

FREE
DECEMBER
2025



Business SPOTLIGHT: Woodview General Store









peterborough.ca/hubs | hubs@peterborough.ca

and more.











From The Editor's Desk DECEMBER 2025



This is a free magazine that publishes 8 times a year. Copies are distributed by Canada Post Lakefield to Bancroft, Paudash, Cardiff and Coe Hill region including all of the Apsley area.

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What a year...I hope you are able to look back on your year with JOY, fantastic memories and NO REGRET. My year took a turn and there were days that felt so and for local pickup from difficult I questioned the point of a lot of things - it took a dear friend to say "being positive takes energy - and if its too hard to be positive, save the energy for other things - like healing and recovering" It got me thinking - its okay to not be okay, just don't pack a bag and stay there. Life happens - how you respond to it is what matters. By the time you read this, I will have had my double mastectomy and will be hunkering down getting used to a new me... New year, new me, new opportunities. I'll have my moments of both frustration and gratitude - they have both earned a seat at my table.

> I wish you all the very best in 2026 and thank you for believing in this little magazine that could! This is the season of gratitude and giving, so enjoy another edition that is full of inspiring stories and positive thoughts.

> Many enjoyed supporting local at a variety of shopping events in November and we appreciate all of you! The winter season in North Kawartha slows down a bit and every chance you have to keep your spending dollars in our community helps so many! Shout out to our Local Apsley Foodbank that faithfully keeps families fed during a lean time.

Lions Club, Legion, ABC Seniors, the NK Community Centre and Library all have events happening throughout Dec/Jan/Feb - so be sure to check out their facebook pages or websites for details. Keep busy this winter and have some fun with euchre, skating, darts, cards, music jams, workshops, and MORE!

Reminder...

There is no magazine in January and February - so feel free to dust off some old Backroads Magazines or go online to have access to all of 2025!

Mark your calendars - The Spring edition will publish the end of February. Have a wonderful winter everyone! and I'm an email away with any questions



Helena



DECEMBER 2025



HXAGAW					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Fall Prevention Exercise Class 10 to 11:15am Darts 6:30pm, LEGION Pickle Ball (\$2) 6 to 9pm NKCC (not Stat Holidays)	Shuffle Board Cornhole then Lunch, Euchre/Canasta 10:30am NKCC Table Tennis 7 to 9 pm NKCC Euchre 7:00pm Woodview	Fall Prevention Exercise Class Then Pickle Ball Then Craft Class 10am to 4pm, NKCC ShuffleBoard 1pm, LEGION ShuffleBoard 1 pm, LEGION	Playgroup 0-6yrs 10am-12 NKCC Pot Luck Lunch Canasta or Darts 12:30pm Woodview Pickle Ball (\$2) 6-9pm NKCC	Duplicate Bridge 12:30pm NKCC Music Jam Session 4pm, LEGION	6
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Around The Rink

By Helena McMann, AMHA Board Secretary

The ice is smooth, the snack bar is stocked up and its time to get together with family and friends to enjoy another season at the rink!!

APSLEY MINOR HOCKEY

Have a fave player on the Flames? Check out the Apsley Minor Hockey website for full schedule and updates. Most home games happen on the weekend - come on out and cheer for your favourite team GO FLAMES GO!

2025 8 TIER 2 DYER/

NORTH KAWARTHA FIGURE SKATING

The Figure skating program is going strong and they are already planning another packed year end show next Spring! "Ice Ice 80's" is scheduled for March 28th 2026 @ 6:00pm. Skaters will skate to hits from the 80's and will include such trends such as neon, big shoulders pads, and leg warmers.

Follow their facebook page for updates and details (or the North Kawartha Township's website

https://www.northkawartha.ca/living-here/recreation-programs/#FigureSkatingLessons(NorthKawarthaFigureSkatingClub)



Helmets are strongly recommended for any type of Public Skating and in some cases are mandatory. View Public Skating times on the Events Calendar (online) In addition, the dates and times for Public Skating are subject to change, and we often have Public Skating on recognized Holidays or School PA days, so please check in advance for updated information.



Congrats U13 Flames

Mineral Capital Cup 'A' Champs

Monday

7:00 am to 8:30 am - Figure Skating Ticket Ice (\$3/person) 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Public Skating (\$2/skater or \$5/family) **Tuesday**

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Public Skating (\$2/skater or \$5/family). **Wednesday**

7:00 am to 8:30 am - Figure Skating Ticket Ice (\$3/person)
11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Public Skating (\$2/skater or \$5/family)
3:30 pm to 5:30 pm - Children/Youth Loonie Skate** (\$1/skater)
Thursday

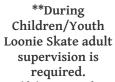
11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Public Skating (\$2/skater or \$5/family) **Friday**

7:00 am to 8:30 am - Figure Skating Ticket Ice (\$3/person)
11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Public Skating (\$2/skater or \$5/family)
Saturday

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Public Skating (\$2/skateror\$5/family)

Sunday

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - Public Skating (\$2/skater or \$5/family)



Half the ice surface is for public skating, half is for playing shinny.

Full equipment for shinny is strongly recommended, at a minimum, hockey gloves, elbow pads, helmet with face protection are required. There is no contact, and the puck shall not be raised.











Contributed by Kim Tucker and Lisa Mace

Season's Greetings!

Thank you to all our patrons who visited and supported us throughout 2025! After a very busy year, our staff is looking forward to a well-deserved holiday break.

ad der ag k.

Make sure to stock up on your favourite books and DVDs before we close so you have plenty to enjoy over the holidays.

Library Holiday Hours

- Woodview branch closes at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 23rd
- Apsley branch closes at noon on Wednesday, December 24th Both branches reopen with regular hours on Tuesday, January 6th. Wishing everyone in our community safe, happy holiday season!

Letters to Santa at the Library – Both Branches

Santa loves hearing from all the boys and girls, and once again, the library is helping to makesure your letters reach the North Pole. Word is from the elves that Santa was thrilled to receive so many wonderful letters from our community last year! Drop off your letters to Santa at either the Apsley or Woodview library branch (you can even use the exterior book drop box) before December 10th. Then, between December 17th and 23rd, stop by the same library branch during regular hours to pick up Santa's special reply. We're delighted to help share a little holiday magic again this year!

Fraud Presentation – Rescheduled Date

Tuesday December 2, 2025 @ 10am -12pm — Woodview Branch Can you recognize a Scam? Join us for this informative presentation by the Ontario Provincial Police. Learn how to recognize scams and frauds over the phone and online. Free to attend! Drop in, refreshments will be provided. For more information call 705-654-1071. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park Community Centre, (enter through the library).

Ukulele Group

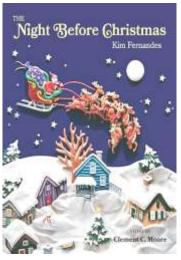
Tuesdays: Dec 2nd, 6:30pm, Jan 6th 1:00pm, Feb 24th 1:00pm, March 24th, 6:30pm – Apsley Branch

Join us for a relaxed hour of ukulele strumming at the library! This welcoming gathering is open to all skill levels—whether you're just starting out or have been playing for years. It's a fun way to connect with others and enjoy making music together. Don't have a ukulele? No problem, the library has a few extras you can borrow. So, mark your calendar and join this welcoming group.

From Story to Sculpture: The Night Before Christmas Workshop Thursday, Dec 4th from 3:15PM to 4:15PM - Apsley Branch

Kids ages 6 to 9 are welcome to join us for a creative workshop with Kim Fernandes, author of several books including: Big Week

8





for Little Mouse. Kim will read her beloved book The Night Before Christmas and share stories about her creative process. Kids will then create their own plasticine art inspired by Kim's unique illustration style. A perfect way to celebrate the holiday season with storytelling and handson fun! This is a free event. Limited spaces, call 705-656-4333 or email I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

Kid's Club

Thursdays After School from 3:15–4:15PM Apsley Branch

Feel free to drop-in to our fun and creative after-school program for kids up to and including Grade 6! Each week includes a story and a snack, followed by something new and exciting—like crafts, STEM activities, art, or games.

Sewing with Shirley - Santa Sack Workshop Friday, Dec 5th @ 10AM Apsley Branch

Join us for a festive sewing session, just in time for the holidays! You'll learn how to sew your very own Santa Sack, perfect for gifts or as a cheerful holiday pillowcase. Beginners are warmly welcome. Bring your own sewing machine or borrow one of the library's (available in limited supply). The cost is \$25 per person and includes all materials and instruction. Limited spaces. Pre-registration is required by calling 705-656-4333 or emailing

I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

Pajamas and Popcorn - Cozy Christmas Movie Night Friday, December 5 th @ 6:30PM - Apsley Branch

Join us for a magical evening at the library on Friday, December 5th! Doors open at 6:00 PM and the movie starts at 6:30 PM. If you would like, wear your pajamas and snuggle in for a festive family film (title to be revealed at the event!). Enjoy free hot chocolate and popcorn while watching a heartwarming holiday movie. Every family that attends will be entered into a draw for a Christmas themed prize. A fun, free event for all ages, perfect for getting into the holiday spirit! In order to prepare, pre-registration is required by calling 705-656-4333 or emailing

l.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

Yarn Tales – Every Saturday @ 10:00 am – Woodview Branch Drop-in knitting group for ages 14-99!

Enjoy company and coffee while you work on your latest projects. Beginners welcome! We have needles, yarn and an expert to guide you! Call 705-654-1071 for more information. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park.

3 Easy Appetizers for Holiday Entertaining - with Lonnie from The Grape and Wedge

Saturday, December 6 th at the North Kawartha Community Centre from 1:00–3:00PM OR

Saturday, December 6 th at the Woodview Library Branch from 6:00–8:00PM

We're thrilled to welcome back Lonnie to share her amazing ideas for holiday entertaining! In this fun, hands-on workshop, participants will learn to make three delicious and easy appetizers

perfect for festive gatherings:

- Antipasto Shrimp Rolls
- Mediterranean Salami Cups
- Cheesy Jam Nut Puffs

Everyone will leave with a dozen of each appetizer to enjoy or share. The cost is \$40 per person. Space is limited. Preregistration is required by calling 705-656-4333 or emailing l.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

Kids Painting Workshop – Woodview Branch Saturday Dec 6 @ 11:00AM

Turn a wooden block into Christmas Décor! All supplies provided, free to attend. Registration is required, spaces limited. For children ages 6-10 years old. Call 705-754-1071 to register your child for this fun and creative morning.

66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park

The Literary Buffet Book Club – Apsley Branch Thursdays: December 11 th , January 8 th , and February 12 th , at 6:30 PM – Apsley Branch

Join us on the second Thursday of each month for a relaxed evening of book talk and community! At the Literary Buffet, there's no assigned reading—just bring whatever you've been enjoying and share with the group. All genres, new members are welcome. No pre-registration required.

Wiggle and Read

Tuesdays, Dec 16, Jan 20 and Feb 17 @ 10:30 am – Woodview Branch

Once a month, bring your little ones for an engaging story time. This is a great way to spark imagination and literacy skills, make connections with others and create as sense of community for your children! Drop in, no registration required. Call 705-654-1071 for more information. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park.



Holiday Cookie Decorating – Both Branches Apsley Library on Thursday, December 18 at 3:15PM OR

Woodview Library on Saturday, Dec 20 at 10:30AM

The North Kawartha Public Library invites children from JK to Grade 8 to join us for our annual Christmas Cookie Decorating event. This year, a group of dedicated teen volunteers will be working with Lisa from the library to bake all the white sugar cookies for participants to decorate. We are very appreciative of the time and enthusiasm demonstrated by our teen volunteers!

Each child will receive two sugar cookies, along with a small bag of icing and decorations to create their own festive treats. Pre-registration is required to ensure we have enough cookies and supplies for everyone. Please register by December 11th by calling 705-656-4333 or emailing I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com.

Kniterary: Weekly Drop-In! Every Wednesday @ 3PM – Apsley Branch

Kniterary is an open, welcoming drop-in for everyone, from absolute beginners to seasoned knitters, and for all ages, young and young-at-heart. Join us at the library to knit, crochet, and connect with others in a friendly, creative atmosphere. Whether you want to learn a new skill, share your talent, or simply enjoy some cozy company, there's a spot for you! We have needles and yarn available for beginners who'd like to try. We look forward to stitching together with you!



Pre-school Story, Sensory Play, Craft

Wednesdays: January 7th, February 4th, March 4th @ 10AM – Apsley Branch

Calling all preschoolers! Join us on the first Wednesday of January, February, and March for a fun winter playtime at the library. Each session will be 30 minutes and feature engaging stories, a themed sensory play activity, and a simple craft to take home. Designed for children ages 2 to 5, this program encourages exploration, creativity, and hands-on learning. Come play, create, and discover with us this winter! Drop-in, no preregistration is required.

Learn to Make Fritters

(Workshop Rescheduled AND Second Time Slot Added) Monday, Jan 12 th at 10AM OR 1PM – Border Town Café

In this hands-on workshop, Linda Patterson, from the Border Town Café in Glen Alda will guide you through the process using her deep fryer. Don't worry, she'll also share how you can bake these delicious fritters at home using the same recipe. Each participant will take home a copy of the recipe and at least two donuts, with samples to enjoy during the workshop. Please note, the workshop was originally scheduled as an outdoor event, but the rescheduled sessions will be held indoors at the Border Town Café, 4003 County Road 620. The cost is \$20 per person. There are limited spaces, pre-registration is required. To register, please call 705-656-4333 or email

I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

Infant and Child CPR & Choking Workshop

Tuesday, January 13th @ 10 AM to Noon – Woodview Branch

Presented by Heffernan First Aid, come and learn essential lifesaving skills in this fun, hands-on, and informative workshop! Participants will practice Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and techniques for handling obstructed airways (both conscious and unconscious) for infants and children. Handouts will be provided. This workshop is family friendly, so feel free to bring your little ones with you. Spaces are limited, so pre-registration is required. The cost is \$52 per participant. To pre-register, please call 705-654-1071. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park.

Sewing with Shirley – Pajama Pants Workshop Friday, January 16th at 10:00 a.m. – Woodview Branch

Join us to learn how to make your own cozy pajama pants, perfect for the long, cold winter! Beginners are welcome, all materials and instructions are included. Bring your own sewing machine or use one of our loaners (limited availability). The cost is \$35 per participant. Spaces are limited. Pre-register by calling 705-654-1071. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park.

Books and Banter

Tuesday Jan 27 @ 11:00 am - Woodview Branch

Join our new book club in Woodview! We will meet once a month to discuss books you have read that match the monthly theme. Informal coffee and chat. Call Kim L. for more info on themes and how to participate. 705-654-1071. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson Park.



CPR for Tweens & Teens – P.A. Day Workshop Friday, January 30 th, 2026 – Apsley Branch

Learn lifesaving skills in this fun, hands-on program for students in grades 7 to 12! Participants will receive CPR-C certification from the Life Saving Society and gain practical knowledge that's valuable for general safety and resumes.

The class covers:

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for adult, child, & infants

- How to help a choking victim (conscious and unconscious)
- Use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)

The cost is \$75. If cost is a barrier, please call or email Lisa Mace at the library. Spaces are limited. Pre-registration is required by calling 705-656-4333 or emailing

I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

Winter Adult Art Workshops

Saturdays: Jan 31st, Feb 28th, March 28th 10AM Apsley Branch

Explore your creativity this winter at our adult art workshops! Designed for participants 18 and over, these experimental sessions with resident artist, Lisa Mace, take place on the last Saturday of January, February, and March. Try new techniques and materials without worrying about creating a "perfect" finished project. Each month, we'll alternate our experimentation between different mediums and crafts, including painting and neurographic doodles. Come play, experiment, and unleash your artistic side in a relaxed, supportive environment! Pre-registration for each class is required. Limited spaces. Call 705-656-4333 or email

I.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com

Explore the History of You

Tuesday February 3 @ 10:30 am – Woodview Branch

Join us to learn about how to begin the journey of discovering the "History of You". This will be a good place to start if you have wondered about researching your family tree, finding and scanning old photographs and how to store everything all in one place. Bring your documents and photos to scan. Free to attend, no registration required. 66 Northey's Bay Road at Wilson

Park. For more information, call 705-654-1071

Galentine's Craft & Cocoa

Saturday, February 14th @ 10AM - Apsley Branch

Celebrate friendship and self-love on Valentine's Day! This event is for women ages 18 and up and offers a relaxing morning of crafting, enjoying chocolate muffins, and sipping on hot chocolate. Come share laughter, creativity, and a little indulgence with friends — new and old!

Limited spaces. Pre-register by calling 705-656-4333 or emailing l.mace@northkawarthalibrary.com



Apsley 705 656 4422 Bancroft 613 332 1841

LTD BROKERAGE





289-264-9174

Bancroft & Surrounding Areas

redpinesbancroft@yahoo.com



REPORT December

by Jim Empringham, Apsley and District Lions Club

Fall has made its leave and life in our community has slowed winter. They will occur on the third Wednesday of the somewhat from the more hectic summer months. It is a great month. The next three dates are Dec 17, Jan 21 and Feb 18. time to recognize what an amazing place we have the Play begins promptly at 7:00 pm at NKCC and admission is pleasure of living in.

Winter has arrived and along with the white stuff, so too did friends new and old. Santa make his annual visit to our community. This year's Planning for a new community event, the Apsley Lions parade returned to the evening format on November 29, Home and Cottage Show is well underway. Members of the allowing more sport involved families to participate. If prior Lions Club are approaching community business operators years experiences are any indicators, I am sure the floats to explain the plan and to solicit participation. The brought lots of smiles and the children's party that followed weekend of May 2 & 3 is intended to showcase the many was well attended. Most years we provide gifts to between businesses and services available to residents, both 150 and 175 children 10 yrs and under. Thanks to Lions Jodi permanent and seasonal. Contractors, tradesmen, Topping, Brenda Lenson and Linda Patterson for organizing marinas, caterers, cleaners and restauranteurs are just different parts of the event. This tradition is a way for the examples of the range of vendors that can benefit from Lions Club to say thank you to our community members for displaying their wares and talents. If you would like to their support.



Thanks to a grant from the Home Hardware national environment programme, we received \$3800 to go towards planting trees for our ongoing Lions Park revitalization. Five maples and four silk lilacs were planted on a cold and wet this event a real boost for our area. October 31. Come spring we hope they will add texture to the Park and help to define the planned walking trail. Special Lions Club wish all the best of the holiday spirit, happy & thanks to Paul Gray for his advice on tree selection, to Chad Tucker (Tucker Landscaping) and his brothers Aaron and Byron who donated their expertise and equipment for the planting, to AMTECH for their donation of triple mix and to Lion Blair Wilson for obtaining the grant. Once again, community members stepped up and gave of their knowledge and time to make this happen. Without this kind of support so much of what Lions do would not happen.





Great news! Lions euchre nights will continue through the \$5. Come on out and warm to the fun of playing cards with

participate and have not been contacted yet, the following are the contact people you should reach out to. Blair Wilson (705-931`-0946) blairwilson74@gmail.com Ted Topping (705-313-5266) ttoppingfarm1@gmail.com Richard Burns (416- 709-6196) burnsri14@gmail.com There are so many providers of service in our community that we cannot possible know all of them. Please don't wait to be contacted. Make the contact to get information and to insure you can have a spot at the show. The Early Bird Deadline for reduced cost applications is December 31. Come on out, either as a vendor or spectator to help make

With holiday season upon us, members of Apsley & District productive 2026 to all. Thank you for continued support.





Jim Alexander Sales Representative 613-202-1495 (Cell) jim@teamalexander.ca

Team Alexander.ca







COUNCIL'S CORNER

by Mayor Carolyn Amyotte, Township of North Kawartha

Please visit www.northkawartha.ca for all things municipal in North Kawartha. If you would like to receive regular municipal updates you may also subscribe to North

Kawartha's email alerts via the website as well. If you would like to watch the Council meetings, please subscribe to the Township's YouTube Channel. For those of you that are active on social media please follow me @MayorAmyotte. It is my intent to share positive, factual and timely information about issues, events and happenings that impact our community and residents. To contact me directly, my phone number is (705) 931-1342 and my email is mayor@northkawartha.ca.

Here's a few things that happened since my last • update:

 In partnership with our Legion the Township has created banners for all the veterans listed on our cenotaph and for local surviving veterans as well



- Council approved the free usage request for the Lions Club to host the first annual home and cottage show at the NKCC next May 2026
- We received an update from Hemson Consulting on our Asset Management Plan
- Council attended the annual Quad Council meeting in Curve Lake to share community updates with our neighbours in Selwyn, Trent Lakes and Curve Lake First Nation
- Staff presented their annual Capital Forecast to help us prepare for our upcoming Budget deliberations
- Council approved a donation request from Apsley Public School to purchase curriculum books to support student mental health
- We received a report from our EDO about the Downtown Apsley Visitor survey he conducted this past summer
- Council received a presentation from Tery Rees and Thom Unrau regarding the Ontario Invasive Phragmites Action Program and the work they are doing in our region to combat it
- We approved the placement of the Paudash Trailblazers Snowmobile Trail Map at the NKCC





Here's the winter meeting schedule:

Regular Meetings of Council occur on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, With only one meeting in January.

Short Term Rental meetings occur on the second Tuesday of the month

Regular Meetings of North Kawartha Library Board on the fourth Tuesday of the month

October 29, 2025- Council Capital Forecast Meeting



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Woodview General Store

2025 saw new ownership of the Woodview General Store - a place we have come to know and love for so many years. I spoke with the new owner and this is what he shared:

"Tell me a bit about yourself"

My name is Subramaniam (Arul), and I am passionate about nature and quiet living. I was born and raised in a landscape very similar to Woodview, so being here feels like coming home. I love the people in this community, and at the same time, I am fulfilling my own dream and business aspirations.

background?'

I have worked in gas stations, convenience stores, and restaurants for more than 20 years, gaining hands-on experience in customer service, operations, and community-focused business. Through the Woodview General Store, my goal is to serve the community in every way—providing



essential items, convenience, quality service, and a welcoming environment all in one place.

I am proud to own this historical Woodview General Store and to bring this iconic place back to life. My commitment is to preserve its heritage while improving and modernizing it for the people of Woodview and all those who visit.

"What are your future plans with the Store"

My goal is to serve the community by providing a true all-in-one experience. The Woodview General Store offers all the essential items residents and visitors need, along with a welcoming country-style "How about your work and business atmosphere. We serve freshly brewed coffee and hot beverages, operate as an authorized LCBO and Beer Store partner, and are now expanding our services to include freshly baked pizza, hot sandwiches, and salads.

> My mission is to support the community in every way possible and to be a place people can rely on. I am proud to be part of Woodview and to serve as one of its own.

> Woodview General Store is open for business 7 days a week for all your shopping needs! Come say hello!

6220 Highway 28 Woodview, ON 705-654-3220







Holiday BUCKET LIST



MAKE COOKIES FOR A TEACHER

TOOK AT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

COCOA DRINK HOT COCOA

PAY IT FORWARD

SIT ON SANTA'S LAP

DONATE TO TOYS FOR TOTS

A DELIVER TREATS TO A NEIGHBOR

\$\frac{1}{12}\$ DO A GOOD DEED FOR SOMEONE

AMAKE AN ORNAMENT

MAKE A SNOWMAN

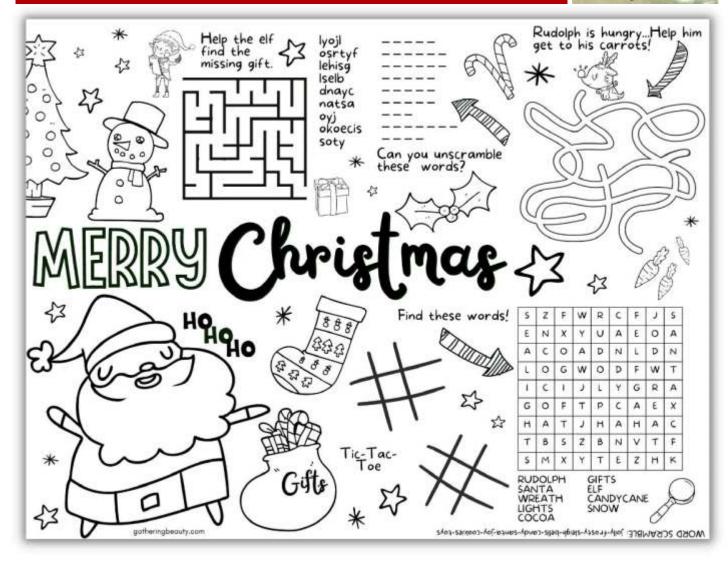
STEER SOMEONE A SECRET SANTA GIFT

A MAKE DINNER AS A FAMILY

TELL YOUR FAMILY YOU LOVE THEM







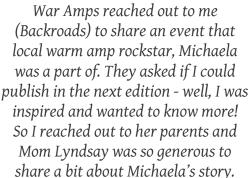


WAR AMP CHAMP

Guest contributor, Lyndsay Monsigneur

Michaela Monsigneur





Michaela was born with a rare congenital condition known as tibial hemimelia-the absence or shortening of the tibia bone. She was completely missing the tibia in her right leg whereas the tibia in her left leg was shortened. Without the tibia in her right leg, her leg was basically just dead weight from the knee down.

We knew right away that her



Above: Michaela with her first pair of prosthetic legs, July 2019



Above: Michaela testing out new prosthetic legs after her 2nd amputation, Aug 2020

Left: Michaela horseback riding. Her favourite activity!
June 2025

right leg would need to be amputated through the knee. That surgery happened five days before her first birthday. Her left leg, however, had us making some serious decisions. With a shortened tibia there, we were told we could reconstruct her leg and keep her foot. That would have been several surgeries throughout her childhood, in and out of hospitals. Or, she could have a one-and-done surgery, another amputation, but through the ankle this time. We ultimately decided on another amputation when she was two years old.

Even before her second amputation, Michaela was fitted for prosthetic devices to help her walk. She received her first pair of legs at fifteen months old. With some motivation, she was taking her first "real" steps within weeks of receiving her prosthetic legs. Ever since then, she's been keeping up with her siblings and peers. Michaela has tried so many sports but loves horseback riding the most.

There is no stopping her when she sets her mind to something. She always finds a way to do anything, maybe just in a different way!

Young Amputee Celebrates 50 years of The War Amps CHAMP Program



OTTAWA, October 22, 2025

Eight-year-old Michaela Monsigneur recently attended The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Seminar in Ottawa, where she celebrated the 50th anniversary of the CHAMP Program with other young amputees from surrounding regions.

Michaela, from Apsley, became a double leg amputee due to a medical condition at a young age. As a Champ, she is eligible for financial assistance for artificial limbs and specialized devices, peer support and much more. Her mom, Lyndsay, says Michaela always enjoys seeing old friends at CHAMP seminars and meeting new ones.

Created in September 1975 by the war amputee veterans who founded The War Amps, CHAMP has helped all child amputees, no matter the cause of their amputation, since it began. The program provides child amputees with artificial limbs, access to CHAMP events like seminars, advocacy support and resources on living with an amputation. The legacy of "amputees helping amputees" remains a hallmark of the program to this day.

The War Amps receives no government grants; its programs, including CHAMP, are made possible through the donations from the public.

For more information, visit waramps.ca or call 1800 250-3030.

"Being with other children who are just like her gives her a great boost of confidence," Lyndsay says.





legs are designed so she can get wet without worrying about rust and other damage that could occur to her everyday

legs. July 2023



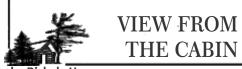


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by Rick de Haan

Christmas Tree Memories

Once again Christmas is just around the corner. It is a season of goodwill and joy spread by smiling faces and glittering decorations in the windows of stores and homes.

For most families the focal point during the yuletide season is a glittering, sparkling Christmas tree. Since its early inception in Germany during the 1600's, this festive icon has been, and will continue to be, a fixture in almost every home. Whether it's a real tree, or an artificial one, it is a cherished tradition that is decorated with reverence, and exudes a feeling of Christmas spirit, adding a sense of coziness to the room.

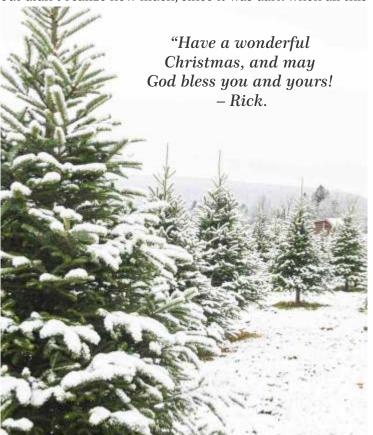
As I sit in my recliner now, I find myself gazing at our tree which is all lit up with sparkling lights, and adorned with tinsel and garland. There are old glass balls hanging from its branches that remind me of Christmases past. Each one tells a different story, and I find my mind wandering back in time. Some of the decorations date back to when I was a little boy living in the Netherlands. My wooden shoe would be set on the mantle with high hopes that St. Nicholas would stop by and fill it with chocolate and marzipan treats. The tree we had back then was a small table topper with a few electric lights and the very glass balls that now grace our tree sixty years later. My mother would tell me stories from times long past when she a child. My grandfather (Opa) would light little candles that were attached to the branches of the Christmas tree with special clips. These were only lit on special occasions and on Christmas Eve. It was wartime and electric lights were expensive and hard to get.

Going out to get a Christmas tree is an exciting and enjoyable part of the season, especially for a child. After we moved back to Canada we would buy a real tree from any one of a dozen Christmas tree vendors who would be set up in store parking lots. They were most always advertized as "Xmas" trees. My Dad hated that term. "They 'X' Christ right out of Christmas!", he'd say. Dad would wait until a few days before Christmas to take me to pick one out and then he'd bring it home, only to struggle setting it up under the watchful—and very critical—eye of my mother. It was never an easy feat for Dad, who wasn't as persnickety as my mother, and would inevitably lose his patience with the "that stupid tree stand", the tree, and my mother. By some miracle, the tree always stood perfectly straight by Christmas Eve and Mom would insist that the three of us decorate it together. On thinking back, I'm sure Dad would have preferred to be left alone to relax in his chair and read the paper. The following Christmas

my father bought an artificial tree which even I could set up. took place. I gave it a good shake before I hawled it So much for the excitement of picking out a real tree!

picked out at a local "Xmas Trees" lot. It was dark by the time in the kitchen, I propped it up in that old tree stand to we got it home and I, for the life of me, could not find a saw to thaw, hoping it wouldn't fall over. All we heard cut the required six inches off the stump so it would fit in that throughout the entire night were the staccato sounds old "stupid stand"—which had sagged even more over the of dripping and more dripping made even louder years. The only thing I could find to get the job done was my because of the tarp. But, it made a beautiful tree after it mother's bread knife. Thankfully she wasn't home at the was all decorated, and the best part was that it saved time. Kim did remind me that it probably wasn't a good idea me 40 bucks! to saw the tree with a knife, but I went ahead anyway. It seemed to work out just fine, although it did take a bit longer One time we decided to visit a "cut-yer-own" tree farm to gnaw through the sap-filled wood for some reason. My where you would bring your own saw and hunt for one mother found the knife in the drawer the next day, amongst the thousands available. The people who reasonably clean, but missing quite a few teeth! I had to buy owned it weren't home, but left a note on the door her a new one.

After Kim and I were married and had two growing kids, there out there. There were two horses roaming around who were a few Christmases when money was tight. But, there heard the commotion and decided to check us out. One were free trees to be had near our house, so, once in a while I of them was quite curious and stood over me as I was would go out and cut my own. I had permission to hunt on the sawing the tree. Then she followed me all the way to farmland across the road, and also to cut down the occasional the gate. The only problem was that she kept stepping Christmas tree if I wished. On the Saturday I had planned to on the very top of the tree as I was dragging it out. The go out, it was drizzling, with periods of freezing rain. I was tree would suddenly jerk out of my hand every five or optimistic and went out late in the afternoon after the rain six paces. We all laughed about it, and the kids still talk had stopped. I finally found what looked to be the perfect about it years later. tree, cut it down, and dragged the very heavy spruce home across the ice encrusted snow. I knew it had some ice on it, Twenty years ago on a Saturday in early December, but didn't realize how much, since it was dark when all this Kim, myself, and our 19-year-old son Jamie, decided to



inside, and found it was essentially a treesicle when I When Kim and I were going steady, I bought a tree that we'd got it in the light! So, with a tarp on the linoleum floor

> stating the amount and where to put the money. So off we went. It didn't take long to realize we weren't alone

> walk through the woods to cut down a Christmas tree. We had a hard time finding just the right one, but finally came across a grove of large spruces with one of the trees having a perfect top. Now the problem was, what do we do? I knew it would grow back because we had cut the top off smaller trees before and they were fine after a few years, so that wasn't a problem. The real problem was that this particular tree was at least 25 feet tall! Jamie volunteered and said, "I'll get it!" So up he went, climbing like a monkey with a bow saw tied to his belt. When he got to within ten feet of the top, the tree started shaking and swaying with his movement. This was something we hadn't figured on. We were getting a bit concerned, but Jamie seemed to enjoy the ride, and expertly cut the top seven feet off the tree. Down it came with a whoosh, none the worse for wear. It made a fine Christmas tree and lasted well past New Year's day.

> We have an artificial tree now, and have had for quite a few years, but when I sit and look at it, memories of Christmases past come flooding back. Add a nice fire and some old fashioned Christmas music, and it's the perfect way to spend an evening.



By Helena McMann

reflections from my journey these past 5 even if it was only for a minute. months.

Where it all started

later this year.



leaf clover.

Dancing with the Devil

week after we told the kids - what if I'm positive"

the 15% that doesn't beat my type of cancer? My Mom didn't - she died at only 39 years old - I was 5. So the A type part of my brain, made some calls, made sure my life insurance plan was in place and got some paperwork in a safe spot...I danced with the Devil that day, then angrily asked him to leave because I had cancer to conquer. There

were still times that I indulged in pity - when It's been a while since I've submitted my body is aching or I fear how I'm going to anything for my thrive or survive pay my bills or got annoyed with the Pic Line column...but as I've come to the end of that was in my arm for 4 months. Strength my chemo treatments and prepare for and resilience is earned and when I had down surgery...I felt I wanted to share a few moments, I focused on what I could control -

Crying is good

It doesn't mean I haven't had my share of I noticed an issue with my right nipple ugly crying. Losing that first clump of hair, I the long weekend in May - ironically held it in my hand and the room kinda went enough, the week before, my family quiet and slow motion - it was real "I have doctor noticed I hadn't had a cancer and Chemo is killing it" When we mammogram in a while and I was shaved my head - it was a beautiful and already scheduled for a breast reduction humbling time I shared with my kids and a close friend - we all got emotional and then So...away I went, had my mammogram we moved on. And to be honest...with the June 6th. Had a biopsy June 9th, heat of the summer we had-I was grateful for diagnosed by June 13th and by July 11th things being nice and breezy up there. I've I was getting my first chemo treatment. cried over not having strength or energy, I've I remember walking around the yard the ugly cried in my car - just because cries, day before my first chemo, warm sun 'cause life shouldn't be this F-ing hard. I cried





was shining on my the first time I threw up...I felt a sense of defeat and vulnerability. I skin, I was praying didn't cry when I dropped an entire tray of dinner because my hands and getting my have nerve damage due to the chemo...I did however cry a few mind in the right minutes later in humility, because my son helped me clean it up with head space... I such a calm in his voice and grace - that my tears were for him...a 17 came across a old that has had grow up too soon due what life has thrown at him patch of clovers. I children should not have to shoulder the bad decisions of their asked for a bit of parents or need to be the strength for a sick mother. I cried when the luck and low and results of the ultrasound mid way through chemo showed the tumors behold found a 5 were shrinking. Crying is good

It takes a village

I am forever grateful for the support of so many in my life - words of From the day I found out I had cancer advice, random drive by hugs, food for the freezer, flowers for my (which was the day of my son's very first vase. Truly - when it comes to supporting people in your life going solo guitar gig here in town at Woody's), through something like this...get uncomfortable, make the time for I always thought I would overcome it. the visit or phone call and don't let your own fears get in the way.

My predominant emotion was anger My cousin shared some powerful advice "when the energy and effort and frustration. In this last 6 months I it takes to be positive is outweighing the energy you need to heal...its can honestly say I've only danced with okay to not be okay. Make sure the energy you are using is going to the fear for about an hour...It hit me the right places and it doesn't always have to be spent on trying to be

Indulge in the Unknown

Another friend shared another perspective on indulgence and patience. We typically associate indulgence with sinful things - like cheesecake or indulging in an action or activity that you don't normally do. My friend helped me understand that sometimes there is beauty, power and peace in indulging in the unknown. We tend to fear the time we spend in limbo or get frustrated when we don't have the next thing planned. Frankly - it was driving me nuts having to put some life plans on hold because of cancer and to be "forced" to focus on myself all the while not knowing what next year held for me and my kids. There is power in stillness. There is clarity in

quiet. I don't know what my life looks like "after cancer" because frankly - cancer is forever a part of my story now - but I find calm in not knowing. Now...would it be nice for Jesus to sit at my table for a cup of tea and share that there is a tall gorgeous man ready to commit and sweep me off my feet and a wicked job that pays well and brings me joy right around the corner...yes...that would be nice too...just sayin'

Seeing through it

Another sound tidbit from a dear friend was to see through it. See yourself healed and happy. That kinda goes back to my point of not dancing with the devil too long...but it's not always so easy. I'm a stubborn passionate independent woman and at times have overdone things because I didn't want to believe that cancer was going to slow me down. Cancer is relentless and affects not only the person infected with it, but loved ones around them and all the people that have fought beforehand. There is inspiration in staying positive - I know my kids have benefited from my strength - but they also benefit from my vulnerability. I went to the football games when I was tired, I adorned my bald head in public with confidence. I also was honest when I needed to rest

and listened when they shared they were having a hard time with things.

Seeing through it doesn't mean it isn't happening, it just means you believe (and are doing) all the right things to get through to the other side. I've changed my diet and lifestyle but know I will have moments when I look at my scarred

chest with no boobs and am reminded of all I've overcome. There are still hard days ahead and I know there is a chance of it coming back. I also know cancer is heartbreakingly affecting way to many people and something has to change - lifestyles, environment - something. My journey has taught me resilience and humility.

Please reach out if you have any thoughts or want to talk.







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By Winston E Ralph, Bancroft, ON

December Again

Thanksgiving is gone and will be back next year Thats if we are all alive and still here Its December now so I hope your shopping is done As doing it in crowds won't be any fun People will be pushing and moving things around So what you are looking for may not be found You maybe didn't get a deer in hunting for a reason But now in December we enter the festive season The leaves are all down the trees are bare Its just windy and cold each day out there Don't drink booze as it you sure don't need As impaired is against the law so it you must heed Cheer up as summer will come before we know But we must put up with the cold and snow The wild geese are gone until early May You'll hear them honk as they pass on a warm day This month is cold and other ones will be too So dress warm each day is one thing we can do At night we may go to sleep which may be sound Then awake in the morning with snow on the ground Christmas is coming soon with presents and treats But don't over do it or your health may be beat Poinsettia will be put up with lights and holly too By folks across our land and even by you January is coming soon with some longer days But the sun won't have much warmth in its rays So I wish you Merry Christmas and for 2026 all the best And may the year be better than all the rest



ABC SENIORS

Contributed by Maaike Berg-Nonnekes

Regarding the October article, I must apologize for not acknowledging Sharon (and family) as the author of the heart-warming, first person account of their enriched journey with their grandson in their 'Golden Years.'

The ABC Seniors Bazaar on Saturday, November 1st was a huge success! Thank you to all the volunteers, donors and community members who supported us!

Congratulations to our raffle winners! The first prize, a hand-stitched quilt donated by Jody Topping, was won by Brenda Paterson. The second prize, "Cardinal in the Birch Trees," a framed stained glass piece by Fawn Beach artist, Diane Nicholls, was won by Kim Mcllquham. And, the third prize, a regulation size Cornhole set donated by Tom Thomas was won by Una Warner. Kelly Tucker was the successful winner of the 50/50 Draw (\$230). Way to go!

The varied outings in October and November which were enjoyed by the ABC members included: Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Bancroft Village Playhouse, Hallowe'en lunch with costumes and decorations,

abcseniorscommunications@gmail.com

afternoon Bingo with cash prizes, the annual Bazaar, a trip to Shorelines Casino and the Christmas float in the annual Lion's Santa Claus parade! The craft sessions, carefully planned and prepared by Gail, feature stuffed Christmas crackers and the seasonal festive



decorations for our lunch tables during December. Thank you for helping with the creation of a cheerful and colourful atmosphere.

A new venue has been selected for our popular annual Christmas Dinner for our members. We are looking forward to some fine dining at the Viamede Resort on Stony Lake on Wednesday, December 10. which means that there is no regular lunch on Tuesday, December 9; please come for snacks and cards that day starting at 12:30 p.m. Regular corn hole, light lunches and cards continue on the 16th and

23rd of December. Snacks and cards only on the 30th of December.

The regular Tuesday schedule and lunch returns in the New Year on January 6. We hope to see you there!

Wishing you all a celebratory and peaceful Christmas and continuing to share encouragement and hope to others.







by Kelly Wallace

The Magic, Mystery and Benefits of Snow

How much do we really think about snow? It's beautiful during the festive season, a pain in the back when you have to shovel it, and pure joy when you choose to play in it, snowshoeing, skiing, tobogganing, or building a lopsided snowman that somehow becomes the neighbourhood mascot. Love it or loathe it, snow is one of nature's quiet superheroes. It doesn't just decorate our world for a few months; it performs vital services that keep ecosystems healthy and our water flowing long after it melts away.

Nature's Frozen Bank Account

Think of snow as a natural savings account for water. Throughout the winter, snow quietly accumulates in forests, fields, and wetlands. When temperatures rise, that frozen water melts slowly, feeding rivers, lakes, and groundwater reserves. After the dry, hot summer we just had, with



barely a drop of rain and low water levels across Ontario, this upcoming snowpack will be a much-needed deposit into our water supply. Without this slow, steady release of meltwater, spring would hit our ecosystems like a financial crisis. Streams would run dry too soon, fish habitats would shrink, and wetlands, those bustling hubs of biodiversity, would struggle to recover. Snow ensures the tap stays on for months after winter has passed.

The Great Blanket Effect

Snow is one of the best insulators on Earth. Beneath that white layer, the soil stays warmer than the air above it. Tiny creatures, roots, and even overwintering insects find refuge under the snow blanket. Without it, freezing winds would penetrate deep into the ground, damaging roots and wiping out fragile life forms. It's nature's cozy duvet, tucking in the earth until spring. And while we're grumbling about clearing the driveway, voles and beetles are having a snug little winter party right under our boots. Small mammals, such as mice, voles, and shrews, move freely in the protected space known as the subnivean zone, where they feed and survive even in the coldest months. Foxes, coyotes, and owls rely on this activity to sustain the winter food chain, listening for the faintest rustle beneath the snow and honing their hunting skills with remarkable precision.

How Snow Supports Wildlife

From foxes to grouse, snow plays an unexpected but vital role in helping animals survive and even thrive through the long winter.

For predators like the red fox, snow can make hunting easier. The snow amplifies the tiny sounds made by mice and voles moving below, allowing a fox to pinpoint exactly where to pounce. Their high leaps and nose-first dives are not just charming to watch; the soft snow cushions their landing and traps the prey below.

Snow also alters the way the landscape appears and feels, providing both camouflage and cover. Arctic foxes, snowshoe hares, and weasels turn white for the season, blending perfectly with their surroundings. Even animals that don't change colour benefit from the muted texture of snow, which helps them move unseen through the woods and fields.

As daytime temperatures rise slightly, melting snow provides wildlife with a clean, steady water source when streams and ponds are sealed under ice. Many species also rely on snow for shelter. Foxes and coyotes curl up in dens blanketed with snow for extra insulation, while grouse burrow directly into snowbanks to stay warm through frigid nights.

And when the thaw comes, that same snow slowly releases its stored water back into the ground. Wetlands, ponds, and aquifers refill, providing food and nesting sites just as the next generation of wildlife emerges. Snow quietly sets the stage for spring's renewal long before we see the first green shoots break through.

Snow's Hidden Job: Cleaning the Air

Believe it or not, snow helps scrub our atmosphere. As flakes fall, they trap airborne particles, such as dust, soot, and pollutants, gently bringing them to the ground. Each flake is like a miniature air filter, sparkly, silent, and far more graceful than anything you'll find at the hardware store.

Every snowflake that falls is part of the Earth's self-cleaning system. Impressive indeed.

Fun Facts to Flake Out On

Snowflakes are born in the clouds when water vapour freezes around a speck of dust or pollen. Each flake's shape is influenced by temperature and humidity, which is why no two are exactly alike. The biggest snowflake ever recorded was reportedly fifteen inches wide. Imagine that landing on your mitten.

Freshly fallen snow is about ninety percent air, which explains why it muffles sound so beautifully. That soft winter hush? It's not your imagination; snow literally absorbs noise waves, creating that peaceful, almost magical stillness that settles over a freshly blanketed landscape.

Why We Should Celebrate Snow

Beyond its beauty, snow helps keep ecosystems in balance, recharges our drinking water, protects the soil, and supports countless plant and animal species through the coldest months. It's a silent builder of life, a guardian of roots, and a shelter for the smallest of creatures. It nourishes wildlife, renews habitats, and refreshes the land with every thaw.

So, note to self and everyone else, the next time you're bundled up, muttering under your breath as you dig out the driveway, take a moment to appreciate the bigger picture. That snow you're tossing aside will one day trickle into rivers, refill wetlands, nourish trees, and sustain foxes, birds, and every small creature that relies on its protection.

Snow may test our patience, but it also sustains our world. That's pretty remarkable for something that melts.

Let it Snow!

Wishing you the happiest holidays and a wonderful New Year!

If you have a question about turtles any time of the year, please phone or text Think Turtle Conservation Initiative at 647-606-9537. For more information about turtles and actions you can take, visit our website at http://www.thinkturtle.ca or follow us on Facebook.













Gayle Davis, Freelance

Christmas By the Numbers

Here comes Christmas! Have you been shopping, baking, rushing from store to store, craft fair to bake billion on festive cookies, treats, and snacks. As far as sale to Christmas concert yet?

celebrations and gifts per se - this is my favourite homemade or commercial, 25 pieces of candy or holiday of the year, as a matter of fact; but I must admit chocolate, and 12 slices of pie! No wonder there's a that this 'Christmas treadmill' leaves me physically line-up at the gym, as well as a few frantic phone calls depleted and emotionally overwrought. If I'm to the family dentist come January! truthful, just the thought of it has me spinning my Now, for the Christmas dinner - we consume 2.1 wheels and wanting to bury my head in the snow. Can million whole turkeys at Christmas, according to the you relate?

moment, pour ourselves some eggnog, take a deep part of Christmas dinner. Although Canada is not the breath, and dive into some Christmas fun facts to top consumer of potatoes in the world, we occupy the lighten the mood.

That beautiful wrapping paper that colourfully commonly included menu item. With a potato envelops our gifts under the Christmas tree has a consumption per capita of 71.8 kg in 2022, it would deleterious side. According to an article in seem fair to suggest that the lowly potato is a major travelasker.com, wrapping paper has been and still is contributor to the Christmas feast for most considered one of the essentials of Christmas gift Canadians. As for Christmas pudding, it is still the giving. With Christmas being celebrated by many most common dessert option for the festive table cultures, billions of gifts are exchanged around the world each year. And while there is the option of Europe, Christmas pudding is a concoction of fruits utilizing reusable gift bags, many folks still opt for the and nuts, flour, sugar, and spices all wrapped in old-fashioned wrapped gift with a bow. However, cheesecloth, steamed and served at the conclusion of millions of tons of gift wrap are used every year - the meal. While many people find it too heavy, enough to cover thousands of football fields! What a especially after a very indulgent meal, others don't visual! It is expected that Canadians alone will throw feel dinner is complete without this seasonal blend of out over 540,000 tonnes of Christmas wrapping paper interesting flavours. My English-born mother served and gift bags in 2025. That's quite a dubious it with a custard sauce and a dollop of whipped cream. contribution!

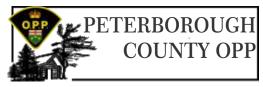


And how about that sweet tooth? Family events, parties, dinners, bake sales - dozens of opportunities pop up to indulge that craving for something sweet. I try to restrain myself but not very successfully. There is the ultimate tipping point in a war, and the cookie tray always wins! STATSCAN even has a page about this Christmas food behaviour! All in all, Canadians will spend something in the neighbourhood of \$1.5 consumption, a poll from 2023 found that each of us No, I am not a Scrooge and I do not object to Christmas will consume approximately 26 Christmas cookies -

Turkey Farmers of Canada. And the versatility of the So, for the sake of our own sanity, let's stop for a potato as well as its availability makes it an integral middle of the list of countries that make the potato a believe it or not! An age- old tradition originating in I must admit I haven't had it in a long time. My Dad disliked it and no one in my own family will eat it. It is one of those polarizing foods that people seem to either love or hate.

> Now, have you finished your eggnog yet? Got a fresh head of steam to carry on? Procrastination will not get you to your destination. So, time to get back at it. Shop till you drop but do take breaks. And remember, despite the tornado of activity that swirls around us at this time of year, the focus remains the same. Sharing and caring. Fight hard for the focus!

> I wish you a Merry Christmas full of joy, peace, and love. It really is the most wonderful time of the year!



By Provincial Constable Dan Gay, Community Safety/Media Officer

Spreading Holiday Cheer and Safety This Season

As the festive season approaches, the Peterborough County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to extend warm wishes to all residents and visitors in our community. Christmas is a time for joy, family, and celebration, but it's also a time when safety becomes more important than ever. We're committed to ensuring that everyone enjoys a safe and happy holiday season.

Road Safety During the Holidays

With holiday gatherings and winter weather, roads can become busier and more hazardous. We remind all motorists to plan ahead, drive according to conditions, and never drive impaired. Whether it's alcohol, drugs, or fatigue, impairment puts lives at risk. If you're celebrating, arrange a designated driver, use a taxi, or call a rideshare service. Remember: if you feel different, you drive different. Winter conditions also demand extra caution. Keep your vehicle winter-ready by checking tire tread, topping up windshield washer fluid, and carrying an emergency kit. Slow down on icy roads and leave plenty of space between vehicles. Your patience and preparation can prevent collisions and save lives.

Preventing Theft and Crime

The holiday season often sees an increase in thefts, particularly from vehicles and homes. When shopping, never leave gifts or valuables in plain sight inside your car. Lock your doors and park in well-lit areas. At home, keep doors and windows secure, and if you're traveling, consider using timers for lights to give the appearance that someone everyone in Peterborough is home. A few simple precautions can go a long way in protecting your property.



Online Shopping Safety

Many of us turn to online shopping for convenience, but it's important to stay vigilant. Use secure websites, avoid public Wi-Fi for transactions, and monitor your accounts for suspicious activity. Cybercrime doesn't take a holiday—protect your personal information.

Looking Out for One Another

The holidays can be difficult for some members of our community. If you know someone who may be struggling, reach out with kindness. A simple gesture can make a big difference. And remember, if you see something suspicious or someone in need, don't hesitate to contact the OPP.

Season's Greetings from the OPP

On behalf of the Peterborough County OPP, we wish you and your loved ones a safe, peaceful, and joyous holiday season. Thank you for working together to keep our community safe. Let's make this Christmas memorable for all the right reasons.

For more safety tips or to report concerns, visit

http://www.opp.caor

follow us on social media.

Together, we can ensure a happy and secure holiday season for County.





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Down the Road and Over the Fence

Apsley Community Chapel



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ALL-DAY FUR HANDLING DEMONSTRATIONS
FUR HANDLING COMPETITIONS FOR YOUTH & ADULTS
FOOD CONCESSIONS BY GRAPE & WEDGE AND NKCC
EDUCATIONAL & FUN FOR ALL AGES





HOLIDAY recipes to enjoy! Fantastic side dishes everyone will love!

Maple Bacon Brussel Sprouts

Ingredients

8 slices thick-cut bacon, chopped

2 lb. Brussels sprouts

1 tsp. kosher salt

1/8 tsp. ground cayenne pepper, plus more to taste

1/2 cup dried, unsweetened cranberries

1/4 cup apple juice

1/4 cup maple syrup



French Onion Scalloped Potatoes

Ingredients
4 Tbsp. salted butter,
plus more for the baking dish
2 Tbsp. olive oil
5 onions, thinly sliced
1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1 tsp. sugar

1 Tbsp. fresh thyme, chopped

1/4 cup dry sherry

Black pepper, to taste

1/2 cup low-sodium beef broth

2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour

11/2 cups heavy cream

11/2 cups whole milk

1/4 tsp. freshly grated nutmeg

6 oz. gruyere cheese, shredded

6 oz. swiss cheese, shredded

5lg russet potatoes, peeled, halved, sliced 1/4" thick

1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese Chopped fresh chives, for topping

Twice Baked Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients

For the Potatoes:

6 medium sweet potatoes

1/4 cup maple syrup

3/4 tsp. kosher salt

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

6 Tbsp. salted butter, softened

1/3 cup hot honey, optional

For the Crumble:

6 Tbsp. all-purpose flour

1/3 cup old fashioned oats

1/2 cup coarsely chopped pecans

3 Tbsp. firmly packed light brown sugar

1 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh rosemary

1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

4 Tbsp. salted butter, melted



Winter Rainbow Panzanella Salad

Ingredients

2 medium red beets, tops removed, scrubbed

1 acorn squash

1/2 cup plus 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided

3 Tbsp. pure maple syrup, divided

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

8 oz. sourdough bread, cut or torn into 1" cubes

1/2 cup grapefruit juice

1 clove garlic, grated

1 Tbsp. chopped fresh thyme

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1 scalliongreen/white parts separate, finely chopped

1 cup fresh parsley leaves

1 cup pomegranate seeds

1 cup large red grapefruit

8 oz. blue cheese, crumbled



French Onion Scalloped Potatoes

Directions

1.Preheat oven to 375. Butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Heat olive oil and 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium-low heat. Add onions, 1 tsp salt, few grinds of pepper and sugar. Stir, then cover and cook, stirring once, 10 min. Uncover, increase heat to medium and cook, stirring, 10 more min. Add thyme, sherry and broth. Cook, stirring, until the liquid evaporates and the onions are caramelized, about 15 more minutes.

2 Melt the remaining 2 tablespoons butter in a dutch oven over medium heat. Stir in the flour and cook 1 min, then whisk in heavy cream and milk. Add remaining ½ tsp salt and nutmeg. Bring to a simmer, whisking until smooth. Cook, stirring, until thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in all but ½ cup each of the gruyère and Swiss until melted. Stir in the potatoes.

3 Layer half of the potatoes in the baking dish, then half of the onions. Repeat with the remaining potatoes and onions. Sprinkle with the reserved gruyère and Swiss and the parmesan. Cover with foil, tenting it so it doesn't touch the cheese; bake until the potatoes are tender, 45 to 55 minutes. Uncover and bake until golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Let sit 20 minutes before serving. Top with chives.

Maple Bacon Brussel Sprouts

1.

In a large cast-iron skillet, cook the bacon oven mediumhigh until crisp, 6 to 8 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove the bacon from the skillet and drain on a paper towel-lined plate.

2.

Add the Brussels sprouts to the skillet, stirring well to coat with the bacon grease. Reduce the heat to medium and cook, without stirring, until the sprouts start to brown and caramelize, about 6 minutes. Stir in the salt and cayenne, and continue to cook until the Brussels sprouts are just tender, 6 to 8 minutes more.

3.

Stir in the cranberries, apple juice, and maple syrup. Cook for 3 minutes, stirring to coat the Brussels sprouts. Add the cooked bacon and stir to combine. Serve immediately.

Winter Rainbow Panzanella Salad

- 1. Arrange racks in upper and lower thirds of oven; preheat to 400°. Wrap beets in foil, place on baking dish, roast on top rack, for about 1 1/2 hr. When cool enough to handle, rub outsides w/ paper towel to peel. Cut into 3/4" pcs. 2.Meanwhile, slice top off squash, then cut in half lengthwise. Slice into 1/4" half-moons, then cut each half-moon into 2 pieces. Transfer squash to a bowl. Add 1 tbsp oil, 1 tbsp syrup, 1/2 tsp salt, and pinch of pepper, toss until coated. Spread on parchment-lined sheet. Bake squash on bottom rack, tossing halfway through, until tender, about 20 minutes. Let cool.
- 4.Reduce oven to 325°. In bowl, toss bread, 3 tbsp oil, 1/2 tsp salt, pinch of pepper. Bake bread (on parchment lined sheet), turning cubes halfway through, until golden brown and crisp, about 25 minutes. Let cool slightly.
- 5.Meanwhile, in small bowl, whisk grapefruit juice, garlic, thyme, mustard, 1 tbsp white scallion parts, 3/4 tsp salt, and remaining 2 tbsp syrup until blended. Whisk in remaining 6 tbsp oil until dressing is smooth.
- 6.In a large bowl, toss squash, croutons, parsley, pomegranate seeds, green scallion parts, 1/2 cup dressing, and a pinch of salt. In a small bowl, toss beets with 1/4 cup dressing.
- 7.Trim peel and membrane off grapefruit.
- 8. Transfer squash mixture to a platter. Top with beets, blue cheese, and grapefruit segments. Serve with remaining dressing alongside.

Twice Baked Sweet Potatoes

Directions

- 1. For the potatoes: Preheat oven to 425°. Wrap each potato with foil and prick with a fork a few times. Place on a rimmed baking sheet and bake for 1 hour 30 minutes, or until soft. Cool the potatoes completely. Reduce oven temperature to 350°.
- 2. For the crumble: Meanwhile, combine the flour, oats, pecans, brown, sugar, rosemary, and cayenne in a medium bowl. Add the brown butter and stir until the mixture comes together and forms clumps. Place the mixture in an airtight container and refrigerate until use. (This can be made up to 1 week in advance.)
- 3. To assemble: Remove the foil from the cooled potatoes and cut an oval out of the top of each potato. Scoop out the flesh and leave a 1/4-inch rim of potato and skin intact.
- 4. Mash together the potato, maple syrup, salt, cinnamon, vanilla, and butter in a medium sized bowl until smooth. Spoon the potato mixture back into potato skins. Top each with approximately 1/3 cup of the crumble mixture.
- 5. Place potatoes back into the oven and bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the crumble is golden brown and toasted. Drizzle each potato with about 1 tablespoon of hot honey, if you like, and serve warm.





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