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Charitable Christmas presents that make a difference

Are you looking for a different way to give presents this year? Consider these suggestions for gifts that give back.

Donate to your loved one's favourite charity

Make a meaningful impact by donating to a charity that holds a special place in your loved one's heart. For example, consider donating in their name to organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund, Save the Children or a local animal shelter. You can even support a specific cause that aligns with their passions.

Dedicate trees or green space in your loved one's name

Give the gift of sustainability by dedicating trees or a plot of woodland in your loved one's name through organizations like A Living Tribute. This present will help combat deforestation and create a legacy in honour of your loved one.

Sponsor a family in need in your loved one's name

Spread joy goodwill on behalf of your loved one by supporting a family facing hardship. You can connect with a local charitable fund or an international program like Save the Children or UNICEF. These organizations provide essential resources and support to people in need during the holiday season.

You can also buy physical gifts from a local non-profit or free-trade shop. Look for handmade jewelry, artisanal crafts or organic goods that make good gifts and directly benefit communities and artisans around the world.





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Tree lighting shines

A crowd of nearly 100 attended the annual tree lighting ceremony at Matilda Memorial Park in Brinston on the evening of Fri., Dec. 6. After the tree lights were turned on, Santa and Mrs. Clause recruited some of the children to help in decorating.

Winchester Parade of **Lights shone brightly** through the snow

Terry Tinkess

Record Staff

WINCHESTER – If you needed a bit of snow to make things feel Christmasy, then you would have been very happy with this year's Winchester Parade of Lights.

As people started to gather along the parade route, the flakes started to fall and for a while during the parade they were coming down quite steadily. There is nothing like big, fluffy flakes to bring home the idea that Christmas is less than two weeks away.

The parade itself was very entertaining, and there is something about a Santa Claus parade on a snowy December evening that just seems right. There also seemed to be the perfect number of candy canes handed out, not so many as to cause a sugar overload, and not so few as to Continued on page 7

Matilda Memorial Tree Lighting shines brightly on a winter evening

Terry Tinkess

Record Staff

BRINSTON – It is wonderful when, out of the darkness you can create a little light.

A crowd of nearly 100 attended the annual tree lighting ceremony at Matilda Memorial Park in Brinston on the evening of Fri., Dec. 6, 2024. It was just the latest in the list of many events hosted by the small community with a wealth of community spirit.

The tree that was lit was planted on June 17, 2017, in honour of Jeremy Morris, a member of the Matilda Memorial Recreation Committee (MMRC) who had passed away suddenly in 2016.

The park has continued to grow, thanks to donations, investment, and creative

thinking by the recreation committee who ensure that the events they host are either no cost or low cost to allow the greatest number of people to participate.

This year hot dogs and hot chocolate (with real whipped cream) were freely distributed, there was a wood fire burning and the Seaway District High School band attended to provide musical entertainment. There were several special guests in attendance, Mayor Jason Broad and Councillor Tom Smyth were there but it was a special couple in the form of Santa and Mrs. Claus who drew the most attention. Santa led the countdown for the tree lighting before joining many of the children in placing ornaments on the tree.

Continued on page 6





Page 2 The Record

Low turnout for recycling change information session in Winchester

Terry Tinkess Recprd Staff

WINCHESTER Changes are coming to recycling in Ontario as of Jan. 1, 2025, and the Township of North Dundas, in an effort to be proactive and answer any questions about the change, scheduled a two-hour session on Wed., Dec. 4 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. to do just that. Unfortunately, only a handful of people showed

That, however, may not be as bad as it seems because in a residential setting there won't be much of a noticeable change. Your garbage and recycling will continue to be collected on the same day, although it may be by two different trucks.

Commercial, industrial or institutional situations there will be changes. Recycling will continue, it just won't be the municipalities providing the service. In this area (SDG) recycling will be managed by a company called Circular Materials, a non-profit organization.

It is important to note that these changes have been legislated by the provincial government and as of Jan. 1 the township will no longer be permitted to collect recycling from

- Industrial commercial businesses
- Not for profit organizations
- Municipal buildings and facilities
 - Daycares
 - Places of worship

trailer parks

If you fall into any of these categories, you will have to engage with a local contractor that is selected by and paid by the business or organization. It is important to know that waste collection from IC&I locations has never been mandated for municipalities Ontario. Many municipalities have collected waste from businesses as a value-added service to further support the community. Garbage collection will continue unchanged.

Another situation that will be sure to cause discussion and has not yet been resolved is what will happen when there are residential units on upper

• Campgrounds and floors of a commercial building. The current understanding is that the contractor will not pick up recycling from these buildings, which might make sense in Toronto or any other large centre because of the scale of the buildings, but the decision was made as a provincewide, one size fits all policy. It remains to be seen if there will be any change going forward, but the municipality does not have the ability to change it.

Speaking following the meeting, Danielle Ward, Director of Environmental Services for the Township of North Dundas said she wasn't that surprised at the low turnout, saying that she had spoken with several people by phone.

"We sent letters out to all the businesses in February, and then we had discussions in March with most businesses, if not all," said Ward. "And then when I came back from family recently, leave reconnected with some of them, just to make sure that they were okay, that they had a plan in place, and for the most part, none of them seemed to be concerned.

"This was more just because we had put some information out online and had gotten some feedback that things were changing, and people wanted to

discuss and make sure, Ottawa right? Really, for the businesses, that's where the change is. For the average person its behind the scenes, other than you see two trucks."

Α list containing contractor contact information for IC&I users was provided and has been copied below for convenience information sake. It is in no particular order.

Waste Management https://www.wm.com/ca/ en/location/on/ottawa/com mercial-trash-serviceottawa-on

Waste Connections of

844-708-7274

https://www.wasteconne ctionscanada.com/services/c ommercial/commercialrecy cling

Green for Life (GFL) 613-835-3600 https://gflenv.com/support/ Tomlinson Ottawa 613-820-2332 customerservice@tomlin

songroup.com **HGC** Management 613-243-3062 sales@hgcmanagement.ca Lindahl Cleaning and

Contracting Services 613-715-3735 or 613-915-4750

hello@lindahlservices.com

Keeping the FAITH – can you help?

Carolyn Thompson Goddard Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – For several years the FAITH (Food Always In The Home) Pantry at Christ Church United in Chesterville has worked with local organizations, businesses and individuals to ensure there is the opportunity for those in need to receive a helping hand.

In an email to The Record, Grade 4/5 and 5/6 teacher Robyn Carrière from Chesterville Public School (CPS) mentioned "a food donation drop off event" is being hosted by her students. Between Dec. 9 and 18 food can be dropped off at CPS and on Dec. 17 at the FAITH Pantry in Christ Church United between 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

She explained items which FAITH Pantry is looking for include: diced tomatoes, canned vegetables, canned stews, canned meats (particularly ham and chicken), canned fruit, canned pasta sauce, soups, paper cupcake holders, cake mixes, icing, and cookies. Other needed items include cereal, peanut butter, ketchup, stove top stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, laundry soap, dish soap, vinegar, shampoo, as well as men and women's deodorant.

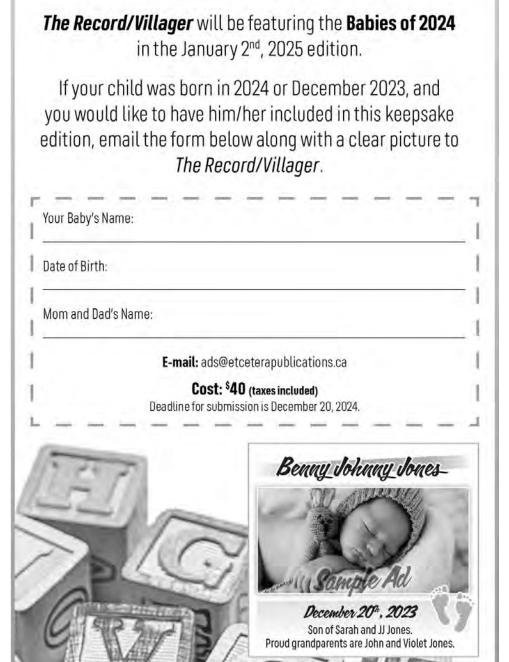


Popular tradition: Advent service and Lessons and Carols

On Fri., Dec. 6, one of the many community events taking place was an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, hosted by Winchester United Church. Many local clergy participated, and music was provided by members of the Trolly family, Dan on sax, Michael on organ and piano, with Michael and Melody sharing in song. Members of the United Church choir helped lead the guests in seasonal carols, and afterwards served refreshments. Almost \$500 was donated to House of Lazarus Food Bank. From left: Michael Trolly, Melody Trolly, Dan Trolly.

Courtesy Photo







Morrisburg Santa Claus Parade had everyone walking in sunshine

Terry Tinkess Record Staff

MORRISBURG – If you had to custom order the weather for a Saturday afternoon in early December, you likely would not have been able to select anything better than what Morrisburg residents had to "endure" while watching the 2024 Santa Claus Parade.

I say endure, of course, sarcastically, as the weather could not have been more perfect. The sun was shining brightly from start to finish and the temperature was warm enough that a couple people could be heard talking about what a pleasant day for a walk it was.

The Santa Claus Parade in Morrisburg is unique in that a large portion of the parade



The Seaway District High School band provided the musical accompaniment to the parade, in the form of many well-known Christmas tunes.

Tinkess Photo

route takes it through the shopping plaza, which means it is ideal for those who want to watch from their vehicles, and if you want to be outside, you can stand under the front canopy and stay out of the weather. This year, however, it provided protection from the sun.

The parade had a full contingent of firefighters, firetrucks and Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) vehicles including one from Crime Stoppers. There was also representation from the Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario (OETIO) and many local businesses. Mayor Jason Broad and Deputy Mayor Marc St. Pierre represented the municipality and there were many members of the South Dundas Chamber of Commerce as well as many students from Morrisburg Public School.

One group that got the attention of most people (and several dogs as well) was a red-coated Loyalists, who at regular intervals stopped, loaded and fired a round off before marching off, only to do it again a short time later.

A new addition this year



Santa usually does most of his work while the world is asleep, but he and Mrs. Claus seemed to be enjoying the bright sun that welcomed the parade. Tinkess Photo

was the Iroquois Marine Search and Rescue complete with their boat, which will certainly make the waters in this area a bit safer. The Nation Valley ATV Club was also present and hoping for a bit more snow this year.

And while the parade didn't have lions and tigers and bears, it did have Lions, (Iroquois-Matilda and Morrisburg, respectively), Shriners and, well, the Dundas Dairy Producers and a team of horses from Brian McIntosh wagon and sleigh rides.

Hot off their appearance at the Matilda Tree Lighting the night before, The Seaway District High School band presented a selection of well-loved Christmas songs. They were followed by the Royal West Academy Honour Band from Montreal West, Quebec who were making a return appearance. The Kemptville Legion Pipes and Drums, dressed for the season, were also in attendance.

And finally, the star of the show did appear in a fine-looking sleigh and accompanied by Mrs. Claus as well. The weather might not have put anyone in a Christmas state of mind, but the number of Merry Christmases and smiling faces, along with Santa himself, surely would.

Can it really be less than two weeks till Christmas?

Remembering loved ones

Carolyn Thompson Goddard Record Staff

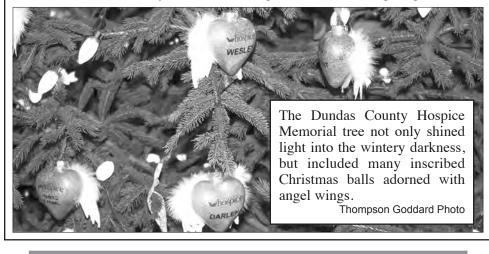
WILLIAMSBURG – The weather seemed almost balmy for early December for the 2024 Memorial Tree Lighting at Dundas County Hospice (DCH) on Tues., Dec. 3. Held in conjunction with Giving Tuesday, the event provided an opportunity for those who have lost a loved to gather, enjoy some fellowship and support Dundas County Hospice by making a donation and in return receive a beautiful ornament to take home.

The 5th annual tree lighting ceremony at DCH began at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome from Linda Johnson who thanked everyone for coming to the event which is held to "celebrate and remember those we have lost." Arnold Scheerder, Chair of the DCH Board of Directors, then offered his thanks, noting the weather was better this year than last and mentioned how the tree lights are symbolic of lighting our memories of loved ones. After RN Kathryn Mulder read

the names of loved ones who had passed in acknowledgement of the people who are in our memories, RPN Jackie Imrie, Director of Client Services for DCH read a moving poem entitled "Remember".

Reverend Lois Lowry, Pastor of Winchester United Church and Hope Springs United Church, touched the hearts of those present with her personal reflections and words of encouragement. She mentioned how loved one never really leave us as long as they remain part of our story and to remember and speak about those we have lost.

People made their way along the candlelit path to the magnificent tree adorned with Christmas balls on which were inscribed the names of those who had passed and suddenly the dark was lite with the glow of the tree lights. After receiving their decorative Christmas balls adorned with angel wings and speaking with one another, the close to thirty people attending the event began their trip home with the evening completed.





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Morrisburg: 28 Ottawa Street **Winchester:** 497 May Street **Hours:** Monday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Thursday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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Label "Community Food Share" and drop off at:
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DONATE ONLINE

Visit www.communityfoodshare.ca

Thank you for your generosity – it truly makes a difference!

Community Food Share 613-898-0781



CONSULTATION NOTICE

Policy Updates to the Source Protection Plan

Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee has made updates to policies within the Source Protection Plan, which protects the regions drinking water sources.

We welcome residents and businesses to view the Draft Source Protection Plan and provide feedback and comments.

Policy information, supporting documents and meeting request links are available online.

For more information: www.yourdrinkingwater.ca/consultations



EDITORIAL&Opinion

TEL: 613-448-2321

The contradiction of Secret Santa: Simplify Christmas, amplifying stress

intentions: a shared desire to simplify the season, save a little money, and steer away from the rampant consumerism that often takes over the holiday. The solution, one that has been embraced in offices, families, and friend groups around the world, is Secret Santa, a gift exchange designed to be low-stakes, fun, and full of surprises.

For many, though, what

By Talia Crooke

Student Reporter

A week with

the Warriors

a busy and festive place to be!

Lawrence in a 67-64 game.

La Citadelle and St. Joe's.

kickstart the weekend?

so proud of her!

TAGWI Report

With three weeks left until Christmas break, Tagwi is

Our week started with our junior and senior boys'

basketball teams opening their season at St. Lawrence.

Our junior team played against St. Lawrence and

Seaway, while our senior team won against St.

a tournament in Finch where they played hard and won

for coming second place overall in their basketball

tournament! The girls battled it out against Holy Trinity,

formal for our grade 9-12 students where they got the

chance to dance the night away at a Christmas themed

dance! Our 7/8 students had their version of a Christmas

dance during school on Friday. What better way to

recognizing students with the highest grade in each

class, the top 3 averages in each grade, and all our

honour roll students. Congratulations to all our

students! The Ontario Principal Council award and the

Student Trustee Dynamic Leader award were given to

Tagwi grade 12 student Katie Crites in recognition for

her incredible leadership within the school. We are all

In the next couple weeks of school before break,

Student Council will be collecting cans for their food

drive. Please bring nonperishable food items to try and

win your grade a pizza party for the most items

with our school's Facebook and Instagram pages to see

Christmas spirit week is coming up! Keep up to date

During our repeat period on Friday, we held our secondary school achievement awards ceremony

against Char-Lan and tied against La Citadelle!

On Tuesday our varsity girls' hockey team played at

Congratulations to our novice girls' basketball team

Student Council hosted an after-school winter semi-

It starts with the best of begins as a cheerful idea quickly becomes a source of stress and second-guessing, an ironic twist to an activity meant to ease the burden of holiday giving

The rules of Secret Santa are simple: participants draw names, often at random, and commit to purchasing a single gift for their designated recipient, usually within a set budget. At its core, the tradition embodies the spirit of

strain of buying gifts for everyone in a group.

In theory, it should be a win-win. Participants focus on one thoughtful gift instead of a pile of generic low-value items. But in practice, the pressure to find something both meaningful and budget-friendly can sometimes be directly proportional to the stress it causes.

A quick search for "Secret Santa gifts" online yields an array of suggestions: Quirky mugs, scented candles, novelty socks. These might suffice in some contexts, but they lack the personal touch that makes a gift feel special.

Secret Santa often demands a blend of creativity, insight, and a touch of detective work. In some cases, participants may know their recipient well, but in others, think workplace exchanges or extended family gatherings, the knowledge gap can make the process feel like shooting in the dark.

How do you buy a \$20 gift for someone whose interests are a mystery? Do you play it safe with a generic option or risk an imaginative but potentially polarizing choice? The quest for the "perfect" gift received

giving without the financial can quickly morph into an underappreciated anxiety-inducing scavenger hunt or a question where "gift card" is the one size fits all answer.

> The budget, intended to keep things fair and manageable, can also become a sticking point. Set it too low, and participants may struggle to find anything worth giving; set it too high, and the financial strain begins to creep back

> In some circles, the unofficial competition to give the "best" gift can intensify this pressure. While Secret Santa isn't supposed to be about outdoing others, the unspoken desire to impress, or at least avoid giving a disappointing gift, can lead overthinking and overspending.

> There's also psychological element at play. While Secret Santa eliminates the obligation to buy for everyone, it doesn't erase the cultural and emotional expectations surrounding Christmas. The act of giving is often tied to feelings of generosity and thoughtfulness, and falling short in a gift exchange can evoke guilt or embarrassment.

> For some, the fear of their gift being poorly

overshadow the joy of participating. This anxiety is particularly acute when gifts are opened publicly, as is often the case in office or family gatherings.

Despite its pitfalls, Secret Santa can still be an enjoyable tradition when approached with the right mindset. Here are a few tips to ease the burden:

Before the exchange begins, set clear guidelines. Agree on a reasonable budget and establish whether gifts should be humorous, practical, or sentimental. A unified approach can prevent misunderstandings and unmet expectations.

While part of the fun of Secret Santa is the surprise, wish lists can help participants find gifts that are both appropriate and appreciated. Platforms like allow for Elfster anonymous list-making, preserving the mystery while reducing the guesswork.

To counteract the consumerism that Secret Santa aims to reduce, consider non-material options like gift cards for local experiences, homemade treats, or handwritten notes. These often

sentimental value than store-bought items.

It's important remember that the true value of Secret Santa lies in the thought and effort behind the gift, not its monetary worth perceived perfection. Approaching the exchange with humour and flexibility can help alleviate stress.

At its best, Secret Santa reflects the heart of the holiday season: connection, generosity, and joy. It's an opportunity to share laughter over an unexpected gift, to feel the warmth of thoughtfulness, and to celebrate relationships in a way that doesn't depend on price tags.

But for it to succeed, participants must collectively embrace its imperfections. The occasional awkward or mismatched gift is part of the charm, a reminder that the act of giving, flawed, human, and heartfelt, is what truly matters.

As you prepare for this year's exchange, take a deep breath, embrace the spirit of fun, and remember, it's not about finding the perfect gift; it's about creating a moment of connection in the chaos of the season.

Terry Tinkess

December brings musical celebrations

In addition to the hope and joy which surrounds the Christmas season there is nothing as enjoyable as attending the many Christmas concerts which are held in early December. This past weekend, there were several musical events and pageants held throughout our area.

On Sun., Dec. 8 a well-attended Christmas pageant was held at the Morewood Presbyterian Church. The story of the nativity was presented in readings and song with Anne Langabeer accompanying the congregation who sang traditional Christmas songs. Solos were performed by Pastor Ed Charlton and Marjorie Vanderveen, with Master of Ceremonies Ruth Pollock coordinating the performances.

There was a holiday concert the same afternoon at St. Clare's Anglican Church in Winchester. Entitled Comfort and Joy, the concert featured an opportunity to hear Carols from around the world and in several languages including Il est né le divin enfant in French, Silent Night sung in German and Suo Gân, a Welsh lullaby as well as The Holly and the Ivy and The Huron Carol in Welsh. Following an intermission the audience joined the singers in celebrating the season in song.

On Dec. 1 Advent Eventide, an evening of Celtic music in preparation for Christmas, was held at St. Andrew's United Church, a member of the Avonmore-Finch-Martintown Pastoral Charge, in Martintown. Featured performers included Harpist Ian Hepburn, Paddy Kelly, the MacLeod Fiddlers, Soloist Eileen MacCuaig and performances by the joint choirs accompanied by organist Lisa Zeran. The following Sun., Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. the Avonmore-Finch-Martintown Pastoral Charge presented "The Promise of Light", a Christmas Cantata in Chalmers United Church in Finch. A cantata is a musical term from the 1600's which are works written for a vocal ensemble, a single

soloist or multiple soloists. The event featured a candlelight processional followed by several selections of sacred Christmas music performed by the church choir under the direction of Lisa Zeran and organist Patsy Timmers. Narrators for the event were Muriel Carruthers and Gary Nephew, with soloist Emma Zeran performing, with Annette McRae playing the flute during the event. On Dec. 24, the Christmas Eve service is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Chalmers United Church.

On Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. the Seaway Valley Singers will be presenting their holiday concert, entitled "Christmas in Three Quarter Time" at the Christian Reformed Church located at 12436 County Road 18 in Williamsburg. The choir is under the direction of Robert Jones and accompanied by Margaret Whisselle. More information can be found on their Facebook page.

Carolyn Thompson Goddard

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Carolyn Thompson Goddard

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REFLECTIONS ON COMFORT & PEACE

ADVENT....a season of waiting, one to birth in us again anticipation, expectancy, hope. Yet, for many, it is one of increased grief, despair, discouragement, not

The nation of Israel knew well those intense emotions. They had waited long, almost giving up hope, to see the promises of God come to fruition....the promises of redemption, of a coming Messiah Who would free them from their bondage and restore all that had been stolen - all they had given away.

They knew well that God had created the world perfect....Adam and Eve had walked in unbelievable intimacy with The Lord, given the privilege of stewarding this love gift to them. Sadly, they allowed themselves to be deceived. The lie? - God wasn't enough....they could have/should have more. They lost sight of the fact that they already had everything. When they turned their back on God, sin came rushing in, not just for them, but for all to follow. We no longer live in the perfect world God so carefully planned out for us all....but He would not leave us this way, not without

He carefully orchestrated throughout history for redemption. He would send His own Son to reverse all that had happened, making it possible for each of us to choose Him again and know the joy of living in that love relationship designed from the very

Mary was waiting. She believed God at His promise. And the impossible happened! God knew her heart and chose to birth His Word in and through her. Did she understand? No, but she trusted in His goodness and was willing to watch

This season of Advent is a time for us to pause, be still, trust His goodness and watch His plan unfold in our lives. He loves you more than you'll ever be able to wrap your head around. Jesus came as a helpless baby, willing to depend on that Goodness, that Love, to lavish The Father's love on us....the greatest Gift in all the world, throughout all time. But each gift must be unwrapped to be enjoyed. And that is a choice we each must make for ourselves.

I pray that you would choose today, if even for a moment, to consider the hope, joy, peace and love He offers you - and to understand that, as you reach out, He has never stopped reaching down to welcome you into His family. Romans 5:8 tells us, "God has shown us how much he loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" (Good News)

> With love, Rev Melody Trolly

Tagwi resounded with **Grrrreat results for the Roxborough Ag Society**

Record Staff

AVONMORE - The halls of Tagwi Secondary School are usually pretty quiet on the weekend, but with the annual Avonmore Arts, Crafts and Bake Sale held on Dec. 7 and 8 there was a lot of excitement and activity there. The event is a major fundraiser for the Roxborough Agricultural Society (RAS), the organization that holds the annual Avonmore Fair.

"Lots of great vendors, great weather, great turnout and it was great to see all familiar faces" commented RAS Director Neil Robinson. When entering the event, one could not help but notice the talents of the local artisans, crafters and independent consultants who provided

Carolyn Thompson Goddard customers with a multitude of gift ideas.

There were beautiful origami ornaments, holiday decorations, home-baking, goats milk soaps as well as many other items spread across the 50 tables set up for customers on the first day of the sale and 40 tables reserved for Sunday

For those who worked up an appetite shopping the lunchroom was open and providing a wide selection of delicious entrees and snacks to enjoy.

The organizers would like to thank Avonmore Fair RAS volunteers, student volunteers, the vendors with a special thank you to the Upper Canada District School Board for providing the venue for the



From the left: RAS Director Neil Robinson, Upcycled Treasurers by Heather Loynachan owner Heather Loynachan, Molly McDonald and RAS Treasurer Linda Holland. Thompson Goddard Photo

– OBITUARY –



Barbara Barb" Anne **Ducharme**

Peacefully, with her family by her side, Barbara "Barb" Anne Ducharme passed

away on December 2, 2024, at St. Lawrence Lodge, at the age of 75. Barb leaves behind a legacy of love and devotion. She was the

beloved wife of 54 years to the love of her life, Denis Ducharme. A nurturing and selfless mother, Barb will be deeply missed by her children: Debbie (late Rob), Kimmie (Mario), Joey (Meghan), and Carrie Ann (Chris). She is predeceased by her daughter Barbie.

Her pride and joy were her grandchildren: Melissa (Moe), Mathew (Ashlee), Amanda, Jessica (Matt), Dillon (Marion), Justin (Ashlev), Mario Jr. (Cassie), Adam (Courtney), Brandon (Hailey), Alyssa, Andrew, Connor, Tyler (Maddy), Jayden, Skylin and Haven. She was also a loving great-grandmother to 21 great-grandchildren.

Barb was predeceased by her parents, Jim and Doris Clarke. She will be fondly remembered by her extended family and countless friends, all of whom she loved deeply and cared for unconditionally.

Barb was a beacon of strength, compassion, and resilience. She will forever be remembered for her unwavering love, remarkable sacrifices, and the impact of her strong and vibrant personality. She had a unique ability to leave a lasting impression on everyone she met. A Celebration of Barb's Life will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at St. Lawrence Lodge in Brockville between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., with Words of Remembrance being shared at 2:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Send a message of condolence or share a special thought of Barb online at www.irvinememorial.com.



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PASTORAL CHARGE Minister: Rev. Lois Gaudet BBA, BTH, MDIV Contact: Tel: 613-346-1648 Email: revlgaudet@gmail.com

December 15th, 2024 - Sunday Advent 3 - The Sunday of Joy - Worship with Rev. Lois at our White Gift service in Chalmers Finch at 9:15 a.m. and in St. James Avonmore at 11 a.m. We will be singing lots of carols again.

ST. LUKE'S-KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Finch) ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Avonmore ST. JAMES~ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Gravel Hill)

INTERIM MODERATOR: Rev. Robert Adams Email: minister@stiohnscornwall.ca www.avonmorefinch-presbyterian.ca Office Phone: 613-932-8693

December 15th, 2024 - Rev. Robert Adams (Sacrament of Holy Communion) Please note that 10:30 a.m. services will be in St. Andrew's, Avonmore for the month of December. No services in Finch.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Morewood

ST. ANDREW'S - Chesterville ST. PAUL'S - Winchester

Minister: Rev. Ed Charlton Email: edcharlton12@gmail.com Service Times: St. Andrews Chesterville at 9 a.m., St. Paul's Winchester at 10 a.m., and Morewood Presbyterian Church at 11:15 a.m.

NATIONSIDE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

E-mail: Pastor.Scott@mail.com Office: 613-448-2272

Please join us for Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. at the

Services also online on Facebook under "The Nation" Nationside Pentecostal Church Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

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12010 Ormond Rd. & Hwy. 31 (North of Winchester) Office phone: 613-774-5170 www.harmony-church.org We are an air conditioned and handicap accessible building. Senior Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wallace

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We are open and invite you to join us for services! We are continuing to live stream our Sunday morning services at Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy_DABzz4REc-A76-EvrA Sunday School Classes & Nursery have resumed

Please contact the church office for information on mid-week meetings or any other questions.

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

139 Castor St., Russell, ON Parish Office: 613-445-3226 Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick infostmarysrussell@rogers.com Website: www.stmarysrussell.ca

Sunday Service:

Holy Eucharist and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. You can phone or e-mail the church for the invitation to attend worship via Zoom St. Mary's Church is engaged in actively sharing God's unconditional grace and love.

House

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loin us at <u>www.thegatheringhouse.ca</u> on Sunday mornings beginning at 10 a.m. for our weekly worship service. Nursery and Sunday School classes have resumed.

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ST. MARY OF THE PRESENTATION





– OBITUARY – **ALBERT JAN** SANDERS

Passed away suddenly and peacefully

ne on Friday. December 6, 2024, Albert Sanders o Finch, age 78. Devoted and loving husband of Rosemary Sanders (nee Rady) for almost 55 years. Loving father of Krista Wells (Dale), Rhonda Smith (Barry), Shelley Lalonde (Kevin) and Gregory Sanders (Ashley Orr). Dear brother of Henk Sanders (Barb Baker), Judy Beehler (John), Nancy Konink (Lawrence), Tony Sanders (Rejeanne), Hilda Gillard (John), Linda Carruthers (Parry) and Steven Sanders (Anne Marie). Loving uncle to many nieces and nephews. Albert will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren Seth, Evan, Delaney, Matthew, Warren, Reid, Shaelah, Carmen, Grace and Taylor. Loving brother-in-law of Bertha Rady, Janetta Ouderkirk (Reg), Bill Rady (Sue). Loving uncle of Morley Ouderkirk (Tracey) and Sacha and Thomas Rady. He was predeceased by his parents Antonius and Janna Sanders (nee Prins) and his sister-in-law Elaine Sanders.

Albert, a hard working successful farmer with a dairy farm, avid cash-cropper and his final passion being an Eastern Ontario Maple Syrup Producer owning Sanders Maple Products with his family by his side for 35 years. A public graveside service was held at Maple Ridge Cemetery in Chesterville on Wednesday, December 11 at 11 a.m. followed by a reception at the Finch Community Centre. In honor of Albert, donations can be made to having a Maple Tree planted in his honor at Berwick Recreatiional Park. If you are making your donation online or by cheque directly to the charity, please include the following note with your gift "please notify the family". Online condolences may be made at marsdenmclaughlin.com.



Page 6 The Record

Community effort makes breakfast with Santa a success

the only reason for the growth of spirit in

the community, it was a rallying point

outward from which so much else has

was only about that tall (about waist

height) many, many years ago," added

DeJong. "That tree, for Jeremy's

remembrance, and then we started doing

the tree lighting and the other things as

particularly in the country, but the lights

from the celebration in Brinston shone

brightly through the darkness, like a

beacon encouraging anyone who could

see them to come forward and share in the

feeling of belonging.

It gets dark so early this time of year,

"The remembrance tree that we put in

Terry Tinkess Record Staff

IROQUOIS - It's not every day you get to have breakfast with Santa Claus, so any of the children at the Iroquois Legion on Sunday morning would have to be excused if they were a little bit excited.

The jolly, old elf himself

was there right on time, and he was accompanied by Mrs. Claus, who thought she would take the opportunity to show some of the little ones how she decorates cookies. She is, of course, a bit of an expert, judging by the person who she bakes most of them for!

Some families chose to

well."

have breakfast before going to see Santa, but for the ones who didn't, Santa made a point of telling them that if they wanted to stay on the "nice" list, they should eat all their breakfast.

Surprisingly, not all in attendance were children, or had accompanied children. Some just wanted to share in a bit of Christmas spirit, and just maybe find out, at this point in their life, which list they were on. The good news, according to Santa, is that it is never too late to change.

According to Candace Latulippe there was a literal army of volunteers involved with making this breakfast with Santa a huge success. "The Iroquois District Business Group puts it on," said Latulippe, "and they do it with the help of the Iroquois-Matilda Lions Club, RBC, and numerous other volunteers. This is the third year we've been doing breakfast with Santa."

If Santa decided that he wanted something besides the cookies that Mrs. Claus and the children were decorating, he couldn't have gone wrong with the breakfast that was being served. There was sausage, bacon, pancakes, scrambled eggs, croissant rolls, coffee or tea and orange or apple juice.



Santa usually makes most of his journeys all by himself, so it was especially nice to see Mrs. Claus have a chance to meet some of the children and help them decorate cookies. Tinkess Photo

get back and forth from The North Pole, but Santa would surely have had a full tank

is probably a safe bet that he'll be back next year, if he has all his work caught up,



Continued from the front

According to Chad DeJong, the MMRC Chair, the committee loves hosting these events as much as if not more than the people who come out to enjoy them.

We have a great community, and we just love everybody to come out, spend time with us, and it's nice," said DeJong.

"There's hot chocolate, hot dogs. We had the Seaway band come out and play for us tonight, and tonight everything's free."

And while the remembrance tree isn't

A plaque beside the memorial tree commemorates Jeremy Morris, in whose name the tree was planted.



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Making holiday memories

Carolyn Thompson Goddard

Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE - Ho, Ho, Ho and Merry Christmas! Santa arrived in Chesterville for the annual "Breakfast with Santa" event at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 434 to the delight of children of all ages early in the morning of Dec. 7. People were able to visit with family, friends new and old (and Santa), enjoy a bite to eat, perhaps pick up some delicious treats to take home or make something at one of the several craft tables.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Chesterville, this long-standing local Christmas tradition featured several fun activities. People were able to enjoy a full course breakfast featuring scrambled eggs, sausages, ham, home fries, toast and

A few seconds after telling Santa her Christmas wishes, Audrey Irven is seen with the Jolly Old Elf during "Breakfast with Santa" event in Chesterville. Thompson Goddard



coffee, tea or juice as well as the Leslie Johnson Special, a mug of hot chocolate with ice cream on the top.

"I like it because people get to come together and the breakfast is tasty" commented River Roberts when asked why she enjoyed coming to the event. Organizers were pleased that over 200 people attended,

with Rotarian Carolyn Forde saying this was an "awesome" turnout.

Santa arrived at the event a bit earlier this year so there was plenty of time for people to visit with him. The Jolly Old Elf took the time to hear Christmas wishes, perhaps having his picture taken and then providing the youngsters a well-filled bag of candy to enjoy. North Dundas Fire Service Station 4 Fire Prevention Officer Sean Donovan was on hand with educational materials and all sorts of gadgets to hand out and of course the full to overflowing bake table from Christ Church United.

There can be little doubt that many, many Christmas holiday memories were made during the event, with the organizers thanking Rotarian and student volunteers, the volunteer cooks as well as volunteers from the Dundas County Dairy producers who served the ice cream the organization had donated to the event.

A big note of thanks to Bruce Currie and his granddaughter, and the businesses who made donations to the event which included Mike Dean Local Grocer Chesterville location, Winchester Foodland and Greg's Quality Meats in Winchester. A special note of thanks to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 434 and to Sean Donovan from North Dundas Fire Service Station 4 in Chesterville.

Winchester Parade of Lights

Continued from the front leave anyone feeling they didn't get their share.

There was a variety of floats as well. There is no mistaking the community's agriculture heritage, as most of the largest (and brightest) entries in this years parade were ag or ag-related vehicles, and why not? With many farmers just about at the point where they can take a moment to catch their breath before thinking about getting ready for spring 2025, why not celebrate a



It isn't every day you see a tractor with antlers, but there was a lot of equipment all decorated and showing a bit of Christmas Spirit during Winchester's Parade of

bit and you must admit some of these implements of husbandry look impressive with a bunch of Christmas lights and an inflatable figure or two riding shotgun.

It was also nice to see the North Dundas District High School (NDDHS) band who sounded very good despite the snow falling on their sheet music. It had to be a challenge, but they proved themselves up to the task.

The one person that everyone was waiting for finally arrived, riding on the back of an antique firetruck that was previously part of the Chesterville fleet. All too soon he was gone, and there was nothing left but to

head home with the knowledge that Christmas really was about two weeks away, and perhaps it was time to start preparing.

As much as Santa was the star of the show, probably the best part of this, and any parade were the smiling faces of those walking and riding in the parade and those along the route. For many people 2024 has been a rough year, so it is nice to see so many quietly enjoying themselves, possibly reliving memories from parades past.

At this time of year there is a bit of the child that remains deep inside all of us and may that always be



-

Christmas Craft Show makes a successful return

Terry Tinkess Record Staff

INGLESIDE - In Early pandemic 2020, the caused many public events to disappear. People couldn't gather, so many events simply ceased to exist. Since the world began getting back to something like normal, events which had been started popular reappear.

As of last Fri., Nov. 29 you could add another name to the list as the RO (Rothwell-Osnabruck) Christmas Craft Show made a successful return to Ingleside's Lancer Centre.



there is lots of room to shop, to chat, or even have a seat and sample that special tasty treat that may never make it home. Tinkess Photo

Ingleside's Lancer Centre is a great place for a craft show. It is bright, clean and

A magical Morewood evening

Carolyn Thompson Goddard Record Staff

MOREWOOD - The weather was crispy and a bit chilly, but there were no complaints heard from those who attended the 2024 Tree Lighting Ceremony held in Morewood during the early evening of Nov. 29.

Over 100 people of all ages gathered in Veterans View Park for the ceremony, enjoying taking the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbours, enjoying the holiday lights and keep warm by standing close to the contained wood fires or relishing in some hot chocolate. People were in the holiday spirit and sang Christmas carols accompanied by Austin Kapcala on the guitar, with volunteers busy handing out lyric sheets to those participating in the singing.

Morewood Recreation Association (MRA) President Brent Richard welcomed people to the event, thanking the community for their continued support. He then thanked MRA members for their dedication and hard work, as well as the volunteers and sponsors who had made this and other events possible in this North Dundas community.

North Dundas councillor Gary Annable expressed his appreciation for the work done by the volunteers which comes "out of the generosity of their heart". He continued by saying how attending community events such as this is a very enjoyable part of his work as a municipal councillor.

Richard led the countdown to the illuminating of the giant evergreen tree and other locations in the park followed by people expressing their joy when the lights went on. While youngsters were busy playing or securing glow sticks provided by the MRA, people admired the beauty of the lights. As the sound of sleigh bells were heard, families began lining up for a horse drawn wagon ride, provided by Brian McIntosh of Inkerman, around the streets of the

The winner of the MRA logo contest was announced, with resident Ian MacDonald receiving an Amazon gift card for his entry into the competition.

Looking around Veteran's View Park and enjoying the beauty of the decorative lights on the gazebo, signs, holiday cutouts as well as bushes and of course the gigantic evergreen tree, one can only imagine how many lights are being used and the work to put the display together. Richards mentioned how on the tree alone there were 4,000 lights, leading one to the conclusion that there must be thousands of lights in the park.

The first ever lawn tractor parade in Morewood is scheduled for Dec. 14, with Richard mentioning more information is available on the organization's Facebook page. The annual Morewood Winter Carnival is scheduled for Jan. 31, Feb. 1 and 2, with more information on their social media pages as it becomes available.



The annual tree lighting ceremony provided an opportunity for residents of Morewood and guests to enjoy socializing while viewing the marvelously magical holiday display in this North Dundas community. Thompson Goddard Photo

vendors make plans for which shows they will attend almost a year in advance. Despite this, Timmers was able to connect with a substantial number of vendors to the show which opened on the Friday evening and continued all day on Sat., Nov. 30.

"So, this year we have, between Friday and Saturday, approximately 38 unique vendors," said Timmers. "We've been happy to have everybody participate. They've been lovely.

There was quite a selection available from the respective vendors, from preserves, to glass art, to woodcraft and sewn products. Shopping at a show like this, you are not only finding some unique gifts, you are also supporting local small business.

RO School Council

organizer of the event,

and when she saw

running, she couldn't have

been happier. "It's been

really nice to have it back

up and running," said

Timmers. "We were

hoping to have a

successful event for the

community, for the

school, for the vendors

here, so it's really nice to

see it so busy and so

It is a busy time of

many smiling faces."

was

uр

secretary

Timmers

everything

Amanda

the

and

Having a Christmas Craft Show during the day and the Santa Claus parade the same night also had some nice synergy to it. "We were hoping that that might create an increase in foot traffic for us," added Timmers.

Anyone who has been

year, and many dedicated involved in organizing a craft show will tell you that it involves a fair amount of work, and this one was no exception, but in the end, it is a fundraiser, so you do what needs to be done, and hope it all works out well. "It's a nice fundraiser for the school, so we're hoping to raise some money for the school council, for activities for children at the school," said Timmers. "We're also doing a little bit of a fundraiser for our local food bank, as well at the entrance to the show. So, we're hoping to raise the money for a couple good causes."

> On Sunday it was reported that the total raised for the school was still being calculated, but Timmers was pleased to share that the community donated \$640 in cash for the food bank, as well as a couple of boxes of nonperishable food items.

> While we can't stop the clock or go back in time, it is nice to know that if something matters enough to us, it is possible to give it a second chance, and maybe even make it better than we remembered.



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COMING EVENTS VOLUNTEER

80[™] BIRTHDAY **CELEBRATION FOR MARIE** (LINK) MARCELLUS

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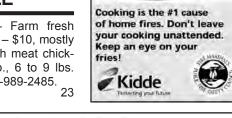
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PUZZLE SOLUTION

THE BENEFITS OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Even though crossword puzzles have been entertaining and helping people pass the time for more than 100 years, the benefits of crosswords go beyond boredom-busting. Various studies have shown the positive effects crossword puzzles can have on a person's brain and capacity to learn.

Improve vocabulary Strengthens memory

Improve socialization

Help relieve stress May help prevent brain diseases

Crossword puzzles can fill empty hours with an entertaining and educational activity. However, there are many other benefits to doing crossword puzzles that may surprise even the most ardent puzzle enthusiasts.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 12, 2024

CLUES ACROSS

1. Thou _ do it

6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

9. Brainstem part

13. Town in New York state

15. Continent

16. Retch

19. Confused

21. A team needs one 22. Woman in ancient times

23. Republican Party

28. Not around

29. City in Zambia

33. Numb

1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target

2. Wings

4. They protect your valuables

5. The Volunteer State

7. Horse mackerel

12. German surname

17. Romanian city

25. Former CIA

26. Set an example for others

29. One from the Big Apple

14. Little (Spanish)

17. Short-billed rails

18. Small period of time (abbr.)

24. Spanish be

25. "The Godfather" character Johnny

31. A type of beginning

36. Gurus

38. Small, gray-headed crow

CLUES DOWN

3. Overly studious person

6. Non-hydraulic cement

8. Jackson and Diddley are two

9. Splendid displays

10. Mountain in NÉ Greece 11. A daughter or your brother or sister

14. Having more than one husband at a time

20. Energy

21. Makes less hot 23. Gas diffusion electrode

27. Support of a particular person

39. Vehicle type

41. Disorders

44. One point east of southeast 45. Indian soldier

46. Tree type 48. Midway between south and southeast

49. It cools your home 51. Corn comes on it

52. Ship's deck 54. A way to bake

56. Improvised 60. Butterfly genus

61. Baseball fields have them 62. Designated space

63. Discharge

64. Two of something 65. Once more

66. Part of your face 67. Tax collector

37. Persian male given name

42. Forcibly take one's possessions

40. Born of

43. Discounts 47. Knockouts

49. Posh Colorado destination 50. Form of therapy

52. British rock band 53. Type of virus (abbr.)

55. The U. of Miami mascot is one 56. Volcanic crater

57. Middle Eastern nation 58. Sinn , Irish organization

59. Ethiopian lake 61. Bits per inch (abbr.)

65. Equally





The Maker's Hub: A creative haven

WINCHESTER - With a large variety of gift ideas and a friendly staff to assist you The Maker's Hub, located at 515 Main Street, a business that certainly has something for everyone while supporting local artisans and entrepreneurs.

Since 2022 the business and the building have been owned and operated by Carol Robillard, providing customers with a curated selection of artisan items such as fused glass, art, jewelry, goats soap, children's clothing, and specialty food.

It started when Robillard and her husband were looking for a property in Winchester and 515 Main Street, then owned by Joanne and Cory Houle, became available to purchase. When looking at the building (built in 1860) and seeing the business The Maker's Hub inside, she thought it was a fantastic model, was a gem in the community and decided to purchase both.

There are currently over 30 local artisans renting space at The Maker's Hub, all located on the main floor of the building to ensure all customers have accessibility to the products available.

Robillard explained local artisans rent space to display their products on a monthly basis, with a wide range of space sizes available, range from a shelf to larger areas. In addition to the rental fee, there is



Carol Robillard, owner/operator of The Maker's Hub in Winchester, is seen near the Christmas tree which provides a warm holiday welcome to customers entering the business. Thompson Goddard Photo

a small commission on sales. The artisans are not required to be on-site on a daily basis, but return frequently to The Maker's Hub to re-stock their area.

"When you see the artistic talent and originality of the products, this inspires you to see things from that perspective" commented Robillard. She explained

seeing the creative abilities has increased her own creative ways of seeing things.

She enjoys the relaxed pace of the business, with one of her favourite parts being conversations with the talented artists about their work, as well as being able to see first hand the joy felt by shoppers as they peruse the displays. There is a distinct sense of comfort and relaxation in The Maker's Hub. Shoppers and artisans seem to enjoy the calm atmosphere within the building. She explained people often express their appreciation for the talent which created the items on display as well as being happy to support the local community.

For those who are thinking of starting up a business, Robillard mentions the importance of loving what you will be doing as this will make the process more enjoyable and rewarding. It is always a good idea to get to know the other business owners in the area for, as she mentioned, they provide support to each other. She mentioned the importance of special events such as the Winchester Shop Crawl which help to bring customers into stores.

More information on The Maker's Hub can be found on their Facebook and Instagram pages: themakershubwinchester @themakershubwinchester and respectively.

If you would like to have a light shined on your business, please contact us at: editor@etceterapublications.ca or call us at 613-448-2321.

Metcalfe Santa Claus Parade displays the community's multiple identities

Terry Tinkess Record Staff

METCALFE - You would be hard pressed to come across a more pleasant afternoon in December than the one that took place on Sun., Dec. 8 in Metcalfe, Ontario when Santa and Mrs. Claus came to town.

While not the longest or largest parade by any standard, Metcalfe's Santa Claus parade truly represents the community. It is a part of the greater municipality of Ottawa, but it is also a community with deep agricultural roots and both identities, and quite a bit in between were on on Sunday display afternoon.

Metcalfe's identity as a part of the City of Ottawa was clearly displayed with the various fire service vehicles that are always a part of a Santa Claus Parade. The ladder and extendable bucket truck, for example, would be out of

place in most rural eastern Ontario communities, but it is something that they will have to invest in sooner rather than later as population densities increase and it becomes cheaper to rise higher into the sky.

The presence of Mayor Sutcliffe and Mark Councillor George Darouze (who was also recently selected as the Conservative candidate for the provincial riding of Carleton), along several other

Councillors unfortunately were partially hidden behind the trees on the City of Ottawa float also made it clear that this is a part of the Nation's Capital. But there was as much or

more that recognized the rural aspect that is still very strong. There members of the Carleton Junior Farmers, proudly marching and handing out cheese strings (a nice healthy alternative to candy canes). There were several tractors, one advertising the



The Carleton Junior Farmers were very popular along the parade route as they were passing out cheese strings. Tinkess Photo



The Metcalfe Fair float was just a gentle reminder that it is never too early to start preparing for next year's fair.

Metcalfe Fair (never too soon to think about that) and several horses.

There were also thoughs things that showed that this is a community that knows who it is and what it has to do to provide the life it's citizens want and need, groups like the Osgoode

Emergency Food Cupboard, and Rural Ottawa South Support Services, Schroomfest, the Metcalfe Curling Club, several minor hockey groups, and a large number of martial art students from a local training centre.

And of course, there was

Santa and Mrs. Claus, for whom all the small communities in eastern Ontario are very familiar, in some ways all the same, and others, slightly different.

It's the kind of thing you need to know when you're making a list and checking

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Your pioneering spirit is in full swing this week, Aries. Embrace new challenges and don't hesitate to get out front and take the lead. You just might inspire others with your confidence.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Make finances a priority this week, Taurus. A bit of budgeting could ease some of the financial stress that has been affecting you lately. Indulge in a small luxury as a reward for hard work.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Conversations could be interesting this week, Gemini. You're curious about what others do when they are home behind closed doors. Don't pry too much.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, nurture your relationships this week, particularly if work has garnered most of your attention of late. Pay attention to your own needs, too, and enjoy some relaxation.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Employ your natural charisma to forge new connections and network at upcoming events, Leo. You are good at sharing ideas and expressing yourself with confidence.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Tackle one job at a time and focus on what is important to get done this week, Virgo. It can be easy to get side-tracked by side projects. Or that might be your way to procrastinate.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, surround yourself with positive influences this week. You want others supporting you at every turn while you take on an important project that comes up.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Use your intense focus and attention to detail to delve into projects that require those specific skills, Scorpio. In fact, someone may ask you to work on a project for these traits alone.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Embrace the unknown this week. Let yourself get led off in different directions from those you normally travel, Sagittarius. Who knows what you may find along the way?

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Revisit your goals and make a plan for the future, Capricorn. Remember to take the people closest to you into consideration. Do not trample them in the process of getting ahead.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, collaborate with like-minded individuals who are ready to think outside the box. It is amazing what you can accomplish when you multiply your power.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

You might need to warm up before the creative energy starts to flow, Pisces. Don't worry, once you have the right inspiration, things will begin moving at a rapid pace.





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Exterior design for the new Embrun branch of Russell public library unveiled

Terry Tinkess Record Staff

EMBRUN – Embrun Co-op has revealed the exterior design for the future Embrun Branch of the Township of Russell Public Library. Developed in collaboration with the Township of Russell and the Township of Russell Public Library, this project will provide the community with a vibrant and accessible space dedicated to learning, connection, and local services.

The building was designed by the local firm Absolute Drafting + Design Inc. and blends traditional, contemporary, and natural materials to create a modern, inviting aesthetic that honours Embrun's rich heritage and looks to its future. The library will occupy 5,000 square feet on main floor, complemented by a reading garden at the rear for patrons to enjoy a peaceful outdoor area. Large, prominent windows throughout allow natural light to flood the interior, fostering a warm, welcoming atmosphere. A spacious vestibule at the main entrance provides easy access for book drop-offs and other essential library services.

Laurie Clement, Chair of the Board for the Township of Russell Public Library spoke of the collaborative



Conceptual drawing of the new Embrun branch of the Township of Russell Public Library. In addition to the Library, the building will contain space for retail and commercial uses.

Courtesy Photo

effort and the work that has been done so far.

"The board of directors of the Township of Russell Public Library is very proud of the work that has been done in collaboration with the municipality and Embrun Co-op to create what will be a beautiful, centrally located library and community resource," said Clement. "We look forward to building this tailored facility together to meet the growing needs in our communities."

In addition to the library space, the building's main floor will feature a 3,000-square-foot retail unit with a dedicated entrance, creating an exciting opportunity for a local business to establish itself in the heart of

Embrun.

The second floor, accessible by an open stairway and elevator within a striking floor-to-ceiling atrium, will offer 8,000 square feet of customizable office space to meet the needs of future tenants. Separate entrances for the library, retail, and office spaces make the building highly functional for a variety of users, underscoring its role as a central community hub.

Mike Tarnowski, Mayor of Russell Township, spoke proudly of the value or partnerships in achieving common goals.

"I am thrilled to see the remarkable designs unveiled by the Embrun Co-op for the new Embrun library branch," said Tarnowski. "Purposefully designed as a modern library from the ground up, this project represents a true community milestone. The library will be a vibrant hub for learning, gathering, and connection, thoughtfully crafted to meet the current and future needs of our growing community.

"This collaboration between the Embrun Co-op, the Library Board, and the Township exemplifies what we can achieve when we work together. My heartfelt thanks to all involved for their vision and dedication to enriching our community and enhancing Embrun's main street."

Michael Bols, President

of the Embrun Co-op Board of Directors said the project is a clear indication of the community's desire sustainable for development. "This project reflects Embrun Co-op's dedication to building a connected, thriving community and supporting sustainable economic development," said Bols. "The new Embrun Branch, together with additional retail and professional spaces, will breathe new energy into Embrun's main street. We're proud to work alongside the Township

and the Township of

Russell Public Library to

bring this vision to life for

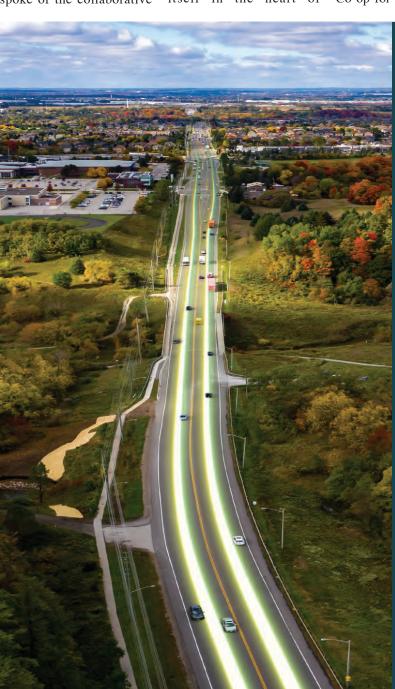
the community we're

committed to."

The building's location offers easy access to schools, neighbourhoods, and the recreational trail across the street, encouraging residents to arrive on foot, by bike, or by public transport. A generous parking area at the rear of the building provides additional convenience for all visitors.

Embrun Co-op invites local businesses and professionals interested in the available retail or office spaces to reach out for more information. The building's central location and adaptable layouts make it a unique opportunity for those seeking a presence in Embrun's vibrant community. This collaboration demonstrates Co-op's Embrun commitment to supporting growth local and strengthening the community.

Embrun Co-op, in partnership with the Township of Russell, will now move forward with the site plan approval and building permit processes, bringing the project closer to reality. The new Embrun Branch of the Township of Russell Public Library is anticipated to open its doors to the public in September 2026. For inquiries about retail or office space opportunities, please contact Embrun Co-op at admin@coopembrun.com.



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