 705-282-2496



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



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



Merry Christmas ... From Our Family To Yours



VALLEY FARM & FEED

Thank you for your support in 2017. It was a pleasure serving you.
We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

256 Centre Street, Espanola 705-583-1099
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Winter Store Hours
Tues-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-2 Sun/Mon/Holidays CLOSED



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa,

Can I please have a toy helicopter, please Santa? Also army toys, toy plane and a Nerf blaster. Santa, why do you have big boots and need gloves?

Love, Patrick
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

I hope I'm on the nice list! Can I please have squishies and My Little Ponies? I hope you have a good Christmas too! Spend your Christmas with someone special.

Love, Cassidy
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the presents. This year I would like a Glitterati LOL doll, figures from Five Nights of Freddie's and bath bombs. I hope you have a happy day at the North Pole.

Love, Tori
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

I hope you have a good day! For Christmas, I would like

an army set, a Sonic stuffy and a LEGO set. I like your reindeer and your beard.

Love, Tryton
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

I believe in you Santa and Christmas is the day Jesus was born. I would like some LEGO bricks, an Earth ball and some slime. Santa, it's very nice to meet you and I know your reindeer are magical so they can fly.

Love, Brody
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

How are you? Am I on the nice list? If so, all I would like for Christmas is an HD camera. How can your reindeer fly? Is my sister on the nice list? I think she should be.

Love, Ethan
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Hello Santa!

I have been good I would like a sled so I can go sledding, a word search book, LEGO and a FNOF action figure.

Is Rudolph actually real?

From, Gage
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? I think I am on the nice list and for Christmas I would like a new puppy – a husky! How do your reindeer fly all over the world?

From, Zephyr
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

How are you doing and how are your little reindeer? For Christmas, I wouldn't like that much, just a little doll set, two boxes of Littlest Pet Shops and, last but not least, a new stocking. My kittens ripped up my old one. Have a happy Christmas Santa!

Love, Alannah
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

How are you and how is it up in the North

Pole? For Christmas I would like an ipod, fingerlings and Yummy Nummies. Am I on the nice list?

From, Averi
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

Thank you for Christmas! My name is Wasmowin. For some reason I'm always thinking I'm on the naughty list – am I? I hope I'm not. For Christmas I would like hot wheels, Batman toys, a Christmas book and a ruler. Merry Christmas Santa!

From, Wasmowin
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? I wish I can get a gold PS4, a box of LEGOs and a pair of shoes. Have a Merry Christmas Santa!

From, Evan
W i k w e m i k o n g
J u n i o r S c h o o l
G r a d e 3



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



Happy Holidays!

From all of us at
Little Current Veterinary Services



Meet the Staff

(Front)
Dr. Ted Delange,
Dr. Johanne Paquet,
Dr. Janice Mitchell,
(Back) Pat Moore,
Mel Delange,
Steve Fisher,
Deb Pardiac

Photo by
Lori-Ann McDermid
Photographer

Holiday hours:
Open Wednesday, December 27
and Saturday, December 30
30 Meredith St. E, Little Current
705-368-2222

www.islandvets.ca
Hours of operation: 9:00am-5:00pm
Wednesday, Friday, every second Saturday

It's been a wonderful year...

BECAUSE OF YOU

- If you donated items to our Thanksgiving Produce Auction, or our Octoberfest Auction.
- If you joined us at Harbour Days fish fry or Dinner Theatre.
- If you made a donation to the Medical Centre.
- If you participated in the Frosty Cup Hockey Tournament.

You have made a difference to someone's life.



The Gore Bay Rotary Club is involved with helping in the community in many ways. Consider how you can be part of this world wide service club. Find us on Facebook

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



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

Joe & Kim Moor
Curtis, Humphrey & Greg

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

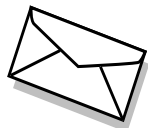


WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE ISLAND ANIMAL HOSPITAL
HOLIDAY HOURS
Closed December 25, 26, 2017
and January 1, 2018
(705) 377-7200 • Mindemoya, ON



Letters to Santa



Dear Santa,

I've tried hard to be a good boy this year, but being 2 is hard. This year for Christmas I'd like choo-choo's and more Paw Patrol! I really hope to see you and your reindeer. I will leave you both a snack. Merry Christmas Love,
Jace Middaugh
2 years old

Dear Santa,

How are the elves? Thank you for the presents last Christmas. And Santa I will do good at math. I will do my best. How is Mrs. Claus? Oh and can Mrs. Claus make me a nice blanket? Please and Thank you. I would like some nice clothes and some new shoes and tow nice stuffies. P.S. And do you like hot cocoa? Is there snow at the North Pole?
Love,
Lily S.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How are you? How are the reindeer? How is Clarice and Rudolph? I would like a Baby Alive, a Power Wheels, a baby doll Sweet Tear and a remote-control car. I loved the presents you gave last Christmas. Thank you for the presents.
Love,
Summer W.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

Thank you for the presents last year. I would like a notebook that has the initials "E" to write in, a computer, a phone and an American Girl doll. I will leave you milk and cookies. And I will leave all the reindeer - Rudolph, Dasher, Dancer, Fancer, Vixen, Donner, and Cupid some carrots.
Love,
Emma S.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How are your reindeers doing and your elves doing? Are they good or bad? How are you doing Santa? Good or bad? Do you like milk and cookies? I am going to leave it on the table.

I love school. I would like a Hatch-able, some clothes, Lego and an iPod.

Love,

Shayla T.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How are you and your reindeer and your elves? I hope they're good. Thank you, Santa, from last year. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

I would like a power ranger sword. I would like a Spiderman web shooter. I would like new clothes. I would like some more Legos. Please. Have a great Christmas.

Love,
Wisdym K.

Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

I would like to have an Elf of the Shelf because it's fun to play with the Elf on the Shelf. It is bad to say bad words. That is bad because it hurts you. I will leave you cookies for you Santa and hot chocolate.

Love,

Ava W.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How's the North Pole?

I bet it's cold. How have you been? I asked my mom for an Elf on the Shelf but she says no but I really want one. I'm sad now, anyhow. I like Mrs. Claus. I would like an iPad and a floating hover board. Have I been good? Have a great year of love and cheer to a holiday of love and cheer from all to hear Christmas cheer. Love to hear in your ear of bucket of snow and you know to hold your love of cheer. P.S. Need Snow.

Love,

Daelene P. N.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How are the Elves doing? And Mrs. Claus? I hope they are all good. Are the reindeer good too?

I'd like a Baby Alive, phone, Ben-Ten, and a mini-car I can drive in. I love you Santa. I love all of you and the reindeer and the Elves too.

Love,

Elora S.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

I would like a car, a Pokemon blanket, an X-Box One, and a new Spiderman. I will leave milk and cookies for you. I think Elf on the Shelf is cool.

Love,

Terran T. E.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How are you and your reindeers? Also, your

elves and Mrs. Claus? I hope you like giving out presents to kids. Thank you for the presents last year. I wish for Pokemon cards EX's and GX's, two fidget spinners, some P.J.'s and a scooter. One more thing, books please. I love you Santa. P.S. I will leave orange juice, cookies also yogurt for you.

Love,

James N.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How are you Santa. How are your Elves? I would like a helicopter, and a bicycle, and a yoyo. There will be a cookies and milk and carrots for your reindeer. How are your reindeer? I hope I get lots of presents. I love you Santa.

Love,

Jesse D.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

Thanks for the presents last year. I would like a Baby go Bye-Bye, A Baby Alive snack and Sara Doll. I will give you cookies and a carrot for Rudolph.

Thank the Elves for making toys for us.

Love,
Clytie M.

Wasse Abin Junior School

SEASONS GREETINGS

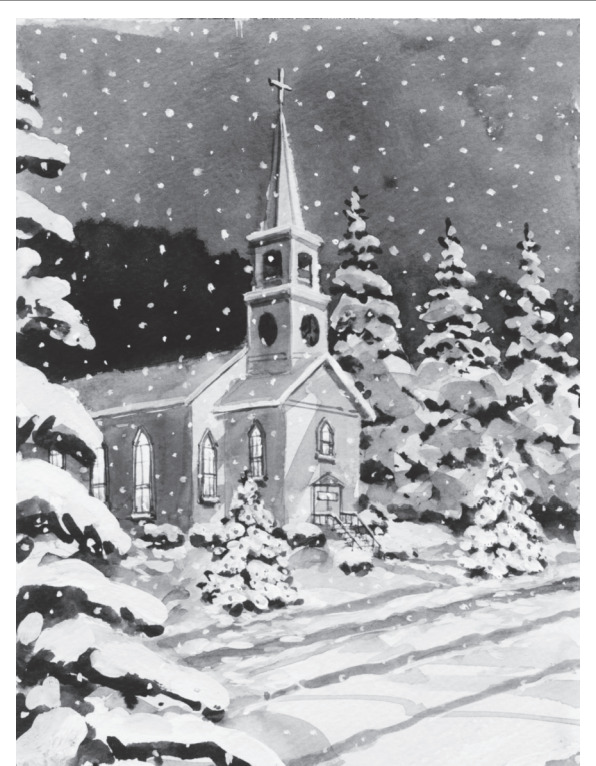
*To all of you who have made our business a success ~
thank you all so very much*

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

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*...a piece of
Island history...*

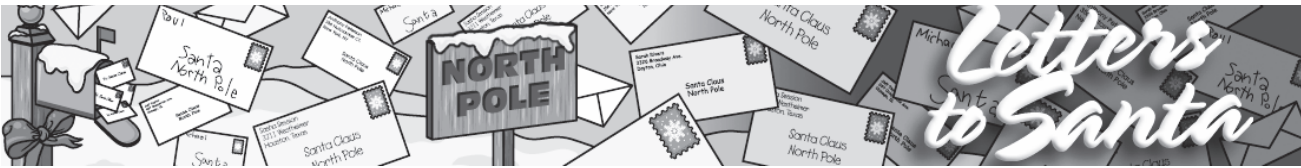


Mail leaving Turners by dog team and sled in the 1800s.



Turners

**WISHING MANITOULIN A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR
SINCE 1879**



Dear Santa,

How are your Elves doing? Fine? I hope you are doing fine with Rudolph. All I want for Christmas is a PS4, and a Baby Alive, and baby stuff for my Baby Alive and a tablet.

I hope you have a great time on your way to Wiky.

Love,
Alice B.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? How do you deliver presents in one night? How are your reindeer and Mrs. Claus? I would like some cars, one Spiderman car, Hot Wheels tracks and a stuffy of Rudolph and a Santa stuffy. Thank you, Santa.

Love,
Kaiden R.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

How is Mrs. Claus? I will leave you some rainbow cookies and chocolate milk. I would like an American Doll named Ashlynn, a Rudolph toy, little Minion fart gun and a computer. I hope you find me at my American Grandmas.

Love,
Riley M.
Wasse Abin Junior School

Dear Santa,

My name is Brenna and I'm 4 years old. My family is spending Christmas at our camp this year, so, I hope you can find us. I would like a toy tiger, a hatchimal and titanic toys please. I will leave treats!

Love,
Brenna Pollard
Little Current

Dear Santa,

Christmas is the best day. Thank you for Christmas Santa. How is Rudolph doing? Please can you make a remote control please.

Love,
Owen

**Lakeview School
Grade 1 and 2**

Dear Santa,

My name is Lucas, I am 4 years old. For Christmas, I would like a monster truck, some other cars and trucks, a sleigh, so I can go sliding at the big hill. I will leave you a snack Santa.

I love you!

Lucas Debassige
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I would like a donut toy, a cupcake toy and doll that talks and crawls. A real teddy bear, and a big doll house. I will leave you some popcorn and pop. Please bring my brother and my sister some toys to, okay Santa?

I love up!

Alayna Ense
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name is Ellie. For Christmas, I would like a Jo Jo ball, a lego hockey set, Mel lip balm and a mind craft toy. I would also like a JoJo case. I will make cookies and will leave them on my Paw Patrol table. For my mom can you bring her a ring with a diamond.

Love,
Ellie Manito-wabi
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I hope to get Barbie's, a Barbie car that lights up, a kitchen set, and a toy elf. I have been a good girl and I love you cause you give presents to all the kids and my mom and grandma. I will leave you some cookies and some carrots for your reindeer.

Love,
Briella Bebonang-Debassige
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name is Angel, and for Christmas I would like a bouncy ball. I would also like a dog, I will name him Cuzzy Bear. I will make cookies and leave them in the kitchen for you.

Love,
Angel O'Connor
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

For Christmas, I hope to get a baby duck, a baby, a doll and a baby puppy. Thank you for the presents. I love you Santa.

Madison McCauley
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa, how are you? My name is Danielle. I have a baby brother named Brice. For Christmas, I would like cars that light up in the dark, some make up, a new back pack and a new airplane that can fly up in the sky. Can you please bring my brother Brice a dog named Rubble, just like the one on Paw Patrol?

Thanks Santa,
Danielle Debassige
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

My name is Bray Bray. I am 4 years old. For Christmas, I would like a talking toy dog, a truck and trailer, and any other new toys that

you can think of. I will get my mom to bake you some chocolate chip cookies. They are really yummy.

Bray Wassegijig
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

Hello Santa, how are you? My name is Maximus. I am 4 years old. Can you please bring me a race car, a bike that has a gun on the back to shoot snowballs, a robot snowman, a bouncy ball and a big giant monster truck? I will leave you a bowl of chips and some juice on my table.

Thank you, Santa,
Maximus Panamick
JK Lakeview School
M'Chigeeng



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, Sue, Cheryl S., Lou, Cheryl D, Andrea

Happy Holidays!

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

*Wishing Everyone a
Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Healthy
2018*

From Jim, Jo and Staff

**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
OLG
Tehkummah
Ross & Susan

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

Licensed Plumbers
Mindemoya 705-377-5335



...The Manitoulin Amish community does Christmas old school

...continued from page 15
lights to be found or a shimmering Christmas tree. Small wonder, as most Amish homes do not have electricity wired in. Hydro One eat your heart out—an Amish home tends to be the epitome of “off the grid.”

It isn't that the Amish are total technophobes—they aren't. It is just that so much of today's technology is little more than a distraction and totally unnecessary to living the simple and good life. But the Amish are, at their core, a very practical people and although they don't own cars or drive trucks, as a rule, hence the horse and buggy image, the Amish do adopt some of the tools and equipment necessary to earn a living.

“My son wants to become a roofer, for example,” said Ms. Streicher. “In order to be able to bid on jobs, he needs to be able to use the tools necessary to compete for work.”

As a necessity of conducting business in this oh so connected of

worlds, some Amish can even be found in possession of cell phones these days, whether it be for business or for reasons of safety on the job site. Most families do not have a phone in the home, however. A small phone booth located near the edge of the property is far more likely. In really strict Amish families, there may not even be a phone located anywhere on the property.

If you are an Amish teenager, don't have your heart set on the latest in PS4 or Xbox tech in that gift wrapped box on Christmas Day, in some families a battery-operated game might make an appearance, but that would be more the exception than the rule. Such things tend to encourage solitude and separation from the family unit.

Stories are enjoyed and shared and in the Christmas season, schoolchildren will put up decorations, sing songs, tell stories, read poems and put on plays in order to celebrate

the meaning of Christmas.

Gifts tend to be practical for adults, something useful or practical like a quilt or dishes for a woman, tools or farm equipment for a man, and for children, gifts are most likely to be a wooden toy, model toy tractor or a book, perhaps a handmade doll. Sports equipment like hockey sticks or ball gloves are also a likely gift. Games that are family-oriented and would tend to bring family members closer together are also likely to find favour.

But these tendencies are not generally written in stone and can vary greatly from community to community and even from family to family.

Many Amish still observe the old Christmas, 12 days after December 25, now more usually known as the Epiphany or King's Day, on January 6, when tradition has it that the wise men arrived to honour the newborn king.

The Amish may have a dour aura, due in

large part to their somber dress and reluctance to show ostentation or enjoy being at the centre of attention, but those members of that community interviewed for this article have proved to be anything but “dour.” They are a practical and simple living folk, to be sure, but also firm adherents of the teachings of Jesus Christ and the admonition to practice a simple, caring, loving life. Spending time with family and friends, enjoying each other and plenty of laughter fit into those parameters quite well.

But when all is said and done, the epicentre of an Amish Christmas isn't gifts, or food, or even the gatherings of friends and family—it is the birth of Christ.



Wikwemikong Tribal Police



*From the Board,
Administration
and Officers*



MNP
LLP

**Season's Greetings
from MNP**

Mindemoya: 705.377.5661 Sudbury: 705.523.0272

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takes you.



**Best wishes for the
holiday season!**



From the management & staff of

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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!

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
 Rob, Karlene, and staff