

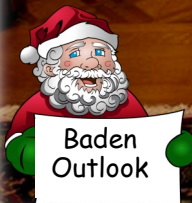
Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 2020
VOLUME 21, ISSUE 5

Baden Outlook



*The spirit of Christmas is present at Castle Kilbride.
Happy holidays from the Baden Outlook*



As always, this paper is free ~ please have one.



From our family to yours,

*Merry
Christmas!*

and a healthy New Year.



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 Barry, Pat & Katie Fisher

Check out what's happening in the paper this month:

- Barry writes about a road trip with his mother-in-law
- Learn about the Murray family and their history in the community
- Check out the many activities offered at the Baden Library
- Is sitting the new smoking? Find out from Pierre from Baden Integrative Health
- How to survive Christmas during a pandemic with Chip from ICC
- Notable Christmas hacks from Chris Ehrat
- Learn about the beautiful Evening Grosbeak from Fraser Gibson
- Try your hand at our fun Christmas word search
- Learn how your donation to NH Thrift helps MCC

The Baden Outlook is a grassroots family business serving the community of Baden and Wilmot Township.

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Baden Outlook

Greetings from Headquarters ~



Tis the season to be jolly... Ho-Ho-Ho and here we go! Yes, Christmas is around the corner; regardless of the current pandemic scenario, we can still be joyous and maybe settle into thoughts of a peaceful time with our closest family members. Maybe it was meant to be this way, with the highlight not so focused on the hustle and bustle of shopping, busy malls with so many pressures of gift giving, and cramming in so many social engagements. It's okay to mix it up; you may even enjoy it. The snow is here making all things bright, which also encourages me to walk before the frigid temps arrive. Typically, I am baking many varieties of Christmas cookies but my selection this year will be slim; after all who will eat them all?!



My wow moment this month came from a gentleman who called from Courtland, who goes out of his way to get a copy of the Outlook each month. Thanks so much for your kind words and I'm sorry I didn't even ask your name... well, Merry Christmas to you sir!

For those who won't join you this year, you may appreciate the poem on page 26 that helps you think of who should be in that empty chair. Let's turn this around and appreciate *Silent Night, Holy Night...* Merry Christmas, everyone!



Happy holidays! I hope you are all safe and warm in your cozy homes as you enjoy reading your Outlook. I am very excited about snow and bought some used cross-country skis for Simon so we can ski the trails together. Also, I built the frame for a skating rink in my backyard and getting excited for the colder temps so we can make ice. I am going to try my best to keep active and enjoy the outdoors this winter. It can be a challenge to manage the energy of two boys while inside for months, so it's healthy for all of us to make time to be in the fresh air and just go outside and play!

Mom has always called me her little Christmas fairy (*that's why she insisted that I too must wear the Santa hat!*) as I have so much spirit that it is contagious. Each year my own family gets more and more twinkle in their eyes around the holidays. I have created a home with so much spirit, it is practically bursting down the door. Spirit isn't necessarily about decorations and presents. It is about feeling that comfort, hope, and excitement that the Christmas season brings. It's about singing Christmas carols while doing dishes or wearing a Santa hat out grocery shopping. Even something as simple as the mini lights in my boys' bedrooms creates weeks of over the top excitement. Or watching a heartwarming movie while it snows outside and I sip tea. The world feels odd right now but I will not have any less spirit than other years. This year is about really enjoying those we live with. Next year's Christmas will feel extra special. We must keep a healthy perspective. Seek out some spirit this year however that looks for you. Watch for the little things that are going well in your life and express your gratitude. Enjoy your favourite song on the radio and sing really loudly.

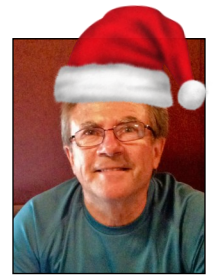
Happy holidays from my family to yours.



Talking with Ed

~ Road Trip

Well life on the farm is kinda laid back. Ain't much an old country boy like me can't hack. It's early to rise, early in the sack. Thank God I'm a country boy.



Many of you will recognize the lyrics from John Denver's song "Thank God I'm a Country Boy". In early November when we had that balmy weather, Pat and I took my mother-in-law, Jean, for a drive to Bayfield to visit Pat's sister Cathy. Along the way the conversation veered into Jean's time growing up on the 200-acre farm just outside of Philipsburg. Clayton, Jean's father, bought the farm from his father, David Seyler. It was quite an interesting story, and most impressive to learn how they used every part of the land to make do.



Jean shared many interesting things about life on the farm and one of the first questions I asked was if they had any livestock. She said that yes, eight dairy cows provided milk for the family and they had a separator at the farm which separated the cream from the milk. The cream was then sold to the New Hamburg Creamery, which was located where the current Home Hardware is. Jean recalled when her dad would take them for ice cream at Murray's

Ice Cream Parlour on Peel Street while doing his errands in town.

Jean and her sister Marg helped out with the early morning milking duties, as the udders became quite full over night. She especially liked that chore in the summer when she could do it outside and the cats would all hang around until she squirted some milk their way—farm fun for a young girl. They also raised chickens and sold the eggs to the grocery store in New Hamburg, which was located where Murray's Clothing Store is on Peel Street. "One of the not so pleasant jobs was cleaning the soiled eggs," exclaimed Jean.

They also raised several hogs which were butchered in January. Several families would go together and make sausage, summer sausage, bacon, and package other pork products. They would take turns with the neighbours helping each other on butcher day. They had a large apple orchard on their property, so each fall they would pick enough apples to make juice, apple cider, and apple butter. The apples were processed at the Jantzi Cider Mill in Wellesley. The cash crops were barley, wheat, and oats,

some of which were sold to the local mill in New Hamburg. There was also a large vegetable garden that provided produce to be preserved for the winter months.

The delicate question of washroom facilities was brought up and, yes, they only had an outhouse. Through the night, if needed, chamber pots were used and emptied in the morning. The farmhouse had 14 rooms with two wood stoves, one located in the kitchen and one in the living room. The two sisters slept together through the winter in the one bedroom above the living room, simply for warmth. The farm had a large woodlot; so every year it was necessary to chop wood for the winter. The parlour was located in the back of the house and the floor was always cold in the summer. Jean recalls coming home from school on those hot days and lying on that cold floor to cool off.

The Seyler family did have a hired hand from time to time, who sometimes stayed with them. He would help out with the farming duties, getting wood ready for the winter, and

harvesting. The family had a horse and buggy/cutter in the early days and eventually bought a used Edsel in the late 30s. In 1954, Clayton bought a brand-new Chevrolet in New Hamburg. Eventually the Seylers traded the farm, with Herb Hammer, for a house on Brewery Street in Baden and the Seylers lived there for many years. Clayton worked as a linesman with Baden Hydro and Mrs. Seyler was the Baden librarian.



The building seen on the right is the New Hamburg Creamery in downtown New Hamburg, as it was in 1898. This was a busy day for farmers doing their business. The creamery was replaced by the current Home Hardware in the 50s. Photo courtesy of Al Junker.

We take for granted our lifestyle that we have right now. If we want heat we turn up the thermostat, get our food at the local grocery

store, turn on the faucet to get hot water to shower or do the dishes, or simply turn on the dishwasher. The list goes on and on. Even medically we are so far advanced – Jean told us she was born at home with a family doctor. They didn't believe they were hard done by nor considered they had a tough life, just a simple one.

Take time to appreciate all the good things that we have right now and let's hope for a healthy and prosperous new year. *Yay, bring on 2021!*

Until next month.... Ed

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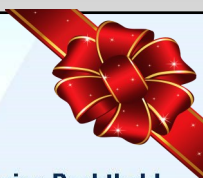
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Christmas Forecast



Turkeys will thaw in the morning, then warm in the oven to an afternoon high near 300°F. The kitchen will turn hot and humid, and if you bother the cook, be ready for a severe squall or cold shoulder.

During the late afternoon and evening, the cold front of a knife will slice through the turkey, causing an accumulation of one to two inches on plates. Mashed potatoes will drift across one side while cranberry sauce creates slippery spots on the other. Please pass the gravy.

Weight watch and indigestion warnings have been issued for the entire area, especially around the beltway. During the evening, the turkey will diminish and taper off to leftovers, dropping to a low of 34°F in the refrigerator.

Looking ahead to the next two days, high pressure to eat sandwiches will be established. Flurries of leftovers can be expected both days with a 50 percent chance of scattered soup late in the day. We expect a warming trend where soup develops.

By early next week, eating pressure will be below normal.



Try to stick with vegetables through the holidays... Load up with carrot cake, zucchini bread, and pumpkin pie!

Merry Christmas

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday!



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WILMOT TRAILS
BADEN HILLS

WELCOME TO
 BADEN HILLS REGIONAL FOREST



The newest recreation opportunity in Wilmot Township: the trails of Baden Hills Regional Forest are now open. Located at 2733 Sandhills Road just outside of Baden you will find close to 1km of accessible trails looping through fields and forest and close to 2km of moderate to difficult hiking trails leading to the summit of one of Baden's hills.

Please note that the hiking trails include steep climbs and narrow footing. They are not designed for use by strollers, bicycles, or for those that require accessible access.

This project is a partnership between the Township of Wilmot and the Region of Waterloo. The accessible trail and parking facility were made possible through the generous donation of Schout Corporation.

Baden ~ Our Town

On Saturday, December 5th the Baden Optimist, Wilmot Optimist and Baden Chamber of Commerce gathered together and held a food bank drive in Baden. All three groups were saddened to not be able to enjoy the festive mood found in the traditional Santa Claus parade due to the pandemic. However, they felt that hosting a food drive would create some spirit and help those in the community this Christmas season. *Hats off to these three groups on their efforts.*



Michael Harris joined in with the Optimist Club walking through town gathering the generous amounts of food that was left to be delivered to the Wilmot Family Resource.

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The groups collected 3 trailers full of food!



Mayor Armstrong joined in to show his support.

Checking out the Baden Library



Holiday Hours

All Region of Waterloo Library branches **are open** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31. All branches **are closed** on Friday, December 25, Saturday, December 26, and Friday January 1.

On the first day of holidays, the library gave to me: one library card of my very own (free with proper identification). rwlibrary.ca/librarymembership

On the second day of holidays, the library gave to me: two Mobile Hotspots (which provide internet access to any WiFi enabled devices).

On the third day of holidays, the library gave to me: three video gaming kits (you can borrow Playstation 3, Super Nintendo NES Classic and Sega Genesis Classic).

On the fourth day of holidays, the library gave to me: four games to borrow (check out our board games collection for some family fun).

On the fifth day of holidays, the library gave to me: five online resources (including Hoopla, Download Library, Freegal, Kanopy, and Press Reader).

On the sixth day of holidays, the library gave to me: six puzzles from the free puzzle exchange (have a puzzle, leave a puzzle, want a puzzle, take a puzzle).

On the seventh day of holidays, the library gave to me: Library Takeout (if you do not feel comfortable coming inside, we can bring your library materials outside to you).

On the eighth day of holidays, the library gave to me: eight yummy cookbooks (to try new holiday baking ideas!)

On the ninth day of holidays, the library gave to me: nine Virtual Programs (next column for the whole list of events for December).

On the tenth day of holidays, the library gave to me: ten Book Bundles! (Send us a theme, preferred topics, or an age range, and we will select a bundle of books for your family!)

On the eleventh day of holidays, the library gave to me: eleven holiday DVDs (put a hold on some today).

On the twelfth day of holidays, the library gave to me: 12 ways to spend time this holiday season!



P.S. - We've got a sleigh full of upcoming online events, as we all celebrate the spirit of the season!

Read Outside the Box – Designed for Adults/Teens Now to December 31

Looking for something new to read? Want to challenge yourself to Read Outside your Box? This fall join RWL in a virtual reading program. Complete reading challenges, track your reading, and more. Registration begins on November 1. **Register at rwlibrary.readsquared.com.**

Bedtime Storytime: Holiday Edition – On Zoom – Designed for preschoolers with caregivers Wednesday, December 16, 7 p.m.

Join us for songs, stories, and a quiet craft activity that will be sure to put your family in the holiday spirit. We provide the supplies. You provide the tools. There will be a different craft kit for each date. Craft kits are optional. **Register at bit.ly/2UXi8xt for your link.**

Happy holidays and all the best for 2021 from the Baden Branch staff - Chris, Jennifer, Ashton and Dana!

Chris Baechler, Assistant Supervisor—Baden Branch



The older you get the more you appreciate cancelled plans, early nights, a good book, snow storms and sharing a glass of wine. Cheers!



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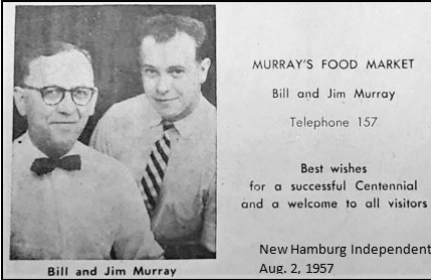
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TREASURES FROM THE ATTIC

~ By Al Junker

END OF AN ERA – THE CLOSING OF MURRAY’S OF NEW HAMBURG

The closing of Murray’s Clothing and Footwear marks the end of an era in New Hamburg. Mark Murray was the third generation to own the business, and Katie, his daughter, is the fourth generation of the Murray family to work there. The business has evolved over the years and operated from several locations in downtown New Hamburg.



Murray’s was started by William (Bill) and Dora Murray in June of 1941. They purchased a restaurant known as Uneeda Lunch. It was located at 91 Peel Street in a building erected in 1912, currently home to the New Hamburg Denture Clinic. Murray’s Restaurant operated at this location until 1952 when the building was sold and converted into an insurance office. This soon became the first home of Josslin Insurance.

Dora operated Murray’s Food Market at 55 Huron St. for five years. In 1958, the business was moved to Peel Street. The Brenners came out of retirement to re-open Brenner’s Grocery Store and operated it until 1963 when they permanently closed their business. Today, it is the location of Riverside Flowers and Gifts.

Murray’s Food Market relocated to a portion of the Becker Block on Peel Street. This block was home to Becker’s Departmental Store for many years which was operated by the Becker family. Becker’s Store had three separate entrances for the grocery/clothing, hardware and

Murray’s Food Market
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furniture departments; however, inside these divisions were all interconnected. The Murrays purchased the grocery and clothing section of the Block, including the stock. The furniture department was sold earlier in 1955 to Frank Kobe: today it is the Old Country Restaurant. The hardware department was purchased by Clarence Stever and was operated as a Western Tire and Auto Supply Store. In 1980, this store was sold to Jim and Bob Murray.



Murray’s soon became an institution at this location. It was very much a family business, as Bill and Dora were joined by their sons Bob and Jim and daughters Jean Hofstetter and Betty Ritz. The family tradition continued as Bill and Dora’s grandchildren, Bill, John, and Rick Ritz and Steve, Rob, Mark, Tom, Dave, and Ann Murray worked at the store. Initially the groceries, clothing, and shoes operated from the original Becker Department grocery section. An addition to the rear of the building was built in 1967 along with a second entrance and a parking lot. The addition provided warehouse space, a receiving area, and a third checkout. Another addition was added c.1970 above the first addition and the clothing division moved there and became known as “Murray’s Upstairs.” This move created additional space for both divisions.



Merry Christmas

*Happy Holidays to our friends,
from the staff at E.J's*

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Bill Murray retired in 1965 and his sons Bob and Jim took over the business. Betty Ritz left the grocery store and joined her husband Ernie to operate the Stationery Store, now New Hamburg Office Pro. In 1980, Bob and Jim purchased the Western Tire building next door from Jim Thibideau. The building was renovated and the clothing store moved into this location and was renamed, Murray's Next Door. Bob looked after the grocery store and Jim, the clothing.



The grocery store operated as an independent store for many years as Murray's Food Market. Later, it became known as Murray's EMA and eventually Murray's IGA. The store had its charm with its wooden floors and three long aisles that ran from the front to the back of the store. The meat department was located at the rear of the store and was widely known for its quality products, especially its store made sausage. Over the years, the grocery business grew and it became apparent even more space was needed.

A new phase of Murray's began to emerge with the purchase of land at the end of Peel St. beyond the mill. After considerable planning and getting the necessary approvals construction began on a new building. Rob and Steve Murray took over the grocery business after the sudden death of their father Bob in 1993. The grocery store moved in May 1994 from the old 4,000 square foot location to the new 20,000 square foot store. Rob and Steve's mother, Betty, left her position at the New Hamburg Library to join her boys at the new location. The store operated as Murray's IGA until 2004 when the business was acquired by Sobeys. It continues to be operated by Bill and Jill Fleming today, much in the tradition established by the Murray Family.



After the grocery store moved, Jim Murray and his son Mark began restoring the façade of the old store which had been altered considerably. The clothing store expanded into the space formerly occupied by the grocery store and was renamed Murray's Clothing and Footwear. The restoration of the façade returned the store to what it looked like during the Becker's Departmental Store era, with two of the original three façades restored. Jim and Mark received recognition awards from both Heritage Wilmot and the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation for the restoration. The store provided a superior line of men's and women's clothing and footwear. Many a person was married in a suit rented from Murray's. They also offered the opportunity for customers to look at swatches for the upcoming season and have a suit custom made which, is what Tammy and I did

for the men in our wedding party. Over the years, I have purchased several suits from Murray's and will miss the service provided by Jim, Mark, and long-time employees Chuck Riehl and Rob Murray. Another long-term employee was Mark's Aunt Jean Hofstetter who worked in the women's division.

As well as offering groceries and clothes to the residents of New Hamburg, Baden, and surrounding area, the store offered employment for many people over the years. Countless teenagers got their first jobs at Murray's while attending Waterloo Oxford DSS. Some went on to become full time employees while most went on to university or college. Steve Murray told me that if they ever had a reunion of all the employees who worked as "part timers," the list would be in the thousands and they would come from all over.

In addition to operating a long-standing business, the Murray family was also very active in the community. They donated to countless events and causes throughout their years in business. Bill, Bob, and Jim were all active in the New Hamburg Board of Trade, with Bob and Jim each serving as presidents. Bob, Jim, Steve, Mark and Rob were members of the New Hamburg Citizens Band, with Jim serving as bandmaster for many years. The Murray family were active members at Trinity Lutheran Church. Bob served as a council member for the Village of New Hamburg and Mark served as a Wilmot Township Councillor, as well as a long-time member of the fire department, serving for many years as district chief in New Hamburg.

The closing of Murray's Clothing and Footwear will mark the end of an era in New Hamburg. A three-generation tradition of service, spanning 80 years, is coming to an end.

After completing this article, I learned of Mark Murray's passing. What was originally intended to be a history of a long-standing institution is now also a memorial to a friend and colleague. I've known Mark all my life, from the Youth Group at Trinity Lutheran Church to serving alongside him on Wilmot Council for eight years. His twenty-eight years of service at the New Hamburg Station of the Wilmot Fire Department, his commitment to help his constituents, and his friendly customer service are a testament of his willingness and dedication to help others. Mark, you are going to be missed. Rest in Peace.



Winter Holiday Hazards For Pets

~ by Baden Veterinary Hospital

With Thanksgiving and Halloween behind us, we now focus our attention on my favourite holiday, Christmas! Beautiful decorations, family gatherings, and fantastic food make it a wonderful time of year! Please keep in mind some of the dangers this season can pose to your furry family members.



Here are some things to watch out for to keep your pets out of danger during this holiday season.

Hazardous Holiday Plants:

- **Lilies** that may be found in holiday flower arrangements could be deadly to your cat. Many types of lily, such as Tiger, Asian, Japanese Show, Easter, Stargazer, and the Casa Blanca, can cause kidney failure in cats.
- **Poinsettias** are generally not deadly, but if ingested can be irritating to the mouth and stomach and may cause mild vomiting or nausea.
- **Mistletoe** has the potential to cause cardiovascular problems. More commonly however, ingestion usually only causes gastrointestinal upset.
- **Holly** ingestion could cause vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, and lethargy.

Holiday Decoration Hazards:

- **Christmas Tree:** the tree water may contain fertilizers which, if ingested, can cause stomach upset. Stagnant tree water can be breeding grounds for bacteria, which can also lead to vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea, if ingested.
- **Electric cords:** Avoid animal exposure to electric cords. If they are chewed, they can electrocute your pet. Cover up or hide electric cords. Never let your pet chew on them.
- **Ribbons or tinsel** can get caught up in the intestines and cause intestinal obstruction.
- **Batteries** contain corrosives. If ingested they can cause ulceration to the mouth, tongue, and the rest of the gastrointestinal tract.
- **Glass ornaments** can cut the tissues of the gastrointestinal tract if ingested.
- **Potpourris** are popular household fragrances commonly used during the holiday season. Accidental contact or ingestion of some types of liquid potpourris can result in severe damage to the mouth, skin, or eyes.

Baden Veterinary Hospital



Dr. Rebecca Ricker & Associates

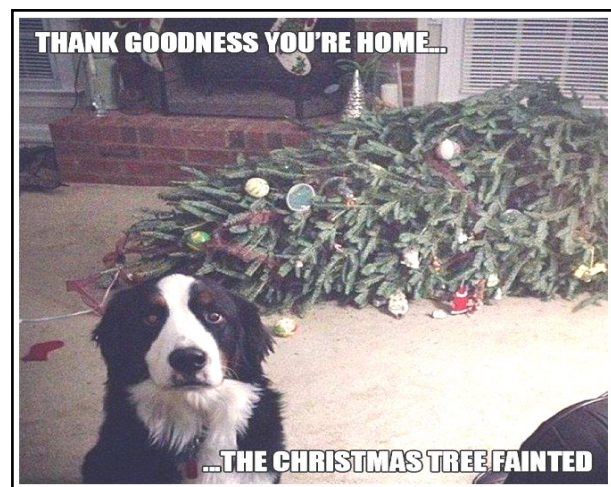
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Baden Birding - Evening Grosbeak

By Fraser Gibson



If you have bird feeders in your yard, you may be visited this winter by a flock of unusual avian guests. This is an irruption year. Irruption refers to the movement of large numbers of birds that normally spend their winters in the north to areas much further south. This occurs when the cone or seed supply, a major source of food for many finches, is inadequate in their normal wintering grounds. This winter is forecast to be one of the biggest irruptions of Evening Grosbeaks in many, many years.

These large finches are about the size of a robin but much stockier in appearance. As its name implies, it has a very thick, massive conical beak capable of cracking the pit of a wild cherry, a favourite food. Anyone who has bitten down on the lone pit in a delicious cherry pie knows just how hard one is. That oversized beak is dextrous enough to first remove the unwanted fruit before cracking the pit and then extracting the tiny seed for consumption. Evening Grosbeaks are voracious eaters and can wolf down many sunflower seeds in a single minute if they visit your feeder. Since they usually arrive as a flock, be prepared.



The “Evening” part of the name comes from the mistaken belief that it sang only after sundown. This songbird is unusual in that it does not really have a song. It does not sing to attract a mate or to claim its territory as other songbirds do and therefore we do not hear it sing. Flocks, however, can be noisy since they chirp to one another while flying and foraging.

During summer months the Evening Grosbeak prefers young northern forests with an abundance of wild cherries. They also consume the seeds from coniferous

trees such as firs, pines, and spruces. During their irruption into Waterloo Region they may be seen foraging on the samaras of sugar maple, Manitoba maple, and ash, on poplar seeds, or on sumac fruit. In your yard they prefer feeding from a platform where their favourite food is the large striped sunflower seed. Flocks may also be seen foraging for fine salty gravel along roadways.

The male is handsomely dressed in a yellow suit with black wings. A sporty golden eyebrow and white wing patch complete the attire. Females and juveniles are more subtly dressed in olive-yellows. Together they make a colourful statement at your feeder.

Evening Grosbeaks flourished in Northern Ontario between 1940 to 1980, with the population peaking in the mid eighties. At that time their breeding was concentrated in areas experiencing the worst incursions of Spruce Budworm. The budworm larvae and pupae are a high energy food source for the adults and rapidly growing young. *The Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario 2001-2006* suggested that up to 80% of the grosbeak’s diet could be budworms. The Atlas also pointed to significant decline over the previous twenty years, likely resulting from the end of severe budworm outbreaks.

Many of us remember seeing “a gross”, the collective name for a flock of grosbeaks, of these attractive finches years ago when they were much more common. Hopefully you will be one of the fortunate people to have them visit your feeder during their expected irruption this fall and winter.

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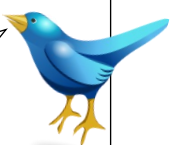
Hey Kids... What Christmas craft is fun to do, keeps you busy while decorating your tree, and then ends up feeding the birds? ... Making stringed popcorn and cranberry garland!!

Easy—now go grab your brother or sister. Start with fresh cranberries, stale popcorn (not buttered), and a spool of waxed dental floss (or thread, or fishing line). String about 3 feet of floss on a darning needle and make a big knot on one end. Slide a cranberry on to the end, followed by a few pieces of popcorn, another cranberry and continue leaving a few inches on the end of string to be able to knot it together with the next string. It is easier to work with smaller strands and tie them together.

Be careful to handle it as gently and as little as possible to avoid breaking popcorn! Oh, but you may enjoy the broken bits! After Christmas, take the garland out to decorate any shrubs or trees around your house and watch the birds dine on the garland you made! Have fun!!



Oh how tweet of you!



You Must Be Joking!!



The English Language Evolves

With the pandemic we are learning new words and terms. We have become familiar with social distancing and isolation fatigue, but let's see if this new definition makes it into the dictionary.

Coronacoaster *noun: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread, and going for long walks, and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast, and missing people you don't even like.*

At what point can we just start using 2020 as profanity? As in: "That's a load of 2020." or "What in the 2020?" or "abso-2020-lutely."



You Must Be Joking!!



In 20 years when the kids ask about the 2020 toilet paper shortage, I'm telling them we had to drag our butts across the lawn...in the snow... uphill... both ways.



Submitted by Bruce Bousher

Poking more fun at Covid!

Someone just used my driveway to turn around and now I'm standing outside with 2 open beers and a lonely sad face.



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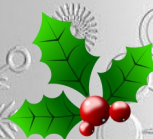


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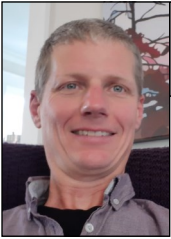
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A Physically-Distanced Christmas Need Not Be a Socially-Distanced One

Written by: Chip Bender RP(q)



Christmas is around the corner, and there is the distinct possibility that we may not be able to gather with loved ones outside of our households for the traditional

family gatherings, especially if the forecasts of continued skyrocketing infection rates are correct. My favourite part of any holiday celebration is the opportunity to gather with extended family to share a meal, some conversation, and some laughs together. Unlike Thanksgiving, when I was able to gather outside with a small group of my extended family, I do not anticipate the weather during the Christmas holidays to be mild enough to do that. So, I began to consider how people might cope with this loss of a traditional Christmas celebration.


Beginning in the early days of the pandemic, the term “social distancing” came into common use as a measure to keep one safe from infection and to reduce the community spread of the virus. The problem is that humans are social creatures and do not do well in environments with reduced social interactions. At some point later in the pandemic, “physical

distancing” began to be used interchangeably with “social distancing”, suggesting that one can be a safe distance away from someone outside of their bubble while still maintaining a social connection. You can still be socially connected to someone who is 2 metres, 2 kilometres, or 2,000 kilometres away.

Over the past couple of decades, social interactions have become increasingly less personal. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter posts are intended for mass consumption as opposed to being directed to a specific recipient. Personal correspondence and even phone calls have become increasingly rare. Perhaps a physically-distanced Christmas may provide a new opportunity for generating deepened social connections.

One may need to take a trip down memory lane to recall some of the ways people used to connect with people who were physically distant. Phoning someone you have not seen for a while is an excellent way to re-connect and to feel like you are in each other’s presence. Sending a Christmas card is a great way to tell someone you are thinking of them. Instead of writing an update about your life in each card you may choose to print out a Christmas letter to include in each card, to keep your connections informed of any personal news. If nothing much is new, you may want to simply include your reflections about Christmas and/or the pandemic. People enjoy reading any personal correspondence. Although we may not have a choice to be physically close to people this Christmas season, we can always choose to be socially close.


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12 Days of Christmas 2020

On the 12 Days of Christmas
This is how it went....

- 12 face masks
- 11 cancelled plans
- 10 cases of wine
- 9 squirts of sanitizer
- 8 Netflix binges
- 7 Amazon orders
- 6 feet apart
- 5 curbside pickups
- 4 friends on Zoom
- 3 cancelled flights
- 2 bad haircuts
- 1 sad meltdown

And no toilet paper to be found!

Christmas Gift Suggestions

- To your enemy, forgiveness*
- To an opponent, tolerance*
- To a friend, your heart*
- To a customer, service*
- To all, charity*
- To every child, a good example*
- To yourself, respect.*



Author: Oren Arnold

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ALL THINGS SCRAMBLED

Within each category the words are jumbled up.
 Can you unscramble them? Answers on page 29

Christmas Edibles

- STUN _ _ _ _
- VARGY _ _ _ _ _
- DANCY _ _ _ _ _
- OOIECK _ _ _ _ _
- RUTYEK _ _ _ _ _
- NEOGGG _ _ _ _ _
- DUPDING _ _ _ _ _
- LOSTLEN _ _ _ _ _
- GOLELUY _ _ _ _ _
- SINGREDS _ _ _ _ _

Toys and Games

- GLEO _ _ _ _
- OYOY _ _ _ _
- RUBFY _ _ _ _ _
- ZARTB _ _ _ _ _
- MOSIN _ _ _ _ _
- INKSLY _ _ _ _ _
- BIBARE _ _ _ _ _
- BRISEEF _ _ _ _ _
- ZETHEYA _ _ _ _ _
- BRABLECS _ _ _ _ _

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- Drive your vehicle to warm it up. If you need to idle, 2-3 minutes is enough.
- Avoid long warm-ups with remote car starters.
- Use a block heater. Start block heater with an automatic timer 2 hours before leaving.
- Tell family and friends about the benefits of reduced idling to save money, optimize health, and help protect the environment too!

Check out:

<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/communities-infrastructure/transportation/idling/4397>

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 7:00PM on **Wednesday, January 27th**. Please contact us via e-mail (nvecoboosters@gmail.com) or call **519-662-9372** if you would like to participate in this "Zoom" meeting and we will provide you with more details. Watch for our next webinar on **Electric Vehicles** coming in early 2021. Want to know more about the Nith Valley EcoBoosters? Check out our website at: nvecoboosters.com

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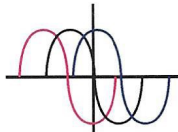
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Christmas Trivia! (Answers Page 29)

1. In *The Simpsons*, what Christmas inspired name is given to the family's dog?
 - A. Jingle Bell
 - B. Rudolph
 - C. Plum Pudding
 - D. Santa's Little Helper
2. On *Seinfeld*, what is the name of the holiday created to protest the commercialization of Christmas?
 - A. Festivus
 - B. Noelmas
 - C. Merryday
 - D. Holiday-Shmoliday
3. Which famous pianist wrote the music for *A Charlie Brown Christmas*?
 - A. David Foster
 - B. George Winston
 - C. Vince Guaraldi
 - D. Beethoven
4. In *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, how many sizes too small is the Grinch's heart?
 - A. Two
 - B. Three
 - C. Five
 - D. Ten
5. What is the name of the little boy who is left at home by his parents in *Home Alone*?
 - A. Karl
 - B. Ken
 - C. Kasper
 - D. Kevin
6. In *A Christmas Story*, what is young Ralphie repeatedly warned will happen if he gets his one Christmas wish?
 - A. He'll lose his allowance
 - B. He'll shoot his eye out
 - C. He'll get sick to his stomach
 - D. He'll turn into a frog



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Is Sitting the New Smoking?

Pierre Plante, BSc MSc CSCS DC



This headline has become increasingly popular and started showing up in large numbers around 2010. When discussing this topic, it is important to understand that in most cases when they say sitting they actually mean being sedentary. Being sedentary is often described as intervals of total time spent sitting being more than 7 hours. It also includes not getting the appropriate amount of physical activity for your age. Currently, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation for physical activity is as follows: ages 1-4 is 180 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous activity, more is better; ages 5 – 17 should do at least 60 minutes per day of moderate-to-vigorous activity, mostly aerobic and should also incorporate activity that strengthens muscle and bone at least 3 days a week; ages 18 - 65 should do at least 150–300 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity or at least 75–150 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity in a week. They should also do muscle-strengthening activities at moderate or greater intensity that involve all major muscle groups on 2 or more days a week, as these provide additional health benefits. Ages 65+ have the same recommendations as for younger adults and should emphasize functional balance and strength training at moderate or greater intensity on 3 or more days a week. This will help to enhance functional capacity and to prevent falls.

When discussing smoking, smokers are often divided into light or heavy smokers. An increased risk of mortality correlates with the amount of smoking. Simply put, the more people smoke, the more health complications they have. Fortunately, the rate of smoking has drastically

decreased in developed countries over the last 20 years, likely as a result of health associations publishing health risks of smoking to the general public.

I am sure everyone has heard that sitting is the new smoking before, but what does the current research tell us? The current research tells us that this has been a grossly misused title and just is simply not true. Any level of smoking increases risk of dying from any cause by approximately 180% versus a 25% risk increase for sedentary lifestyle. Even light smoking (1–4 cigarettes per day) has been associated with a higher risk of mortality compared with being sedentary. Smoking also increases the risk of other health outcomes including depression and poor quality of life.

In closing, and to put it simply, is sitting the new smoking? No, it is not. Smoking appears to be much worse than being sedentary. More importantly, the health benefits of maintaining an adequate level of exercise are

obnoxiously obvious. If exercise were a medication it would be the most largely prescribed pill in the world. If you aren't already, get moving! The future will thank you. And if you currently are a smoker, there are many free resources such as <https://www.ontario.ca/page/support-quit-smoking> to help you kick the habit.



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New Hamburg's Successful Poppy Campaign

Branch 532 New Hamburg has completed its annual Poppy Campaign for 2020. What a pleasant surprise it was to learn that we were a little ahead of last year, for donations from the Poppy Boxes in the retail stores, donations into the boxes at No Frills and Sobeys, as well as our postal mail-out campaign. Thank you to all the donors, and to our outdoor distributors standing out in the cold and rain at Sobeys and No Frills (Comrades Mike, Jim, Reg, Bob, and Bill) for their outstanding dedication to this very worthwhile portion of our Poppy Campaign! Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped stuff envelopes, deliver them to the post office, and also to the many volunteers who helped deliver the Poppy Boxes to the retail outlets throughout the Township and 10 days later went out and retrieved them. Thank you to all the retail stores that allowed us to place a Poppy Box in their stores, and kept them safe. Thanks to our Treasurer, Leann, and President, Bob, for all the computer entries, the counting, rolling, depositing and the list goes on.

Our Poppy Campaign is the largest fundraiser Branch 532 has, allowing us to give back to our Veterans, both past and present. We were able to donate approximately \$23,000.00 towards various organizations: 3 local hospitals, the training of service dogs for Veterans, the Legion Bursary Fund, the Military Resource Center, the Veterans Hospital, and the Veterans Dinner at the Branch.

Branch 532 also has a youth education program which is run in conjunction with the schools in the area. It is one that we hope students from primary classes on through to high school will participate in to show their remembrance for Veterans, and say "thank you" for their service. Our program at the present time is a poster, poem, and essay contest that has had 125 entries for colour and black and white posters, as well as numerous poems and essays. The thought and attention to detail is amazing, to say the least.

The Poppy Fund also provides awards for the top three entries in each category, then the top entry in each category goes on to our zone for further judging.



This is a busy time of year for Branch 532. Normally we would also have dinners, silent auctions, and entertainment of some kind, but with Covid-19 rearing its ugly head, we have had to scale back, at least for now. Hopefully in the not-too-distant future, we will be back to semi-normal.

Thanks again, everyone, for your generous donations and support of your Legion, Branch 532. Be safe!

Ross Eichler (Poppy Chairman and Youth Education Chairman, Branch 532 New Hamburg)

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"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete"

- Buckminster Fuller - Submitted by Robert Radford

"Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory." - Albert Schweitzer

- Submitted by Ian A. McKay

"The people who are dying to attend a large party, may get their wish." - Submitted by Fred C. Veenhof

"The homeless have no voice, but homelessness speaks volumes about us."

- Submitted by Fred C. Veenhof

"Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." - Benjamin Franklin

- Submitted by Lil Quanz

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Articles By Wendy Haaf

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Canada's magazine for successful retirement

Please REGISTER: Email coffeehousetalks2020@gmail.com
WHERE: To Be Determined
WHEN: January 20, 2021 at 10:00am
All safety protocols will be followed.

Questions? Email coffeehousetalks2020@gmail.com or call 519-662-2731.
Supported by Wilmot Family Resource Centre. 
Currently funded by the Government of Canada, New Horizons for Seniors program.




Wilmot Family Resource Centre

FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

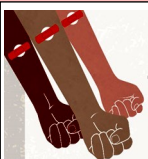
There are many ways a person can abuse. Abuse is about intimidation and control and comes in many forms.

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- ◆ 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 / 519 662-2731



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Happy Holidays

Township of Wilmot Administration Offices Hours of Operation Christmas Schedule for 2020- 2021

Thursday, December 24, 2020	Office Open	8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Friday, December 25, 2020	Office Closed	
Monday, December 28, 2020	Office Closed	
Tuesday, December 29, 2020	Office Open	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Wednesday, December 30, 2020	Office Open	8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Thursday, December 31, 2020	Office Open	8:30 am – 1:00 pm
Friday, January 1, 2021	Office Closed	

Castle Kilbride Hours of Operation Christmas Schedule for 2020-2021



Sunday, December 27, 2020	Castle Open	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday, December 28, 2020	Castle Open	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday, January 2, 2021	Castle Open	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday, January 3, 2021	Castle Open	11:00 am – 4:00 pm

NOTE: Advanced Tickets Required.



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-Jay Danzie



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\$20 -- Pick up 5-6

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BABY BOOMER TRIVIA

Answers on page 29

1. Who was the popular singer known as “The Divine Miss M”?
2. Who was the Prime Minister from 1963-1968?
3. What was the name of the television character who turned into Batman?
4. What rock musician is known as “The Boss”?
5. From what product’s advertising jingle was the song “I’d Like To Teach The World To Sing” derived?
6. What was the “Pink Panther” and what movie star played Inspector Clouseau?
7. In the early 60s which product featured the jingle “Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz”?
8. What disease was officially declared eradicated in 1980, after a worldwide program or vaccination against it in the 1970s?
9. What popular Dr. Seuss Christmas movie made its debut in 1966?
10. Who says “I’ll get you my pretty, and your little dog, too!” and in what classic movie was it from?
11. In what year did Queen Elizabeth take the crown?
12. What was the most wanted girls’ toy in 1960s?

HO! HO! HO!



- What does Kris Kringle like to get when he goes to the donut shop?
— *A jolly roll!*
- What do you call someone who doesn’t believe in Father Christmas?
— *A rebel without a Claus!*
- What goes oh, oh, oh?
— *Santa Claus walking backwards!*
- Where does Father Christmas go to vote?
— *The North Poll!*
- An honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus were walking down the street and saw a \$20 bill. Which one picked it up?
— *Santa! The other two don’t exist!*
- What does Santa say to the toys on Christmas Eve?
— *Okay everyone, sack time!*
- Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?
— *He was picking his nose!*

2020 Lincoln Navigator



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Most Wanted Toys on the Christmas List in the 60s

- * Chatty Cathy Doll
- * Ken Doll
- * Barbie's Dream House
- * Easy Bake Oven
- * G.I. Joe Action Figures
- * Pull String Toys
- * Twister
- * Yoyos
- * Dinky Toys
- * Hula Hoops
- * Electric Train sets
- * Etch a Sketch
- * Lego Blocks
- * Games: Operation, Kerplunk, Mousetrap, Monopoly
- * Mr. Potato Head



Did you know?...
Mr. Potato Head — Take him apart and put him together! This 9-inch spud was the brainchild of inventor George Lerner who released the three-dimensional plastic face in 1949. Originally, Lerner sold the toy to a cereal company that planned to use the plastic pieces—mouth, eyes, ears, nose—as prizes in cereal boxes. But the spud-head wasn't a commercial success until Hasbro bought the rights from Lerner. In the following years, the Mister was joined by a Mrs. Potato Head and the couple made a splash in the Disney-Pixar Toy Story trilogy.

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The Empty Chair

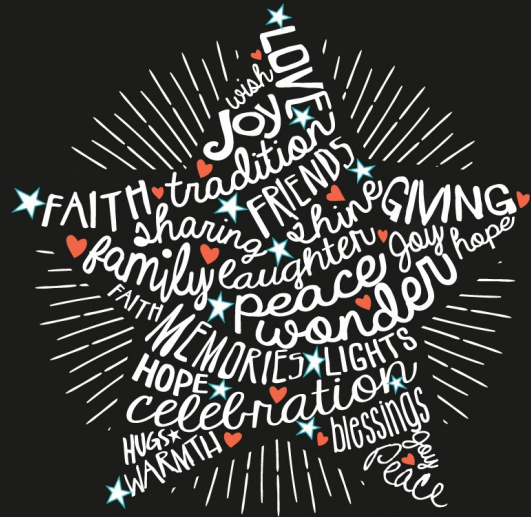
This year when Christmas boughs are draped
And cards around the doorway taped
And cookies baked, and green wreaths hung
And carols in the crisp night sung
This Christmas cannot be as fair
In homes where there's an empty chair.



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.



*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!



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Wilmot Mennonite Church

2995 Bleams Road, New Hamburg, ON

Worship Service 10:00 a.m. ~ Christian Formation 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Susan Allison-Jones
519-634-5030 www.wilmotmennonite.ca

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

SHANTZ MENNONITE CHURCH

2473 Erb's Road, Baden, Ont N3A 3M3

Phone: 519-634-8712 / www.shantzmc.ca

Pastor: Don Penner

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1716 Snyder's Road East, Petersburg, ON

519-634-5511 www.persburgchurch.org

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Worship Service 9:30 am / Sunday School

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519-214-0055, www.philipsburglutheranchurch.ca

Steinmann Mennonite Church

1316 Snyder's Rd. W. (at Nafziger Rd), Baden

Livestream Christmas Eve pageant: 6:30 at smchurch.ca

Phone: 519-634-8311

Greetings from New Hamburg Thrift Centre

December is a month to focus on the good in your life, no matter what holiday you might be celebrating. It's a month of celebration, but also one of reflection and giving.

New Hamburg Thrift Centre supports the Mennonite Central Committee, which funds programs in Ontario and all across the world. By giving your business to an MCC thrift store like New Hamburg Thrift Centre, you will be giving a gift that you can't see. There are lots of ideas all throughout the store for what to get each member of your family. You can feel good knowing that the money you've spent has gone to help someone who might need it this season. You can also give our Reloadable Gift Cards!

So, as you anticipate another holiday season, if you feel called to give at all, make sure to stop by the New Hamburg Thrift Centre and pick up a copy of the Christmas Giving Catalogue to support someone in need. Or, if you'd like to give a directed gift to MCC and support a project that you're passionate about, check out their website to learn more and find out how to donate: <https://mcccanada.ca/>.

If you don't necessarily have money to give, there are different ways that you can donate to MCC as an organization! Proceeds from each MCC thrift shop - like New Hamburg Thrift Centre - go directly to supporting MCC and the mission to see a brighter future all around the world. By donating your items to an MCC thrift store, you're donating money directly to MCC. To find out what you can donate, check out the New Hamburg Thrift Centre website and click on the "donate" page.

Another great way to dip your toes in and help is to volunteer at an MCC thrift shop. In order to ensure that the most proceeds possible are going directly to MCC, the thrift stores are run mostly with the help of volunteers. There are always openings for volunteers available, and we would love to have people come and support our mission! To find out where we need volunteers, check out the New Hamburg Thrift Centre website and click on the "volunteer" page.

Thank you for shopping at the New Hamburg Thrift Centre.

Remember the reason for the season and who lay in that "king" size bed.



MCC NEW HAMBURG THRIFT CENTRE

41 Heritage Drive, New Hamburg
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Find us on Facebook and Instagram (@nhthriftcentre)



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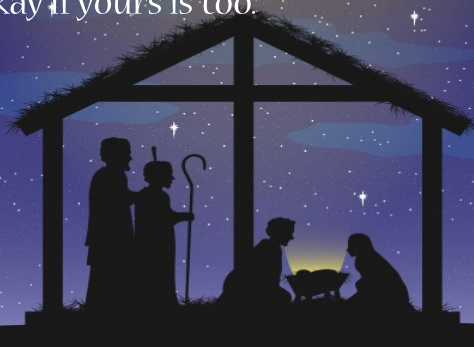
All proceeds benefit the work of Mennonite Central Committee

HOURS

MON- FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY

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10:00 am - 4:00 pm
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The first Christmas was pretty simple. It's okay if yours is too.



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Cook's Corner

Let's enjoy ginger at this time of year. Ginger not only adds delicious flavour to food, it's also full of nutrients. People have been using the root for cooking and healing for thousands of years. It is used as a treatment for stomach issues, including nausea and diarrhea. It is also helpful for treating muscle and joint pain, cold and flu symptoms, stomach pain, menstrual cramps, and skin burns. There are so many different ways to enjoy ginger — from sipping tea to incorporating it into your main dish. Indeed, you can use it to flavour both sweet and savoury foods. When buying ginger for a recipe, it's healthier to opt for the fresh root rather than the dried, powdered form. You'll get more of the gingerol that way. The root should be smooth and firm with no shriveling or mould on it. Peel away the brown layer of skin with a vegetable peeler or paring knife, and then slice or chop it any way you'd like. Be sure to try out Katie's cookie recipe, and have fun decorating them!



Gingerbread Cookies

Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1-1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and brown sugar in a large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg, and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into a thick flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate 4 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Roll out dough to 1/4 inch thickness on lightly floured work surface. Cut into gingerbread people shapes with 5 inch cookie cutter. Place 1 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets.

Bake 8-10 minutes or until edges of cookies are set and just begin to brown. Cool on baking sheets 1 to 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Decorate cooled cookies as desired. Store cookies in airtight containers.



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Herbs to Support Your Health Through the Winter



Echinacea: From colds to cancer, echinacea enhances the activity of white blood cells and other specialized



immune system cells. It increases their ability to attack foreign invaders such as cold or flu viruses and helps accelerate healing if infection already exists.

Garlic: This little root is a wonder drug, acting like an antibiotic. Garlic contains antioxidants and strengthens certain types of immune cells so we are better able to fight cold and flus. Known to reduce blood pressure and manage cholesterol.

Rosemary: Rich in iron and calcium, which are critical to optimal well-being. What's more, rosemary contains folate—a water-soluble B vitamin that offers heaps of health benefits, including a calmer nervous system and the potential to ease those winter blues.

Elderberry: From syrup, tea to supplements, elderberry has become increasingly popular among the health-minded set. This medicinal plant, also known as *Sambucus*, dates back to Hippocrates, who

called the member of the Adoxaceae family his "medicine chest." This arrives from elderberry's inclusion of anthocyanins—a type of flavonoid with potent antioxidant activity.

Oregano: It possesses several health-promoting properties that may benefit lung or respiratory health. It fights both bacterial and fungal infections. Another natural antibiotic for fighting viruses and inflammation.

Ginger: This herb tends to be associated most often with soothing tummy problems, and yet it also serves as a great shield against symptoms of the common winter cold. Ginger root contains what's known as gingerols—compounds in the rhizome that may naturally support relief from arthritis and the alleviation of a dry, scratchy throat.

Chamomile: Aids digestion, alleviates nausea and gas while lowering blood sugar. A mild sedative for anxiety and insomnia.



Answers for Puzzles

All Things Scrambled – page 15	<u>Christmas Edibles</u>	Christmas Trivia – page 17	1. D – Santa's Little Helper
	Nuts Gravy Candy Cookie Turkey Eggnog Pudding Stollen Yulelog Dressing		2. A – Festus 3. C – Vince Guaraldi 4. A – Two 5. D – Kevin 6. B – He'll shoot his eye out
	<u>Toys and Games</u>	Baby Boomer Trivia – page 24	1. Bette Midler
	Lego Yoyo Furby Bratz Simon Slinky Barbie Frisbee Yahtzee Scrabble		2. Lester B. Pearson 3. Bruce Wayne 4. Bruce Springsteen 5. Coca-Cola 6. A diamond & Peter Sellers 7. Alka Seltzer 8. Smallpox 9. How The Grinch Stole Christmas 10. The Witch in The Wizard of Oz 11. 1953 12. Chatty Cathy Doll

Merry Christmas!



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In winter, Mother Nature dims the lights, sleeps late, hides from the world, and regenerates. Winter is the hangover of seasons. – Terri Guillemets



Welcoming some respite from puttering in the garden, the focus of gardeners is now on the modified COVID Christmas season. Those who have plants in the home can still enjoy the sight and touch of fresh greenery. If you want the warmth and smell of a garden, spend some time in local greenhouses that are open, such as Belgian Nurseries. The garden can still offer beauty with evergreens, colourful bark such as dogwood and birch, peeling bark of some shrubs and trees, the swaying of tall grasses, and the seed heads of plants. With a cover of snow, the winter garden has its own quiet beauty.

The in-person meetings have become virtual and I have been finding the convenience is great. From my home, webinars are available from multiple sources that we would have not known about or would have had a long drive to attend. Also you can become a listener. Podcasts are taking off in the horticultural genre. The *Joe Gardener Show* and *Gardening with the RHS* are very good. Charlie Dobbin and Niki Jabbour make their gardening radio programs available in podcast form, which are worth a listen. Check out our FB page for announcements of webinars. *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy, about a new approach to conservation that starts in your yard is

excellent or check out YouTube for his presentations. Our local library also carries his books.

Winter Should or Might Get To List



Keep active! Walking is an excellent activity and the Wilmot Recreation Centre has a great walking/running track if the outdoors is not appealing. I find the country road shoulders much less slippery during icy times than sidewalks in town. Wilmot has some walks through forests such as Schmidt's Woods, Laschinger Woods, and Baden Hills (a big hill to climb!).

- Order seed catalogues or look online at their websites; (<http://smallfarmcanada.ca>) has a listing of most seed companies).
- 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.



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www.facebook.com/groups/3133495739996313

Website: gardenontario.org/view/society-layout/entry/852

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Christmas Hacks by Chris Ehrat

What! How in the world did December get here so quickly? It is time to get ready for the holidays! Here are some helpful hints to help you get it done.

- Command Clips (sold at hardware stores) are great for hanging garland and wreaths. Why make holes in your walls and your front door? Attach the command hook inside your front door, attach a ribbon to the wreath and hang over the door's top.

- All those candy canes! If you have too many, you can hot-glove them (vertically) on a glass vase and tie a lovely ribbon around to keep secure. By adding some flowers in white and red, looks sharp!



- Protecting your electrical plugs and wires outdoors is a good idea. Take an old Ziploc or Tupperware container and cut holes on opposite sides. Place the plugs inside and then pop the lid on top and never worry about having to lose power on your lights.

- Oh no! The dog/cat/kids are pulling at the Christmas tree! You cannot be watching all the time to make sure they are safe. Just place bells on the branches close to the floor so you can hear when the tree is being disturbed.



- Have you any snoopers? We can fix that. All you need to do is use a specific gift wrap for each of your family members. On Christmas morning, give each family member a square of their gift wrap, so they will know which are theirs.

- Did you save your old holiday greeting cards? If so, you can make great tags for your gifts. Just cut out and write their name on the back, and voila, labels!

- Another cool idea is to use photos instead of gift tags.
- You do not need to buy potpourri because you can create your own. All you need are: two cups of water, one lemon and orange (sliced), four cinnamon sticks (broken in half before cooking), one teaspoon of whole cloves, four sprigs of fresh rosemary (rubbed with your hands to release oils), and ½ cup of fresh cranberries. Simmer this mixture on your stove, and remember to keep adding water. (Do not let the pot boil dry).
- Have you any clear garment bags? A great way to store your wrapping paper for another year! You can fit about fifteen rolls side by side and place a hanger in the top and tuck away in a closet.
- Save those paper towel and toilet paper rolls so you can secure your wrapping paper. Cut down the middle and open up, and place around your wrapping roll.
- Egg cartons! They are perfect for storing delicate, smaller ornaments and are excellent for storage. Easy to stack and easy to label!
- Time to take those lights off the tree. Grab a plastic hanger and start gently winding the lights around it. Next year it will be a lot easier for you to place the lights back on your tree. No more tangles!

Happy Holidays!!!




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Lambert Group Gives Back

The Lambert Group loves being a part of Baden and is happy to be able to give back to the **Baden Community Association** again this year. We are thankful for all the projects and events that the BCA does to keep Baden as amazing as it is!



Here at the Lambert Group, we are thrilled to be continuing our tradition of donating a portion of our Baden home sales back to the BCA. By selling **4X more Real Estate than any other agents or team**, we are excited to announce that we are presenting a cheque for **\$1,000 dollars** to the BCA on behalf of our **amazing clients!** We know this money will be put to great use in continuing to grow the community.

Keep an eye on our website – lambertgroup.ca to see what we have planned next! We wish everyone a safe holiday season and all the best in 2021!

I can't say enough about what a wonderful experience it was to work with Jon and his team! Having them in our corner to guide and support us made the difference in getting our dream home - and selling our existing home for top dollar!! -Robin H. of Wilmot Township



Yes... we all would like to do this on 2020.

We must be patient as 2021 needs a little time to restore this mess. So let's be kind and put our best foot forward!

Happy New Year!

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Christmas Word Search

By Laura Paghal

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

- ADVENT
- BELLS
- CANDY CANE
- CHRISTMAS SPIRIT
- COOKIES
- EGGNOG
- ELF
- FRUITCAKE
- GIFT WRAP
- GINGERBREAD
- JOYEUX NOEL
- LIGHTS
- MERRY
- NORTH POLE
- ORNAMENT
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER
- SAINT NICHOLAS
- STAR
- STOCKINGS
- TRADITIONS
- TREE
- WREATH
- YULE



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

Dear Neighbours,

Looking back at 2020, I am inspired by the many conversations I've had with residents, families, business owners, and community organizations throughout Kitchener-Conestoga.

In these conversations, I've discovered a commonality – our resilience and community spirit. Kitchener-Conestoga is a strong, supportive community and I am proud to represent your voice in Ottawa.

Protecting the health and safety of Canadians, your jobs and our economy is my top priority. I value your ideas and look forward to continued conversations. I'd love to hear from you, so please reach out.

Stay safe, take care of yourself and take care of each other.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021!

Tim Loui



TIM LOUIS

**Member of Parliament,
 Kitchener-Conestoga**

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*Merry Christmas
& Happy Holidays*

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A
WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON
AND ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR

Mike HARRIS
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*"Keeping the
Community
Connected"*



*happy
holidays!*

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