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# Baden Outlook

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Barry, Pat, & Katie Fisher

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

- Baden Outlook hits 250 issues printed! Barry gives the stats and facts
- Meet our newest Baden Birder—Cathy Parker
- Love the movie Elf? Sit down with the family and try our Elf Bingo while watching Elf
- Check out nostalgic Wilmot advertisements from 1978. Do you remember some of them?
- Wendell Erb and team play their first hockey game in new Wellesley arena
- See what's new at the Baden and New Hamburg libraries
- Scrooge makes an appearance in Theresa Billo's Word Search
- Gary White gives travel insurance tips that will surely make your travel easier—stay in the know!



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

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of The Baden Outlook.

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## Greetings from Headquarters ~



I was known as the Christmas fairy in my house growing up. I love the holidays so much! Since I am an adult and mom now, I still have excessive amounts of spirit but the things that bring me joy over the holidays have definitely changed. I prefer to watch the setting up of the tree. I love watching the kids partake and if I help hang the ornaments, I might miss cute expressions on their faces. I will foster their Christmas spirit with the right carols in the background, a deluxe hot chocolate to sip on, and putting the little hooks on the ornaments for them.... But I prefer a front row seat to watch their enjoyment.

Mom and I make Christmas cookies but in our own homes, on our own timeframes. We arrange who is in charge of what recipe each year and split batches for both homes. I usually take the more labour intensive recipes and spare her the hand power. It's lovely having a large variety of treats to enjoy without the large quantities. Baking before the holidays is my own personal joy and merriment. It puts me in my happy place and I love sharing treats with my friends and neighbours.

The bond of parents and kids at Christmas time is a special one and full of lifetime memories. I could not imagine a Christmas without my parents. I have a few friends who have lost their parents far too soon and I grieve for them. It's a special time of year to keep loved ones close and to also remember those who have left us. As always, our *Empty Chair* poem is in the December paper, this time on page 16.

As for New Year's Eve, my youngest loves the BCA kids party at EJ's, then we play board games and invite neighbours in or enjoy a wintery bonfire with marshmallows! Whatever you get up to this holiday, enjoy it with people you love. If you don't celebrate Christmas, enjoy the day off and New Year's with friends!



-----  
Hello December... good bye 2023! How odd that it seems a surprise to go forward to a new year — perhaps it's just realizing how quickly the time goes. Well, this month really goes fast as everyone is hustling and bustling about preparing for the upcoming Christmas festivities. I'm glad to see that over time I have learned to let go of some unreasonable expectations of myself. Preparing the Christmas decor, baking, the gifts and the guests can be overwhelming. I've learned to pace myself, make lists and do one day at a time working with my to-do lists. And, to say 'no' with no guilt knowing that I cannot possibly do it all. So I guess aging does bring wisdom and I'm excited to enjoy the upcoming days.

This issue is filled with the spirit of the season and of course, our fun, silly things to entertain you while you sit and relax. We found a bit of nostalgia and featured some very old advertising. Barry is excited to share that this issue is the 250th issue of the Outlook, and how cool it is to look back to see where travellers have taken the paper. You will find an interesting Cook's Corner where we shared trivia and a recipe about the festive berry. I love the spirit of the story of the gifted tree coming from Halifax each year. There is much more to read, so dive in!

This is the perfect time to wish a very Merry Christmas to our amazing writers who share interesting and informative articles, to our committed proofreaders Lil, Charlotte, and Wanda who help make us look good, and also to our wonderful advertisers who make all things possible... we thank you and hope you all have a wonderful holiday!



# Talking with Ed

## ~ Reflecting on 250 Issues

This issue is a milestone for our publication! What started as a 14-page newsletter, printing 600 copies, has grown into 38-40 pages with 2800 copies in distribution. I never thought I would be saying this but “this is our 250<sup>th</sup> issue”. Pretty surreal to be honest.



I started reflecting on what some readers have said to us over the years. We have heard that people like the jokes, puzzles and quizzes, and the fact that we feature good news stories with a focus on Wilmot. Those comments mean a lot to us – thank you! One other remark that we hear quite a bit is “I like travel photos”.



*Sylvia Forbes January 2009*

The first picture that we printed, was from Sylvia Forbes of Baden, who was President of the Baden Chamber of Commerce at the time. She and her husband went to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico – she sent us a picture of her holding the Baden Outlook. We ran that picture in January 2009; unfortunately, Sylvia passed away on June 21<sup>st</sup> of that year. That picture encouraged others to pack their Outlooks and submit their travel photos. The following February issue had two photos: sisters Janet Daub and Sherry Cressman in Panama, and the second photo was Kevin and Kelly Williams in Mexico. Contributions grew each month - the September 2009 issue had seven photos, and we have never looked back.

While celebrating this 250<sup>th</sup> issue, I decided I was going to revisit some old issues and tabulate where the submitters travelled to. After a couple of entries, I realized that I might as well add a name, a place, and a slight description of the photo. Have you ever started a project and part way through asked yourself - how did I take on this project, but you also can't stop because too much time was invested already? Between January 2009 and now

we received 931 photos and it took me hours and hours to document everything. It was a labour-intensive project but it was also so much fun looking at the old monthly photos. I think people have realized by now that I am a stats guy- to me documenting is fun.

Through this whole process I would have to say that Morningside, Stonecroft, and Foxboro probably made up one third or more of the photos submitted (depending on the month). A huge thank you to all those people. The rest were split up between Baden, New Hamburg, Wellesley, and Wilmot Township. There were many repeat submitters including Deb, Ali, Kristina, Irene, Dorothy, Donna, Deanna, Stacey, Jalyssa, Don and Ron, Arden, Joanne, Murray and many more. (Sorry if I missed anyone!)

The most popular destinations were Cuba, Dominican, and Florida – especially Disney. I guess that is not surprising considering they are very popular holiday destinations. Some of the other repeat locations were somewhat surprising, such as the Great Wall of China, Hawaiian volcanoes, Iceland, and the Eiffel Tower. There were also many unique photos - people in-hang gliding outfits, others sitting in inner tubes propelled behind boats, camel and elephant riders, kids in space shuttles and more.



*Kevin and Kelly Williams ~ February 2009*

Many of the photos were while on vacations; others were about a special event such as a wedding, special anniversary, birthday, or retirement. Some chose events or amazing achievements such as standing on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, Machu Picchu, completing the Boston Marathon, or attending a sports event at a stadium like Fenway Park.



*Sherry Cressman and Janet Daub  
February 2009*

There have been pictures featured in every province and territory in Canada (except Manitoba), 28 different states in the USA, and 25 European countries. I think you get a feel of how many locations have been represented. In the year 2013, we received the greatest number of pictures (96) while in 2021 we received three – not surprising with Covid.

In closing, I would like to thank all the people who have submitted photos. The effort involved in packing the paper in your luggage, looking for the perfect spot, and sending it to us is very humbling. It really does add to a small town feel as I would think that a reader would probably recognize someone in the photos.

Until next month—umm I mean next year ...Ed.



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## ALL THINGS SCRAMBLED

Within each category the words are jumbled up.  
Can you unscramble them? Answers on page 31

### Zoo Animals

RABE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
ONLI \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
LAMEC \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
POIPH \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
RIGET \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
BRAZE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
YEKNOM \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
LALIROG \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
RIREGAF \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
HELPTANE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

### Super Heroes

ROTH \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
KULH \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
BORIN \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
TABNAM \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
TAMNAN \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
MORNIAN \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
MANAQUA \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
MOANWACT \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
RAMPNUSE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
RENEVIWOL \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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# Wilmot Township is Filled with Spirit!

Thank you to the Baden Chamber of Commerce and the BCA for the light installation in downtown Baden! Seen below is Dianne Ritz with the set-up crew: Ron Kauth, Mike Aveline, and Terry Lynn.



Taylor, a Castle Kilbride staff member, is happy to share a Victorian Christmas experience with you!



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It was exciting for this gang at St James Lutheran Church to return to their Annual Christmas Bazaar on November 25th, (first one since Covid) offering a chili lunch, bake and craft sale, and lots of community spirit!



Happy  Holidays!

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Holiday Hours: Christmas Eve - open until 4 p.m.  
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day  
New Year's Eve: Private kids party - ticketed event with BCA  
Have a safe and happy holiday ~ from the EJ's team!





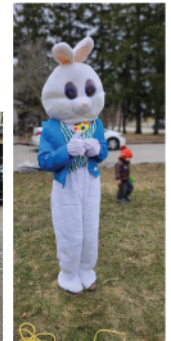


# Thank You Wilmot for Another Amazing Year!

2023 has been another fantastic year with our amazing community - from hunting Easter Eggs around the office, to ice cream dates, Outdoor Movie Night, and lots of Santa photos - we feel blessed to have each and every one of you in our lives.



If you missed any of our community events this year and want to know more about what we have in store for 2024, scan the QR code below and check our website out at [www.lambertgroup.ca](http://www.lambertgroup.ca)!



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-Steve S.



Fun visit with Santa thanks to the Lambert Group who kept Santa busy. Special appearance by the Grinch, and a shout out to Storybooks Events for helping to make the event magical.





# Looking Back 100, 75, and 50 Years Ago

By Sherri Gropp, Curator and Elizabeth Lukashal, Museum Attendant

## December 1923

Severe Storm. –The worst blizzard in several years swept over the entire Province on Wednesday. A mile-a-minute gale accompanied by snow raged all day and late into the night tying up transportation. Locally it was the worst storm experienced since 1918. The trains were running behind time all day.

Quite a serious accident happened last Thursday at the C.N.R. station to Delton, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Snyder of Berlet's Corner. He was waiting for a passenger and after the arrival of the train he cranked his car which was in gear. The car went forward knocking him into another car. The lad was severely bruised. Dr. Harvey was summoned and attended to the boy's injuries. We wish him a speedy recovery.

*Photo: Mae Robertson (back), Louise Weiler (middle) and Laura Louise Livingston at Castle Kilbride in 1923 after a big storm.*



## December 1948

### Haysville W.I. Hold Christmas Meeting

The Haysville Women's Institute- held their December (Christmas) meeting at the home of Mrs. Wilfred Schneller on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 1st, with 25 members answering the roll call with a sample of Christmas favors.

The president, Mrs. A. Christner, presided. During the business session \$10.00 was voted to the War Memorial Hospital, London, and \$10.00 to the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto. It was decided not to apply for the legislative grant. The secretary reported the proceeds from the recent tag day for the blind were \$320.75. This includes Baden and Wilmot district. Mrs. A. E. Bean led the singing of several Christmas carols.

Mrs. E. Klinkman brought the Christmas message and Mrs. P. W. Weicker read several of Mrs. Wynne Bunning's poems. Miss Marion Schneller favored with two piano instrumentals. The annual exchange of Christmas gifts was then enjoyed with the children receiving popcorn balls.

The meeting closed with singing of the national anthem, after which the hostess and her assistants' served refreshments.

### Acclamations Accorded in Several Townships

Acclamations were the order of the day at municipal nominations in the surrounding district. Nearly all the townships returned the representatives without resorting to elections. Blandford is the only township in this district where a contest will be held with four councilors to be chosen out of six nominated.

Reeve: Simon Ditner (accl.).

Deputy-Reeve: Henry B. Bowman (accl.).

Council: A.E. Kerr, Willard Witmer, M.A. Schmidt (accl.).

School Area No. 1: Walter Shantz and Harold Poth (accl.).

Baden: The re-election by acclamation of William Petznick, Eldon Berdux and Joseph Weiler provides Baden with the same board of trustees for 1949.



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## 1973- 50 Years Ago

December 5, 1973

Dogs cost township \$945 in recent weeks

Wilmot Township council backtracked on an earlier decision Monday night and moved to approve livestock valuator's report submitted two weeks ago.

In making the move, council agreed to approve payments of \$845 for 169 chickens killed on the farm of Charles Christner of RR2, Baden.

Two weeks ago, council was told by Mr. Christner that he would have to sue the owner of the dog which killed his chickens in order to be reimbursed for the loss of the chickens. A subsequent check of the relevant act showed, however, that it was up to council to sue the owner of the dog in cases where it had been established which dog had killed the chickens.

Baden welcoming inconvenience

The streets here are torn up and almost impassable. The deafening roar of heavy equipment shatters rural peace. The people have anticipated this for more than 15 years and despite the inconvenience, most of the 1000 or residents are happy to see their water and sewer systems finally being installed. They're especially happy the province is paying between 50 and 75 percent of the capital cost. Once installed, Baden's new services will enable the village to expand by 200 homes. Mr. Swartzentruber said that at the current growth rate or 15 to 20 new homes a year the community should reach its optimum population of 1800 within 10 years.

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## Herner's Victorian Village

The HERNERS have had a longstanding connection with Castle Kilbride that began over 50 years ago when David's father, Harley, was a chauffeur for the second generation of the Livingston family. This connection continued many years later when David and Harley were instrumental in the restoration of Castle Kilbride. Taking on the monumental task of recreating all the exterior wooden architectural details, they rose to the challenge and masterfully recreated all the details you see today. Since the home's beginning as a museum, David's wife, Colleen, has also been actively involved, graciously donating her time and talents to enrich its history and beauty for all who visit. It was this love of heritage and community that prompted them to begin collecting



Dave and Colleen Herner (left) completing the set up with help from friends Bryan and Deb (right).



"Department 56 Dickens Village" in the early 1990s. Several years and hundreds of pieces later, the HERNERS have created an outstanding DICKENS'S VILLAGE. To the delight of Castle Kilbride staff and visitors alike, this fascinating array of over 150 impressively detailed tiny homes and shops has been part of the museum's Christmas display since 2017. It is truly a bit of winter cheer not to be missed! Be sure to stop by Castle Kilbride this season and imagine yourself walking through the magical snow-covered streets of Victorian England.

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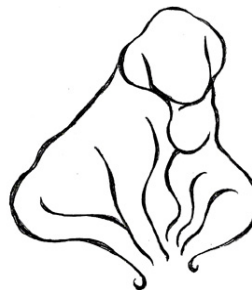
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## Baden Birding—Local Bird Watching

By Cathy Parker



Our natural environment is a fragile thing, or so our society has been learning these last few years. Droughts and forest fires, deforestation and urban expansion have all changed our outdoor habitat. Birds are an essential part of our ecosystem in Southern Ontario, and sadly like the rest of North America, we've lost millions of birds over the past few decades. The reasons are complex. However, we can make a difference. Education about birds is one way that we all can step up.

We're lucky to have at least 10 great (and free) places to watch birds in Wilmot Township. Starting in our own backyards, we can observe the different birds that call it home. House sparrows, yellow finches, starlings, grackles, robins and chickadees may all visit your yard. Some will visit in the winter, while others may nest in it during the spring and summer.



You'll see flocks flying high overhead, or gleaning your lawn for pesky insects. Some will sit on your back fence, visit your flowers for nectar, bathe in your birdbath, and even poop on your car.

Learning to identify birds is not hard. Start by looking at the colour patterns of feathers, the size, the shape, the beak shape, the song, the ways birds move, and the way they fly. Keep notes, take photos, and consult books, or online resources such as Cornell University's <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/#>. The same organization has developed a great bird identification app for your phone called Merlin. You can download it from Google Play or The Apple App Store. The app will identify birds by asking 5 simple questions, and by the sounds that birds make!



Wilmot is home to some pretty cool birds like: Ospreys, Wild Turkeys, Herons, Sandpipers, Redstarts, Bluebirds, Hummingbirds, and owls. Bald Eagles are even known to circle high above us. Many types of ducks and geese either live, or pass through Wilmot during migration season. All you have to do is look.

Here are my top 9 other places to find birds and get outdoors:

- The Baden Pond
- Mike Schout Wetlands Preserve, New Hamburg
- Gibney Forest (Baden Hills Regional Forest)
- William Scott Park, New Hamburg
- Optimist Park on Alder Lake, New Dundee
- Crown Land Trail on Queen Street near Highway 7
- Snyder's Woods on Carmel Koch Road
- Hydrocut Trail at the Petersburg Regional Forest
- Almost anywhere along the Nith River

Should you choose to feed birds in winter, please know that birds do not naturally hang out in close quarters, especially rubbing shoulders with different species. Disease can be passed from one bird to another, and it normally ends badly for all involved. Choose feeders where birds can stay apart when eating. Finally, always remember to leave birds a comfort space-cushion when observing them. They are wild animals. Never disturb nests, or stand too close to them. Birds may abandon their eggs and not return to a location that is unsafe.

You may wish to record your bird findings online through Merlin, or other resources such as the Audubon Bird Guide (<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>). Our observations will become part of the movement of citizen science to help save the planet.

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Have a safe and happy holiday season with those you love! Stop by to find the perfect gift for your furry or feathery friends



*“Wishing Peace to all this Christmas season.”*



*'Tis the Season... It is difficult to see all your favourite people, but perhaps take the time to call someone you care about and wish them a Merry Christmas and spread some joy!*





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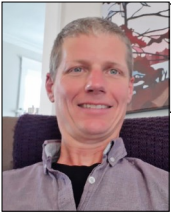
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## A Body at Rest

By: Chip Bender, Registered Psychotherapist (qualifying)



Newton's First Law of Motion states that a body at rest will remain at rest unless an outside force acts on it. In my experience, there are not many outside forces strong enough to push my body out of rest. Maybe it's because I am naturally lazy, but there seem to be forces at work keeping my body at rest. First thing in the morning, it is my warm, comfortable bed and last thing in the evening, it is a comfortable couch mixed with an enthralling sports competition.

Not that there is anything inherently wrong with enjoying my bed or my sports viewing. However, as I discovered, some enjoyable activities can crowd out other activities, which may create a higher quality of life. For instance, I have learned starting my day with some physical exercise and/or meditation tends to increase my overall enjoyment of the day. The problem is, for me, and for many people with whom I have talked, knowing what to do and actually doing it are two completely different things. The force keeping me at rest was greater than the force setting my body into motion.

Fortunately, I have also discovered two small manageable

ways to counteract the forces keeping me at rest. The first is making my bed every morning, which may seem like a pointless task considering it is going to get messed up that night again. However, for the minimal effort required, making my bed yields two benefits that have proven to improve my day. The first benefit is that it gives me a sense of accomplishment, which is often the gateway to building momentum to accomplishing more tasks throughout the day. The second benefit is it creates a semblance of orderliness, which contributes to a sense of calm. Considering it only takes me 15 seconds to make my bed (though I have never officially timed it) it has an excellent payback in benefits.

The second small step that has helped counteract the force of inertia and move me from a good intention to action is going to bed marginally earlier. Often what gets in the way of a good intention is another habit creating a barrier, which keeps us from engaging in the desired activity. By shrinking the barrier, the desired activity becomes easier to do. For me the barrier to getting out of bed earlier was being too tired. Getting to bed slightly earlier meant the barrier to getting out of bed was more manageable.

Many of us encounter barriers that keep our intentions from turning into the actions that we know will improve our quality of life. Hopefully, these two examples will generate some of your own creative ideas to push your body into a state of motion. Sometimes speaking with a therapist will help you to discover possible alternative actions.



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**You Must Be Joking!!**



Christmas is so much harder when you get older. It's like, "What do you want this year?" I don't know, maybe a sense of purpose, financial security, more sleep, and a bottle of wine!



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# A Christmas Carol Word Search

By: Theresa Billo

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

Circle the words below in the word search to the left. Words can be found left, right, up, down, and diagonal.



- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| ALICE        | GOOSE        |
| BED CURTAINS | GRAVE        |
| BED POST     | HUMBUG       |
| CLERK        | IGNORANCE    |
| CLOCK        | JACOB MARLEY |
| COAL         | MISER        |
| CRATCHIT     | MORAL        |
| DICKENS      | MRS DILBER   |
| EBENEZER     | PAST         |
| FEZZIWIG     | PRESENT      |
| FRED         | TINY TIM     |
| FUTURE       | TURKEY       |
| GHOSTS       | WANT         |

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## THE TCMH CORNER: *Resident's Perspectives ~ Meet Jim Cullen*

The halls at Tri-County Mennonite Homes (TCMH) are decked and people are feeling jolly. Christmas is right around the corner! At Nithview Home, the doors to resident rooms are decorated, staff have planned lots of activities, and most everyone is thinking of the holiday fun ahead. One of the people looking forward to the festive season is James (Jim) Cullen.

Jim has been living in Nithview Home since February. He grew up in the small mining town of Shaughnessy, Alberta, but moved to Ontario to marry and raise his family. When Jim was a kid, his family didn't always celebrate Christmas, so the holiday became very special to him when he had a family of his own. Together with his wife, they created many traditions Jim was quite happy to talk about.

One of Jim's favourite things to do for Christmas was decorating. Whether it was putting up lights on the house, or adding the finishing touches on the tree, Jim took pleasure in hanging decorations. There was one



time though when Jim thought twice about his decorations. Their pet cat climbed up the tree and ruined all the decorations. Safe to say, Jim did not have a cat the following year and his decorations were safe again.

Another favourite part of Christmas was the food. In Jim's house, they celebrated Christmas Eve with a fancy meal of lobsters, escargot, and yule log for dessert. But on Christmas day, there was nothing better than a big turkey dinner


with homemade cranberry sauce and lots of freshly made pies. For Jim, the absolute best part of the holiday meals was not actually the food, but the company. For Jim, a holiday meal means having everyone together as a family which was more important than what was on the table to eat.

Jim's family traditions are like those many of us have. On Christmas eve, Jim would let his kids open one present before bed. He and his wife made sure it was always new pyjamas. On Christmas morning, they would wake up and enjoy Christmas breakfast before opening their gifts. Jim's wife made matching stockings with each person's initial. There were even stockings for the pets (though, this writer wonders if perhaps not for the cat who ate the decorations...).

Of course, we had to ask about Santa – did Jim believe??


He did not. Jim jokes he was too smart as a kid to believe in Santa. However, most of his kids believed. Only his daughter ever questioned Santa's existence. At 5-years old, she approached Jim and his wife to ask the truth about Santa. She was earnest that she would not be sad if they told her the truth. So, they did, and it made her quite sad in the end. But just in case there are any kids who believe in Santa and who are reading this: Don't stop believing! Santa is real for anyone who believes.

This year, Jim has asked his wife to bring a small tree for him to decorate in his room. He wants to continue some of his favourite traditions here at Nithview. And why not if it makes him happy! Tis the season after all. *So, from everyone at TCMH, we hope you have a fun filled holiday season, packed with all the traditions that make you happy.*



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# EcoNugget

## Eco-friendly Packaging

When shopping, remember to look for **eco-friendly packaging**.

- An item with no packaging is best. If packaging is unavoidable, **reusable containers** or naturally occurring materials are best, such as paper or compostable materials.
- Is plastic recyclable? Some types are, but only once, as the polymers break down when heated. Plastic breaks down to form **microplastics**, which are toxic to wildlife and likely people as well.
- Metal or glass can be recycled many times but require higher temperatures to recycle than plastic. But no toxic microplastics are made. New metal requires mining, so recycled metal is better.

For more on eco-friendly packaging:

<https://www.environment911.org/What-You-Need-to-Know-About-Eco-friendly-Packaging>

The Nith Valley EcoBoosters (NVEB) is a not-for-profit, politically non-partisan group of volunteers aged 8 to 70 plus years that has been active in the community for 10 years. We are not environmental experts – just residents of Wilmot and Wellesley Townships who are concerned about the climate crisis. We are funded by donations, fundraising efforts, and grants (no membership fees to join). Our mandate is to achieve and support a long-term healthy environment and we accomplish this through education, action and collaboration.

Take a look at our website to see what we do ([nvecoboosters.com](http://nvecoboosters.com)) and we hope you will consider coming to our next general monthly meeting which will be held at **7:00PM on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>** (no meeting in December). Please contact us via e-mail:

[nvecoboosters@gmail.com](mailto:nvecoboosters@gmail.com) or call **519-662-9372** if you would like to participate in this meeting or want more information.

Don't wait. Help our communities. Help our environment.



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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.*



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# Drop One For Fun

Answers on page 31

Write the five-letter answer to clue #1 in the first box. Drop one letter and rearrange the remaining letters to answer clue #2. Put the dropped letter into column A. Drop another letter and rearrange the remaining letters to answer clue three. Put the dropped letter into column B. Follow the pattern for each row into the diagram. When completed, the letters in column A and column B, reading down, will spell words or a phrase. Have fun!

	A		B	
1		2		3
4		5		6
7		8		9
10		11		12
13		14		15

1. A weighing instrument
2. Fine fabric
3. A Bar favourite
4. Double Garment fold
5. Animal coat of fur
6. A dog or cat
7. Highly unpleasant
8. Remain in the same place
9. A barnyard home
10. A wind instrument
11. A duct for smoke
12. Santa's helper
13. Moisture through pores
14. A direction
15. Not dry





## Global Outlook – Amazing Madagascar



Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world after Greenland, Papua New Guinea, and Borneo. It is located in the Indian Ocean, 250 miles off the coast of Africa – the Mozambique channel separates the two. It measures 1600 km. at its longest points and 570 km. at it's widest. It has over 5,000 kilometres of beaches and coral reefs. The island has a large variety of landscape including volcanic mountain terrain, humid rain forests, sandstone cliffs, and bizarre karst forests.

Madagascar has species of animals and plants that are found nowhere else in the world including 346 kinds of reptiles. The Lemur is also one such animal exclusive to Madagascar with 70 varieties – the Ringtail being the most famous. There are one hundred and fifty types of Chameleons on Earth and more than half of them are found on Madagascar. Fifty nine varieties are found nowhere else in the world. There are also 10,000 species of plants identified on the island and 90% of them are only found in Madagascar. The baobab tree (pictured above), which looks like an upside-down tree, and the octopus' tree are once again exclusive to the island.

Madagascar was named by Marco Polo in the 1500s. The French colonized the island and in 1960 Madagascar gained its independence. The French language is mainly used in the cities, but Malagasy is spoken in the countryside. Christianity is the main religion in a country that is very poor – only 11% of the roads are paved. The population was 29.2 million in 2021.



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# Checking out the Baden Library



## FOR ADULTS

- Book Talk – December 13 and January 10 at 3:00 p.m. – New Hamburg Branch
- DIY Ornaments - Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. – New Hamburg Branch
- Adult Reading Challenge – starts Tuesday, January 2 - pickup up your BINGO card at your local RWL Branch
- Trivia Night – Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. – Peel Street Brewery in New Hamburg
- Drop-in Yarn Craft Club – Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. – New Hamburg Branch

## NEW! Discovery Kits

Discover... shapes, numbers, under the sea, farms, and beyond!

Discovery Kits are a free resource designed for children (age 0-6) and their families to explore and learn about new topics together! Each kit comes in an RWL tote bag equipped with books and activities focused on a theme or topic.

Scan this code to place a hold on a kit



## Grade One Book Giveaway

Grade One families, pick up your FREE copy of *Chaiwala!* at your local RWL branch today! An initiative grounded in supporting literacy and a passion for reading in young children.



Scan this code to see our full Events Calendar, and to register for our programs



Call 226-748-8030 or email [rwlprograms@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:rwlprograms@regionofwaterloo.ca) if you have questions about upcoming programs.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

### Holiday Hours

Saturday, December 23: 10 am-2 pm  
Monday, December 25 – Closed  
Tuesday, December 26 – Closed  
Wednesday, December 27 – 1 – 8 pm  
Thursday, December 28 – 10 am – 5 pm  
Saturday, December 29 – 10 am – 2 pm  
Monday, January 1, 2024: Closed  
Tuesday, January 2: Open - regular hours resume



### Holiday Puzzle Exchange

Come in and check out our large selection of holiday picture books to make story-time festive. We also have your holiday family movie nights covered - from classics you may not find elsewhere to newer movies; you can search our catalogue at [rwllibrary.ca](http://rwllibrary.ca) to place your holds. This year, we are also holding a Holiday Puzzle Exchange - bring in last year's holiday puzzle and trade for a new one!

### New Year Fun!

**Tuesday, January 2 from 1:30 – 3 pm: Popcorn Theatre Movie Day presents “Elemental”.** Popcorn provided; please bring your own water bottle. All ages welcome. Please register on-line to reserve your spot.

**Thursday, January 4 from 1:15 – 2 pm: Bingo is my Thing “Holiday Edition”.** This program of classic Bingo is for our 6-9 year old school-aged friends. Registration is required.

New Year, New Programming!

## FOR FAMILIES

- Storytime with Spectrum – Mondays starting January 8 at 10:00 a.m. – Baden Branch
- Family Storytime – Wednesdays starting January 10 at 9:30 a.m. – Wellesley Branch
- Story Hour – Wednesdays starting January 10 at 9:30 a.m. – New Dundee Branch

## FOR BABIES

- Baby & Me – Wednesdays, starting January 10 at 11:00 a.m. – Wellesley Branch

## FOR KIDS

- STEAM Team – Mondays starting January 8 at 4:00 p.m. – New Hamburg Branch
- Crafty Tween – Wednesdays starting January 10 at 4:00 p.m. – New Hamburg Branch
- Preschool STEAM – Wednesday, January 17 at 10:30 a.m. – New Hamburg Branch

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*Keeping the community Connected*





## ELF (THE MOVIE) BINGO



It's a wonderful time of year for Christmas movies. If you watch the movie Elf this year, consider having fun with our Elf Bingo during your holidays. Share these bingo cards, then simply cross off items as you hear it! You can play first person get to get one, three, or five lines win! Have fun!

Buddy reads Elf	For that special someone	"He's on the naughty list."	World's best cup of coffee	"You stink. You smell like beef and cheese"	"Francisco"	Buddy gets hit by a taxi	Passionfruit spray	"Six inch ribbon curls"	"He's an angry elf"
"Worst toy maker in the world."	"Candy, candy canes, candy corns, and syrup"	"Watch out, the yellow ones don't stop"	"They've been trying to nail me for years"	Snowball fight	"The children loved the books"	Baby it's cold outside	"You sit on a throne of lies!"	"Make work your favourite."	Gum
"Smiling's my favourite"	Central Park Rangers	<b>FREE</b>	Jack in the box	"Santa, here? I know him!"	"Someone need a hug?"	Buddy reads Elf	<b>FREE</b>	"I'm in a store and I'm singing!"	"Bye Buddy! I hope you find your dad"
"Cotton headed ninny muggins"	Revolving doors	"What's a Christmas gram? I want one."	"There's no singing in the North Pole."	"Call me elf one more time"	World's best cup of coffee	"Not now, arctic puffin!"	Santa's crash landing	"Do you want to go eat food?"	"...affinity for elf culture"
"I like to whisper too!"	"Tickle fight!"	Elevator Christmas tree	Little Buddy Diapers	"I know, I'm in work clothes."	Singing loud for all to hear	"I like to whisper too!"	"..through the 7 levels of the candy cane forest"	Mail room	"My finger has a heartbeat"



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Cranberries are a fall fruit and popular food during the holidays. Whether they are in your turkey cranberry sauce, tucked into the stuffing, dessert or into your special beverage—they are red and festive. Cranberries are quite tart and most often consumed as juice, which is normally sweetened and blended with other fruit juices. They also boast several vitamins and minerals, including manganese, copper, and vitamins C, E, and K1. Fresh cranberries are nearly 90% water, but the rest is mostly carbs and insoluble fibre — such as pectin, cellulose, and hemicellulose — which pass through your gut almost intact. Cranberries have been shown to be effective against urinary tract infections (UTIs). Here is a festive cake to enjoy on Christmas morning.

### Cranberry Sour Cream Coffee Cake

#### Ingredients:

- \* ½ cup butter softened
- \* 1 cup sugar
- \* 2 eggs
- \* 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- \* 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice, about 1 lemon
- \* 1 cup all-purpose flour
- \* ½ teaspoon baking powder
- \* ½ cup sour cream
- \* 6 ounces fresh cranberries, about 1 cup's worth



#### Topping Ingredients:

- \* ⅔ cup all-purpose flour
- \* ⅓ cup brown sugar
- \* ¼ cup melted butter

#### Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease an 8" or 9" square pan with butter. Beat the butter and the sugar together until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Stir in the vanilla, lemon juice. Add the eggs, mixing just until combined.

Combine the flour and baking powder in a bowl. Add half of the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir to combine. Add the sour cream, mix again, and add the remaining dry ingredients. Mix just until combined. Gently stir in the cranberries and pour the batter into the prepared pan.

Place the flour and sugar for the topping in a small bowl and add the melted butter. Stir with a fork to combine. Sprinkle the sugary crumbs over the batter in the pan.

Bake for 42-46 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean or with moist crumbs. Let cool before slicing.

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

## Calendar Fundraiser November Winners



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## Congratulations Winners!

- Holly Bast \$50 Gift Certificate to Oak Grove Cheese
- Andrea Brodhagen \$50 Gift Certificate to NH Home Hardware
- Mel Snyder \$50 Gift Certificate to Kathie Jordan Design
- Lois Smith \$50 Gift Certificate to EJ's at Baden Tavern
- Angela Brown \$50 Gift Certificate to Twice the Deal Pizza

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## WILMOT HERITAGE FIRE BRIGADES

Congratulations to our recent winner George Milligan winning \$252.50!



Thank you to everybody that supports this fundraiser. We do our draw the last Wednesday of every month.

Don't forget our can and bottle drive is the last Saturday morning every month from 9 am until noon. We want your empties, including all type of alcohol and also pop cans.

We are open Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m.

**2024 Wilmot Calendar** \$25

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Photo by: Darryl Gingerich

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DECEMBER	5	19	APRIL	2	16
JANUARY	16	30	6:30PM - 7:30PM		

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# COFFEE HOUSE TALKS

Learn, Create, Share

Coffee House Talks is a group for adults over 55 years old. It provides an opportunity in our community for us to learn new things, share information and create new relationships. Individuals can come together in various ways and have some fun!



➤ Past event have included healthy living, craft activities, gardening, and internet safety.

➤ Please join us at our next event! Visit our website for upcoming events or contact us for more information.



### Our Contact:

- ☎ WFRC - 519-662-2731
- ✉ coffeehousetalks2020@gmail.com
- ✉ info@wilmotfamilyresourcecentre.ca
- 🌐 <https://sites.google.com/view/coffeehousetalks/home>



This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program

# LOOK WHAT WE ACHIEVED!



OUR CAMPAIGN EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We are so grateful for the generosity of donors like you. Your support plus matching donations from Josslin Insurance and BW Feed and Supply raised **\$42,610 towards the Mill Block Community!**

Funds raised will go towards the completion of architectural drawings, engineering and environmental assessments needed to finalize our site plan. All of this brings us closer and closer to construction and renovation of the Mill Block Community and realizing the dream of equitable housing in New Hamburg.

**Want to find out more?** There are many ways for you to get involved, and we want you to be part of this meaningful work. Check out what LYNC is all about. Our newsletter will keep you informed on our progress as well as explore current issues such as affordable housing, food insecurity, isolation, the need for community and environmental responsibility.

Once again, a most heartfelt thanks to a caring community and YOU!

*Warm regards from LYNC Board of Directors and Staff, Steve, Lisa, Glen, Paul, Jim and Boris*



## THE WILMOT HERITAGE FIRE BRIGADES ...

*A fire service museum that loves sharing trivia and nostalgia with you.*

*10 Bell Drive, Baden*

*Open Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:00*

This photograph is of the old fire hall located in New Hamburg. It was located next to the library where the current fire hall is. At one time in history this fire hall had a horse drawn steam pumper as its main piece of equipment. The



tower in the back of the building was used to hang wet fire hose so that it would properly drain and dry before it was reloaded onto the trucks. Old style fire hose was manufactured out of materials that would become moldy and rotted easily if not properly dried.

### Most needed items at our local Food Bank as of Fall/Winter 2023:

- Chunky Soups (stew, chili)
- Beans in sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Rice
- Tomatoes
- Canned Pasta with Meat
- Hot Cereal
- Pudding Cups
- 100% Fruit Juice



Wilmot Family Resource Centre

**Donations can be brought to our office during our business hours, or to the local grocery stores in New Hamburg (No Frills and Sobeys).**

**\*\*Note:** *If you plan to drop off large food donations, please call the office ahead at 519-662-2731 to arrange. You may also drop-off the donation Monday-Friday 9 am-4:30 pm in the blue food donation bins at our front and back doors. We check the bins regularly and bring inside often.*



## Outlook Sudoku ~ Answers on page 31

The objective is to fill the grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes (contains the digits from 1 to 9. None of the columns, rows, or boxes can have two of the same number. This is a game of deduction. Use the numbers provided as a starting point and clue on where numbers might be placed.

For more detailed explanation, visit <https://sudoku.com/how-to-play/sudoku-rules-for-complete-beginners/>

6		8	4	1	9	7		5
				2		1		3
2	1	7	3		8	9		6
8		3				2	9	
	5	1	9				6	
				4		8		
5							1	
			8		5	6		
	8	2		6	4			



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## You Must Be Joking!!



- \* My resolution is to read more.... So I will start putting the subtitles on my TV.
- \* My New Year's resolution is stop procrastinating. But I'll wait until tomorrow to start.
- \* New Year? I just got used to the last one!
- \* I promise not to make any bad jokes for the rest of the year..... A dad on New Year's Eve.
- \* What do you call always wanting a date for New Year's Eve? Social security.
- \* I was going to quit all my bad habits for the new year.... But then I remembered that nobody likes a quitter.
- \* At the beginning of this year, I made a resolution to lose 10 pounds. Only 15 more to go!
- \* What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.
- \* Every New Year's Eve, I look forward to a good show at Time's Square. Year after year, they drop the ball.



# PHARMASAVE

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Bath Safety • Mobility Aids • Hospital Beds

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## Turtles Come Out Flying at First Game in the New Wellesley Arena

Hockey history was made on Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> when the puck dropped between an intersquad game of Wellesley Turtles. It only took two minutes for the first goal to be scored by Kyle Erb against his father, Wendell Erb. From there, the game settled down and at the midway point, the score was 2-0 for the White team. As the game moved into the second half, the conditioning of the players became evident and the final score was 9-1. Riley Williams was the only player to get one past Blair Gowing for the Green team. Kyle Erb finished with a game high five goals. Tough guy, Randy Balfour, was his usual self, keeping everyone on both teams honest. Most Friday nights at 8:00 p.m. in Wellesley, the Turtles are on the ice. Come out for a walk around the new track and watch some less than stellar hockey on the ice.



**Back Row l-r,** Ben Balfour, Riley Williams, Bill Eaton, Adam Swartzentruber, Terry Gerber, Eric Furlong, Gerry Furlong, Steven Furlong, Dino Guerra, Randy Balfour, Kyle Erb, Conner Arms.  
**Front row l-r,** Paul Gowing, Wendell Erb, Blair Gowing.

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– Ron Schlegel, founder of Schlegel Villages”

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Katie x 8008



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## You Must Be Joking!!

- \* How does a North Pole carpenter fix something broken? Igloos it together!
- \* Why did Princess Elsa fall off her sled? She let it go.
- \* Why did Dad stop using his loyalty card to scrape ice from his windshield? He only got 10% off!
- \* Did you hear about the lispig snowman? He came, he thaw, he conquered.
- \* Did you hear about the man buried alive under the sudden snowstorm? He was feeling under the weather.



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

May this Season  
REMIND YOU  
OF THE HOPE, JOY,  
LOVE, & PEACE  
FOUND IN *Christ*.



Romans 15:13

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### Local Churches Invite You to Join Them

#### Steinmann Mennonite Church

Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m.  
[www.smchurch.ca](http://www.smchurch.ca)

#### Zion Philipsburg Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
[www.philipsburglutheranchurch.ca](http://www.philipsburglutheranchurch.ca)

#### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
[www.petersburgchurch.org](http://www.petersburgchurch.org)

#### Shantz Mennonite Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
[www.shantzmc.ca](http://www.shantzmc.ca)

#### St. James Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.  
[www.stjamesinbaden.org](http://www.stjamesinbaden.org)

#### Wilmot Mennonite Church

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

#### St Agatha Mennonite Church

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
All are welcome. 519-634-8212



**“It’s not how much we give but how much love we put into giving”. Mother Teresa**

Feeling overwhelmed by the holiday rush? Unsure of what to get for that special someone who seems to have it all? Consider a meaningful alternative this Christmas, rather than succumbing to the stress of traditional shopping, opt for a gift that keeps on giving. Here are a few ideas:

- The 2023 MCC Christmas Giving Guide allows you to choose a thoughtful present for a person or community in need, either in place of or to complement a traditional gift. Select from a range of options such as gifts of hope, food, water, peace, education, livelihoods, health, and more, each available in various amounts. Visit [www.mcc.org/christmas](http://www.mcc.org/christmas) to purchase any of these gifts. Additionally, you can give by mail, or the Christmas Giving Guides are available at the New Hamburg Thrift Centre.
- Another great gifting option is to purchase an MCC Thrift Christmas Giving Ornament for \$13. This unique ornament made from wildflower seed paper can be planted, and it grows into a beautiful plant. The proceeds from every ornament sold will go towards providing people in need with nutrition and an income through the gift of fruit trees.

**ANNUAL  
Ski Sale**

**Begins December 2**

41 Heritage Dr, New Hamburg  
[mccthriftontario.com/newhamburg](http://mccthriftontario.com/newhamburg)

MCC  
NEW HAMBURG  
THRIFT CENTRE

- For those who enjoy finding great bargains, consider an MCC gift card from the New Hamburg Thrift Centre. Your purchase not only supports the valuable work of the Mennonite Central Committee but also adds an element of surprise for the avid bargain hunter. Gift cards can be loaded with any amount, making them perfect for slipping into a card. We also offer a diverse selection of handmade gifts crafted by volunteers.

With a touch of creativity and a desire to make a positive impact, there's something for everyone on your list. Wishing you and your loved ones a truly special Christmas, filled with the genuine meaning of the season. May the spirit of giving and compassion be at the heart of your holiday celebrations!



**MCC THRIFT**

**Give the gift that makes a difference!**

Purchase an eco-friendly **MCC Thrift Christmas Giving ornament** and provide families in need with **the gift of nutrition and income.**

Plus, **plant this ornament** and watch it grow into a **bouquet of wildflowers!**

Find more gift ideas in MCC's Christmas Giving guide

**John Morosan**  
*I am here to answer all your questions at*  
[john.morosan@2percentrealty.ca](mailto:john.morosan@2percentrealty.ca)  
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# AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

By: *Kate Stevely*

An Attitude of Gratitude makes for a lovely title. It flows and rhymes, but more importantly it is a reminder of what Gratitude is. Gratitude is an attitude. Just like Respect. Just like Stewardship. Uplifting, positive attitudes must be learned in some way. We are not born with them. They are among the most important things we can teach our children.

We've just been through two holidays dedicated to Gratitude. One of them is the proper one. Canadian Thanksgiving, and the other one is the American Thanksgiving.

When it comes to showing Gratitude, the American Thanksgiving may have lost its way just a little bit. It has been overtaken by the whole Black Friday phenomenon which has nothing to do with Gratitude. In fact, it may be the antithesis of Gratitude, that ugly word Entitlement. And so, we have lost a lot. Gratitude is a feeling and emotion that warms us from the inside out. It's that feeling of waking up in the morning and feeling grateful to be alive. It is NOT about scoring a great sale price on something we don't really need.

And those who follow the belief that you will things into existence will tell you that you must have an Attitude of Gratitude before you begin manifesting. That you have to all ready feel the Gratitude you'll have when you get whatever it is that you're trying to manifest. It may sound like a chicken and egg thing, but the reality is that the Gratitude does have to come first. We must feel that what we really want is something that will really make us happy and will make us feel grateful. Do you know the decluttering Queen, Marie Kondō? This is kind of a pre-emptive version of her theory, "Only keep things if they bring you joy". if we think about it long and hard, maybe some of the things that we think we want are not really the things that will bring us joy.

And perhaps, you could take it a little further and say that it is never really things that bring us joy. Feelings of happiness, joy, and contentment all have Gratitude at

their roots. Gratitude is the feeling of being surrounded by warm loving friends. Gratitude is the feeling that should come out of every encounter with another human being. We should feel Gratitude for being able to share life's experience with others.



It always comes back to Yoga for me. My Yoga practice has helped me understand much about Gratitude. In Sanskrit, the word for Gratitude is Kritajna, which means a cultivated or acquired state of awareness. In Yoga, we practice Gratitude. We practice Gratitude for change. We practice Gratitude for knowing that without change we can't heal, and we can't get stronger. So, we're grateful for every ounce of change we can feel. And we are grateful for the inner strength that brings us regularly to the mat. At the end of every practice, we express our Gratitude for the beautiful light we see in all others, and we express our Gratitude for the same beautiful light within us that lets us truly see. That is what we mean when we say, 'Namaste'.

WWW.SENIORSINWATERLOOREGION.COM

## Selling the Seniors' Way

The purchase and sale of a home is very different than it used to be.

If you or a senior family member are starting to think about making a move, I am here to help.

WARM WISHES FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS!



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## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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*Blanka Michale*

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**Please be kind to retail workers this holiday season! They are having to put in extra hours and time away from their loved ones so you can shop this Christmas. Be kind. Be courteous.**

## Looking Back to 1977

In 1977, the Baden Pirate Fastball team that won the South Perth League championship and the WOAA Intermediate championship.

*Thank you Dave Taves for submitting this photo!*



Back row left to right - Jerry Preston (Mgr), Jim Langford, Tom Pearson, Mike Weiler, Bob Roi, Laurie Honderich, Don Roi, and Dave Hallman

Middle Row - Bruce Bender, Bruce Yantzi, Bill Snyder, Ted Seyler

Front Row - Dave Taves, Dave Mohr, Wayne Faulhafer, Jim Kaufman

## Reminder for those Stressing over Christmas

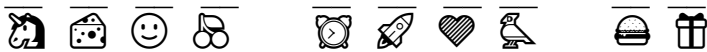
- You don't need matching Christmas pyjamas to be happy.
- You don't need pictures with Santa to have a good Christmas.
- Children needs presence over presents. Family and friends are everything.
- Christmas movie night doesn't need to be in a picture perfect home on a 60" television.
- Colour coordinated decorations mean nothing to children.
- The size of your present pile is not a reflection of you as a parent.
- Your kids will grow up and remember the love and laughs at Christmas— Not the presents they have received.



## KIDS' CORNER

### EMOJI CODE!

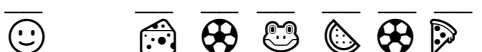
Use the letter guide to the right to complete this secret message!



?

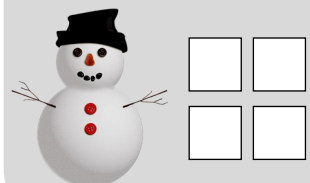
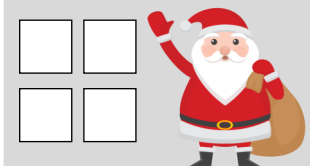
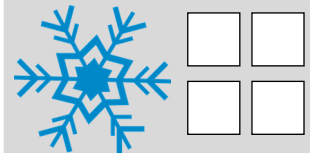


!



- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| A= 😊  | N= ❤️ |
| B= 🍉  | O= 🍔  |
| C= 🐱  | P= ✂️ |
| D= 🐧  | Q= 🏈  |
| E= ❄️ | R= ✂️ |
| F= 📺  | S= 😊  |
| G= 🍕  | T= 🍒  |
| H= 🏠  | U= 🎱  |
| I= 🚀  | V= 🐱  |
| J= 🎄  | W= 🐱  |
| K= ⌚  | X= ♣️ |
| L= 🔨  | Y= 📺  |
| M= 🐱  | Z= ✂️ |

In this Outlook, you will find 4 of each of these exact items. Check the boxes when you find.





Looking Back at Local Advertisements From the Past



In 1978, "New Hamburg Area Participating Pre-School" created a cookbook with local advertisers. We love promoting local businesses being an advertiser ourselves. Enjoy a few pages from this book, a blast from the past. See how many businesses are still around today and how many you can remember from younger days!



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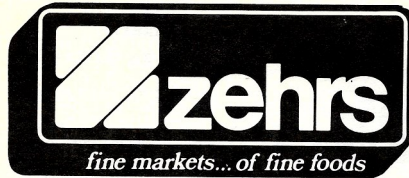


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


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## Giving An Annual Christmas Gift

On December 6, 1917 two ships collided in Halifax Harbour. One of the ships, the Mont Blanc was carrying ammunitions for the war effort in Europe; the other ship, the large Norwegian vessel the IMO, was travelling from New York to Halifax to pick up relief supplies for war-torn Belgium. The IMO struck the starboard bow of the Mont Blanc, leaving a gash which generated sparks igniting volatile grains of dry picric acid, stored below its decks. What transpired was the largest human-made explosion ever recorded prior to the detonation of the 1945 atomic bomb.

The north end of the Halifax harbour was wiped out by the explosion and the resulting tsunami. Almost 2,000 people were killed, another 9,000 people were maimed or blinded, and 25,000 people were left without adequate shelter. More than 2.5 square kilometres of Richmond were completely leveled and the blast shattered windows in Truro which is 100 kilometres away. The blast was also heard in Prince Edward Island. The ship's anchor landed four kilometres away from the ship.

Relief workers and supplies came from virtually every town in Nova Scotia. Train loads of supplies also came from other eastern and central provinces to help with the disaster. North Eastern United States also rallied to support the cause with the city of Boston sending medical supplies, food, nurses, doctors, construction materials, and skilled labourers.

Halifax has never forgotten the generosity displayed by the city of Boston and as thanks, every year they send a large Christmas tree to be displayed at the Boston Common. "We will be forever grateful for the aid Boston provided after the Halifax Explosion. And what better time of year to show that gratitude than around the holidays" stated Tony Rushton – Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. This year's tree is 45 feet tall and was shipped down to Boston on a flatbed trailer. It is heart warming to hear of the ongoing gratitude!



Every Christmas, a piece of Nova Scotia stands proudly in Boston's centre square.

### ANSWERS TO BADEN OUTLOOK PUZZLES

#### Drop One For Fun

- |          |         |        |
|----------|---------|--------|
| 1 Scale  | 2 Lace  | 3 Ale  |
| 4 Pleat  | 5 Pelt  | 6 Pet  |
| 7 Nasty  | 8 Stay  | 9 Sty  |
| 10 Flute | 11 Flue | 12 Elf |
| 13 Sweat | 14 West | 15 Wet |




Creating special words – Santa Claus

#### All Things Scrambled

<u>Zoo Animals</u>	<u>Super Heroes</u>
Bear	Thor
Lion	Hulk
Camel	Robin
Hippo	Batman
Tiger	Antman
Zebra	Ironman
Monkey	Aquaman
Gorilla	Catwoman
Giraffe	Superman
Elephant	Wolverine


#### Outlook Sudoku

6	3	8	4	1	9	7	2	5
9	4	5	7	2	6	1	8	3
2	1	7	3	5	8	9	4	6
8	6	3	5	7	1	2	9	4
4	5	1	9	8	2	3	6	7
7	2	9	6	4	3	8	5	1
5	9	6	2	3	7	4	1	8
1	7	4	8	9	5	6	3	2
3	8	2	1	6	4	5	7	9




From my family to yours,




*Wishing you  
Peace & Joy this  
Holiday Season*



---



**TIM LOUIS**  
Member of Parliament  
Kitchener-Conestoga

   TimLouisKitCon

TimLouisMP.ca

Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca

519-578-3777



Having a serious medical emergency while travelling abroad can be a frightening experience, especially if you require emergency air transportation to receive treatment. A common question we receive from Ontario travellers is:

*“Does my emergency travel medical insurance cover me for “Air Ambulance” or “Emergency Air Transportation” services if I get sick or injured while travelling and need to be transported back to Canada or to another medical facility for treatment?”*

The short answer is, yes, almost all emergency travel medical insurance policies issued in Canada include these benefits. **However**, it’s important to understand what these benefits do and don’t cover, when they are and aren’t available and some key terms, conditions and limits that apply.

While the coverage terms for air ambulance services may vary from provider to provider, this overview provides helpful insight into what you need to be aware of when it comes to air ambulance benefits – regardless of who your travel insurance provider is.

**What exactly are “Air Ambulance” or “Emergency Air Transportation” benefits?**

Air Ambulance and Emergency Air Transportation are terms that are often used interchangeably and refer to medical air evacuation services for patients from their travel destination so they can be treated either:

1. Back in Canada, or
2. At a medical facility in another location - if the first medical facility is not equipped or able to provide the necessary and required care for the patient. *For example*, if you were injured or became ill on a Caribbean Island that wasn’t equipped to properly treat you, you may be flown to another island or to the U.S. for treatment.

These benefits can also refer to medical air transportation back to Canada *after* your medical emergency has ended, if required. *For example*, if you break your leg and are treated in your destination, but still require some form of medical accommodation to fly back home.

**When am I able to use Emergency Air Transportation benefits and who decides if I am eligible?**

Some travellers are under the impression that if they become sick or are injured while travelling, they have the right to demand that their insurance provider return them to Canada by air ambulance for treatment.

However, this is a misconception. Emergency Air Transport benefits are only payable if they have been **pre-approved by your insurer**.

Ultimately, **the insurance provider – not the patient - decides if it would be appropriate to provide air ambulance or emergency air transportation services** based on the recommendation of the treating physician in your destination and the insurer’s emergency medical assistance team, which includes nurses and doctors.

When making this determination, many factors are taken into consideration, including:

- The severity of the illness or injury
- The urgency of the treatment required

- Whether or not the medical facility in the destination has the expertise and equipment to provide the care and treatment the patient requires  
Whether or not the patient is “medically stable” enough to fly. If it is determined it would be unsafe or pose a risk for the patient to fly, emergency air transportation would not be an option.

In some cases, your insurer may offer you the option to be treated at your destination or return to Canada by emergency air transport for treatment.


It’s also important to be aware that the availability of air ambulance benefits is **also dependent on whether or not a hospital bed is available back in Canada** where you can receive treatment, which is outside the control of your insurance provider. While your insurer will make best efforts to find you a hospital bed back in Canada, if none are available, it may not be possible to fly you back home for treatment.

If your insurer approves you for air ambulance benefits, they will make all of the necessary flight and transportation arrangements.

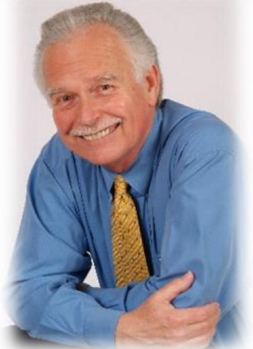
**The Bottom Line**

It is the insurer – not the patient – who has the discretion to determine if air ambulance services will be provided and the type of services that will be available.





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***“SERVICE, STRENGTH & SECURITY. We stand for all three but SERVICE will always come first”***



The Baden Outlook loves taking part in your special events!



A great group of friends along with the Baden Outlook attended a destination wedding in Los Cabos Mexico. L-R: Joe and Jean Waechter, Tom Ware, Toni Debus, Jill and Mike Osborne, Ed and Jackie Penner, Kevin and Ann Steinaker, Carol and John Neilson. A great time was had by all!

We have enjoyed browsing through our archive photos over the past years to see all the amazing places our readers have taken our paper as they travel.

We thank you for thinking of us and for sharing your vacation fun with our readers!

So, don't forget to pack the paper into your luggage when you pack up for your next vacation and send us your photo and the destination you travelled to [badenoutlook@hotmail.com](mailto:badenoutlook@hotmail.com)



## You Must Be Joking!!



### Holiday Eating Tips

1. Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly, it's rare. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares if it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not like you're going to turn into an eggnogaholic. Have one for me, have two!
2. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes and fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano.
3. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a holiday party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it.
4. Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's. You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. Now is the time for long naps, which you will need after circling the buffet table while you carry your ten pound plate of food and your vat of eggnog.
5. If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like your favourite Christmas cookie, position yourself near them and don't budge. Have as many as you can without becoming the centre of attention.
6. Final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read the tips; start over, but hurry. January is just around the corner.

(This is all humour. Please do take your health in consideration this holiday season.)



## STONETOWN TRAVEL

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## Join us on our 2024 Group Travel Opportunities

**Holland Tulip River Cruise** – March 31 - April 8, 2024

**Ireland** – June 5-16, 2024

**Scotland Summer Discovery** – June 15-23, 2024

**Newfoundland & Labrador** – July 29 - August 9, 2024

**Discover Portugal** – September 18-29, 2024

**The Wonders of Ancient Egypt** – September 23 - October 5, 2024





Tis the season to be jolly but sometimes finding ‘the perfect gift’ for a gardener can take the edge off. Consider giving an experiential gift this season. Create your own gift certificate for a day at a botanical garden with the gardener(s). There are many gardens nearby such as **Dundurn**

**Castle** (Hamilton), **Royal Botanical Gardens** (RBG) (Burlington), **Whistling Gardens** (south of Brantford) and the **Festival Gardens** (Stratford). Make a day of touring gardens and having lunch. Wilmot Horticultural Society Members, contact us to use our membership to Royal Botanical Gardens which includes admission for up to six people and free parking.

If the gardener has a love for particular flowers, **RBG** has many specialty gardens and holds workshops and events. Love peonies? **Whistling Gardens** has over 1000 peony varieties so late May to early June is a great time to go. Go to the Gardens Canada website [gardenscanada.ca](http://gardenscanada.ca) to check out the Canadian Garden Route.

Gift a membership to Wilmot Horticultural Society. Garden Talk, tours, workshops and discount at local nurseries are some of the benefits. Not in our WHS area? Go to [gardenontario.org](http://gardenontario.org) and see the listings under the *Get Involved* heading of other societies.

Let’s Tree Wilmot/WHS held their Fall Celebration last month to recognize our volunteers and accomplishments. It was a great night. In 2023, LTW prompted the first Wilmot Township Tree Giveaway of 230 trees, the purchase of ‘Billy’ Ram truck for watering, a new website, and volunteers certified to collect tree seeds. Also, participation in Wilmot Twp Tree Canopy Study, Tree Pruning videos on our YouTube channel, walking tours, and Pawpaw Parade. We naturalized nine acres since 2020, planted 1601 (42 native species) this year with 230 volunteers attending the planting events, 1670 in tree seedling bed, planted at Forest Glen PS, and provided volunteers for Pfenning Farm Ecological Project. Phew!

“Volunteer Led Ecological Restoration” presented by the dynamic Mark Schwarz, a Trees for Woolwich volunteer on the 67 acre Elmira Reserve was excellent. Mark covered many of the realities of tree planting, costs, and the need for paid help with some projections. LTW has big plans for 2024.

Considering giving donations as gifts this year? Wilmot Horticultural Society (WHS) is a volunteer, member-based society and registered Canadian charity. We have the Let’s Tree Wilmot project, Junior Gardeners, Garden Talk series, maintain 50+ Civic Gardens and more. See our websites listed below for details.



*Wilmot Horticultural Society/Let’s Tree Wilmot wishes everyone a Joyous Christmas with family, friends, and community. Health and prosperity in 2024! And dirty fingernails and knees!*



Next meeting: January 15, 2024, **How to grow a Cut Flower garden in your own yard** with Theresa Schumilas, farmer and owner of Garden Party Farm.

**Email:** [wilmothortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:wilmothortsociety@gmail.com) **Website:** [wilmothortsociety.ca](http://wilmothortsociety.ca)  
**FB:** [facebook.com/groups/wilmothorticulturalsociety](https://facebook.com/groups/wilmothorticulturalsociety)

**Let’s Tree Wilmot email:** [letstreewilmot@gmail.com](mailto:letstreewilmot@gmail.com)  
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