

The Santa Claus Book



Lyons Memorial United Church, Gore Bay

Lyons Memorial United Church building began as a Methodist Church. It is recorded in the Methodist Church Guardian of September 10, 1884 as follows:

"The people of Gore Bay are building a new church, which they intend to name after their late, lamented pastor, Rev. A. P. Lyons, whose abundant labours among them are most gratefully remembered. His widow, Eliza R. Lyons now of Paisley is endeavouring to assist them in the erection from her personal friends, and is succeeding well. She will be thankful to any person who will remit any sum he may feel disposed to give for this object, to her at Paisley.

It is a local understanding that she was able to raise one hundred dollars or more, which was a good sum for that time."

The stone for the building was hauled to the site with a team of oxen and a stoneboat. The chief builders were Stewart Clarke, David Beattie and J.R. Hall. The Secretary Treasurer was J.S. Woodsworth. The beautiful stone church was dedicated at worship on October 10, 1886. It has been told that the congregation faced to the east. The pews were oak and there were long pews in the centre and shorter pews attached to the wall on either side thus leaving two aisles.

Lyons Memorial Church building underwent changes in 1926 in order to increase the seating. The whole interior of the church was reversed from its original orientation and layout and the congregation now faces west. A new chancel was built for the pulpit and choir. A balcony was added at the rear of the church which seated many more people.

In 1939 and again in 1940, decisions were made to improve the outside appearance of the church by planting hedges and shrubs.

In 1954, there were plans to build a hall to enable more activities. The hall was dedicated in 1956. The church hall proved to be a great asset to the church and community. This was a substantial hall until there was a need in 1967 for a new facility consisting of a new Sunday School room and kitchen. In 1970, the old Sunday School room and lean-to kitchen were torn down. The new hall, named 'Robinson Hall,' was dedicated, December 27, 1970. This new hall provided much-needed space for offices and youth activities. It was also used by the elementary school for gym classes in the 1970s.

The congregation of Lyons Memorial Church has been proud of its faith community and all who contributed and continue to

contribute to its life and work. There have been many faithful saints through the years and the congregation is thankful for all of them.

The mission of the congregation of Lyons Memorial United Church today is 'Caring, Sharing, Reaching Out and Celebrating Faith.'

A tribute to Geraldine Bould, who was a Diaconal Minister and long-time supporter of Lyons Memorial United Church for the collating and writing of 'A Historical Sketch of Lyons Memorial United Church Gore Bay' from which this historical information has been gleaned. She died and journeyed on this past September.

**Submitted by,
Rev. Mary-Jo Eckert Tracy,
Minister of Lyons Memorial United Church**

NOTE:

*A Christmas Eve Service
at the church, a candlelight event,
will take place at 7:30 pm.
Regular Sunday Services are at 11 am.
All are welcome to worship with us.*

Published
yearly
by:



and its sister
publication

The Manitoulin West
RECORDER

Prophecies of Christmas

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Christmas story in the Bible begins earlier than you might expect, several hundred years earlier, in the Old Testament. One Old Testament prophecy after another promised the coming Messiah who would redeem the people of God. Whether you know it or not, the first promise of the coming Christ was given in very first book of the Old Testament, in Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

The Prophet Isaiah writing nearly 600 years before the birth of Christ was able to see across the centuries and gave us an amazingly accurate picture of the birth of the Saviour. He said, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

Isaiah said that the birth of Jesus would be "a sign." We find perfect harmony with this prophecy when the angels announced the birth of Christ in the Gospel of Luke.

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. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (Luke 2:10-12)

God has always used signs to get the attention and deliver His message to His people. In the birth of Christ we have a sign from God. But what is the birth of Jesus a sign of?

First, it is a sign of God's power.

The birth of Jesus was not a normal birth, it was a supernatural birth. He told us that "a virgin" will conceive and bear a child. The word "virgin" used here denotes a woman who has never been sexually intimate with any man not just a young woman. The birth of Jesus was to be a miraculous event, unlike any the world has ever known.

In celebrating Christmas we celebrate the fulfillment of this prophecy. God became man. Jesus, being God in the flesh, came and dwelt amongst us, being born of the virgin Mary.

In the Gospel of Matthew we read:

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is con-

...continued on page 23

CHRISTMAS

Is In The Air!



It's just days before Christmas and all through the town,
We see happy people; not even one frown.
It's great to see folks who show so much care
For their friends and their neighbours - today it's so rare.
So we'd like to thank you this time of the year
For all of the memories we hold so dear.
As customers, as neighbours, you all mean so much
To us, your community and all whom you touch.

Have a wonderful holiday!

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season

From the management & staff of

Farquhar
DAIRIES LTD.



NEW NORTH FUELS INC



**Wishing
you a
warm and
wonderful
holiday
season
and all
the best
in 2015 !!**



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

Little Current • 120 Harbour Vue Road • 705-368-2512

www.manitoulintransport.com

www.newnorthfuels.com



Nay Nay and her family will spend Christmas at Sick Kids

by Michael Erskine

BIRCH ISLAND—Nay Nay was five-and-a-half months old before her parents learned that she was facing serious physical and health issues. When Nay Nay developed a fever that just wouldn't go away, her mother Arianna Pitawanakwat-Esuk of Whirefish River First Nation took Nay Nay to see the doctor, it was to be the beginning of a whirlwind of life-changing events and the start of what was to be an overwhelming avalanche of information and medical trips that will see the family spending this Christmas at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto.

"The doctor told her to take her home and give her Tylenol," recalled Nay Nay's grandmother, Marti Shawanda. "She (Arianna) called me to tell me it wasn't working. I told her to take Nay Nay back to the hospital and to tell them to find out what was wrong."

The unresponsive fever led to some blood work, and then more tests and then even more tests before a diagnosis of SOD (septic optic dysplasia), which means she has little or no vision (pocketed vision the specialists call it) and if Nay Nay does see anything, those specialists have likened what she will see to looking through a

spaghetti strainer with limited colour perception.

"If you are wearing a bright coloured sweater, she may be able to see that you are there," noted her grandmother. One of the implications of that is that her caregivers have to tell her what they are doing so that Nay Nay is aware that they are there.

The bad news just kept on coming. It was discovered that Nay Nay is afflicted with diabetes insipidus, a rare form of diabetes that leaves her body in constant thirst and causes her to constantly excrete fluids.

Diabetes insipidus is extremely dangerous; as Nay Nay grows, her body retains high levels of sodium, requiring constant blood tests to ensure her levels stay balanced.

Nay Nay has also been diagnosed with a pituitary gland issue where her endocrine system does not produce enough hormones to regulate her kidneys, leading to her retaining fluids intermittently and the need for twice daily hormone therapy.

There is no cure for Nay Nay's conditions. She will face challenges throughout her life: one side of her body is weaker than the other, requiring special braces, and she must sleep with a special weighted blanket.

The toll that Nay Nay's



Naomi (Nay Nay) Pitawanakwat is not even a year old but she and her family will be spending Christmas at Toronto's Sick Kids hospital while she undergoes further testing and treatment for a host of health challenges.

health issues are taking on her parents is immense, said Ms. Shawanda, and although their extended family tries to provide some respite, that toll keeps building. Nay Nay's health challenges cause her to cry constantly and to sleep very little."

"She only sleeps two hours before she wakes up and then Nay Nay will stay awake for hours," said Ms. Shawanda. "She is up until 3 o'clock in the morning and then sleeps for a little bit and wakes up again." Nay Nay's mother is employed, but her father stays home to provide childcare.

The financial burden on Nay Nay's family is immense, with constant trips to hospitals in the south for treatment and more tests. They will be spending Christmas at

grandmother and great auntie

Winnie Paibomsai have been working tirelessly to raise the funds Nay Nay's family needs to be with her and give her a normal life. "We are going around to local businesses but it is hard for them, there are so many people looking for help and trying to raise money," said Ms. Shawanda. "We understand that, but we hope that people will see Nay Nay and know that her needs are real."

Nay Nay's family have set up an account at the Bank of Montreal in Little Current in the

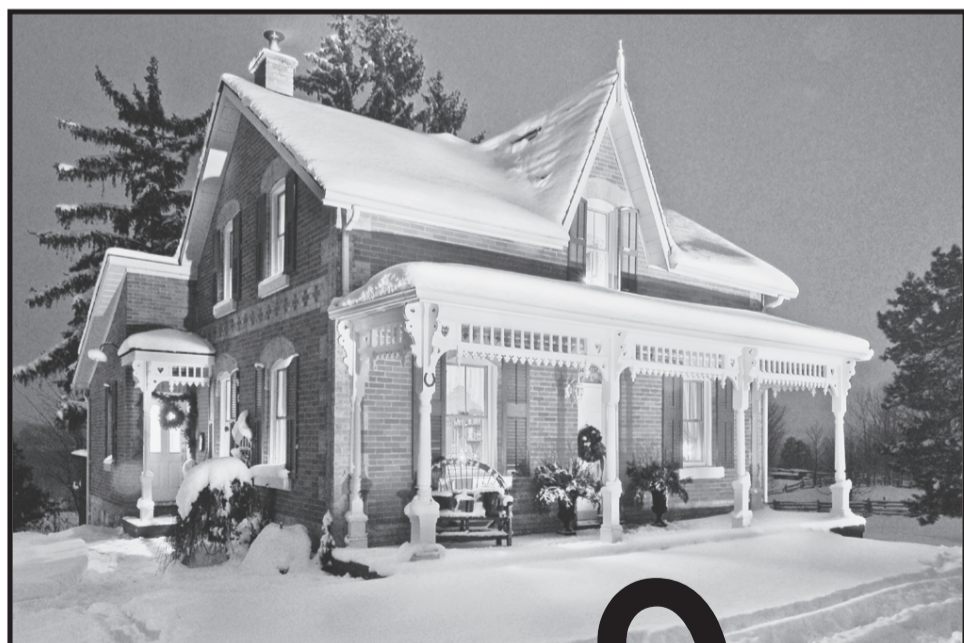
name of 'Operation Nay Nay' (account number 8982-458) so people touched by Nay Nay's story can help out. Donations may also be made at any other branch of the Bank of Montreal. Donations may also be scheduled for pick up by calling (705) 862-4202.

Naomi (Nay Nay) Pitawanakwat is not even a year old but she and her family will be spending Christmas at Toronto's Sick Kids hospital while she undergoes further testing and treatment for a host of health challenges.

**Scenic Manitoulin
2015 Calendar**

*With twelve beautiful photos
it's a gift they'll enjoy all year
Still available at stores on Manitoulin
A big thank-you to our customers
and retail partners in 2014*

Happy Holidays to Everyone!
McQuay Click & Clay • 705-377-4045



May Christmas Fill
Your Home With

Joy



Thanks from,
The Staff at your Castle Store in M'Chigeeng.

UCCM Building Supply 705-377-5111

www.uccmcastle.com

**Have a
Happy and
Safe Holiday**

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

From your friends at

Bus Lines
1-800-461-4622
705-368-0262

A tranquilizer for Christmas

I was listening to the news one morning this week and heard that the average Canadian is in debt to the tune of over \$21,000 not including mortgages on homes. With Christmas here that number is likely to rise as people try to impress their loved ones with how much they are loved. Many people will go to bed tonight with great anxiety and fear wondering how they will possibly make ends meet and keep their heads above water financially in 2015.

Add to this the state of our present world with the political unrest in many nations, along with the hatred, animosity and killing of so many innocent people much of it in the name of religion. As a result the hearts of many are filled with fear. We may feel like no one in all of history has ever faced the things that we are facing in our world today.

Let me remind you of the Christmas story as revealed to mankind in the Bible. Matthew chapters 1 and 2 and Luke chapters 1 and 2 give us the record of prophecy regarding the birth of Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world along with the details of his conception, and his birth in a manger in Bethlehem. Along with this we have the message of the angels to the shepherds on the Judean hillside and the record of the visit of the Magi or Wisemen from the east who brought their gifts when they came to worship the new born King. History records the brutality of King Herod who ordered the execution of all baby boys in Bethlehem under the age of two years, so the state of our world in many ways has not appeared to change even with the passing of over 2000 years.

But all throughout the biblical record as given to us in Matthew and Luke the message to mankind was a message of hope because to all those involved the words "Fear Not" were given. To Mary the angel Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid, you have found favour with God." To Joseph who was engaged to be married to Mary the angel said, "Do

not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." To the shepherds on the hillside who were tending their sheep, the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord."

God set his plan of salvation for mankind into motion when he sent his only son Jesus to this earth and we celebrate his birth again this Christmas. I believe that God is just as concerned about the state of our world today as he was when Jesus came that first Christmas. He knows your situation and the things that cause you fear and anxiety. I believe that God would say to you today: "Do not be afraid." God is still the same today as He was back at the time of Christ coming to earth. Nothing takes God by surprise and there is no situation that can take place that God is not able to handle. I believe God's message to mankind this Christmas is the same as it was 2,000 years ago. "Fear not, behold I am with you always. I will never leave you or forsake you." Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight."

May those who are filled with fear and anxiety this Christmas learn that God loves you, and He sent Jesus Christ his only son to planet earth as a gift so that we may have peace and hope. May you accept this tranquilizer this Christmas season by trusting in Jesus.

Rev. Dan Thompson
Spring Bay Pentecostal Church
Spring Bay

How to find a peaceful Christmas

'Have a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas season.' A phrase we hear throughout the Christmas season. But how do we achieve this goal? Consumerism and competitiveness during this season will not find us peace. During the busy time of preparing for Christmas we must remind ourselves that this preparation is for the coming of the Christ Child. This time is called Advent. It is a time of reconciliation, a time of alertness, a time to remind ourselves there is peace out there. But, where do we find this peace? We will find this peace we search for through reconciliation with our Creator, our God. We find it in prayer, with Jesus Christ.

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

this Christmas, give them the gift of peace and love and bring a smile to their face.


Have a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas.
Father George Gardner
St. Bernard's Parish
Little Current

Best of Christmas Wishes



Hunt's
 Kagawong

HOPE YOUR CHRISTMAS



TURNS OUT JUST RIGHT!

Here's our foolproof recipe for a perfect holiday season:

Take One Part Cheer
 Add Two Parts Joy
 Throw In Our Very Best Wishes
 And Serve In Generous Portions
 To A Fine Mix Of People Like You!

Sweet tidings and many thanks to all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thank you for your loyal patronage in 2014. We're looking forward to serving you in 2015. From all of us at

HOLIDAY HOURS:
 Closing Dec. 24 at 3:00 pm
 Closed Dec. 25, 26
OPEN
 Dec. 27, 28, 29 & 30 ~
 7am - 7pm
 Dec. 31 ~ 7am - 3pm
 Closed New Year's Day
 Re-open Jan. 2nd
 6:30am - 7:30pm

GARRY'S
FAMILY RESTAURANT
 Licenced under LLBO

Full Take-Out Service Available
705-368-3370
Best Wishes and Thanks from
Garry, Manuela and Staff!

Providence Bay & Spring Bay Lions Club



The Providence Bay and Spring Bay Lions Club would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsors for their generosity. With your assistance 2014 was a great success.

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A PROSPEROUS 2015





First General
 (Manitowin/Espanola)
 67 Manitowaning Rd.
 Little Current

DUCT CLEANING

Rob, Karlene & Staff wish everyone clean air & good health this holiday season.

705-368-2518
 firstgeneral1@bellnet.ca



WITH WARM REGARDS

*We wish you peace, happiness and good health.
 Thank you for your patronage.
 It's been a privilege to serve you!
 Your friends at*

BMO  **Bank of Montreal**

Mindemoya, Manitowaning, Gore Bay, Little Current



Reflections on our earthly journey

There we are, the Christmas season is upon us. Most of us, as usual, have to do our Christmas shopping for friends and family, stock up on rich foods, and possibly make our way to a church service. After all, Christmas is more than gifts and family celebrations. For many Christmas is just a part of our annual routine as we follow our annual cycle of life. It is so easy to be in an almost thoughtless routine of life, just like each person has a daily routine from when we sleep, to what we eat. Except when we are confronted with a life changing experience like a terminal illness, accident, or some other tragedy. Then we are reminded of how short our life is: "The days of our life are 70 years, or perhaps 80, if we are strong" (Ps.90). Such events also remind us that we are spiritual beings; that there is much more to life than thoughtless daily routine. It will "shift your [our] affections from the things that we can see to the things you [we] cannot see" (Imitation of Christ). Advent and the Christmas Season, like Lenten and Easter, are therefore perfect times in our annual liturgical cycle to re-orientate ourselves, if need be. To ask ourselves questions like: 'Am I living life in a thoughtless routine, just going from day to day?' 'To what extent is my life influenced by media advertising?' 'Am I living for myself or am I a person who freely gives of my time and resources to family and community?' On a spiritual level: 'How is my personal prayer life?' 'Does my prayer include prayers for others?'

'Can I see the guiding hand of God through persons I come into contact with on a daily basis?' In short, 'am I one of God's servants who has buried his "talent" (Mt.25:14-30) or am I using my God-given talents for the good of the Kingdom.'

The previously raised questions are not easy questions for the simple fact that one is forced to look deep in one's heart, however the more we have the courage to enter a self-reflection, the more we invite God through the Holy Spirit in our hearts, the more we will be ready to receive His guidance. In turn, over time, we truly will through our daily actions "testify to the light [Jesus]" (Jn1:8) to those we meet along our earthly journey. More so, we will become the sheep whereof Jesus said: "he will put the sheep at his right hand" (Mt. 25:32-36). It does not end there for when sickness or tragedy strikes we will not be lost sheep but through our relationship with Jesus will not be overcome with the kind of grief or despair a non-believer struggles with for we will understand that our faith is tested by fire (1Pet 1:7), and that one day "God will wipe away every tear from their [our] eyes" (Rev 7:17) as we breathe our last earthly breath. In short, the Church invites each one of us during this Advent and Christmas Season to take a little time out of our daily routine in order to reflect on our earthly journey with our Triune God.

Fr. Henk van Meijel S.J.
Pastor of Holy Cross Mission Wikwemikong



Our Best Holiday Wishes

Keeping things in order is our business, but serving our customers is a pleasure. Warmest thanks.

Ellie's Cleaning Service
Ella & Staff

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from
**Morden Monument
Memorials**

Sales & Complete Service

705-859-3915

* Now offering on site engraving,
serving Manitoulin - Espanola

The pattern for giving

On that holy night, angels appeared not to the rich but to shepherds. The Christ child was born not in a mansion but in a manger. He was wrapped not in silk but in swaddling clothes. The simplicity of that first Christmas foreshadowed the life of the Saviour. Though He created the earth, walked in the realms of majesty and glory, and stood at the right hand of the Father, He came to earth as a helpless child. His life was a model of modest nobility, and He walked among the poor, the sick, the downcast and the heavy laden.

Though He was king, He cared neither for the honors or riches of men. His life, His words, and His daily activities were monuments of simple yet profound dignity. Jesus the Christ who knew perfectly how to give, set for us a pattern for giving. To those whose hearts are heavy with loneliness and sorrow, He brings compassion and comfort. To those whose bodies and minds are afflicted with illness and suffering, He brings love and healing. To those whose souls are burdened with sin, He offers hope, forgive-

ness, and redemption. If the Savior was among us today, we would find Him where He always was- ministering to the meek, downcast, the humble, the distressed, and the poor in spirit.

You are invited to visit christmas.mormon.org to find a short video titled 'He is the Gift.'

Edgar Sagle
Branch President of
The Church of Jesus
Christ of Latter-day
Saints



Happy Holidays
from all of us at
Harbor Vue

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

Harbor Vue Marina
72 Ferguson Road
Little Current
www.harborvue.on.ca

Keller's Garage

AUTO SALES  

Auto Repairs ... Auto Body Repairs

Tel (705) 377 - 5444

Fax (705) 377 - 5245

- Cars • Trucks
- Heavy Equipment • Fleet Service



to all our friends, neighbours and loyal customers.

Thank you for another great year!

Sincerely,

Perry, Darren, Earl, Jeff & Zoey

Centrally Located on Manitoulin in Mindemoya

KELLER'S GARAGE, AUTO SALES and AUTO BODY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



How to go home a different way

Bible Reading: Matthew 2:1-12. In just a few short paragraphs, Matthew records the events concerning the Magi—or wise men—that came to worship Jesus the Christ after His birth. Although this account is short, their whole story took place over a period of many years. The Magi were wealthy, educated men who had devoted most of their lives to studying the ancient scrolls, prophecies and the stars. We tend to picture the wise men worshipping the newborn Jesus along with Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. But the Magi more likely arrived on the scene when Jesus was about two years old; indicating that Joseph, Mary, and Jesus had settled in Bethlehem after Jesus was born. So the story of the Magi began many years before and ended with their arrival at Bethlehem some two years after Jesus was born.

After so many years of research, studying, discussion, preparation and travel, the Magi were probably filled with great anticipation and excitement as they journeyed towards Bethlehem to see the long-awaited Christ child. Their hearts were brimming with excitement, similar to the hope and eagerness of a young child leading up to Christmas Day. Their minds were swirling with questions: What unusual qualities would this child have? What would he look like? Who were his parents? How would they identify him? Would the star continue to guide their journey?

They must have been doubly amazed to learn of the Christ's lowly birthplace. A king born in a stable! Why not a luxurious palace surrounded by gold, silver, and precious jewels? Surely he would be coddled with the finest clothing and pampered with the plushiest silk-covered bed! Instead he was wrapped in swaddling clothes—or strips of cloth—mere rags. He was born in a smelly stable surrounded by dumb animals, and he slept in a feeding trough. What humble surroundings! Surely this isn't the place for a king! A carpenter as the child's foster father! Why not a prince? A peasant girl for a mother! Why not a princess? A small town for the place of his birth! Why not Jerusalem? The irony of the situation must have struck them!

This was God driving home the truth that "the meek shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). God is not, nor ever will be, impressed by the artificial standards of humans. We get caught up in the bigger-is-better attitude, especially at Christmastime when we desire more stuff, a fancier home, the latest fashions, toys and gadgets. We develop the attitude that somehow these things will satisfy us, make us more important, or give us some special status—as if we've 'arrived' and have achieved something that nobody has ever done before. But God isn't impressed by status-seekers.

The Magi came in search of illumination. And what they found was God Himself, wrapped up in the form of a young child! They bowed down and worshipped him, and presented him with precious gifts. After their encounter with Jesus, they were warned in a dream that they were to return home by another route. King Herod had wanted them to come back through Jerusalem and reveal to him where the Christ had been born. Herod was so paranoid that someone might depose him that he had some of his close relatives put to death. When he found out that Jesus was the prophesied King of The Jews, Herod wanted to kill the baby Jesus because he perceived Him as a threat to the throne.

The Magi heeded the warning and went home a different way than the way they came. This is true both geographically and spiritually. They most certainly returned home with one thought: all of their human achievements, their wealth, their education and knowledge amounted to no more than a hill of beans compared to the amazing blessing of the Christ—the wondrous gift to mankind! Everything they once valued now paled by comparison. As they went home a different way, they went with a different set of values.

An encounter with Christ will make you go home a different way than the way you came.

Your life will take a different path after an encounter with Jesus. You will have a changed sense of values. You will have a new spring in your step because you are now identified as a child of God through your relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

This Christmas, make the time to come to Christ—and you will be changed as well! This Christmas, I encourage you to "journey to Bethlehem" in a spiritual sense by celebrating the birth of Christ. We celebrate this delightful event by reading the scriptures, attending concerts, watching movies, and listening to

Christmas carols. Hearing these events once again at this time of year brings joy and excitement into many of our hearts! Observe this Christmas in honor of the Christ child rather than for your own selfish pleasure. Take every advantage of this wondrous celebration to worship Jesus instead of merely making it a time of personal indulgence in food, parties, entertainment, and gifts.

And after it is all said and done, if you have really worshiped Him this Christmas, you will be left

...continued on page 25

O Holy Night...

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

Greetings from

LAFARGE

Canada Inc.

Whitefish River Terminal Birch Island, Ontario

Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa:
I want a Spiderman flashlight.
Love,
**Venzel Fowler
M'Chigeeng**

Dear Santa:
My name is Keaon and I've been a good boy this year. I do everything my grandma says. Grandma says dress like an elf I do it. Grandma says you're going in the Silver Water parade I do it with a smile. Grandma says go potty guess what I do? Please bring me a toy Thomas train and treats.

Love,
**Keaon McDonald for
Izzy and Katy
Gore Bay**

Dear Santa:
My name is Brenna and I am seventeen months old. I have been a really good girl this year helping my mommy and daddy do things around the house like laundry and cooking. I would like some books and minions for Christmas please. I love when my parents read to me. I'll be sure to leave you some cookies and milk, oh and carrots for your reindeer!

Love,
**Brenna Pollard
Little Current**

Dear Santa:
I have been a very good little girl this year. What I want for Christmas is a new tablet and an Elsa doll. I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Love,
Tessa J. Ense-

**Wabanosse
Mnidoo Mnising,
Anishinabek
Kinoomaage Gamik**

Dear Santa:
How are you and your reindeer? I have been trying to be a good boy this year. I would like a pet T-Rex, Lego Spaceship from the Lego Movie and planes from Disney's Planes movie. My brother Laine is trying to be good also and would like a lil boy four-wheeler. I hope you have a safe trip and I will leave milk and cookies.

Love,
**Xavier Coleman and
Laine Coleman
Little Current**

Dear Santa:
My name is Andrew Hague, I am seven years old and live in South Baymouth. For Christmas I would like a Lego Batman set, a remote control snowmobile, a Lego mining set, a green Ninjago suit and a police Lego set. Make sure you give the reindeer lots to eat before you leave the North Pole. I will have treats for you and Rudolf.

Love,
**Andrew Hague
South Baymouth**

Dear Santa:
My name is Piercin. I live in AOK by Rylan's and Connor's. Please Santa I would like a big soldier Lego set, a big Optimus Prime with a dinosaur and Hot Wheels. I am only four but I want a gun to shoot some deer like

Papa in Wiki. I am leaving you gingerbread cookies for your trip. Carrots are on the roof for the reindeer. Hurry Santa.

Love,
**Piercin Cooper
Little Current**

Dear Santa:
My name is Jordan Williamson and I am almost four years old. I have tried to be a good boy this year. For Christmas I would like a Tonka toy and some paint. My little brother Logan, he's two, would like also like a Tonka toy and crayons. We will leave you milk and cookies for your reindeer.

**Jordan and Logan
Williamson**

Dear Santa:
My name is Nahdaya Morphet. I am six years old this year. Santa I am a really good girl and I would like it if you could bring me Bonita Femeur and Rainbow Dash dolls. I really like to play dollies now. I pray that you will also bring happiness and joy to those families in the war torn countries. We will be staying at Grandma and Grandpa's house for Christmas so please come to their house. My mommy and daddy will help me make a special snack for you.

Merry Christmas,
**Nahdaya Morphet
Green Bay**

Dear Santa:
All I want for Christmas is Ninja Turtle stuff, a monster

dinosaur T-Rex that moves and roars and a play station just like Cailloux. Don't forget to eat all the cookies and milk that I put out.

Thanks,
**William McKeown
Manitowaning**

Dear Santa:
My name is Carson and I am seven years old. I would like a Nerf Mega Gun, also a new sled. I would like a new Lego set. How are the reindeer? My family is good, have a Merry Christmas Santa.

Thanks,
**Carson Beauchamp
Little Current**



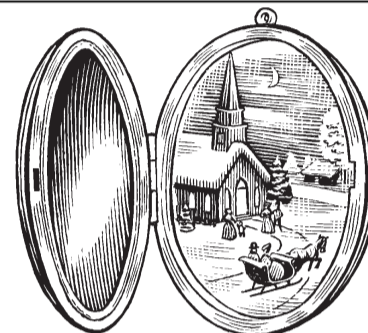
*Behold
the Glory
of Our Lord!*



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**

A Christmas Prayer



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

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

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



*You've Been
So Nice!*

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

Holiday Hours

**Closed DECEMBER 24th at 12noon
Re-opening Monday, December 29th
Closed January 1st
Re-opening for regular hours
Friday, January 2nd**

Here's hoping you and yours enjoy this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you again, soon. Merry Christmas from the management and staff of



RONA
Little Current Building Centre

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

Season's Greetings!



**THE
Agromart
GROUP**

705-282-1508 • 1-877-282-2476

From the people who really know the seasons!

We thank you for your patronage this past year and we look forward to working with you in 2015.

from

**Birgit, Jim, Steve
& Ocean**

**Northland
Agromart**



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa:

Hi Santa how are you? It's me Naturelle once again. I will be four years old soon. I've been a very good girl all year long. For Christmas I would like to get a pair of headphones from the movie Frozen, maybe some Barbies, a Hello Kitty nail polish set and some dresses with high heels. I will leave cookies and milk and candy canes for the reindeer. Merry Christmas everyone.

Lots of love,
Naturelle Kegadonse
P.S. Have a safe trip around the world.

Dear Santa:

For Christmas I want an iPod, chapter books, a pug, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Long Haul (the book), dog books. I love you.

Sincerely,
Aleynah Moffatt
Manitowaning

Dear Santa:

Where is the North Pole? What is it like? How many reindeer do you have? Can your sleigh fly? As you can see Santa, I have been keeping my mom and dad busy asking many questions this year. I am a good mess maker but am also good at helping to cleanup most of the time. For Christmas I would like a snow machine GT like my brother Gage's and a big, old, fat dragon. Mr. Santa Claus, you bring the presents and I'll bring the snacks.

From,
Garrison

Dear Santa:

It's me, Gage. Do you remember me? I'll give you some clues in case you have forgotten. I play hockey and this year I am number 6. I like everything about school, and my brother Garrison and I have been visited by your elf Elfie each morning lately. Remember me now? I have been a good boy this year. I do my homework and play with my brother a lot because he always wants to play with me. For Christmas I would like a hockey net so I can score goals on my

dad. I would also like new fleece pyjamas like my old red ones that are now too short in the arms. I don't know what else I want but Santa, don't tell me what you are bringing me because I want to be surprised. I'll leave a snack for you and carrots for your reindeer.

From,
Gage

Dear Santa:

My name is Ayriss and I'm seventeen months old. My big brother Tieren has told me all about you and I helped decorate our Christmas tree this year. I'm a very good girl and everyone tells me I'm very smart. I love looking at the Sears Wish Book; I think all toys are fun and exciting. I hope you come to me and to all of my family. I'm very happy for Christmas to come!

Your friend,
Ayriss Noble-Stone
Little Current

Dear Santa:

Hi, it's Tieren. I like that you give presents to kids. My second favourite colour is red, just like you. I've been very, very good all year. I've always celebrated Christmas and like it very much. This year I would like a Kreo Boat, Vectron wave, an army Lego fortress and a Nerf machine gun. Thank you for all my past gifts. Hope you travel safe because we might have a blizzard.

Your friend,
Tieren Noble-Stone
Little Current

P.S. I love Christmas the most out of all the holidays of the year.

Dear Santa:

For Christmas I would like Mario Kart 8 and Monster Legends and games. I want 999,999 games! A remote control Shark, Dragon Mania and remote control Crocodile and 100 Skylanders. I have been great.

Jack Koehler

Dear Santa:

Hello, Aanii, Bonjour. We at Manitoulin Family Resources Daycare hope you, Mrs.

Claus, the elves and the reindeer are doing well up at the North Pole. You all must be very busy. For Christmas this year Paige would like a book, Laine would like a riding car, Kiera would like Elmo, Morgan would like a little princess doll, Shane would like a big candy cane, Navayah would like some doggy shampoo for her friend Dusty, Ben would like babies n' stuff, JT would like a day with Jack to play hockey on the Wii, Kaelen would like cars, Maxime would like a new bathing suit to swim in the pool and Sammie would like some Frozen dolls. We hope that's not too much. There will be some milk and cookies for you and some reindeer food for the reindeer. Thank you very much Santa. We wish you a fun and safe trip and have a very Merry Christmas.

Love,
All the children at
MFR Day Care

Dear Santa:

I have been a good boy. I am in grade one. I would like for Christmas a Lego Ninjago ultrasonic

raider set from the Wish book. I also like Ninja Turtle stuff. Thank you for coming last Christmas.

Love,
Fielding

Dear Santa:

Hi my name is Wassnodeh. I have been a very good boy. I really tried to help like shoveling the snow and cutting the grass for my grandma. I love her very much, she is so special to me. For Christmas I want a Nerf gun, a remote control army tank or airplane, some X-Box 360 games, new clothes and a new snow jet ski. For my Gram's a new car and clothes, for Glen a new plow truck. For my cuz Chels some beer and some games clothes, Hayden a new bike. Iszzy lots of toys, Auntie Tracy, I guess anything and Uncle Wesley shaving stuff and lots of gel for his hair. That's all. I love you a whole lot Santa, I will leave some coke and cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer.

Lots of love,
Wassnodeh
P.S. I got lots of help from school to write my letter to you.

Wishing Everyone a
Safe and Happy Holiday Season
from all the staff!

MANITOULIN
PHYSIO

CENTRE
82 Bay Street in M'Chigeeng, across from MSS
705-377-6244

Massage Gift Certificates Available!

May Your Holiday Hold Many
Beautiful Things!



Lots of joy
and good
Christmas cheer
wrapped in
pretty ribbons
and bows for all!

Merry Christmas • Happy New Year
from Eunice, Ben, & staff
Wilson's Corner Store
Mindemoya



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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

Moore Auto Services
Russ and Staff

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



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



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

Joe & Kim Moor

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM COLE, DUSTIN,
TAMMY AND CHRIS
LADLEY STATIONERY
AND OFFICE FURNITURE!

34 Manitowaning Road, Unit #2, Little Current 705-368-2525

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes For 2015

CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH TO DECEMBER 26TH 2014

OPEN REGULAR HOURS DECEMBER 29TH 2014 9AM TO 5PM

CLOSED DECEMBER 31ST AT NOON
CLOSED JANUARY 1ST 2015
OPEN JANUARY 2ND FOR REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS 9AM to 5PM



More Santa letters!

Dear Santa:

How are you and the reindeer? My name is Trinity and I am four years old. This year I would like a Newberry doll with a wheelchair and crutches. I would also like the soccer, baseball and hockey clothes to go with it. I also want some working boots because I always work with my dad and I want some hunting clothes so that I can go hunting with him. I will leave you a cupcake and a Pepsi on Christmas Eve. I will try to leave a collar with Rudolph's name on it.

Miigwetch Santa!

Love,

**Trinity Cheechoo
Wikwemikong**

Dear Santa:

I hope you had a great year in 2014. My name is Jordan and I am 9 years old, soon to be 10. This year I would like Assassin's Creed Unity, two new shirts and a

new Xbox controller so my friends won't feel lonely when I only have two. I would also like a chameleon and an Assassin's Creed costume. I will leave Tylenol and Christmas cookies in case your back is sore from all of your travelling.

Miigwetch Santa!

Love,

**Jordan Cheechoo
Wikwemikong**

Dear Santa:

My name is Cannon. Are your reindeer heavy? I am a good guy. I like to play on the computer, watch Paw Patrol, and build forts in the snow. I love my Mommy and I love you Santa. Please will you bring me a little blue lightsaber and a Spiderman bike? I will leave a snack of watermelon. Watermelon matches your shirt. Thank you for my presents last year.

Your friend,

Cannon Lockyer, age 3

Dear Santa:

Does Rudolph actually have a red nose? How did you get to the North Pole? This year I want a blue lightsaber and an iPod. I hope you don't get into any accidents on Christmas Eve. Drive Safe!

Your friend,

Ryder Lockyer, age 7

Dear Santa:

Merry Christmas! Are you getting presents ready at the North Pole? I was making a snowflake. Thank you for my presents. Could you bring me lots of Mickey Mouse and Elsa things? I will leave you some cookies on Christmas Eve.

Love,

**Joy
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean**

Dear Santa:

Thank you for presents. Are you busy getting ready? Can you please bring me an Elsa song? I'm going to

leave you cookies and milk.

Love,

Faith

E.L.K. Class

C. C. McLean

Dear Santa:

I love you. Thank you for the note last year. I like to play at school.

What are you up to? Could you please bring me a racecar set? We will bake you some cookies with some milk so you can dip them.

Love,

Jack

E.L.K. Class

C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:

I liked seeing you at the mall. Could you bring me a wind-up fairy, please? Have a safe trip on Christmas Eve.

Love,

Sydney

E.L.K. Class

C. C. McLean

Dear Santa:

Thank you for coming to my house last year. Could you bring me a racing track, please and thank you? Have a good trip on Christmas Eve.

Love,

Joel

E.L.K. Class

C.C. McLean



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, Sam & Yvonne**

Happy Holidays from All of Us!

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

NEMI Recreation Centre Holiday Skating Schedule

December 22 - Tim Horton's Free Skate. 12-1pm.

December 23 - \$2 Pick-Up Hockey. 2:30-4pm. Full Equipment is required.
AND Free Public Skate 3:30-5pm.

December 24 - Town of NEMI Free Christmas Eve Skate. 1-2pm.
Enjoy a complimentary hot beverage at the canteen.

December 27 - Tim Horton's Free Skate. 7-8:30pm.

December 28 - Free Parent & Tot Skate 9-10:30am
AND Lion's Club Community Free Skate 12 (noon)-2pm.

December 29 - Public Skating. 3:30-5pm. Students \$2.50, Adults \$3.50

December 30 - Badminton Drop-In in Main Hall. 2-3:30pm
AND \$2 Pick-Up Hockey 3:30-5pm. Full equipment is required.

December 31 - NEMI Family New Year's Eve Party. 5-8pm. Family Badminton Game,

Games, Crafts, Skating, New Year's Countdown and Canteen.

January 2 - \$2 Pick-Up Hockey 4-5:30pm. Full equipment is required
AND Public Skating. 7-8:30pm. Students \$2.50, Adults \$3.50.

January 4 - Free Parent & Tot Skate. 9-10:30am.
For ice rentals, call the Recreation Center at (705) 368-2825.

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

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

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



Family New Year's Eve Party

Wednesday, December 31
5-8pm
NEMI Recreation Center

Skating, Family Badminton
Game, Crafts & Games,
Countdown to the New Year
and Canteen.



With friendship and love we are rewarded with hope

Advent marks the beginning of the Christmas season. It is the period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth and it lasts for four weeks. We are now in this season of waiting for Christ to come. Over the next few weeks we will light a candle on the advent wreath every Sunday. Each candle represents a portion of the blessings that Jesus Christ has brought to us—hope, peace, joy and love.

The first week we lit the candle of hope. Hope is the opposite of despair. Despair is the sense that things won't change for the better and nothing that we do will make any difference. Despair is real to anyone living in a situation that is overwhelming. Certainly there are varying degrees of despair. In third world countries we are shown situations of hunger or thirst. In our country there are the homeless that must feel despair. There are those with addictions that do not know where to turn for help. In my own world I sometimes feel quite discouraged and overwhelmed over little things that mount and cause despair. After prayer on the issues and trying to move on one day I asked a friend for help to take some of my burdens away. It was my turning point. She was having similar problems and was so glad that I phoned. She left me a message on Facebook the next day that said, "It takes a village, thank you." It took me back. I suddenly had my hope

renewed. The things that need to get done will and those that are not so important will not. Red Green always finished every episode with the same saying, "remember, we are all in this together and keep your stick on the ice." He was right. We have to not be isolated and alone and wonder why we feel despair. With friendship and love we are rewarded with hope.

There is a song by Kacey Musgraves called 'Silver Lining.' Some of the words are, "If you want to fill our cup with lightening you are going to have to stand in the rain" and, "If you want to find a four leaf clover you are going to have to get a little dirt on your hands." Both ideas that just make you stop and think. To reenergize your candle of hope take a few minutes to look back at where you have come from this year. Maybe there were tough times and troublesome moments but you have made it through. Review some photographs of happy times with family and friends. Let the feeling of love and joy felt in those photos fill you with hope for the coming year; may that hope continue to grow in your hearts through this advent season so we may prepare the way for Christ to enter our hearts and our world, Merry Christmas.

Dawn Dawson
Community of Christ Church
Providence Bay

This year 'be His hands and feet'

The Christmas season tends to bring thoughts of good will and giving to most. It's the time of year that food banks do food drives, churches do food boxes and community organizations help those who are less fortunate. This is wonderful for a short time. What happens after Christmas when the single mother can't afford food for her kids lunches or the father who works two jobs can only afford the bills for the family, but there's no money for food that month? Are we doing enough? Can we truly say that there is no one in our community who is in need? Are we willing to give? Jesus said in Matthew 25:37-40, "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.'

We as Christians are Jesus' hands and feet here on earth. We continue to walk in His

ministry. What was His ministry? I believe His main focus was on two groups of people; the poor and the children. Who were "the least of my brothers and sisters" in His eyes? Those who were hungry, thirsty, poor, needy; children and adult alike. Jesus was saying when you give food to someone who is hungry; when you give a coat to someone who is cold; when you visit someone who is lonely you are doing it for Jesus because that is who He wants us to be.

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done. Psalm 19:17

This coming year be His hands and feet and watch how much it changes your life and those around you.

Have a Merry Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year.

Rev. Rodney (Barney) Deforge
Cornerstone Christian Assembly
www.ccamanitoulin.com

Hair Trends
is your
Christmas Gift Headquarters
Pamper the one you love with a
Gift Certificate or a
Hair Products Gift Basket
Merry Christmas
from
Linda and Danielle
 Corner of Hardbargain and Dupont in Little Current.
Call 705-368-2043

Season's Greetings
 and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

From everyone at the
South East
Manitoulin Lions Club

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support over this past year.

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
 Tehkummah
 Ross, Susan and Elaine



GILPIN
FARM SERVICES

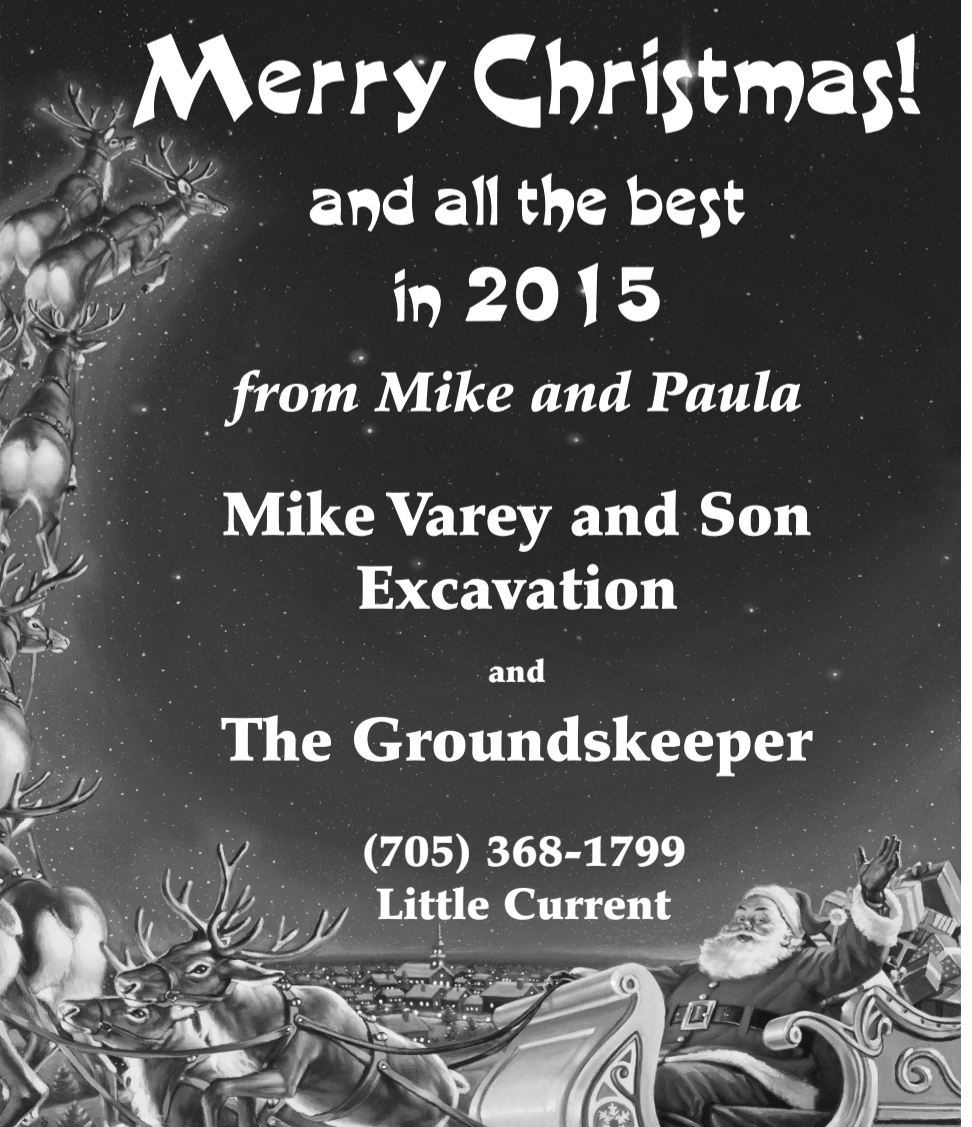
May this Christmas find you well and surrounded by those who matter most.

Thank you for your support, best wishes, Jim Gilpin

Feed • Farm Supplies • Pet Food • Bird Feed
 • Urea for sidewalk ice melting

Tel./Fax (705) 377-6696
jimgilpin@ymail.com

Merry Christmas!
 and all the best
 in **2015**
from Mike and Paula
Mike Varey and Son
Excavation
 and
The Groundskeeper
(705) 368-1799
Little Current



Explore the impossible becoming the possible at Christmas

What makes Christmas special? I guess that all depends on who you ask. Some people may say it is the feeling of Christmas that makes it special. Some may say they like it because it is a celebration of the Christ's birth. Some may say it is the general good will we have for each other at this time of year. Some may say it is the decorations, the food, and if you ask the kids, they have no problems telling you it the presents that make Christmas special.

But do you think part of making Christmas special is the belief that there is something about this time of year that is magical? That the normal activities of life get suspended? That for a short period of time there is a chance that the impossible becomes possible? That as much of a long shot as it is, there is an outside chance that something good might happen? Or at least there is the hope that something good might happen?

After all, there was a Miracle on 34th Street.

Hermey the Elf got to be a dentist and Bumble the misunderstood snow monster finally got his teeth fixed.

A little boy was able to fend off two criminals when he was accidentally left Home Alone.

George Bailey finally understood that he had a Wonderful Life and Clarence Odbody AC2 finally got his wings.

Buddy the oversized Elf got his father off the naughty list.

Clark Griswald got the Christmas Vacation he always dreamed of and Ralphie finally got his BB gun.

All these things have one thing in common, a belief that at Christmas time the impossible becomes possible. And you might say, "Well, that is just Hollywood. That is not really true about Christmas." Isn't it? What if I told you that the very first Christmas was based on the premise that "the impossible was made possible?" What if I told you that it is the other way around? Hollywood didn't make this idea up, they borrowed it from the Bible.

Think about it for a minute. Think of all the impossible things that happened that very first Christmas. You got angels showing up all over the place—in the temple, in the sky over some shepherds and to Mary. Out of the blue, you got dignitaries from who knows where, showing up at your doorstep and giving you a pile of money. You narrowly miss your baby being abducted and murdered by a psychopath. And perhaps the most impossible thing of all, a virgin gets pregnant, and she is not just having any baby, she is having a Godchild.

The truth is, if this stuff wasn't in the Bible, we would just chalk it up to just another Hollywood fairytale of make believe and magic. But, there it is in black and white. The Words of God telling us how at Christmas, the impossible becomes possible.

I buy into it. Hook line and sinker. I love the movies. I love the Christmas music. I even like the hustle and bustle, the "city sidewalks, busy sidewalks dressed in Holiday style..." I like turning off all the lights and falling to sleep by the lights of the Christmas tree. The other day my wife finished decorating and I put the Yulelog Channel on TV just to complete the picture. I love the atmosphere of Christmas. I guess I'm still holding out hope for a Christmas Miracle.

And I would encourage you, over the next few weeks, to not only explore this idea of the impossible becoming possible at Christmas, but to embrace it. Because the truth is that Hollywood and Santa Claus and secularism do not own the "Feeling of Christmas," God does. God owns making the impossible possible. He invented it. And He is still doing it today.

Pastor Paul van Kesteren
Grace Bible Church
Little Current

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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

From Greg & Heather Niven and staff
 Providence Bay ILBO 705-377-4055



Peace
 Be
 With You

May you enjoy a glad and
 glorious Yuletide season.

We have truly valued
 your kind support this year.

Thank you
 from all of us.

Melvin E. VanHorn

Insurance Brokers Ltd.

Mindemoya 705-377-5777

www.vhinsurance.ca



Giving winter a warm welcome...



Wishing You All The Best
 This Holiday Season!



Serving Manitoulin and the shore



Remember to
 collect Air Miles

www.manitoulinfuels.com

(705) 368-2421

HOLIDAY GREETINGS 

Thank you for
 your local support!

Merry Christmas
 and Happy New Year!

From your local Shell Stations
 We look forward to seeing you in 2015

Hilltop Shell Little Current		Manitoulin Trading Post Sheguiandah
Carl's Trading Post South Baymouth		Manitowabi's Shell Service Wikwemikong
Highway 6 Shell Little Current		White's Shell Manitowaning

 **MANITOULIN FUELS** (705) 368-2421
 manitoulinfuels.com

Remember to Collect Air Miles! 

Prayers for a story-filled Christmas

Greetings from the west end of Manitoulin!
Perhaps by now your homes are sparkling with Christmas lights, and those treasured ornaments have found their way to your tree or mantle. And perhaps in unpacking your Christmas decorations, you found among the tinsel and beads a few special Christmas storybooks...storybooks someone read to you when you were a child, or you have read to your own children or grandchildren. Christmas is a time for stories.

One of my favourite Christmas stories is 'The Give-Away: A Christmas Story in the Native American Tradition' by Ray Buckley. In this tale, beneath the broad branches of the Ancient One, the Four-Leggeds and Those Who Fly gather quietly. When the time is right, one after another speaks, lamenting what has been observed in their fellow creatures, the Two-Leggeds. "They have lost their way," says Whooping Crane sadly. The others agree, each commenting from his or her unique perspective.

Grandmother Turtle, with gentle compassion for the Two-Leggeds, responds, "We must give-away ourselves to them. We must remind them of who they are," she says. "I will give them my shell. I will come with no protection, and they can use my shell to adorn themselves." Each of the Four-Leggeds and Those Who Fly follows suit, giving of themselves gifts that only they can give, to help the Two-Leggeds find a pattern in their journey.

A new voice speaks from the shadows of the Ancient One. It is the Creator. "Children, you will give yourselves away, but they will not know that. It is I who must give myself away. A baby will be born. He will be the Son of the Great Mystery. He will bring light. He will bring hope. He will bring love." And the Ancient One, whose broad branches touch Father Sky, will give the gift of support, holding the body of the Son of the Great Mystery, in the beginning and the end.

Yes, Christmas is a time for stories. Christmas is a time for the story—the story of the birth of the Son of the Great Mystery, born in a place where Four-Leggeds and Those Who Fly find shelter, held in life and death by the gift of the Ancient One.

So, in the midst of your Christmas lights and treasured ornaments, in the midst of your tinsel and beads, remember the story—the story of the Creator who chooses to become small so that we Two-Leggeds can choose to know him large.

And on behalf of the United Church families in Meldrum Bay, Silver Water and Elizabeth Bay, I extend to you, our neighbours and friends across the Island, prayers for a blessed, story-filled Christmas.

*Used by permission of Abingdon Press, copyright 1999, by Abingdon Press, all rights reserved.

Rev. Janice Frame
United Church of Canada Western Manitoulin
Pastoral Charge

The best gift the world has ever known

One year ago my wife was in Nova Scotia for the anticipated delivery of grandbaby No. 5. When I phoned I heard in the background the sound of a crying baby, just born, umbilical cord still uncut. It was nearly perfect timing. From thousands of kilometres away, I had called at just the right time to share the joy and welcome our "Gracie" into the world.

Over 2000 years ago another baby was bringing joy into the lives of His parents. His mother and the man who would raise Him like a son, Mary and Joseph had travelled to Bethlehem.

"At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken...Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger..." (Excerpts from Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7 TEV)

The story continues to unfold with a visit from some "wise men from the East." Scripture does not say how many men there were, but three gifts are mentioned (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.) The wise men had been lead to the baby Jesus by a star, and they worshiped Him who was born to be King of the Jewish people. (Matthew chapter 2 verse 1 and following)

Jesus wasn't the only king that the wise men had visited—there was another king mentioned in this narrative, an evil, jealous king who was threatened by the birth of Jesus. In a desperate and cruel rage (while trying to kill the new born Saviour of the world), Herod ordered the death of all male children, two years old and under, in and around the city of Bethlehem. I dare not try to imagine the hurt that those parents, grandparents and other relatives must have experienced. Every year for many

generations afterward, that time of year must have been remembered with unspeakable grief and misery. In a similar way for some people today, the holidays bring sad memories of loved ones lost.

Joseph, Mary and the newborn Jesus escaped Herod's infanticide, having been warned by an angel—it was part of God's plan. An irony of the story is that Jesus came to give His life as a sacrifice, however just after His birth was not the right time. Jesus is the only sacrifice acceptable to God for the forgiveness of sins. The sins of people like king Herod, and you...and me. We might not escape physical pain and hurtful memories on this side of forever, but in Jesus we can have the hope, indeed the promise of eternal life with God.

Amidst the joys and sorrows of this season let us never forget the best gift the world has ever known. The gift of Jesus, the gift of Life.

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:2-4

Ray Fisher
Ice Lake Church of Christ



JEFF'S TAXI & DELIVERY
705-377-6222
www.jeffstaxi.ca
"We run a fare business"

Merry Christmas
DON'T DRINK & DRIVE
Serving Manitoulin and Espanola
1-877-223-2269

Owned & operated by Jeff Bebonang

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

Warmest Wishes!
from
Dr. Harald Simon,
Laurie & Angelle

MINDEMOYA AND WIKWEMIKONG
CHIROPRACTIC CLINICS

www.drsimon.org

Proudly serving Manitoulin since 1985!

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

...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

Visit Turners Home Store for Furniture & Appliances



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa:
Thanks for my penguin colony you brought last year. Could you bring me some jewellery please?

Love,
Amara
E.L.K. Class
C. C. McLean

Dear Santa:
Thank you for my bike. Could you bring a racetrack, please?

Love,
Chase
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
Could you bring snow Lego with a trailer, hel-

icopter, coyotes, and a ship?

Love,
Gabe
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
Thank you for my tablet. I like it. Are you busy? Could you bring me a doll, please? Have a safe trip on Christmas Eve.

Love,
Brynn
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
Have you been watching me at school? I would really like a

choo-choo train this year for Christmas. I will leave you some cookies and milk.

Love,
Joey
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
Thank you for presents. You should come to my house. I like to play with play-doh at school. I like to read books. Could you please bring me Barbie dolls? I am going to bake cookies for you.

Love,
Bella
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
I was working on some necklaces. I was working on them a lot. I now go to school. I have been a good boy. I want some Thomas toys please Santa. I'm going to make some cookies with my Mom for you. Have a safe trip on Christmas Eve!

Love,
Ronan
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean



Season's Greetings from MNP

Mindemoya: 705.377.5661 Sudbury: 705.523.0272

ACCOUNTING > CONSULTING > TAX MNP.ca

Wherever business takes you.

See Letters to Santa starting on page 17!

ANDY'S
in Wikwemikong 705-859-3788
www.andysonestopshop.com

THE SOURCE by Bell
TRU HARDWARE
freshmart
Manitowabi General Merchandise
The Coffee Shop
Hot Meals Express
RBC An agency of the Royal Bank
Shell Gas Bar and Home Heating Fuels

YOUR 1 STOP SHOPPING CENTRE!

Best Wishes

SANTA CLAUS BOOK 2014 • PAGE 13

Twice-told true tales of Christmas on Manitoulin Island



The late Marion Seabrook

Christmas Time

EDITOR'S NOTE—Marion Seabrook, a much-loved educator, passed away earlier this fall. Ms. Seabrook encouraged creative writing and, in fact, this was one of the programs she always taught as head of the English Department at Manitoulin Secondary School. The Expositor Office thought there would be a good chance that Ms. Seabrook would have written Christmas stories and so contacted her family through sister Joanne Smith of Mindemoya. The following story was Ms. Seabrook's contribution to a collection of stories written by members of the Seabrook-Smith families and bound into books, which were exchanged as Christmas gifts in 1997. Our thanks to Ms. Smith and Ms. Seabrook's children and grandchildren for sharing this wonderful memory from a time not that long ago, (the 1930s), when Ms. Seabrook was a child raised at the famous tourist camp, Treasure Island in Lake Mindemoya, owned and operated by the late Jean and Joe Hodgson, Ms. Seabrook's and Ms. Smith's parents.

When I was four-years-old there were only two places in my world, Home and the Mainland. I heard Mom and Dad talk about Gore Bay and Mindemoya and Toronto, but these were all simply a part of whatever existed across the water, just fuzzy little names that lumped together like sticky porridge in a bowl of mainland. And I measured time differently and much more easily than the way my parents did. Hours had no meaning in my childhood. There was simply daytime, nighttime, freezup time, breakup time and most importantly, Christmas time.

Let me explain. When the sun slipped in the window and wakened me from sleep, it was daytime. When it got dark outside and Dad held my pyjamas in front of the fireplace to get them warm, it was nighttime. When he hauled in all the boats and pulled the docks up on the shore and when he had no time to play, everybody knew it was freezup time. When the wind blew hard and giant pieces of ice crashed up against the rocks and I had to hold my sweater

tight, that was breakup time. And when I felt magic in the air and opened the kitchen door and stuck out my tongue and a little spark of snowflake fell on it and melted before I had time to even taste it, and when I shut the door and smelled Mom's molasses cookies as she held open the door of the oven, then I knew for it—it was almost Christmas time!

That year, when I was four, freezup time was late. The boats were all upside down on the shore, the docks were stretched out like tired old ladders in the snow, and the Christmas catalogue did not come. Mom said it was not safe for Dad to sneak a boat across the lake in case that Old Jack Frost got wind of it. What if he started to freeze up the water and Dad could not come back for days and days? Or what if he started to come back and got caught in the freezing ice? That had happened once and it was too scary to even imagine. I decided I could do without the catalogue.

Mom said to try to just think about what I wanted Santa to bring. I did not have to think. I told her right away. I said a dog



Treasure Island in Mindemoya Lake, the idyllic childhood home of the late Marion Seabrook where her parents Joe and Jean Hodgson operated the famous Treasure Island Resort.

would be nice. I would really like to have a dog. The more I thought about it, the surer I became. I would like one that could swim and play ball and follow me all over the island. I would like it to sleep in my bed and keep my feet warm. And in the summer he could go and bring in Elsie from the field to be milked and I could go with him. And he could go up the mountain with me to the eagles' nest and she wouldn't have to

worry about the eagle carrying me off. She interrupted my imaginings. She said a dog was a lot of work. The first thing you had to do was teach it not to wet and poop all over the house. And you had to feed and water it all the time. And besides that, dogs were always hairy and they made a mess of chesterfields and chairs. And I would be responsible for cleaning all that up. And she went on and on. I just stopped listening

and went into the other room to get a piece of paper to write my letter to Santa. I came back and I pulled up my stool to the kitchen table. Very soon, Dad walked into the kitchen. He thought he could smell cookies. Mother said in a very loud voice, "She wants a dog for Christmas!" I decided it was time for me to interrupt and ask him to help me write my letter. That would keep

...continued on page 17



Dave Schinbeckler and his family, Logan and Kate in 1984

The Shepherd: appropriate company on a treacherous trip

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dave Schinbeckler, who lives in the Mindemoya area, is a man of many talents. This fall, he retired from the Rainbow District School Board where he had provided IT services for many years and before that had done the same job for the old Manitoulin Board of Education for a total of 28.5 years. But in the years before his IT career, Dave had worked for Cambrian College from 1976 as an itinerant music teacher where he taught guitar, piano and organ across Manitoulin, Espanola and the North Shore. To put Dave's Christmas contribution in context, it is a letter he wrote to the CBC's As It Happens evening news and variety program 30 years ago after an experience he had driving back to Manitoulin from Espanola while listening to the late Al "Fireside Al" Maitland's annual Christmas week reading of the Frederick Forsyth story "The Shepherd."

The story, written as a novella in 1976, is set on Christmas eve 1957. A Royal Air Force pilot, anxious to be home for Christmas, leaves West Germany in an RAF de Havilland Vampire fighter jet aircraft, a sin-

gle-seat unit that will have him at his home base in just over an hour's time.

But things begin to go wrong over the English Channel: the compass fails and then the radio conks out and fog closes in. He had been searching for a safe landing strip on the southeast coast of England but has all but given up hope of survival.

But then, miraculously, the image of a Second World War-era Mosquito fighter-bomber appears and shepherds the Vampire to a safe landing and then flies off.

There's more. When the pilot, safely on the ground, checks to see what aircraft were in the air at that time so he can follow up with a grateful thanks, there is no record of any other aircraft in that airspace and this is the Christmas mystery story that was the backdrop to Dave's own treacherous Christmas week transportation experience 30 years ago in 1984.

The letter reprinted here was sent by Dave to As It Happens and read to the nation by Al Maitland later on.

To hear the classic rendition of the late Fireside Al's reading of The Shepherd story,

tune in to CBC Radio One (97.5 FM on Manitoulin) at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2014. The reading takes about a half hour and if it's not part of your Christmas Eve tradition already, it's well worth tuning in.

Dave is enjoying retirement, presently rebuilding the engine for his partner Gina's Ford 250 and looking forward to carrying on the restoration of his beloved Jaguar E-Type.

Dear As It Happens:

I am an itinerant music teacher living in Northern Ontario. Our family of three has carved out a home for ourselves in the cedar bush near Mindemoya, on Manitoulin Island. We are homesteaders, I hope, in the best sense of the word. I support my family traveling from school to community hall to church basement, from Gore Bay to Massey, teaching guitar, piano, and organ to young and old alike.

In making my weekly rounds I have grown accustomed to doing a great deal of driving, in weather both fair and foul. Yesterday,

being Thursday, meant that I was scheduled to teach nine half-hour lessons, some guitar, some organ, starting at noon in the Catholic church in Espanola. Late in the morning, I threw one last chunk of maple in the woodstove, kissed Kate and Logan goodbye, trudged out to the Volkswagen, and started her up. A light wind out of the west, across Lake Mindemoya, brought with it a few fat snowflakes, but only gently. I switched on the radio and eased out of the driveway. With good roads, I would be home in time to have a bite of supper before reading my son his bedtime story.

The slipperiest part of my drive was, as usual, across the frozen timbers of the swing bridge that connects Manitoulin Island with LaCloche Island to the north. Highway 6 meanders up and over the LaCloche Mountains, with bays, ponds, and inlets at every turn, ascending to the pink granite and quartzite rock cuts at the height of the range. Just north of Whitefish falls, the mountains become a knife blade, slicing in half whatever moisture the prevailing

...continued on page 16



Dave Schinbeckler's trusty Volkswagon 412: the parallel number to the deHavilland Vampire featured in Frederick Forsyth's classic Christmas tale, The Shepherd



...Twice-told true tales of Christmas on Manitoulin Island

...continued from page 15

west winds carry with them. On this day, the snow decided to veer north and across my path. It increased in intensity the further north I drove, but today was mild enough that the falling snow made the road merely wet. The Espanola highway remained enjoyable as it wound its way through jack pine bush, blue heron swamps, and tumbled into town.

I swung open the ponderous English Oak door of the church at noon on the dot. Madame Pilon was already at the organ, warming up with Good King Wenceslas. Her long fur coat was neatly draped across the first pew, but her ocelot pillbox hat remained firmly on her head, bobbing approximately in time with the music. I did not make many corrections to her playing over the course of the lesson, electing instead to play and sing along with a few of her favourite carols. It was, after all, Christmas. At the conclusion of the singalong she wished me a Merry Christmas and presented me with a small, impeccably wrapped gift. It was the first of several I would receive over the day.

By mid-afternoon I could hear the wind picking up outside. A sizeable cloud of snow accompanied my four o'clock student through the church doorway. "Have you been outside lately?" asked Bill as he stomped his boots on the rubber mat by the door. I had not. "It's gettin' nasty out there. You goin' home tonight?" I smiled weakly.

"You know me," I said. "I drive in anything."

Five o'clock rolled along and two lessons remained—Mrs. Robbins and her daughter Crystal. Neither had arrived. At ten past five, Mrs. Robbins burst through the door. Neither Crystal nor her music books were with her, but she gently held in her left hand a paper plate laden down with cookies and covered in Saran Wrap.

"I'm sorry I'm late," she began. "Boy, it's coming down out there. Crystal's not coming and I can only stay for a minute and it's been a crazy week with rehearsals for the Christmas play after school every day and then there's ringette practice in the evening, you know, and I have been baking like a fiend every day and there has just been no time this week to practice so neither one of us has touched the organ so there is no point in either one of us having a lesson tonight and I think Crystal is coming down with something so I don't want you to get sick just before Christmas and these are for you and she's waiting in the car so I have to go and Merry Christmas!"

And she lunged back out the door. I looked at the plate of cookies. Five seconds later the door opened again. "You should take a look at your tires," she said. "I think one of them is flat." And she disappeared.

Now Mrs. Robbins may have struggled mightily with an E flat major scale, but she was dead on when it came to chocolate chip cookies and flat tires. I gathered up my books, pulled on boots, coat, and touque, and trudged out to the car through what was now somewhat more than half a foot of snow. Sure enough, the VW was listing a bit to port and the left rear tire had emptied itself. By what means I did not know, but there was nothing to do except get it fixed. I had no spare, nor did I dare drive the car to the corner gas station three blocks away. To do so would have destroyed the tire's sidewall. Right. Time to fish out the jack and tire iron. At least I was parked under a lamppost.

I believe the service station attendant took pity on my disheveled appearance as I staggered through the front door with my oblong tire, dirty coat, and soaked knees. It was near not only closing time, but Christmas, too, so he agreed to throw the muddy wheel into his dunk tank in an effort to discover the source of the leak. It didn't take long. Bubbles streamed out of the valve stem so he replaced the core and pumped it up. No leaks. Both of us were immensely pleased that the fix took only five minutes.

"No charge," he said, smiling. "Merry Christmas." I thanked him profusely and set off down the street, through the swirling snow, towards my stricken tricycle. In fifteen minutes I was headed home.

By the time I reached the brightly-lit mall on the south side of town, it was clear that mine was just about the only car on the road. The snow was coming down hard now, out of the west, and what few tire tracks I could see were nearly blown in. A sen-

sible person would, in these conditions, take a room for the night, but I have never been accused of being sensible. And in turning back lies the admission of defeat that sticks in my craw like a bad cough. So with the motto of the Royal Air Force ringing in my ears, I decided to Press On Regardless. I had faith in my old 412 and its superior traction climbing uphill and down. Besides, the road didn't look that bad, and the plows were probably out there working somewhere.

I was wrong on both counts. As I climbed the hill past the Clear Lake Motel I could feel the rear end of the car moving around under me. The temperature had dropped in the afternoon, turning the wet pavement into ice and thoroughly greasing the road surface under the snow. I could drive maybe 50 kilometres per hour safely, but not much more than that.

Ten minutes further south and I could find no evidence of a snowplow anywhere, in either direction. I was now approaching Widgawa Road and the mountains proper. The snow swirled furiously in every direction as the wind pinballed through the rock cuts. Visibility through the windshield dropped to near zero so I resorted to peering out the windows on left and right to determine roughly where the road lay. I slowed even further, but knew that I must maintain a minimum speed forward. If I slowed too much, I risked losing precious momentum I would need to make it up and over the crest of Willisville Hill.

I was growing tense, and needed to relax. I unwound my death grip on the steering wheel long enough to switch on the radio. What came through the speakers were the opening lines of Fireside Al reading 'The Shepherd.' This was not the soothing music I had hoped for, but rather a comforting baritone voice that helped me feel less alone. I turned him up.

The storm increased in intensity as I clung to the rollercoaster of highway through the mountain passes. I was startled when my headlights caught a looming rock cut and blasted the light back at me. At the same time the drama playing out on the radio drew me into the plight of the Vampire pilot lost over the English coast. Panic, he knew, killed more fighter pilots than bullets ever did. One more right hand bend and I would be on the steep incline up the Willisville hill. I downshifted into third and pressed the gas pedal as hard as I dare. The rear end twitched, then settled down. There was no backing out now, no second chance. But it didn't matter. My body was driving the car. My mind was squinting through a Perspex canopy, descending through 500 feet into the helplessness of the East Anglia fog.

The storm began to ease as I neared the causeway at Swift Current. I had yet to see a plow, but the west wind, now unimpeded, was scouring the snow

off the highway in front of me. Patches of dark tarmac appeared here and there. I remained absorbed in the story unfolding on the radio, allowing myself, finally, to relax once the Vampire had safely touched down. Soon I could make out the red warning lights on the overhead hydro cables crossing the North Channel. Then the swing bridge itself. The Shepherd ended as I approached the stoplight on Goat Island. I switched off the radio. I did not want to hear the closing credits. In the distance, on the far side of the bridge, I could make out the rotating blue light of a snowplow making its lonely evening rounds. I crossed the bridge, tucked in behind him, and drove the rest of the way home in silence.

Dave Schinbeckler

Post-Christmas 1984

Buie's Grocery

Post Office • LCBO • 705-377-5734

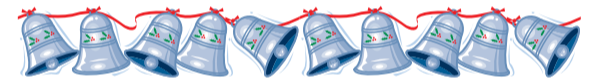
Holiday Hours:

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



Manitoulin Hotel Conference Centre

Restaurant Winter Hours:

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
7:00am - 11:00am & 3:00pm - 9:00pm

*Seasons
Greetings*



from all of us at the

Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre

*May you and your family have the brightest
and most joyous of holiday seasons!*

Gehi - Niibaa-namaang

Christmas is in the air!

Wishing you all the joy,

hope and wonder of the season.

Merry Christmas 2014





More Santa letters!



Hi Santa:
Thank you for chocolate. How are the elves? I like to play with play-doh at school. Can you please bring me candy?
Love,
Jayden
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
Thank you for the fishing stuff you brought me last year and for candy canes

and muffins. Could you bring me big boy Woody Lego please?
Love,
Jaci
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
Thank you for giving me everything I wanted last year. Could you bring me a toy frog and a black bear, please and thank you?
Love,

Shae
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

Dear Santa:
I want a little Captain America who moves his arms and legs and a Mario who moves his legs and arms and a round box.
Love,
Leith
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

My favourite things to do are playing catch and throwing big soft colourful balls, looking at picture books, and listening to music, especially the "Patty Cake" song! Would you please bring me one of my favourite things this Christmas?
Love,
Maxim
E.L.K. Class
C.C. McLean

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

The Royal Canadian Legion

Western Manitoulin Branch
(ONT. NO. 514)
Gore Bay, Ontario POP 1H0



Christmas Time

...continued from page 15

him from listening to what my mother was saying. I climbed up on his knee and gave him the pencil. I also smiled up at him and snuggled into his warm chest. That was always a good thing to do when I wanted something really badly.

I saw him smile at mother. Then, "What do you want to say?" he asked me. I did not have to think very hard. I had already told mom what kind of dog I wanted, so I just said all that and he wrote it down. "Now you sign your name," he said. I did that. I knew how to write MARION in great big letters, and I took the pencil and did the job.

Can you guess what happened that very night? Old Jack Frost froze up all the water. In the daytime I went down to the shore and it looked as if a piece of glass was stretched all over the lake. It was all shiny and sparkling like the dishes in Mom's china cupboard that I could not touch. I did not touch the ice with my foot either, because I knew that sometimes even beautiful things are not safe to go too close to. Dad told me that.

I don't remember all the things that happened between that time and Christmas. I only know that when dad helped me into my warm pyjamas in front of the fireplace he whispered in my ear, "When you wake up it will be Christmas time."


I did not know that he got up at four o'clock and walked across the ice in the dark to my Uncle Tom's to get the Newfoundland puppy Santa had ordered from the Family Herald and Weekly Star. I did not see him running home as fast as he could in case I woke up and came downstairs before he got back. I did not watch him tie the puppy to the tree or hear the decorations crashing to the floor. I only heard him called me, "Marion, come down

and see what's under the tree!"

I ran down the stairs. Mom came right behind me. We were so excited! Dad untied the rope from around the puppy's neck in time to keep the tree from falling to the floor. The puppy was running around all over the chairs and the chesterfield and up and down the stairs and up and down and over everything again. We all tried to catch him. I know I was yelling at the top of my voice all the time. Mom and Dad were laughing. We finally caught him when he grabbed Mom's new sweater off the tree and started to chew the arms.

When I got that puppy on my knee and held him tight with both my arms and felt the rough lick of his tongue all over my face, I knew for sure that Christmas time had come.

JOYEUX NOEL
Season's Greetings and cheery good wishes!



Doug's Barber Shop
Downtown Little Current

Tidings Of Comfort & Joy

Best wishes to friends, relatives and customers

Season's Greetings from
K and T Corner Store
Leslie, Doug, Leslie, Whitney, Courtney, Katrina, Kim & Brianna
Little Current 705-368-0057




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



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



Manitoulin Midwifery


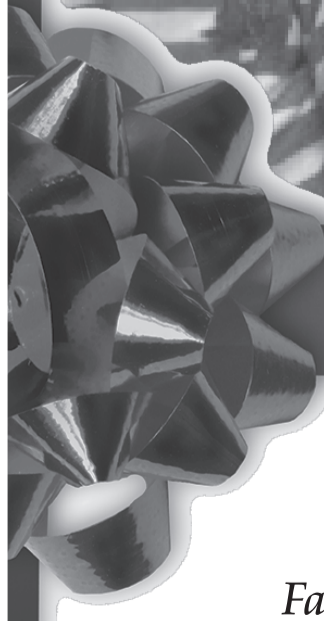
To all of our wonderful families, friends and colleagues!

Happy Holidays

from
Christina & Earlene

705-368-2362
babies@amtelecom.net
Facebook - Manitoulin Midwifery

Your Body, Your Baby, Your Choice



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa:
I am in Grade 2. I go to Lakeview School. I have been good. How many elves do you have? Have they been making toys? My favourite winter activity is hockey. I would like a sled for Christmas.

Love,
Ryland Migwans
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
Hello! My name is Hannah Lovelace and I am seven years old. My favourite thing to do is hip-hop dancing and singing. Are you real? I am in Grade 2. I'm going into Grade 3. How is everyone up in the North Pole? Can I see you? I've been good this year. What does your sled look like? What's your favourite thing to do in the winter? Mine is making forts with my friends.

Love,
Hannah Lovelace
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
Hello, my name is Jaron and I am seven. My last name is Panamick. I am in Grade 2. My favourite thing to do in school is gym. I like art and I like hockey and lacrosse and my favourite activity to do in the snow is throw snowballs. I would like

goalie pads for road hockey and goalie gloves for road hockey. I also want the monster truck game for Wii.

Love,
Jaron Panamick
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
My name is Kira and I am seven and I am from M'Chigeeng. Are your reindeer doing well? How is Mrs. Claus doing? For Christmas, I would like a doll and a stuffed Rudolph. I will leave you milk and cookies.

Love,
Kira Panamick
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
My name is Chase and I am seven years old. I am from M'Chigeeng. How is Rudolph? How are the elves? Would you please bring me a remote controlled car and a remote controlled plane? I will leave cookies and milk because that's your favourite.

Love,
Chase Cada-Bayer
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
Hello, my name is Mia. I am in Grade 2. How old are you? Are your elves making lots of toys? How are the reindeer? My favourite

thing to do in school is art. I have been good and I want arts and crafts. My favourite thing to do in winter is making snowmen. See you soon Santa.

Love,
Mia Armstrong-Manitowabi
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
My name is Neilah. I am seven years old. How are your reindeer? I've been good this year. I would like a lava lamp and a Wii. I will leave you milk and chocolate chip cookies. Make sure you drink your milk!

Love,
Neilah Williams-Corbiere
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
Hello! My name is Zaagaasge. I am in Grade 2 and I love my teacher! My favourite thing at school is Art. How is Mrs. Claus? Are the elves making a lot of toys? What I want

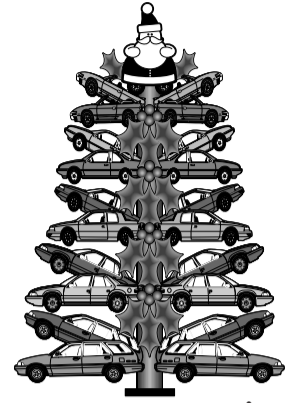
for Christmas is a remote control truck and eleven beyblades and cowgirl boots and a new lava lamp light bulb, as well as any other toys that you'd like to give me. My favourite winter activity is skating because it is fun. See you soon Santa!

Love,
Zaagaasge Corbiere-Toulouse
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
Hello! My name is Aspen and I am seven years old. I am in Grade 2. My favourite thing to do in school is math. How is Mrs. Claus? How are the reindeer? My favourite winter activity is making snowmen. I have been good this year. I want a remote control airplane. See you soon Santa.

Love,
Aspen Debassige
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

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 and Tim

24 Hour Towing • 705-282-2091



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**

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

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

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





Christmas as a stepping stone to life renewal

As we busily engage in this holiday season of goodwill, is it possible to slow down and to reflect on our Christmas memories? Looking back on Christmas at Manitoulin Island I recall with fondness buying presents in our village of 300 people, trying to bravely sing carols at the local outpost hospital with our Sunday School class and experiencing both fear and wonder in that setting, getting up a pageant with our Sunday School teachers and marvelling at all the details involved, and of course trying to find that one perfect gift for someone special. All of these memories take me back to a simpler time, and place when Christmas was so very marvelous—it seemed that it took forever to come, and that it all mysteriously happened while we kids played, anticipated, wrote down what presents we wanted, and tried desperately to be good. With hindsight, now I know all the effort that went into it all, and I'm both amazed and embarrassed at how little we kids actually used to do to get ready and how much was actually given to us—fabulous dinner, plenty of gifts, family gathering, skating on Lake Mindemoya, lots of laughs and a safe and secure haven in which to grow up.

Mostly I'm thankful for the gift of my faith in God, and for the fact that in life, in death and in life beyond death that God is with us all. My Mom insisted on a religious emphasis for every season, allowing us all at a very young age to learn that gifts were given because of the gift of the Christ Child who was given gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh, and to also realize that family is a gift from God and that sacred family ties must be preserved and honoured.

Now at the advanced age of 64 years, I ponder anew the miracle of Christmas every year and wonder just how Jesus Christ would like us to celebrate His birthday? In a season when we are tempted to over spend, hide away in eating, partying; when nerves are frayed and when tensions run high it is a good idea to pause and to examine that first Christmas when two frightened young parents gave birth to the Saviour in a barn, were visited by shepherds, wise men and angels and then had to flee for their lives. The joyous birth is overshadowed by an element of fear and an element of suffering as the little boy does grow up to face the agony of death on a cross at the tender age of 33 years. It's important to let the Christ child grow up and to let Him handle our fears, and our suffering, and our doubts along with our joys, so that Christmas can become a time of renewal and a stepping stone to guide us through the joys and the sorrows of life on earth. Letting Christ grow up and grow in our hearts frees us to decide and to respond to His ideas and ideals and to risk shaping our lives so they reflect our faith in God. May our Christmas celebrations be a life long process of responding to God and opening ourselves to new possibilities and may God bless us all.

In closing my husband Allan and myself offer our most sincere wishes and prayers for a wonderful and spiritual Christmas season that will be a tribute to God.

Rev. Jean Brown, a Haweater from Mindemoya

Currently retired supply clergy serving at Deseronto and Grace Napanee United Churches on a part time temporary contract

With Warm Wishes



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

Gloria, Tony & the Kids

Island Funeral Home

Little Current

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.



Have a Very Merry Christmas Everyone
Jim, Sally, Ginger, Shiba & Parker
Hwy 6 Shell Gas Bar



Home For The Holidays

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

Mindemoya Home hardware building centre

Fogal's of Manitoulin

would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in 2015.



Gore Bay 705-282-2945



The greatest event in all of history

Luke the gospel writer described the birth of Jesus in this way (Luke 2:8-16): "That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid," he said. "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, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of Heaven—praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and peace on Earth to those with whom God is pleased." When the angels had returned to Heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

It's not quite what the Jewish people were expecting. They expected a Messiah all right, but not quite like this! The announcement of his birth came via some simple, humble shepherds. There were no CBC or CNN reporters there. This is Good News in that God continues to use ordinary people to do his good work. He comes to anyone who has an open heart and an open mind, 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 poor and oppressed, and He preached, and taught the Kingdom of God. Here is an alternative way of living, he declared. In the end, he gave his life for all, that all may enter that Kingdom at the end of the era.

The Good News continues on 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 be moved to love 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.

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 noticed as we pay attention to their presence throughout the Bible. Many people see them and sense their presence.

The birth of Jesus and the presence of the angels have inspired innumerable hymns and compositions 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 says, "Joy to the world, the Lord has come ... And Heaven and nature sing!

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

**Martin Garniss
Manitowaning
Tehkummah Pastoral
Charge
United Church of
Canada**

bring me a juicer and a bonsai tree? Miigwetch. Wishing you a safe trip around the world!

Love,
Ms. J. Corbiere

Dear Santa:
Hello. My name is Ian. I am seven years old. I am in Grade 2 and I like to sing with my class. My favourite thing to do at school is art. How is Mrs. Claus and how are you? Okay I hope. I don't like winter. I have been good this year. See you soon Santa!

Love,
**Ian McCauley
Grade 2 - Lakeview
School**



More Santa letters!

Dear Santa:
Hello! My name is Destiney and I am seven years old. I'm in Grade 2, it is fun! My favourite thing to do at school is art! How are the reindeer doing and Mrs. Claus even the elves? I like to play hockey. My favourite winter activity is making forts. I've been really good this year. I would like a new doll. See you soon Santa!

Love,
**Destiney Bebonang
Grade 2 - Lakeview
School**

Dear Santa:
Aanii! My name is Ms. Corbiere and I teach Grade 2 at Lakeview School. How are you doing this year? I hope you're doing well! My favourite winter activities are to snowshoe and play hockey, what are yours? I teach a wonderful group of students, they are very kind, respectful and they work very hard. I think they deserve to get very special Christmas gifts! This year, would you please



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*

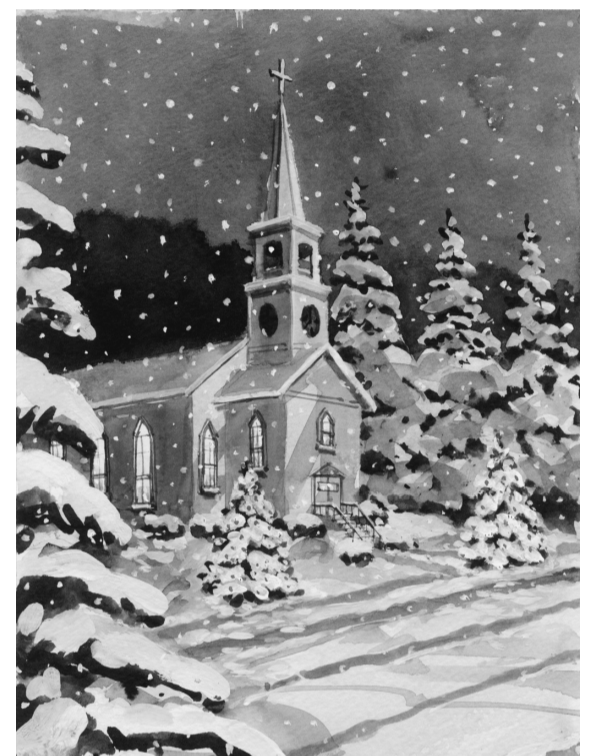


Have a Fun-Filled Holiday!

We hope your holiday is a real winner and scores high in happiness and good times.

Our sincere thanks for helping us to achieve a winning season, and for being such a valued customer.

Happy Holidays
from
Don and Carrie
at
Breakaway Sports
Little Current



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

**West Bay General Store
and
The Dollar Store**

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

Open Over Christmas

*Peace, Joy and Hope
Paix, Joie et Espoir
Bekaada miinwaa Minwaanguod*

Carol Hughes
MP/Députée
Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing

hughes.c@parl.gc.ca • 1-855-297-4200 **NDP** **NPD**



**Seasons Greetings
Meilleurs voeux
Gdin Makoon**

Michael Mantha
Algoma-Manitoulin MPP | Député
mmantha-co@ndp.on.ca | 1-800-831-1899



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa:
Hello. My name is Amisk. I am seven years old. My favourite thing to do at school is crafts. How are the elves? My favourite winter activity is making igloos. Would you please bring me an Xbox and five controllers, just in case my brothers and sister want to play too.

Love,
Amisk Migwans
Grade 2 - Lakeview School

Dear Santa:
My name is Lauren Musquetier and I just turned two in November. How are you and the reindeer? Thank you for the present last year. For Christmas I would like a horsie. Mommy says that a horse is too big to fit in your sleigh, but I am sure you can figure something out. I will leave some milk and cookies for you, and maybe a treat for your reindeer too. Thanks Santa!

Love,
Lauren

Dear Santa:
How have you been? I would like you to please make me a fire truck toy. Thank you. And also a dump truck, hauling truck and transport truck. I like you Santa. I hope I get to see you soon.

Love,
Spencer Johnston,
age 4

Dear Santa:
I've tried really hard to behave myself this year. I hope you had a good year at the North Pole with your reindeer. My "elf on the shelf" Alfreda came back to see me and report back to you. I was very excited to see her! This year for Christmas I would like a pretend kitten, a new baby doll, and some art supplies so I can practice, maybe one day I'll be as good as my Great-Grandpa Wheale. I will be leaving you some milk and cookies on Christmas Eve.

Love,
Leah Campbell

Dear Santa:
How are you? I hope you have a good night on Christmas Eve and a good Christmas Day with your family. Could you please help kids who are not as fortunate as me? I don't need much for Christmas but I would like one thing from you. Could I please have one Friends Lego kit? Thank you Santa!

Love,
Autumn, age 7

Dear Santa:
My name is Samantha. I am five years old. I have been a good girl this year and have tried really hard to listen to my mom and dad. This year for Christmas, I would like Barbie dolls, a Dream

and Glow Dora doll, and an iPod please. Thank you for the presents from last year, they were very nice. We will leave a treat for you Santa. I would like to pet your reindeer some day. Thank you.

Samantha McKenzie Tehkummah

Dear Santa:
My name is Ethan and I am three years old. I am in JK this year and I like school. I like to help my mom and dad on our farm. I really like riding on the tractors and sometimes dad lets me help drive. Could you bring me a toy tractor and wagon and a truck with a horse trailer for Christmas? I will leave you a snack on Christmas Eve in case you get hungry while you are delivering toys to everyone. Thank you Santa!

Ethan McKenzie Tehkummah

Dear Santa:
How are you doing this year! I have been thinking about you ever since you got me those awesome presents last year. By the way, this is Taylor speaking. I have tried very hard to be good this year. It may seem

as though I'm too old to be writing a letter to you, but I still have the Christmas spirit. Oh, and can you tell the elves and the reindeer that I miss them? I hope that they're doing all right. Here is a small list of what I'd like for Christmas: An air soft gun, a tablet, and a chemistry set. Thank you for reading and I hope to see you soon!

Taylor Smith Tehkummah

Dear Santa:
Thank you for the presents you gave me last year. Are you and your elves busy getting ready for the big night? This year for Christmas I would like a Zoomer Dino, the Millennium Falcon spaceship, and a Minecraft PlayStation 3 game so I don't have to bug my big brother to use his Xbox. Safe travels Santa!

Love your buddy,
Patrick McCann, age 8

P.S. Please bring something special for Brayden, Brianna and Rowan too.



MERRY MOTORING!
Thank you for giving us the gift of your friendship.
You're Always Welcome!
from the Bergeron family
GUY'S AUTO & GLASS SERVICE
70 McCulloch Drive, Espanola
(705) 869-3478

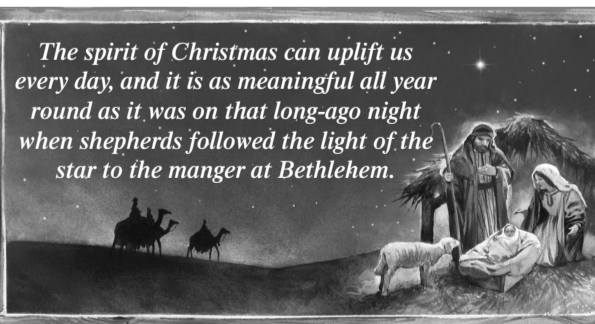
We're Saving Our Best Smile For You!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at

Manitoulin Denture Clinic

Leanne Bentley Hon. B.Sc., DD

73 Centre St. Espanola, P5E 1S4 705-869-4544
58 Worthington St. Little Current, POP 1K0 705-368-0723
1-866-233-5233



We thank our customers, friends and family for their continued patronage throughout our 18 years of business.

- Ladies' Fashions & Accessories • Sears Catalogue Agent
- First Choice Dry Cleaning & Laundry Service



THE ISLAND JAR

Wishing all our friends, family and customers a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**
- From all of us at the Island Jar

HOLIDAY HOURS
December 24: 10am - 3pm
December 25: CLOSED
January 1: 10am - 3pm

Merry Christmas

Best Wishes for a Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Ted, Cindy, and staff

Ted Wright Well Drilling
Cindy's Fashions / Good Times

Mindemoya
705-377-4551

Open Dec 24 Till 3pm
Reopening Dec 30
Closed Mondays for the winter season



The best gift the world has ever known

One year ago my wife was in Nova Scotia for the anticipated delivery of grandbaby No. 5. When I phoned I heard in the background the sound of a crying baby, just born, umbilical cord still uncut. It was nearly perfect timing. From thousands of kilometres away, I had called at just the right time to share the joy and welcome our "Gracie" into the world.

Over 2000 years ago another baby was bringing joy into the lives of His parents. His mother and the man who would raise Him like a son, Mary and Joseph had travelled to Bethlehem.

"At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken...Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem. He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger..." (Excerpts from Luke chapter 2 verses 1-7 TEV)

The story continues to unfold with a visit from some "wise men from the East." Scripture does not say how many men there were, but three gifts are mentioned (Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.) The wise men had been lead to the baby Jesus by

a star, and they worshiped Him who was born to be King of the Jewish people. (Matthew chapter 2 verse 1 and following)

Jesus wasn't the only king that the wise men had visited—there was another king mentioned in this narrative, an evil, jealous king who was threatened by the birth of Jesus. In a desperate and cruel rage (while trying to kill the new born Saviour of the world), Herod ordered the death of all male children, two years old and under, in and around the city of Bethlehem. I dare not try to imagine the hurt that those parents, grandparents and other relatives must have experienced. Every year for many generations afterward, that time of year must have been remembered with unspeakable grief and misery. In a similar way for some people today, the holidays bring sad memories of loved ones lost.

Joseph, Mary and the newborn Jesus escaped Herod's infanticide, having been warned by an angel—it was part of God's plan. An irony of the story is that Jesus came to give His life as a sacrifice, however just after His birth was not the right time. Jesus is the only sacrifice acceptable to God for the forgiveness of sins. The sins of people like king Herod, and you...and me. We might not escape physical pain and hurtful memories on this side of forever, but in Jesus we can have the

hope, indeed the promise of eternal life with God.

Amidst the joys and sorrows of this season let us never forget the best gift the world has ever known. The gift of Jesus, the gift of Life.

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:2-4

Ray Fisher
Ice Lake Church of Christ



Letters to Santa!

Dear Santa:
My name is Rowan McCann and I am finally figuring out how Christmas works. This is exciting! I have been a very good boy this year and I look forward to Jingle's daily visits. He has got to be your funniest elf ever! For Christmas this year, I would like a shovel so I can help my Dad shovel

snow, a car garage and Optimus Prime so I can play with Transformers with my big brother Patrick. Also if I may, I would like to put in a good word for Brayden, Brianna and Patrick. They have also been very good this year and deserve something special too.

Love,

Rowan McCann, age 2.5

Dear Santa:
All I want is a yo-yo, dinosaur, and a watch. I think my daddy wants a pony because he hasn't said what he wanted, so I think that is what he wants. I would also like my grandpa and grandma to visit me and my sister in Calgary more often.

Jessyka Stephens, age 3 1/2
Calgary, Alberta

Dear Santa:
I would like a dirt bike guy, some Lego

Ninjago and Star Wars. I would also like a skateboard guy like my brother, and a snowboard too.

Sincerely,
Alex Allen
Gravenhurst

Dear Santa:
I have been a pretty good boy this year. Can I please have Grimlock and Optimus Prime and his sword that fast flips and changes? I also want the skateboard with the guy that bends his knees.

From,
Nathan Allen
Gravenhurst

RELIEVE IT.
Physiotherapy



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

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

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

TD Canada Trust

We appreciate your business!!

From all the staff in Little Current:

- Pam Stephens • Morgen McDermid
- Susan Lafreniere • Sally Assinewai
- Beth Armstrong • Dena Barnes

Happy Holidays!

Greetings from Dave, Cheryl & Jonathon

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

Har-Cor

Diesel • Repairs • Parts
Farm Supply and Greenhouse
Come visit our Greenhouses in the spring!

Green Bay 705-368-1168

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

We thank you for your support during the changes of 2014. We look forward to seeing you in 2015 as we continue to improve and provide quality service and Manitoulin-raised meat products.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

Call **705-377-5622** for more information.



...Prophecies of Christmas

...continued from page 2

ceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25)

And in Luke's Gospel it is written: And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the

sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)

It is made very clear that the Scripture in Isaiah 7:14 had its ultimate fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ.

Not only is it a sign of God's power but also...

Secondly, it is a sign of God's love.

Isaiah says that He was to be called, "Immanuel" which means "God is with us." It is a promise that God himself will appear in human form. You probably remember from the Old Testament incidents when God appeared to people as a person. In Genesis we are told that God walked in the garden with Adam. Later God appeared to Abraham as a weary traveler. So what is so unique about the appearance of Jesus? Jesus actually became a person. In the Old Testament, God took on human form, but in Jesus, God became a person. The theological word is "incarnation" that is God became flesh and blood.

In the scripture that almost everyone who has any exposure to the Bible at all knows, affirms that:

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)

It was because of God's great love for the

plight of man that He was willing to allow his only Son to come to the earth, take human form, in order that He might pay the debt that our sin demands.

The Apostle Paul tells us the story from the viewpoint of Christ in Philippians: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

So then, Jesus endured a human birth to give us a new spiritual birth. He occupied a stable that we might occupy a mansion. He had an earthly mother so that we might have a heavenly Father. He became subject so that we might be free. He left his glory to give us glory. He was poor that we might be rich. He was welcomed by shepherds at His birth just as the angels welcome and rejoice for every sinner who repents. He was hunted by Herod that we might be delivered from the grasp of Satan. That is the great paradox of the Christmas story. It is that which makes it irresistibly attractive. It is the reversal of roles at God's cost for our benefit.

Third, it is a sign of God's faithfulness.

One person once stated that according to the laws of chance, it would require two hundred

billion earths, populated with four billion people each, to come up with one person whose life could fulfill one hundred accurate prophecies without any errors in sequence. Yet the scriptures record not one hundred, but over three hundred prophecies that were fulfilled in Christ's first coming alone.

Over 300 separate prophecies concerning the coming Messiah give in exquisite detail the birth of Christ.

'When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt' (Hosea 11:1) prophetically points to Jesus' escape to and coming out of Egypt.

'Thus saith the Lord; a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not' (Jeremiah 31:15) prophetically points to

the grief and sorrow that came to the Bethlehem mothers and their refusing to be consoled in spite of their mothers and
...continued on page 25

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

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

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Holiday Hours
We're open New Year's Day!

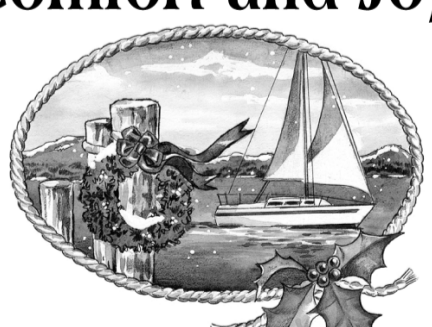
Dec 24: 8am - 4pm
Dec 25: Closed
Dec 26: 11am - 6pm
Dec 27: 8am - 9pm
Dec 28: 8am - 9pm
Dec 29: 8am - 9pm
Dec 30: 8am - 9pm
Dec 31: 8am - 4pm
Jan 1: 12 noon - 6pm
Jan 2: 8am - 9pm

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

Season's Greetings

The Municipality of Assiginack Family Health Team along with its board members and Dr. Bedard would like to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas** and all the best in 2015.

Tidings of Comfort and Joy



We hope the holidays bring you serenity, happiness and all the comforts of home. We're grateful for the blessing of your friendship.

Pat and Marlene Boyle and staff
Boyle Marine
Little Current

MANITOWANING freshmart

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

A special thanks to our customers. We look forward to providing super service in 2015 and we welcome new customers.

Open Fridays until 8pm, Sundays 11am to 4pm and all other days, 9am to 6pm.



Letters to Santa



Dear Santa:
My name is Landon. I hope you find me, my brother Evan and my cousins Ryder and Cannon, we are all having a sleepover at Gram and Pops on Christmas Eve! I would love a cool dinosaur and a big tractor with a trailer attached. I have been really good! I will leave out a delicious treat for you and your reindeer.

Love,
Landon, age 3

Dear Santa:
My name is Evan. I have been a very good boy this year. Thank you for all of the presents last year! I loved my farm set. I would really love a Paw Patrol Tower this year. Ryder from Paw Patrol is so cool, just like my cousin Ryder! I will be with my cousins this year so please bring them something special too! Look for a treat on Pop's bar! I love you Santa!

Evan, age 1.5 years

Dear Santa:
I have been a good boy this year. I have started Junior Kindergarten. I like my teacher and I have made some good friends. For Christmas this year I would like a Lego set, a remote control race car and some story books. I will be on Manitoulin with my grandparents this Christmas so I will leave some milk and cookies out for you there.

Happy Christmas!
William (Billy) McCutcheon Toronto

Dear Santa:
We loved the special breakfast with you on Saturday at the United Church. We want you to know that you are nice. This is Joey and for Christmas can I please have Optimus Prime and the transform collection from the Transformer movie?

This is Georgia and can I please have Amber and Zoe, the Newberry dolls from the Wish Book? Can you please remember something for our new puppy Roxy? Thank you!

Love from,
Georgia and Joey Roy Little Current

Dear Santa:
My name is Noah and I'm 8 years old. I would like a hard bow case, a laptop and a remote control skidoo. I will leave you your pepsi and cherry surprise cookies (cause we know you like it!).

From,
Noah Maniowaning

Dear Santa:
My name is Jordyn and I'm 6 years old. This year I would like an Elsa doll, a tablet and hard bow case for my pink bow! I will leave pepsi again and a sweet treat!

Jordyn Maniowaning

Dear Santa:
My name is Keenan and I'm 4 years old. I would like a tool box with tools in it, a tablet and a Rudolph the red nose reindeer toy! Your treats will be waiting for you!

Keenan Maniowaning

Dear Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus:
I sent you this letter because I'm here to say thank you for the hard work that is really nice of both of you and the elves. Those reindeer look tired. I got your reindeer some carrots and both you awesome guys two candy canes. I'm sorry about your elves, cause I didn't get them anything. But I did wish them good luck on the toys. I feel sorry for all of you because my sister Mickey does not believe you guys. But I will protect Christmas for you. You guys (all of you) will stay in my heart.

To Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, elves and reindeer.

From,
Casey Deeg Gore Bay



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from **ESSO**

THE COTTAGE SUPPLY STORE

LCBO Agency

We look forward to serving you in the New Year!
Brad, Deb, Family and Staff

31 Main Street, Kagawong
(705) 282-2593

LITTLE CURRENT CHIROPRACTIC

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

Winter Hours
Tuesday • Wednesday • Thursday
8:30am - 5:00pm - Evenings by appointment
705-368-0700
103-15 Worthington Street, Little Current
www.littlecurrentchiropractor.com

TWIN BLUFFS GORE BAY Bar & Grill

Santa's Favourite Stop!

6 Eleanor St, Gore Bay Full Menu: Breakfast ~ Lunch ~ Dinner

During this Holiday Season the Twin Bluffs Bar & Grill would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday. I would also like to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication, along with my customers for their ongoing support.

Sincerely, Cheryl

Closed Wednesday, December 24
Re-open Monday, January 5, 2015

For Reservations call **705-282-2000**
Licenced AGCO

Away In A Manger

May you rejoice in the splendor of His many wondrous creations in this season of love. Merry Christmas!

Scott Veterinary Services

...How to go home a different way

...continued from page 6

with you left with a warm glow and an elevated sense of joy in your spirits instead of just being glad it is over. You might think that this isn't possible. But it IS possible if you have met the Christ of the ages, allowed him to change your sense of values, and truly yielded yourself to him in worship.

When you have done this, you will find that He is the way to your eternal home, for he has said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus also said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." (John 14:1-4).

Heaven is the goal. It is the reason why Christ came as a babe in a manger. It is the reason why He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. It is the reason for the healings, the miracles, and the teachings. It is the reason why Jesus sacrificed himself to death on a cruel cross. All this was part of God's plan to prepare a place for you and me in Heaven.

This Christmas, let your mind and emotions be changed by an encounter with the Christ. Perhaps your life's journey thus far has burdened you with lots of baggage—struggles, hurts, cares, concerns, addictions, habits, and so on. Meet with Christ and have these burdens lifted. Lay your burdens at the foot of the cross! I promise that you will go home a different way than the way you came if you do!

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Aaron Tardif
Gateway To Life Church, Little Current

...Prophecies of Christmas

...continued from page 23

being good reason for such.

Another of those prophecies of Christ birth is found in the book Micah: But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Micah 5:2)

Here Micah told exactly where Christ would be born. This verse begins with the word "but" and is the introduction to something new, something grand, that is about to enter human history. And surprise, surprise, the origin of this grand new work is not in one of the world's capitals, not even in Jerusalem, but in Bethlehem.

We all know about the town of Bethlehem and we are used to hearing the name of Bethlehem. We have heard of this town ever since we were old enough to understand the Christmas story. But 2,000 years ago, Bethlehem was not a very well-known place. Bethlehem was a pretty obscure little country town, so obscure in fact that he has to tell us what Bethlehem he is talking about! He says "Bethlehem Ephrathah," or the Bethlehem by Jerusalem. Micah proclaimed that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem, but a week before Christ's birth, Mary was still in Nazareth, 80 miles away from Bethlehem. And in a day where they walked everywhere they went, that was a long way. But God was in control and He took care of that. Caesar Augustus order a census be taken, and this census required that Joseph be register in the city of his family's roots (David's)—Bethlehem.

So Mary and Joseph at just the right time made the four-day journey to Bethlehem. As we have seen Bethlehem was to the world a small insignificant village full of blue collar workers, nothing special. But Bethlehem was significant and the thing that made it special and the reason we still sing about Bethlehem today is, that Jesus Christ was there.

Even more amazing than the prophecy of the location of the Saviour birth is that his "goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." That is that this One, who was to come, is like God, He is eternal. The word "everlasting" means infinite or timeless in duration and refers to Christ eternity. The prophecy clearly predicts that the existence of Christ predates the creation of the Universe. God the Son, became God-man when he was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.

Let's make this message personal. Isaiah 7:14 said, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign." I want you to consider a couple of truths as we celebrate Christmas this year.

First and foremost, God is always faithful to His word. All of those comforting promise verses you read when you need help or have lost hope...you can be assured that those promises made by God will be kept.

Second, Jesus was God coming to you as a man.



Here Comes Santa!

Boxing Day Sale
Saturday, December 27
9am - 3pm

Here's hoping the holiday season brings everything you've dreamed of, and more. We're very grateful for your loyal support and friendship, and we look forward to serving you again in the future.

Have a very Merry Christmas!
jake's Home Centre
 Downtown Mindemoya
 705-377-6060

Manitoulin Financial

May you have a warm and wonderful Holiday Season

Merry Christmas
 from
Maurice, Carole, Eric & Elyse

You could not save yourself, but God loved you enough to come to you. Jesus came to set you free from the curse of sin. The gift God gave in Jesus was a gift of hope, a gift of freedom, a gift of salvation. This gift is personal. It is for you! Catch that? For all people. The Hebrew word "you" in the verse in Isaiah 7:14 is plural and means all of you! Remember what the angel said to the shepherds who were watching their flocks by night? In announcing the birth of Jesus:

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)

God loves you so much that He sent you a personal Christmas present in the form of His Son. The baby Jesus grew into a man, and died upon a cross for your sins, and God raised Him from the dead. Today, if you will put your faith and trust in Him, you can receive the greatest gift ever given to anyone—eternal life. God Bless and have a God Christmas!

Pastor John Sauder
Springs of Living Waters Church
Manitowaning

Happy Yuletide!

Thanks to Manitoulin Island and its people for the wonderful support you've given us!

Sincerely,
Pat, Kurt, Kyle and Nancy Noble,
Davie, Bill, Kim, Bud, Tom and Staff

Pat Noble Lumber & Building Supplies Ltd.
Hwy 540, Gore Bay, ON P0P 1H0
Tel: (705) 282-2766

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

Culgin Funeral Home
and
Sentimental Flower Shop,
Gore Bay

Where is Jesus?

Years ago, when our children were young, we gathered an inexpensive nativity set. We purchased plastic, but attractive, figures—something the kids could handle and play with. I gathered some thin pieces of wood and some straw and built a stable—thatched roof and all. It was a delight for all of us. Several years and three house-moves later, we were unpacking our things to decorate for the season, when a shrill voice, obviously in panic, sounded the alarm. “Where’s Jesus? We lost him? O, no! Where can Jesus be?” We eventually, after looking under lights, tinsel, snowmen, newspaper, tissue paper and wrapping paper, found the all-important person, the One without whom there would be any nativity at all.

How much that scene resembles our lives? We seek to build lives for ourselves, gathering and assembling all the elements. But then, we discover to our dismay that the most important piece is missing? It is the single piece that gives meaning to the whole. What would the Mona Lisa be without that smile? What significance would our national flag have if it were just a field of red and white without the maple leaf? Likewise, our lives are barren of meaning when the central figure is missing. That central figure in our lives, in every life and in all of life, is the person of Jesus Christ, who said, “My purpose is to give life in all its fullness” (John 10:10, NLT). We have lost this essential Person amid all the clutter, trappings and wrapping of our lives. Where’s Jesus? Where can you find Him? Let me make a few suggestions.

First of all, look in the Bethlehem manger. God’s angel told the shepherds, “You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth” (Luke 2:12, NLT). The root of Christmas is found in the Nativity story. It’s about One who came into our world, born like the rest of us, but very different. He is the Son of God, Emmanuel (God with us), Saviour, Christ the Lord. Look beyond the lights, the trees and the presents. Look for the ultimate Gift, wrapped in swaddling cloth. An anonymous poet has expressed it this way: “Who is this boy? He is God’s little son. What can He do? Save every one! What does He bring? Peace and joy! And He’ll fill you with happiness, this little boy!”

Next, look to an “old, rugged cross.” The babe of Bethlehem was to be named “Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus expressly said that he came “to give his life as a ransom” (Mark 10:45). There is an unavoidable connection between these to place to look for Jesus. You cannot look in one without being led to the other. One cannot separate the Nativity from Good Friday, without either the Person or the purpose of Jesus. His death was not a mere martyrdom or miscarriage of justice.

As the old carol state, “Christ was born to save,” and he accomplished that by a cross, where he gave himself as a sacrifice to “ransom” us from slavery to evil, sin and the self-centeredness that ravages the human race and so much of human history. Songwriter John F. Wilson has added to the words of the anonymous poet: “Who is this man Who is hanging up on high? What did He do? Why do they crucify? What does He bring? Hope and light! And to all men He brings release from darkest night.”

My third suggestion is to look to the throne room of heaven. This Jesus, who was cradled in a manger and was nailed to a Roman gibbet, rose from the dead and has ascended to heaven itself and reigns today. The king sought by the wise men that first Christmas now reigns as “King of kings and Lord of lords.” As the first and second looking-places lead to this third, so this one brings us to a final place to look for Jesus—our hearts, our own persons. Does he who rules in heaven also live and rule in our lives, “in our hearts?” He bids entrance into our lives to be our Saviour and to be our King. He invites us to trust him. He calls us to follow him. It’s trusting and following that make him the centerpiece of our lives and that brings the ultimate meaning that he offers. Wilson continues his song lyrics: “Who is this King? He’s God’s only Son! What did He do? Rise for every one! What does He bring? Life and love! And for all who believe in Him, a home above.”

Our lives are like living nativities. But nativities have no meaning without the central figure. So, the critical question for every Christmas and for every life is, “Where is Jesus?” If he is absent, look for him. You will find him! Look to the cradle, the cross and the crown, but at the end of your search, look to your heart and invite him there too. All it takes is a simple prayer, like that in the Christmas carol: “Come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for You.” This Christmas, seek Him, trust Him and serve Him.

May all the blessings that Jesus came to bring fill your life to overflowing with peace, love, hope and joy!

Pastor Ray Kloetstra
M i n d e m o y a
Missionary Church

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

Maggie's Cafe
M'Chigeeng
Our very best wishes from the
"Maggie's family" to your family.
Merry Christmas
and a Safe New Year



Closed Monday, December 22, 2014
Re-opening Tuesday, January 6, 2015
(winter hours until April, 9am - 4pm)
To our loyal, valued customers
Merry Christmas from
"The Mother and Daughter Team"
Celebrating 31 yrs in 2015

DELIVERING OUR BEST AT CHRISTMAS



The ringing we hear, could be Santa's sleigh
Bringing our thanks and warm wishes your way
Along with our hopes for peace on earth
And a season that's filled with joy and mirth.
So wherever you're headed and whatever you do
May our glad tidings travel with you!

From The Board of Directors and The Staff of



Espanola and District Credit Union

91 Centre St. • Espanola: 705-869-3001

6143 King St. • Mindemoya: 705-377-4635

3 Manitowaning Rd. • Little Current: 705-368-3222

Holiday Hours:

Wednesday, December 24: 9:30am - 1pm

Thursday, December 25: CLOSED

Friday, December 26: CLOSED

Wednesday, December 31: 9:30am - 1:00pm

January 1: CLOSED

www.espanolacu.com

Manitoulin Supervised Access Centre

Wishing you and yours a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.



Manitoulin Supervised Access Centre
Phone 705-377-6080
Fax 705-377-6081
manitoulin@amtelecom.net

Closed Dec. 25th, 26th & Jan. 1st
Serving the Manitoulin Court District.



Letters to Santa!

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

*Wishing Everyone a
Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy and Healthy
2015*

From Jim, Jo and Staff



A letter to Santa from Hailee Harasym. Hailee would like Santa to bring her some Kenetic Sand from Science North, Monster High Dolls and some games for her iPad



SEASON'S GREETINGS

From



#Arrivealive

#Dontdrinkanddrive

#Drivesober

#UCCMPOLICE



**Finn's Gas Bar
&
Convenience Store**

Hours 7am-11pm · Open 7 days a week

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*Thank you for your support
and business since our opening.
We look forward to seeing
you in the new year.*

Basil, Janice and Staff

Open 7 days a week 7:00am – 11:00pm
187 Hwy 551 M'Chigeeng, ON (705) 377-4479

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





**Best Wishes
and have a
Safe and Happy
Holiday!**

Wiwemikong Tribal Police



*From the Board,
Administration
and Officers*



It's Time for Christmas!

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

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

Scott Robertson (Little Current) 705-368-2500
 Ken Lariviere (Gore Bay) 705-282-2400
 Mike Scoyne & Ron Masciangelo 705-869-1351
 or visit us at www.mcquarriemotorproducts.ca

PRO-GAS
 energy services
 MANITOULIN

Thanks from Tim and Staff!

HEATING & AIR
 CONDITIONING

Sales-Service-Installation
 Call 705-377-6380
www.progasenergy.com

RedBow

67 Manitowaning Road Corner of Hwy. 6 & Wilson St.
 Little Current 705-368-2443 1-866-323-2946

redbow@bellnet.ca www.redbow.ca
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
 Rob, Karlene, and staff