

*Merry Christmas*

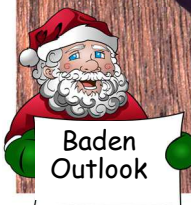
# *Baden Outlook*



**Christmas at Kilbride - 1993**

An original acrylic painting by Lance Russwurm

Castle <sup>25</sup> Kilbride  
Anniversary



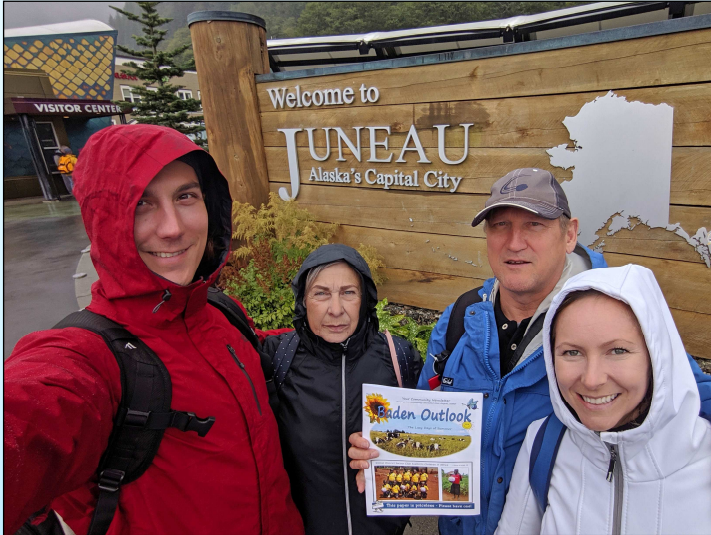
*The best things in life are free...*

*Like snowflakes on Christmas morning, and this paper ~ Please have one!*



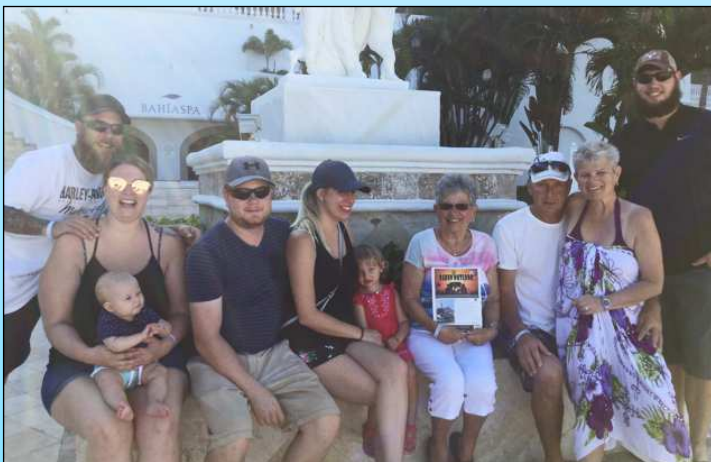
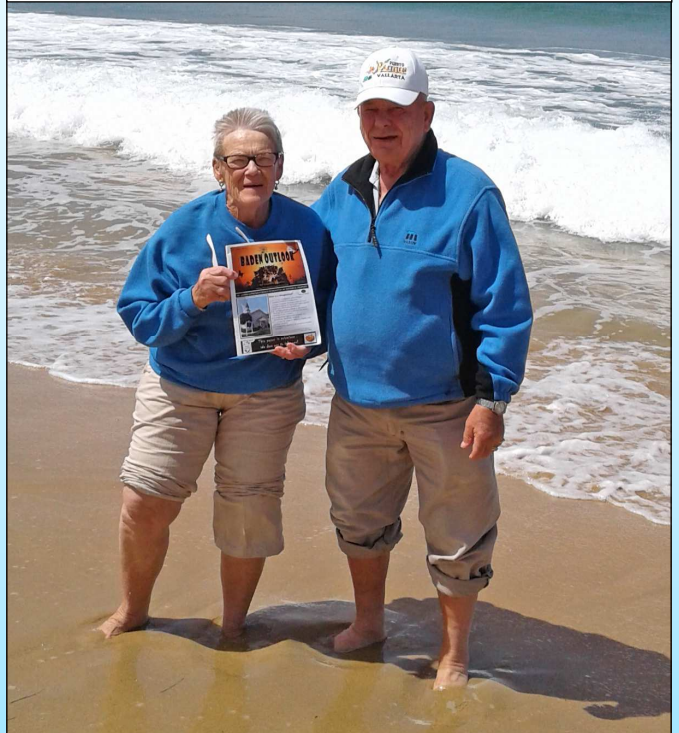


Wow! More exciting destinations as *The Baden Outlook* continues to travel ... to Alaska, South Africa, Jamaica, and a bus tour ~ see more photos on page 35



Ben Ruthig, Gwen & Bob Ruthig, and Evalina Kulik took the Baden Outlook to Juneau, Alaska this past September.

Murray and Muriel Poole took the Outlook along for a stroll at the Indian Ocean at Plettenberg Bay in South Africa.



Judie Bowlby took her Baden Outlook to the Grand Bahia Principe Resort in Runaway Bay, Jamaica. Along with her were her daughter Sue, son in law Fritz, grandchildren Amanda, Jeff, Katey, Ryan, Jon, and her great grandchildren Oaklee and Lauren.



Bruno and Marie Manfrina, Joyce Boychuck and Bernadette Mayer took the Outlook to Stanserhorn Mountain in Switzerland in October.

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*Thank you for a great season and best wishes to all for a very Merry Christmas!*

*Merry  
Christmas*





# Talking with Ed ~ Christmas Traditions



While working at Zehrs in New Hamburg from 1974 to 1983, by late October or early November I would begin to build the displays of baking supplies for the Christmas season. One full end display would consist of glazed fruit, dates, cherries, and peel, all necessary ingredients for making Christmas fruit cake. I would have to reorder supplies many times to refill that space, as it was very popular at that time to make at home and give as gifts or serve to company over the holidays. It seems that very few continue to make their own anymore, although some premade fruit cakes are still sold in stores today.

Fruitcake is just one of the holiday traditions that have diminished over the years. Sugar plums are another treat that has gone by the wayside. What is a sugar plum anyway? A sugar plum is a piece of hard candy made of hardened sugar in a small round or oval shape, somewhat like a plum shape. And what about the mincemeat tarts that mom used to make?

I asked my mother-in-law, Jean Cook, if there were any Christmas traditions that she had as a child. She said, "I remember getting a Christmas present that came in a small box on Christmas Eve which usually contained some assorted hard candies, along with candy canes and two oranges which was a real treat as they were out of season and not easily imported". Can you imagine the response from children today if that was their Christmas Eve present? Oranges are a staple in many homes today, and do candy canes even make children excited anymore? Christmas stockings of today are simply loaded with good stuff. When our kids were small, we would restock our children's socks, mitts, toothbrush, crayons, and add some sweet treats in their stockings. I've come up with a list of a number of traditions that I believe are either rare, gone or on their way out.

Christmas Cards – Today, with the help of social media, people interact with each other daily. Email and other electronic forms of communication make sending e-cards quick, easy, and fun. Canada Post will be increasing the cost of a stamp to mail a standard letter on January 14<sup>th</sup> from one dollar to \$1.05. The price of a stamp in 1981 was 30 cents and a box of cards was reasonably priced.

Mistletoe - To me this tradition was seen more on television or sung about in carols; I'm not sure it was very well accepted. In my entire life I only remember encountering mistletoe twice and that was in my teenage years (early 70s). I've never seen it in homes since; however, I imagine it is still around.

Yule Log - First off, a yule log was traditionally a specially selected log burnt on a hearth in several European countries well before any of our time. Today it is chocolate roll cake meant to look like the wooden log. That is where "Yuletide Greetings" come from, or in today's terms, have a "Cool Yule".

Christmas Caroling - I have only done this twice in my life and both occurrences were in my hometown of MacTier. The youth at church used to go and sing at Senior Homes but I have not experienced it at my home since moving to this area. However, the New Hamburg Lionesses have outdoor caroling with their tree lighting ceremony in downtown New Hamburg early in December. That is a tradition on its own.

Stores Closed on Boxing Day – Yup, that one has been gone for a while. Christmas seems to be about retail and is commercially oriented. Most people are out trying to get one more bargain instead of staying at home to relax and recharge after the stressful days that brought their Christmas together.

*Well that's it for my list (I checked it twice). Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Are you going to roast some chestnuts over the open fire? Until next month...Ed*

Well that is just a few of the traditions I could come up with that are being phased out, but there are a few traditions that are taking over. I will name a few below:

Elf on the Shelf – This little guy has been around since 2005 and seems to be a tradition that continues to grow. The elf is hidden in new spots every day and kids of all ages look for him. He is known to be watching you.

Gingerbread Houses – The last couple of years at my store, we would get skids and skids of the gingerbread kits in – this has grown over time. It is a good way to spend quality time with the kids and get creative at the same time.

White Elephant Game – This is becoming more popular and has become a tradition with our family. Basically, set a dollar limit for a present, buy it, and bring it to the family gathering. Place all the gifts in the middle of the room and someone starts rolling the dice. If you roll doubles then you select a gift. When all presents are selected and opened, then set a time limit and start rolling the dice again. If you roll doubles then you get to steal a person's gift. This is lots of fun and keeps the spending down.

Christmas Movies and Songs - It seems like most major artists are making Christmas albums or songs these days. The same goes for movies as well. It's another avenue of marketing I suppose, and this may be the way families gather to recharge through the busy holiday season.

Advent Calendars - It is amazing to see how fast this tradition has grown as well: marketing by the chocolate companies at its best. Years ago you could buy an advent calendar for about two dollars. Today the big companies such as Lindt and Kinder Surprise are in the game costing just over \$10.



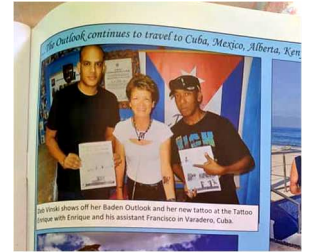


# Greetings from Headquarters ~



It seems to be my journey at this time of year to begin to deck the halls with the December paper. It's impossible to not get in the festive mood once I have experienced all the fun and beautiful choice of graphics, the ads, and articles that represent the spirit of Christmas. So here we are in our new home and this is the first time decorating with our 40 year old decorations that all had their traditional places in our old home. It was a challenge to begin when I stared down those 6 big bins that once held such value and realize my newly purged and simpler self has some big decisions to make. It's not all my fault, as my kids would have been traumatized had I not had the big red bow wrapped around the kitchen door that led to the basement or the glitter balls hanging in the window over the kitchen sink. They too wanted their children to experience Christmas like they remember. However, the Thrift Store will surely be stocked up with my extras while the tired décor will hit the trash bin.

My 'wow' moment this month came from a Facebook post from someone in Cuba. He saw one of our papers there with a picture of himself in it from the travel section from one of our readers who went there. The Spanish translation said he was happy to have a famous friend... that was me! So thanks to Deb Vinski for taking our paper to Cuba with her and then sharing it with this person who too was excited about this.



I hope you enjoy this issue with plenty of things to celebrate the season of Christmas! Barry just had a birthday which has officially made him a senior, and in his article he reminisces about old traditions that have slowly passed over time. Chris shows us the many family oriented things the Baden Library offers, so get the kids off the couch and go for a visit there over the holidays. Al Junker dug into the archives to see what was happening in Wilmot in the late 1800s and shared some old newspaper clippings you will find

interesting on page 28-29. Scott has given us a pep talk on how to face retail at this time of year when clothes shopping—check out his tips on page 21. Finally, when the festivities have worn you down, check out Amy's article on how to get a good sleep on page 24. Once again we featured the poem the 'Empty Chair' to remember those who are not with us to celebrate Christmas this year. On the front cover we featured the Castle winter scene, painted by Lance Russwurm, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Castle Kilbride.



There was a good crowd gathered at the curb for the Santa Claus Parade and you will find some photos scattered in the paper along with the parade winner results on page 33. Thanks to Katie and Laura for being the photographers for the parade. I hope you will have fun with the other usual quizzes and silly humour to entertain you.

Best wishes to you all for a wonderful Christmas... and remember the reason for the season and who laid in that 'King'-sized bed. It isn't all ho-ho-ho!

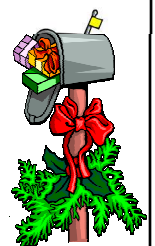


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# WILMOT TRAILS SCHMIDT WOODS

## Upcoming plans for Schmidt Woods

Through the late summer and fall, the Township of Wilmot retained a contractor to remove Ash trees and other hazard trees within Schmidt Woods. Completed with approval and guidance from the Region of Waterloo, this work will allow the regeneration of non-ash species and help promote woodlot health as well as reduce risk of injury to visitors of Schmidt Woods.

Throughout the winter months, remaining hazard trees in close proximity to hydro lines, Nafziger Road and the east WRC access road will be cut down, which will mark completion of planned removals.

Although tree removals have certainly changed the look of the forest, this change is temporary. The understory will regenerate, and the woodlot will flourish again. With that said, the Township does have plans to complete additional clean up within the woodlot and to undertake trail restoration and improvements where damage to the trails has occurred.

### Restoration plans:

- ◆ Branch clean up and chipping – anticipated time frame December 2019 to January 2020
- ◆ Blue and Red trail restoration and drainage improvements – this will follow the completion of the chipping work and is anticipated to be completed prior to Summer 2020
- ◆ Tree planting – the Wilmot Trails Advisory Committee will be looking into funding opportunities to undertake tree replanting in some of the more heavily impacted areas within Schmidt Woods throughout 2020
- ◆ Ongoing monitoring to ensure continued woodlot health and to limit the introduction of and/or spread of invasive species



### Enjoy a seat along the trail:

New Hamburg resident, outdoor enthusiast, and certified arborist Mike Yost recently approached the Township with an idea of using his chainsaw skills to “spruce” (Mike’s arborist joke) up the trails.

Mike will be volunteering his time and talent to turn some of the larger trail side stumps into comfy seats for visitors to stop and take in some nature while they are out enjoying the trails. This project is anticipated to begin in late December.

Seen here are samples of work Mike has previously completed and hopes to bring to Schmidt Woods.



More about Wilmot Trails: [www.Wilmot.ca/Trails](http://www.Wilmot.ca/Trails) | twitter @WilmotTrails | 519-634-8444

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Tuesday	9:00-6:00
Wednesday	Closed
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Friday	9:00-5:30
Closed Saturdays	



# Baden ~ Our Town

Bring the kids and join us at EJ's for the annual Kids' New Year's Eve Party! The tickets are now on sale at EJ's; the cost is \$15 for adults and \$12 for kids. The menu which was a hit last year includes salad, pasta (with a choice of tomato sauce, tomato sauce with meat, and white sauce), bread, and cupcakes. Erick Traplin will be back again this year to entertain kids of all ages, and there will be party favours and door prizes. Each year is a sellout so get your tickets early. The event runs from 4:30 until 7 p.m. which give the adults plenty of time to get the kids to bed and ready for big people parties.

Don't forget to come to the Wilmot Rec Complex on Family Day for a free swim and skate. The BCA will be hosting their annual family

gathering upstairs in the community room. There will be free treats, popcorn, refreshments, and plenty of kid's activities. Stay tuned to next month's Outlook for more details.

*The Baden Community Association meets the last Wednesday of each month (excluding December) at 7p.m. in the basement of the township hall.*





## New Year's "Pre-Eve" Family Party





**Tuesday December 31st**  
**4:30 - 7pm**  
**Dinner Served: 5-6pm**



**Ticket Includes:**  
 Pasta Dinner  
 Cupcake  
 Door Prizes  
 Countdown  
 Ejs 20% off Coupon  
 and a performance by:  
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Page 6

Volume 20, Issue 5



# Checking out the Baden Library



## Holiday Hours

All Region of Waterloo

Library branches will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 25,

Thursday, Dec. 26 and Wednesday Jan. 1.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 31 all branches will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Regular library hours are scheduled on Saturday, Dec. 28.

## Movie Theatre for Families

**Thursday, Jan. 2, 2:30 to 4 p.m. – Secret Life of Pets 2**

Looking for something fun to do over the holidays? Come see a movie - it's free! Children under five years old must be accompanied by an adult. Children nine and under must have a caregiver (12 years or older) remain in the library during the movie. Space is limited - please register online, by phone or in person.

**When the weather outside is frightful, the library has games, videos, and puzzles that will delight you:**

## Games Collection

The library offers a vast collection of social, board, and card games to borrow using your library card. A maximum of five games can be borrowed for a loan period of three weeks. Check our catalogue for an up-to-date list of

games for all ages.

**Video Gaming Kits:** It's game on with three exciting video console kits to borrow for a one week loan period. Choose from Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3. Each kit includes six games! Place a hold on one today!

**Puzzle Exchange:** Winter is the perfect time for puzzles! This puzzle exchange is a free program for library patrons. Bring in your gently used, full puzzle sets in exchange for a new to you puzzle!

## Third Tuesday Book Club at EJ's

Adults are invited to join Jen Cyr, Co-ordinator of Library Collections, on the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at EJ's Tavern and Restaurant at the Baden Hotel. Our next meeting is Dec. 17 where we'll discuss **Wonder** by R. J. Palacio. Treat yourself to a beverage or snack and contribute to the conversation on our latest read. Registration is ongoing throughout the year and copies of the book are available at the Baden branch.

## Magazine Sale 2020

Our annual sale will run from Jan. 2 to 31, 2020. Purchase previously enjoyed magazines for 25 cents each or five for \$1.

## Food for Fines Update

Nearly 140 non-perishable food items were collected at the Baden Library during Food for Fines week in October. These contributions were donated to the Wilmot Family Resource Centre Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who participated!

*The New Hamburg Firebirds made their annual visit to the Baden Library on November 27. A good time was had by all!*



## Winter Programs

Registration for winter programs is on now. Programs include Baby Connections, Li'l STEAM, Family Storytime, Ready Set Go! Kindergarten, Maker Club, and 1:1 Technology Coaching. Children's programs begin the week of Jan. 6, 2020 and run for eight consecutive weeks. Library programs are Free and may require advanced registration unless otherwise indicated. Space is limited. Register online, by phone or in person. Check [rwlibrary.ca](http://rwlibrary.ca) for more information on upcoming events.

Happy holidays and all the best for 2020 from the Baden Branch staff - Chris, Jennifer, Hannah, Ashten, and Dana!

*Chris Baechler- Assistant Supervisor*



## I'm Tired of Being Good Before Christmas

I'm tired of being good before Christmas.  
I'm tired of eating spinach and corn.  
But Mother says Santa is watching,  
Right up until next Christmas morn.

I hate being nice to my sister,  
And sharing my very best toys.  
I'd rather be ugly and selfish,  
And run around making loud noise.



It's boring to help make the dinner.  
It's boring to put away clothes.  
It's boring to wash and dry dishes,  
And always keep wiping my nose.

And why do I have to say "Thank you,"  
and "May I" and "Yes, Ma'am" and "Please"?  
I'd rather be known as a tough guy,  
With an image just like Mr. T.'s

And then there's the issue of homework---  
I've done it without one complaint.  
My teacher's amazed at my effort.  
My parents are ready to faint.

I want to rebel and be lazy,  
And dye my hair purple and green.  
But then I'd get nothing for Christmas,  
And be grounded until I'm sixteen.



I'm trying my best to be pleasant.  
I'm trying to do what I should.  
But if Christmas doesn't hurry and get here,  
I'll freak out from being so good!

**Christmas Toy Match Up** - Draw a line  
from the toy to match to the year it was  
popular - Answer on page 18



- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. What year did Barbie make her debut under the Christmas tree?           | 1900 |
| 2. What year did Monopoly first become a popular present for Christmas?    | 1959 |
| 3. What year was "Tickle Me Elmo" the must-have toy for Christmas?         | 1996 |
| 4. What year did Ping Pong become one of the most popular Christmas gifts? | 1935 |



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## How to Survive a Winter Emergency

To make sure your vehicle is prepared for an emergency, consider keeping a few items handy:

- \* Ensure you have warm clothing including blankets, gloves, hats, and socks at the ready.
- \* Water bottles, granola bars, and meal-replacement bars should be staples in your vehicle. These items last a long time and are good to keep around in case of an emergency.
- \* Jumper cables are a life-saver if your battery dies. If your battery is overdue for a change, a boost can get you going to get to your local auto shop.
- \* Using your cell phone's flashlight can run down your battery, so why not go old-school and keep a flashlight with spare batteries in your car.
- \* Stay visible with fluorescent flags, or markers that will reflect the lights from oncoming vehicles.
- \* Having an up-to-date first aid kit is important in case of injury. Make sure to replace items as they are used.
- \* Having a gas tank at least half full will help if you're lost and/or driving around for help.
- \* As the seasons change, so should your tread. All-season tires are not adequate for cold temperatures and winter weather, as the rubber hardens and loses grip on the road.

**Have a safe Holiday Season from your friends at OK Tire Baden!**

## A Clear Vision for the Future

Happy 2020! As an Optometrist, I have been saying that for a long time (sorry, a bit of work humour there), but it is all the more fitting this year. Not only do I wish everyone to have clear 20/20 vision, but I hope 2020 is a great year all around.

Just over a year ago now, I have had to rely on hope more than ever – and now, I want to spread hope to others. In December 2017, I was diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. I had none of the risk factors for it, but it happened anyway. My journey took me to the Regional Cancer Centre at Grand River Hospital, which is a very busy place. They have helped me stay cancer-free for the past year but with cancer becoming something that more and more people will encounter within their lifetime, increasing support for centres such as these is going to be greatly needed.

To help celebrate the year 2020, I thought the Baden Eyecare Centre should inspire people to help others. For the entire year, I will be matching – dollar for dollar – donations to the Grand River Hospital Regional Cancer Centre (<http://www.grhf.org/ways-to-give/> and select the “area of the hospital to support” as “cancer”). Just bring in or send us a copy of your donation receipt and at the end of 2020, I will donate the matched value up to a total of \$2020.

In the year 2020, let's make it our clear vision to beat cancer. May you all have a happy and healthy New Year!



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## Holiday Hazards

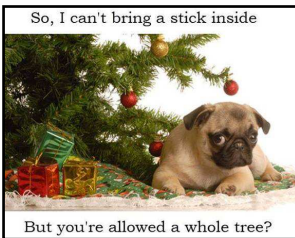
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree, How lovely are thy branches. Although the Christmas tree is one of my favourite things about the season, the sparkling lights, tinsel, and glass decorations can be very hazardous to our pets.

\* **Tinsel:** If your pet ingests tinsel and it gets lodged in the intestinal tract, it can actually act like a saw and cut through the intestine in several spots. This is a surgical emergency and several complications can arise. Avoiding putting tinsel strands on the tree is the best preventative.

\* **Christmas lights:** Many pets enjoy chewing on electrical cords from tree lights or biting the lights themselves. This can cause electrical burns to their tongue and mouth – which can be very painful. In extreme situations, the pet could be electrocuted and die.

\* **Homemade ornaments:** Homemade ornament dough is very high in salt. This can be attractive to some of our pets. Eating these ornaments can cause severe electrolyte imbalances and can even lead to seizure activity. Hang these decorations high on the tree to avoid your pet grabbing a dangerous treat on their own.

\* **Glass ornaments:** Glass ornaments are beautiful but often very fragile. Pets, especially kitties, are often attracted to these sparkling balls and try to use them as cat toys. Unfortunately, a broken ornament on the floor can lead to cut paws and mouths. The tiny glass shards are often difficult to remove and may need veterinary intervention. Plastic ornaments can have all the sparkle of glass, but are less of a hazard. Also, placing fragile glass ornaments high on the



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tree keeps them out of the reach of playful pets.

With a little thought and preparation, everyone can enjoy a beautiful and safe Christmas tree.



We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas from Dr. Rebecca Ricker and staff at Baden Veterinary Hospital.

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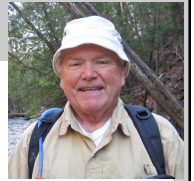
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Ecclesiastes 3:18-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

18 I said in my heart, "Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals." 19 For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity. 20 All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust. 21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?

A few months ago, I wrote about the changes that we have observed in the Wilmot area over the 40+ years we have lived here that have impacted the local bird populations. If you think you're seeing fewer birds than you saw a decade ago, you're probably right. An extensive study of 529 species across decades worth of data that was conducted by 9 universities and government agencies in Canada and the U.S. has estimated that the number of birds has dropped by 3 billion since 1970. It was also based on data collected from The North American Breeding Bird Survey that was last done in 2000 in which the three writers (Fraser, Ken, and Wayne) of the Baden Birds Articles all participated.

Forest birds such as flycatchers, woodpeckers, and chickadees are down more than a billion. The numbers of grassland birds such as meadowlarks, sparrows, and bobolinks have been halved. There are 700 million fewer of them than there were 50 years ago. Three-quarters of the species in this group are getting smaller. The worst declines have been seen in some of the most abundant species: sparrows, warblers, and blackbirds. These 3 groups account for almost three-quarters of the total losses.



The loss of these birds has an effect on the ecosystem. There are billions fewer birds to catch and eat the insects that eat our crops and plants. Fewer birds to catch those pesky insects that love to hitch rides on us or land on us and suck our blood; fewer birds to eat and disperse the seeds of the many plants that depend on birds to carry out this essential task so important to the survival of a species.

You've likely heard the phrase, "the canary in the coal mine". It refers to the practice when, decades ago, miners took canaries in cages with them down into the mine where they were working to warn them of dangerous gas build-ups. If the methane gas levels became dangerously high, the canaries, being smaller and more sensitive, would succumb and die and stop singing, warning the miners so they could evacuate the mine before the gas exploded or the miners succumbed to its lethal levels themselves.

Like the canaries in the coal mine, birds are telling us that our world is in distress. They reveal what scientists have been telling us for years; that we are causing changes in our environment (i.e. Earth) at such a rapid rate that the natural world cannot adapt. And birds are not the only group that are adversely affected by these changes. Other research reveals that insects, amphibians, and fish are also declining. The study didn't state the reasons for these declines, but previous research points to loss and degradation of habitat as probable causes. In the Oct. 4, 2019 Waterloo Region Record, Michael Valpy of The Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy wrote, "Dianne Saxe, Ontario's environment commissioner until her job was abolished by Premier Doug Ford, has called land use policy in Ontario the province's oil sands. Birds that have nested in the same area for generations suddenly find their breeding areas have become parking lots and housing developments. Do we allow development to go on like this? What birds will be left for the next science report?" The question is clear. The solution not so much.

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# LET'S HAVE A LITTLE PUN!

TIS THE SEASON... LET'S BE JOLLY!

1. They reach their 'peak' at Christmas  
They're always 'harping' about people's behaviour.  
Whenever you meet up with one they greet with "Halo".
2. 'Leaves' a lot to be 'desired'.  
Finds a simple show of affection 'beneath it'.  
'Yule' probably just pay 'lip service' to it.
3. He advertises his 'presents' with a well known 'jingle'.  
Attracts worldwide attention for a 'sleighting' in 'Pole' land'.  
This 'Saint' has a famous 'Nick' name.
4. When it's almost time to 'wrap up' another year.  
When 'gifted' people show their 'presents'.  
A time to get together with 'Merry' and 'Joy'.
5. He refused to make even a 'Tiny' donation.  
He never made his 'presents' known at Christmas.  
He's a little 'Dickens' at Christmas time.

Answers on page 20

The other day I held the door for  
a clown. It was a nice Jester.

If you boil a funny bone it  
becomes a laughing stock!

Energizer Bunny arrested:  
Charged with battery.

PASTEURIZE: TOO FAR TO SEE

## You Must Be Joking!!



No matter the season, there is always going to be some poor-humoured jokester out there! Hope you get a giggle and not a grunt out of these!

Submitted by Bruce Bousher

**MY WIFE GETS OVERWHELMED AT THIS TIME OF YEAR AND ASKS ME TO REMIND HER OF STUFF. THAT WAY IF SHE FORGETS SOMETHING IT'S MY FAULT.**

If you need to get rid of excess junk before the Christmas gifts start rolling in, just put it in an Amazon box and leave it on your porch.

My kids want a cat for Christmas. Normally I cook a turkey but heck, whatever makes them happy!

And when out on New Year's Eve ...beware!

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# Castle Kilbride





## What's Up in Baden? The Landscape Continues to Change

Gingerich Road has now been completely repaved, and the traffic lights installed as of October at Foundry Street make that intersection a bit easier to work around. Next up will be the Snyder's Road reconstruction; however, the Region of Waterloo has just recently announced that that construction has been deferred for one year. Gingerich Road to Foundry Street will now be completed in 2021, and Foundry to Christian Street will be completed in 2022.

"We want to make sure it is done right," stated Ken Brisbois from Waterloo Region Headquarters.

You might have noticed that Rogers is installing its new fibre optic lines throughout Baden. There will be 25 service boxes installed on the main corridors throughout town. We hope it will be done quickly and without much inconvenience to residents.

The Beckdale barn located at 344 Snyder's Road East burned to the ground on November 27<sup>th</sup>. This was one of Harold Schmidt's many farms that were in and around Baden. Once again the landscape changes and a piece of



history is gone. Baden and New Hamburg Fire crews battled the blaze well into the night, trying to keep it under control. The blaze is considered suspicious by the Wilmot Fire Department.

The Township of Wilmot continues to develop its trail system. Work has begun on a boardwalk trail system which will link Country Creek Drive and Stiefelmeyer. It is exciting to see the many trails throughout Wilmot come to fruition. Watch for developments over the next couple of weeks.

There are many new housing projects being built through town. Foundry Street has a new semi being built close to the Baden Dental Office; another semi rises across from Sir Adam Beck Park, and townhomes and condos are being built at the old Herner Woods property. Buildings such as these are very much needed in town!



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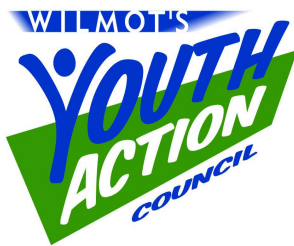
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We appreciate it!*







Youth Action Council and Jr. Youth Action Council are ending off the year with a bang!

The Jr. Youth Council is holding a Night Before Christmas event, with a free skate sponsored by Wilmot

Township. There will also be video games and snacks. Admission is free and non-perishable food items are welcome for the Wilmot Family Resource Centre food bank program. This event is Tuesday, December 24th from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm; the free skate is from 1:00 pm to 1:50 pm in the Wilmot Recreation Complex and the video games and snacks will be in the Community Centre. YAC would also like to thank everyone who participated in the Wilmot Gingerbread contest, we had amazing creations this year!

To keep up with all our youth activities in the community follow us on Facebook and Instagram at, [wilmotyouthactioncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/wilmotyouthactioncouncil) and for more information email us with, [wilmotyouthactioncouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wilmotyouthactioncouncil@gmail.com).

Happy Holidays from YAC to you!

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ALL THINGS SCRAMBLED! Within each category the words are jumbled up ...can you unscramble them?

### ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

- WOB                    \_ \_ \_
- REET                  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- LEBL                  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- TRAS                  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- LOHLY                \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- SINLET                \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- THILGS                \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- GINTOCKS            \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- MANOTREN            \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



### ALL THINGS SANTA

- GAB                    \_ \_ \_ \_
- KACS                    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- SELVE                  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- STIGF                  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- BREAD                  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- YOJLL                  \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- HISLEG                \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- PHOLDUR             \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- STRESPEN            \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



Answers on page 20



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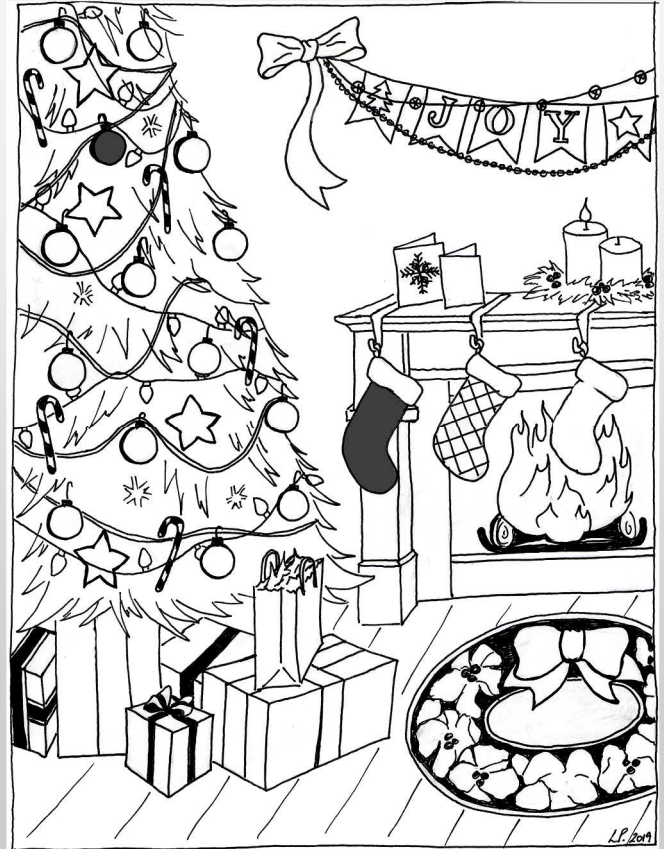
"Additional Location in Stratford"



Check out the puzzle on the left and see if you can find nine changes made to the picture on the right.



Hand Drawn Puzzle Quiz Courtesy of Laura Pughal



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- ◆ If you have to fly, consider using [treetrust.ca](http://treetrust.ca), a local program operated by the **Elora Environmental Centre**, to help offset the carbon generated by your flight(s).
- ◆ Tour cities on foot or by bicycle.
- ◆ Take a reusable water bottle with you.
- ◆ Choose tours and tour operators that don't harm the environment.
- ◆ Choose eco-friendly lodging committed to reducing the negative impact of tourism.
- ◆ Eat locally sourced food and buy locally made souvenirs.

See more green travel ideas at:

<https://tinyurl.com/40greentraveltips>

Are you interested in climate change and other global environmental issues? **Help us make a difference in our community by getting involved and taking action on one or more local environmental concerns.** Our next monthly meeting will be held at **7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**. For meeting location or more information, contact [nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com) or call **519-662-9372**. Want to know more about the Nith Valley Ecoboosters? Check out our website at: [nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com)

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The New Year is quickly approaching and it is time to start thinking about all the changes or “resolutions” to which we would like to commit to. The purpose of this article is to give you a head start on planning to act on those resolutions that pertain to health and wellness.

**GETTING MORE EXERCISE:** Always a popular promise many individuals make to themselves going into the New Year. Unfortunately, many fail to engage in or sustain a meaningful exercise program. Several keys to making exercise work for you include scheduling exercise into daily activities to make it as convenient as possible, and choosing exercise activities that you enjoy. Health benefits can be realized in as little as 30 minutes, three times per week. Starting off slowly and easing into activity will help prevent injuries. Be sure to incorporate components of aerobic, resistance, and flexibility training to ensure you are getting the full benefits of exercise.

**NUTRITIONAL BALANCE:** Sensible eating should consist of nutritional balance with the correct proportion of quality carbohydrates, proteins, and healthy fats. Significant and positive changes can be made to your eating habits by cutting down serving sizes, eliminating unhealthy snacking, and minimizing foods that can be detrimental to your health. Your body only functions as well as the fuel you put into it.



**STRESS MANAGEMENT:** Unresolved stresses can lead to many health problems if left unchecked. Changing the way we think about stress can be the first step toward better health. Some stresses can be avoided while others can be confronted and resolved or managed. There are certain stresses that we cannot do anything about, so don’t fret about things beyond your control. Rely on close friends and family to help you through times of stress. The New Year is a time of starting fresh, and letting go of things that prevent you from enjoying life.

**SLEEP:** Important biological mechanisms function during sleep hours to help our bodies recharge, recover, and recuperate. The average adult requires six to eight hours of restful sleep each night. As little as three days of sleep deprivation has been shown to significantly compromise productivity, create problems in relationships, and contribute to numerous health problems. Restful sleep is essential for good health and its importance should not be underestimated.

**ELIMINATING BAD HABITS:** From a health and wellness perspective, some of these may include quitting smoking, limiting alcohol or caffeine intake, watching less TV, not brushing or flossing our teeth regularly, or being ornery towards others. In reality, a list of bad health habits may be longer for some than others. Commit to eliminating three of your worst health habits and see how much better this makes you feel.

For additional information on how you can improve your health and wellness, visit our website at [www.nhwc.ca](http://www.nhwc.ca). From all of us at the New Hamburg Wellness Centre, good luck and Season’s Greetings!

*This article is a basic summary for educational purposes only. It is not intended, and should not be considered, as a replacement for consultation, diagnosis or treatment by a duly licensed health practitioner.*

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### Answers to All Things Scrambled from page 15

#### CHRISTMAS DECOR

BOW  
TREE  
BELL  
STAR  
HOLLY  
TINSEL  
LIGHTS  
STOCKING  
ORNAMENT



#### ALL THINGS SANTA

BAG  
SACK  
ELVES  
GIFTS  
BEARD  
JOLLY  
SLEIGH  
RUDOLPH  
PRESENTS



### Answers from Having Pun from page 12

1. Angel
2. Mistletoe
3. Santa Claus
4. Christmas
5. Scrooge

### ANSWERS FOR TOY MATCH-UP QUIZ

- Q: What year did Barbie make her debut under the Christmas tree? **A: 1959**
- Q: What year did Monopoly first become a popular present for Christmas? **A: 1935**
- Q: What year was "Tickle Me Elmo" the must-have toy for Christmas? **A: 1996**
- Q: What year did Ping Pong become one of the most popular Christmas gifts? **A: 1900**

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For most men, shopping for clothes on a good day ranks about the same as having a prostate exam. Shopping for clothes on Boxing Day? Having a prostate exam. In a bus. On a bumpy road.

If you're going to be out on the Boxing Day battlefields to cash in on those spectacular menswear sales, please take a minute or two and review my list of shopping hacks. My hope is that at least one of them will help relieve the stress and get you back sooner to using that damn Elf On A Shelf for target practice.

**Know your battlefield:**

Park near the store where you're going to spend the most time. If it's a store with multiple departments, know where the men's department is located. You can do this online before you head out.

Once inside the men's department (or any men's store for that matter), you should know where you're heading. You can actually do a little bit of reconnaissance ahead of the big day. Next time you're out shopping, go into the nearest men's store and figure out where the sections are that interest you most. Because I skew older, I won't even look at things like distressed jeans or funky T shirts. To a store, I know the location of the outerwear, shirts, jeans, belts, and accessories. The more you know ahead of time makes life easier on the day when your patience will be the thinnest.

**Let me give you a hand buying jeans:**

There are so many styles and fits these days, and each designer uses slightly different terms.

Don't be overwhelmed. The first thing I do is look at the leg openings. Hold your outstretched hand to the leg opening. If the width of your hand is less than the width of the pant leg, it's usually a narrow leg, tight-fitting jean. Anything wider is a looser fitting straight leg jean.



**Avoid fitting room fiascos:**

Instead of waddling back to the racks with the wrong size of jeans around your ankles, try taking in a size bigger than you think you are and a size smaller. If you don't need them, great; but if you do, this little trick will save you from getting busted by store security. Another tip: if the store has shirt clearance racks, most of the brands they carry will be on those racks. They may be last season's colours and patterns or ones that are just not selling well. Why am I telling you this? Instead of dismantling a shirt's packaging to try it on, look on the clearance racks first for ones that are already unpacked and hanging. You may not like those colours, but all you are doing is checking for fit. And you can easily check two or three sizes for that designer by doing this. Once you know the right fit and size, you can head back to the packaged shirts and take the one you like straight to the check out.

**Have yourself a tag day:**

Just buy everything at the store and do the fittings at home. On the plus side, you don't have to try on 15 things in a phone booth. On the downside, you have to return 12 of them. I go this route now most of the time anyhow. I leave the tags on and if I can't make it work in three different combos it goes back.

**Or just let your fingers do the walking:**

This is probably the easiest way to do your Boxing Day shopping, but where is the excitement! If the store you visit also has an online presence you'll find that they will most likely have more selection there than they have in store. I like the idea of finding the right size and fit in store and then using their online platform to search selection. Usually you can do it by designer, size, fit, and colour. You can even see at a glance if an item is on sale. And if you need to return an item you ordered online, that process is hassle free by just taking it into the store.

*Have a merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!*

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*Celebrating 37 years!*



# Community Corner ~ Check Out What's Going On!

## T.O.P.S (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

We are a support group for weight loss. Weekly meetings are held on Wednesday mornings at St. James Lutheran Church, 66 Mill Street, Baden. Weigh-ins at 10:30 am followed by a short meeting. Annual open house the fourth Wednesday in September. For more information call 519-634-9690. Everyone is Welcome.



**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE**  
Donate blood and join the movement today.

**Canadian Blood Services**

## Blood Donor Clinic

Monday, December 16 & January 20th 5 pm - 8 pm  
Steinmann Mennonite Church  
1316 Snyder's Road W., Baden



Tea, coffee and conversation for seniors

Join in the Conversation for Seniors

**Wilmot Mennonite Church,  
2995 Bleams Road,  
New Hamburg**

Topic: Christmas Songs and Stories

**Tuesday, December 17 12:00-2:00**

A light lunch will be served at noon.

Suggested donation of \$10 accepted.

## Mindful Movement

Mondays on December 16  
January 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>

6:30-7:00 pm Tea and conversation  
7:00-8:00 pm Mindful Movement (Yoga)

**At Wilmot Mennonite Church  
2995 Bleams Road,  
New Hamburg**



Cost: \$5-\$10 Pay what you can. Please wear comfortable clothing. Bring a yoga mat if you have one.



**JOIN US FOR F.R.O.G.**

**ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**  
October 15, 29, November 12, 26,  
December 10, January 7, 21, February 4, 18, March 3, 31, April 14 & 28  
6:30pm - 7:30pm

**Baden Public School**

Come enjoy floor hockey, free play, craft table & a bible story

No cost to attend | Supported by volunteers from West Hills Fellowship | For kids JK-Grade 5

## New in the Neighbourhood?

If you are new in the neighbourhood, call us to receive your gifts and learn about your community.

Local Representative: Marlene Brennehan  
Welcome Wagon Representative  
519-591-5963 [marlene.brennehan@gmail.com](mailto:marlene.brennehan@gmail.com)



## Wilmot Family Resource Centre

### FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

There are many ways a person can abuse. Abuse is about intimidation and control and comes in many forms.

- ◆ PHYSICAL ABUSE
- ◆ SEXUAL ABUSE
- ◆ VERBAL ABUSE
- ◆ EMOTIONAL ABUSE
- ◆ FINANCIAL ABUSE



*If you are experiencing any form of abuse and would like help, contact Kelly at Wilmot Family Resource Centre Family Violence Prevention Program*

[kelly@wilmotfamilyresourcecentre.ca](mailto:kelly@wilmotfamilyresourcecentre.ca) / 519 662-2731

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Text: to CRIMES and start your tip with TIP152



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And the December winners are...

1<sup>st</sup> Draw = Ticket # 365 David Agnew (Waterloo) - Trip for 2 to Boston

2<sup>nd</sup> Draw = Ticket # 96 Laurie Musselman (Wellesley)

3 Draw = Ticket # 439 John and Fern Good (Baden)

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LOTTERY LICENCE # M700949

### The Empty Chair

*This year when Christmas boughs are draped  
And cards around the doorway taped  
And cookies baked, and green wreaths hung  
And carols in the crisp night sung  
This Christmas cannot be as fair  
In homes where there's an empty chair.*

*Dear God in Heaven, bless with peace  
Those whose Christmas joy has ceased  
For those who grieve and cannot bear  
The stillness of that empty chair.*



*Instill in them a second sight  
To see in death a lasting light  
Which reassures that those who've died  
Now kneel before the manger side  
To celebrate the blessed birth  
More grandly than we can on earth.*



*And may those visions of your care  
Bring hope enough to fill that chair  
So Christmas carols may be sung  
And Christmas bells may still be rung  
And Christmas peace replace all fears  
And Christmas joy be felt through tears.*



New Hamburg  
Royal Canadian Legion



65 Boullee Street  
New Hamburg

Hall Rentals

Call Terri Taylor 662-3834



### FAREWELL 2019!

Want to feel old?

- Bonanza premiered 60 yrs ago.
- The Beatles split 50 yrs ago.
- Laugh-In premiered nearly 52 yrs. ago.
- The Wizard of Oz is 80 yrs old.
- Elvis is dead 42 yrs. He'd be 84 today.
- The Thriller video is 36 yrs old.
- Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin dead 49 yrs.
- John Lennon dead 39 yrs.
- Mickey Mantle retired 51 yrs ago.
- Back to the Future is 35 yrs old.
- Saturday Night Fever is 42 yrs old.
- The Ed Sullivan show ended 47 yrs ago.
- The Brady Bunch premiered 50 yrs ago.
- The triplets on My Three Sons are 50.
- Tabitha from Bewitched is 55.
- The Corvette turned 66 this year.
- The Mustang is 55.



### New Hamburg Legion

Branch #532—Boullee Street, New Hamburg

Invites you to join us for ...

Our annual Silent Auction, Raffle Draw & 50/50 Draw  
On Saturday Dec 21st

All proceeds to Wilmot Family Resource Centre  
Entertainment by Michael Kelly 2:30 -6pm

Entertainment Jan 18, 2020, 2-6  
Cracker Jack Palace / \$5 at the door



Have you ever heard a TV or radio program informing you of the importance of sleep for health, happiness, and productivity? That would be great if you could get to sleep, right? Sleeping problems are indicated even with such things as lying in bed for more than 30 minutes without being able to fall asleep, or having trouble staying asleep. Waking up frequently during the night and waking in the early hours of the morning before you need to get up, but not being able to fall back asleep are things that seem to be the norm rather than uncommon. Keep reading for some suggestions to help, but if sleeplessness persists it is advisable to speak with a medical professional or seek counselling.

Let's divide the problem into two phases: first, getting to sleep, and second, staying asleep. For many, getting to sleep when you were young was easy but is no longer so. Two things are likely different between now and then. First, many children have a sleep schedule imposed on them by their parents. This created routine. Second, most children were physically very active whereas most adults are active mostly with stress-creating responsibilities. Stress isn't merely an emotion, but a state of our central nervous system that our body uses to keep us safe in times of danger. It doesn't matter to our body whether the stress is from a video game, from our boss, or from an attacking wild animal, it's going to wind us up for action. So, pursuing activities in nature with fresh air, reducing sugar, alcohol and caffeine, introducing a routine quiet time in the evening, and reading a book until your eyes get tired are helpful in winding down and reducing stress before bed.

For staying asleep, body pain management is a good place to start. So yes, do replace that mattress before

you feel like your bum is going to hit the floor. From there, much can be done with a pillow or two. Are you a back sleeper with neck problems? Pull the pillow down till it's right under your shoulders. Just putting it under your head is stretching your neck out all night. Back sleeper with low back pain? Put a pillow or two under your knees. You're a side sleeper? The pillow needs to be firm enough so that you aren't stretching the side of your neck, and the second pillow goes between your knees. If you are a belly or combination sleeper with back pain, work on core strength and flexibility in your quads and hamstrings.

One of the most powerful ways to improve sleep is to make small changes in everyday behaviours that impact how fast you fall asleep and whether you stay asleep. The goal is to increase the behaviours that improve sleep while you reduce the behaviours that interfere with sleep. These changes don't have to happen in one day or even a month. Relax and take it a day at a time. Bonne nuit!

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## Christmas Word Search

Find the words in this puzzle - You may use the letters more than once, and they can be found horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

T	R	H	C	R	E	B	M	E	C	E	D	R	C
A	D	S	T	A	B	L	E	A	T	S	P	B	S
S	R	Y	L	I	M	A	F	R	S	W	O	S	T
P	E	A	C	E	N	N	Y	L	L	O	H	E	N
W	H	R	S	S	U	S	E	J	E	B	L	J	E
S	P	R	A	T	S	E	E	L	G	N	I	J	S
U	E	O	R	A	T	S	R	L	N	N	G	M	E
S	H	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	R	A	R
C	S	L	L	E	B	C	E	A	E	P	E	N	P
L	L	L	T	G	N	I	S	S	E	R	D	G	O
E	M	O	E	Y	E	K	R	U	T	A	N	E	S
G	B	H	E	D	O	S	Y	K	U	T	O	R	P
N	T	E	S	N	H	S	E	H	P	S	W	N	D

TREE  
DECEMBER  
TURKEY  
MANGER  
SHEPHERD  
CHRISTMAS  
TINSEL  
WONDER  
JINGLE  
ANGELS

PRESENTS  
JESUS  
DRESSING  
BELL  
PEACE  
BOWS  
FAMILY  
STABLE  
STAR  
HOLLY



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**JANUARY 18, 2020**



**THE GREAT WINTER WARM-UP**

**Saturday January 18, 2020 10 am - 4 pm**  
**Hillcrest Mennonite Church, New Hamburg**  
 For Information Contact Ferne Bender 519-662-2297

**GET INVOLVED WITH SOMETHING BIG — RECORD BREAKING BIG!**  
 Join hundreds of others across the nation by creating a handmade comforter at the Great Winter Warm-up for MCC! MCC is celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary by collecting 6,500 comforters to deliver to people affected by disaster and conflict all around the world. It's more than a warm blanket — it's a message of love and compassion.

**GREATWINTERWARMUP.ORG** **100 YEARS MCC**



*When they saw the star,  
 they were filled with joy.*  
 Matthew 2:10 CEB

Wishing you the *joy, love, and peace*  
 of the Christmas season!  
 From your friends at



519.662.3550 | [www.kindredcu.com](http://www.kindredcu.com)  
 JOIN THE CONVERSATION!    

*Local Churches Invite You to Join Them ~ Visit [www.badenoutlook.com](http://www.badenoutlook.com) for a directory of local churches*

**Wilmot Mennonite Church**  
 2995 Bleams Road, New Hamburg, ON  
*Worship Service 9:45a.m. ~ Christian Formation 11:00 a.m.*  
 Pastor Susan Allison-Jones  
 519-634-5030 [www.wilmotmennonite.ca](http://www.wilmotmennonite.ca)

**SHANTZ MENNONITE CHURCH**  
 2473 Erb's Road, Baden, Ont N3A 3M3  
 Phone: 519-634-8712 / [www.shantzmc.ca](http://www.shantzmc.ca)  
 Pastor: Don Penner  
 Worship Service - 9:30 am Christian Education - 11:00 am

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
 1716 Snyder's Road East, Petersburg, ON  
 519-634-5511 [www.petersburgchurch.org](http://www.petersburgchurch.org)  
 \* Wheel Chair Accessible \*  
 Worship Service 9:30 am / Sunday School

*Wilmot Centre Missionary Church*  
 2463 Bleams Road—corner of Bleams & Sandhills Road  
 Church Service and Children's Church 10:00 am  
 Rev. Wayne Domm  
 519-634-8687 [www.wcmc.ca](http://www.wcmc.ca)

**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 66 Mill Street, Baden, ON  
 519-634-5191 [www.st.jamesinbaden.org](http://www.st.jamesinbaden.org)  
 Sunday Worship 9 am / Sunday School  
 Candlelight Service Tuesday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m.

**ZION PHILIPSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 3357 Erbs Road, just west of Philipsburg  
 Worship time: 10:30 a.m.  
 Interim Pastor Bonnie Schelter-Brown  
 519-214-0055, [www.philipsburglutheranchurch.ca](http://www.philipsburglutheranchurch.ca)  
 or Zion Philipsburg Lutheran Church on Facebook

**Livingston Presbyterian Church**  
 44 Beck Street, Baden / 519-662-4949  
 Hymn Sing 9:45 am ~ Worship to follow at 10 am  
 Moderator: Linda Ashfield, 519-886-4150

**Steinmann Mennonite Church**  
 1316 Snyder's Rd. W. (at Nafziger Rd), Baden  
 Sunday Worship 9:45, Sunday School 11:00 am  
 Phone: 519-634-8311 / [www.smchurch.ca](http://www.smchurch.ca)

MCC  
**NEW HAMBURG THRIFT CENTRE**

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**We Have  
 Your  
 Christmas  
 Needs  
 Covered!**

Check off your whole gift-list at  
 New Hamburg Thrift Centre!

**Gift cards available!**

All proceeds benefit  
 the work of  
 Mennonite Central  
 Committee

**HOURS**

MON-THURS	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
FRIDAY	9:00 am - Open Late 8 pm
SATURDAY	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED

**Greetings from the NH Thrift Store**

It's nearly Christmas and New Hamburg Thrift is brimming with excitement! Whether or not you celebrate the holiday, the anticipation of the season is an enjoyable time all around.

As you get ready to make the most of your holiday season, be sure to stop by New Hamburg Thrift, where all the decorations you might be looking for will be available, as well as gift ideas and any holiday sweaters you might need. When you are scratching your head trying to think of gift ideas for the ones you love, our gift cards make the perfect gift.

Make the New Hamburg Thrift Store your first stop! We will be happy to help you find anything you might be looking for to make your season a little brighter. And, as you take out your decorations for the year, if you decide that it's time to pass anything on to the next home, be sure to bring them our way so that we can continue to pass on the best items for the best prices!

With the holidays coming up, peace is often at the forefront of most people's minds. Mennonite Central Committee, New Hamburg Thrift's parent organization, works year-round to ensure that peacebuilding happens on both a global and local scale. MCC works to promote peace and justice in countries where this is not the norm, and also here in Canada when there are voices proclaiming injustice that need to be heard.

As well as peacebuilding, MCC supports local restorative justice initiatives, which work to view our current Canadian justice system in a different light. If you would like to read more about either the peacebuilding or restorative justice initiatives that MCC works toward, then be sure to check out the MCC website: <https://mcccanada.ca/>.

**MENNONITE CENTRAL  
 COMMITTEE NAMED ONE OF  
 TOP 10 INTERNATIONAL  
 IMPACT CHARITIES IN CANADA**



Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is proud to announce it has been named by Charity Intelligence as one of 2019's top 10 international impact charities.

Charity Intelligence monitors and evaluates more than 750 Canadian charities of all sectors and has recognized MCC as one of the nation's most impactful within our global community.

"We're honoured to receive this recognition from Charity Intelligence and share with the world what we've known for nearly 100 years," says Mark Epp, director of international programs for MCC Canada. "That our focus on working with local partners through the lens of peacebuilding and restoration creates real impact and positive change for those we're coming alongside."

Working with more than 450 local partners in 53 countries, MCC continues to support relief, development, and peace as it enters its 100th year in 2020.





# TREASURES FROM THE ATTIC

By Al Junker

## An 1890s Christmas Perspective as Found in the New Hamburg Independent

Christmas season is upon us with all of its festivities. We can enjoy Santa Claus parades in Baden, New Hamburg, and St. Agatha, or the Tree of Light celebration in New Hamburg. Christmas bazaars and craft shows abound throughout Wilmot. Decorations are mounted on the street lights of several of our communities. Places of worship and their choirs prepare for the birth of Jesus. Christmas cards are sent to family and friends. We also think of the less fortunate among us. Christmas hampers are prepared and donations to the food bank at Wilmot Community Services are made. Stores are full of Christmas merchandise and busy as we hurry

### A Merry Christmas

— and —

### A Cordial Invitation to You All

— by —

#### STIEFELMEYER & SCHAAF

to come and inspect our fine French Kid Dongola Kangaroo and Shell Crotovan, Button and Lace Shoes in style for the holidays for Ladies, Gentlemen and Children.  
Our stock is now complete in Men's and Boys Grain Kip and Stoga Boots. Men's Boots worth \$2.50 we sell for \$1.75. Men's fine Shoes \$1.25. Ladies' Rubbers 25 cents.  
Women's Calf Buff and Kip Bals, American Rubber and 2-buckle Gum shoes, Men's button top boots; Felt socks of all kinds.

Our Stock of Liquor — Old Rye, Malt and other Whiskeys Cognac, Brandy, Holland Gin, Tom Gin, fine Wines, Ale & Porter — is Complete. Vinegar and Coal Oil, the best quality.  
Sign: Red Flag, opposite Western Bank.  
New Hamburg, Independent, Dec. 1893

about purchasing presents and food for family celebrations. Or maybe we choose to skip the hustle and bustle and purchase gifts online. Castle Kilbride is decorated for the season, providing us the unique opportunity to see how the Livingston family celebrated Christmas during Victorian times. A lot is happening.

I thought it would be interesting to see what was happening at Christmas in Wilmot around 125 years ago. So Tammy and I headed to the Kitchener Public Library to examine the New Hamburg Independent in December of 1892, 1893, and 1896. St. George Church placed a notice for Christmas services at St. Georges, New Hamburg, Christ in Haysville, and St. James on the Huron Road. The

paper carried ads from local businesses just like they do today, but with some distinct differences. One thing I found interesting was the use of the term "Xmas," a term I thought was a product of the 1960s, not the 1890s. Some of the older ads contain long explanations or flowery descriptions, while others suggest gift possibilities. It is interesting to note the prices and the varieties of food that were available. Stiefelmeyer and Schaaf in New Hamburg offered boots, shoes, and liquor. E.H. Schiedel of Baden offered a variety of goods including material, clothing, towels,



**Xmas 1893. Xmas**

Now is the time People are thinking of \*XMAS\* PRESENTS.

We can help you out. Our stock was never more complete. Our prices never lower.  
Our latest designs in gold watches, \$8 up. Solid silver watches, stem wind, full jewel movement, \$7 up. For nickel case and movement see Locals. Watches cheaper than my price, no good.  
Clocks, 8-day, walnut, strike every half hour, \$3, warranted good time-keepers. One half clock, 14-day, \$12. Eight-day enameled mantel clocks with bronze figure from \$10 to \$16.  
My Xmas present would be a nice ring.  
A nice present would be a gold-headed walking cane.  
In Silfverware I have the Meriden Britannia, one of the very best makes.  
**A. COBBEL,**  
Practical watchmaker of all kinds of watches.  
New Hamburg Independent Dec 1893

### E. H. Schiedel & Co.

General Merchants, - BADEN.

Our CLEARING SALE continues until XMAS.

WE ARE SELLING

Mantel Cloths worth \$1.25 per yard at 90 Cents.	“ “ 1.50 “ “ \$1.15.
“ “ 1.90 “ “ 1.45.	“ “ 2.35 “ “ 1.90.
“ “ 3.00 “ “ 2.25.	“ “ 3.25 “ “ 2.50.
“ “ 3.75 “ “ 2.75.	“ “ 4.00 “ “ 3.00.

Beautiful Dresspatterns, worth from \$4.50 to \$10 now going at from \$3.25 to \$6.00. These are all new and popular styles.  
A line of all Wool French Henrietta Cloths, 45 inches wide well worth sixty cents per yard, now being sold for only forty four cents. We have these goods in eight different shades.  
Single width Dress Goods of all kinds and at all prices.  
Fur and Sealote Stormcollars and Muffs selling at cost.  
Shawls, Wool Squares, Cloths, Ladies and Childrens Underwear, Hosiery, Gloves &c., at prices surprisingly low.  
Flannels, Tabling, Curtains and Curtainings, Towels and Towellings, Embroidery, Laces, everything, whether staple or fancy is being sold at a price which gives the buyer the benefit of the profit.

### Carpets! Carpets!

A fine lot at 12 1/2 cts, 30 cts, 45 cts, and 55 cts, per yard.  
**Ready-Made Suits and Overcoats.**  
Men's Suits at \$5.00, \$8.00, \$10.00.  
“ Overcoats “ 4.50, 5.75, 8.50.  
“ Pants “ 1.25, 1.60, 2.00.  
Our Tweeds, Worsted and Overcoats are selling rapidly showing conclusively that the people appreciate our prices and stock.  
Caps, Gloves, Ties, Underwear, Top Shirts, Suspenders &c., are all selling at clearing prices.

### Boots and Shoes.

An immense stock, and now being sold cheaper than you can buy anywhere else.

**Xmas Goods that are Right in** **STYLE QUALITY PRICE**  
**E. H. SCHIEDEL & CO.**  
General Merchants, Baden, Ont.

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"1 On The Water"



curtains, carpets, etc. While you could not purchase your items online as we do today, you could order them from the Eaton's Catalogue. Instead of sending Christmas cards, you could send a Christmas postcard like the one illustrated, which also uses the term "Xmas."

As the Independent stated to its readers on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1892, "We wish all our readers a Merry Xmas!!! This is turkey season. Giggle, gabble gobble get."

## CHRISTMAS!

As the holiday season is fast approaching, I have made great preparations for the same.

I will have a great variety of Candies all kinds, Nuts all kinds, Fruits all kinds.

Oysters by the gallon or will be served by the dish. My new Oyster room is now complete and open all day and evening.

I have also added a large stock of Fancy Bamboo goods as Fancy Tables, Music stands, Paper Racks, Easels &c., suitable for Christmas Presents, which I am offering at very low prices.

Special rates for Sunday schools.

A call solicited.]

**G. F. Graff**

Central Grocery.

XMAS PRESENTS.



He who would block the wheels of Progress is liable to get crush

1892 - XMAS - 1892

Now is the time People are thinking of XMAS PRESENTS.

**We can help you out.**

Our stock was never more complete, our prices never lower. We have not space to name all the articles suitable for gifts, but we have a great choice suitable for young, middle-aged or old. If you are passing we would be pleased to have you call in and examine our stock. Some wide-awake buyers have already picked out their goods, knowing that by buying early they have a better assortment to choose from and we have time to devote to them before the rush. If you select your gifts now, we will be pleased to put them away for you until desired or after seeing the stock you will then have an idea of the numerous gifts suitable and time to consider which of them to decide on.

**A. GOEBEL,**

Dealer in Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, Silver Plate and Fancy Goods.

New Hamburg Independent, Dec. 1892

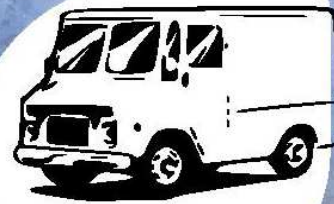


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**DR RUTH MACCARA**





"The color of springtime is in the flowers; the color of winter is in the imagination". ~ Terri Guillemets



Welcoming some respite from putting in the garden, gardeners' focus is now on the Christmas season with parties, community events, and family gatherings. Those who have plants in the home can still enjoy the sight and touch of fresh greenery. The garden can still offer beauty with evergreens, colourful bark such as dogwood and birch, peeling bark of some shrubs and trees, and the swaying of tall grasses and the seedheads of plants. With a cover of snow, the winter garden has its own quiet beauty.

When gathering with family, friends and community, it is a time to be thankful for all the joys of our friendships, the love by family and more. During the holiday season, we are busy being human doers with shopping, decorating, cooking, and traveling. Take time to be human beings by resting; think about what our natural world offers and give thanks. One of the giants in the natural world is the tree. Trees provide beauty, wood for construction and furniture, food, paper, heat, shelter from the winds for us and critters, cooling in the summer, and so much more. Trees are important in sequestering carbon. In forests, trees live in a community whereby they nurture their own offspring and other trees and plants through communications via fungi and more. They provide homes, shelter and food for animals, insects and birds. It is a fascinating world. Wilmot Horticultural Society and Wilmot Rotary plan to start a tree planting project in our area. Are you interested in being involved? If so, contact: [wilmothortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wilmothortsociety@gmail.com)



### Winter Should or Might Get To List



**Keep active! Walking is an excellent activity and the Wilmot Rec Complex has a great walking/running track if the outdoors is not appealing.**

- \* Order seed catalogues or look online at their websites; (<http://smallfarmcanada.ca>) has a listing of most seed companies). Our local Heritage Pet & Garden has a summer catalogue (with prices) from their supplier for dahlias, gladiola, elephant ears, fruit, and more so you can order hard to find varieties.
- \* Watch for pests (white flies, spider mites, and aphids) and diseases on houseplants.
- \* Repot tropicals. If the roots are growing into the surface of the soil and through the drainage holes in the bottom of the pot, it is time to up-size by one or two pot sizes. Often plants die of 'too much love' by overwatering. Be conservative.



**WHS's upcoming meeting** is **Monday, January 13, 2020** at 7:30 pm. After a brief AGM, **Rose Odell** will demonstrate how to create a floral arrangement for Valentine's Day and explain judging in floral competitions. **Wilmot Recreation Centre, upstairs in Meeting Room A. All Welcome:** 50/50 draw (bring a loonie or toonie), door prizes and social with tea/coffee with snacks. **Lug-a-mug.**



*Wilmot Horticultural Society wishes everyone a joyous Christmas with family, friends, and community. Health and prosperity in 2020! And dirty fingernails and knees!*



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– Ron Schlegel, founder of Schlegel Villages

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I was having a great time with my gal pals getting all crafty making Christmas decorations until I realized that hubby went out. It wasn't long till I heard him out in the garage and went to check on him. He was grinning when he showed me his own Christmas craft... "Yup, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em," he said.

**NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PUSH THE ENVELOPE, IT'LL STILL BE STATIONARY.**

**I PUT MY GRANDMA ON SPEED DIAL—I CALL THAT INSTAGRAM.**

**STEALING SOMEONE'S COFFEE IS CALLED MUGGING.**

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It's hard to believe that it has been 6 months since we have made our first donation to the BCA (Baden Community Association) and as the year is coming to a close we wanted to donate a portion of the sales from our home sales in Baden to the BCA. We are fortunate that we have sold 17 homes so far in Baden this year.

We love being a part of such a great community and are so happy to contribute to the BCA for all that they do to make Baden an awesome place to live – and an unforgettable town to visit!

Merry Christmas from  
our Family to Yours



### You Must Be Joking!!



A doctor was addressing a large audience in a southern clinic about nutrition.

"The material we put into our stomachs is enough to have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is hard to digest. Soft drinks corrode your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. High fat diets can be disastrous, and none of us realizes the long-term harm caused by the germs in our drinking water. However, there is one thing that's the most dangerous of all and we all have eaten, or will eat it. Can anyone here tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?"

After several seconds of quiet, a 75-year-old man in the front row raised his hand, and softly said, "Wedding Cake."

## Merry Christmas

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# Everyone Loves the Parade



Merry Christmas from Baden!!



## Baden Santa Claus Parade Float Winners

### Commercial

- 1st: Tiffany & Co Hair Studio
- 2nd: Baden Veterinary Hospital
- 3rd: Fairytale Parties



### Family

- 1st: New Hamburg Concert Band
- 2nd: Baden Fire Dept
- 3rd: Waterloo Oxford High School Band

- Children 1st: Baden Guides and Pathfinders
- 2nd: Fellowship Bible Church
- 3rd: Baden Girls Club

Thank you to all our entries and for everyone who came out to watch!!

See you all next year!

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Planning a winter vacation to one of Mexico's popular destinations: Cancun, Los Cabos, Mazatlán, or Puerto Vallarta? The warm weather, the beaches, the R&R... What's not to love about vacationing at a Mexican hotspot?

Not to be a downer, but many insurance companies have noticed in recent years an increasing number of complaints from customers who've had negative experiences with Mexican hospitals—during their stay, as well as upon return home.

Here are 3 quick tips to keep in mind if you end up in a Mexican hospital.

**1. Contact your insurance company first**

They will direct you to the best, most appropriate local hospital and their Spanish speaking assistance team will work to establish direct billing.

**2. Travellers need to be prepared to pay a deposit upfront**

Whenever possible, your insurance company will set up direct billing with hospitals, but this isn't always possible. Hospital billing practices vary around the world. In Mexico, most hospitals require a deposit, even if you have travel insurance.

Even though they aren't allowed to do so, there have been instances where hospitals hold passports, refuse treatment, or even refuse to admit patients until an upfront payment is given. That's why it's important for you to have cash or a credit card with you, just in case

For larger medical emergencies, along with a deposit, some hospitals require a "Guarantee of Payment". This expedites the process to get you immediate treatment and care, without a full payment upfront. GOPs can be issued only if your insurance company has your hospital medical records and medical history, and

the reason for hospitalization falls within coverage.

**3. Leave communications between the hospital and your insurance company**

Unfortunately, insurance companies are increasingly seeing post-treatment bills that have been highly inflated, far beyond what the costs were identified to be. Would you believe as much as 5X the original estimate? When this happens, insurance companies are forced into negotiations. Even though the negotiation is between the hospital and your insurance company, they may contact you directly with unenforceable scare tactics, including credit rating impacts and travel bans. When this happens, not to fret! The best approach is to leave all communications to your insurance company and trust the payment will be resolved, in time. In the meantime, you will be reimbursed for your out-of-pocket expenses, including the deposit.

I hope this information helps you feel informed, not discouraged, if you're in a similar situation.



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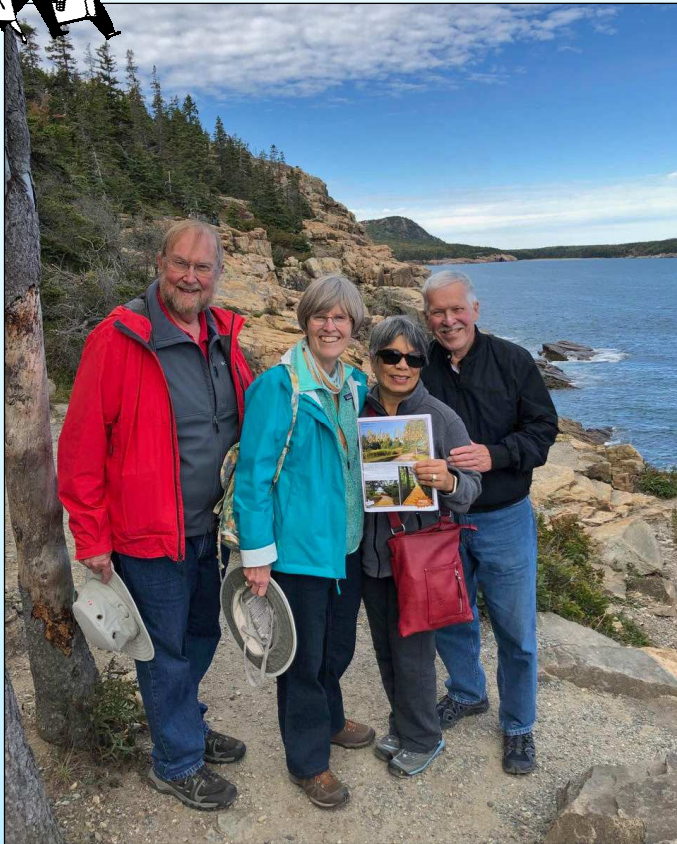
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....The Outlook travelled to Maine, Lithuania, Switzerland & Hawaii



Andy and Dorothy Wilson with Janet and Don Worthington took their Outlook along to Acadia National Park, Mt. Desert Island, Maine.



Mother and son ( Dorothy and Gregory Pikor) and the Baden outlook travelled to Vilnius, Lithuania.



Doug and Mim Miller took the Baden Outlook along for a week on a Drayton Entertainment bus trip to see 'The Colours of Canada' (leaves) in Ottawa, Quebec City, and Montreal. They are seen with 'The Drayton Divas' - Jenny, Kate, Kelly, and Chelsea who entertained us at two cabaret shows during the week and are terrific singers.

From my family  
to yours,  
*Wishing you Peace & Joy  
this Holiday Season*

**TIM LOUIS**  
MP for Kitchener-Conestoga



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*From our family to yours,*



*Merry  
Christmas*

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