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Fun winter activities to make the most of your Christmas vacation

The winter vacation season offers a unique opportunity to embrace the cold and enjoy some outdoor fun that creates lasting memories. Break up the monotony and infuse a little delight into your routine by adding a new activity to your winter break.

Try ice skating

Whether at a local rink or on a frozen pond, ice skating is a classic winter pastime that brings joy to all ages. Many cities set up outdoor rinks with festive lights and music, creating a magical atmosphere.

Go on a sleigh ride

Experience the charm of a horse-drawn sleigh ride through snowy landscapes. This activity provides a serene and nostalgic way to enjoy the winter scenery while bundled up in warm blankets. Some sleigh rides even include stops for hot cocoa and bonfires!

Build a snowman or fort

Embrace your inner child by building snowmen, igloos or snow forts. This is a fun activity for families, encouraging creativity and teamwork. Don't forget to have a snowball fight for added fun.

Go to a winter festival or market

Many towns and cities host winter festivals and holiday markets featuring local crafts, food and entertainment. These events are perfect for finding unique gifts, enjoying festive treats, and soaking in the holiday spirit.

Create cherished moments with family and friends while celebrating the beauty of winter.





Volume 131, Number 24 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, December 19, 2024 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)



Celebrating the Inauguration of SDG Warden Martin Lang
Following the ceremony, the 2025 SDG United Counties Council joined SDG Counties Warden Lang. From the left, seated: SDG Counties Warden and Deputy Mayor of South Glengarry Martin Land, South Glengarry Mayor Lachlan McDonald, South Dundas Mayor Jason Broad, North Stormont Mayor François Landry, North Stormont Deputy Mayor Steve Densham, South Dundas Deputy Mayor Marc St. Pierre, North Glengarry Mayor Jamie MacDonald, North Glengarry Deputy Mayor Carma Williams and North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser. Absent from photo: North Dundas Deputy Mayor Theresa Bergeron. Thompson Goddard Photo

Iroquois Night Market on its way to becoming a tradition

Terry Tinkess

Record Staff

IROQUOIS - The second-annual Iroquois Night Market took place at the Iroquois Plaza on Sat., Dec. 14 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and while it didn't go off completely without a hitch, other than the organizers, no one in attendance really seemed to care, because they were too busy having a good time.

Candace Latulippe, the owner of River Rat Treasures, Candy's Hair Salon, and The Travel Experts is one of the organizers of most of the events in Iroquois (she is a past recipient of the South Dundas Community Builder Award). She explained that the event was going extremely well, despite a couple problems.

"Some of the Christmas lights aren't on, and we couldn't do the hot dogs because we've got no power in there. It doesn't seem to be bothering anyone though."

Continued on page 6

Martin Lang sworn in as Warden

Carolyn Thompson Goddard

Record Staff

CORNWALL - There was an air of excitement in the county council chambers as Martin Lang, deputy mayor of South Glengarry, was sworn in as the 2025 Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

The SDG County Council provides a variety of services to residents of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. It is composed of the Mayors and Deputy Mayors from the six local municipalities in the three counties. The Warden is elected annual by council members and serves as the head of the SDG County Council.

Lang was joined by friends, family, colleagues and dignitaries for this ceremony, with many people able to enjoy

conversing with each other prior to the event beginning. Piper Tim Simpson piped members of the counties into the room, followed by Maureen Adams, Chief Administrative Officer for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Warden of the United Counties of Glengarry welcoming people to the ceremony, followed by a land acknowledgement and the singing of our national anthem by Gabrielle Campbell.

She then recognized members of the audience who had served as Warden of the UCSDG who were present. They included Charles Sangster, Jim McDonell, Bryan McGillis, Ian McLeod, Bill McGimpsey, Eric Duncan, Jamie MacDonald, Carma Williams and Tony Fraser, and recognized Chris McDonell who had served as SDG Warden and recently passed away.

Continued on page 2



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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!

A wonderful community we have in Newington

Record Staff

NEWINGTON - Dec. 14 was the last opportunity before Christmas for people to visit the Newington Community Exchange (NCE) before Christmas. The NCE is located in the basement of the Newington Wesleyan Church and has been a part of the community for several years. Pastor Olivia Phillips explained there was a children's shopping night earlier in the month, mentioning volunteer Debbie Crawford-Bosman

Carolyn Thompson Goddard has been busy wrapping gifts for shoppers during the event. She continued how the response from the community continues to be good and with the recent reorganization of the church's lower level it is much easier to shop there. Pastor Phillips mentioned adult and children's books are now available in a book shelf in the NCE, with the response from the community to this addition quite favourable.

Visitors to the NCE were able to enjoy a selection of holiday treats as the Stormont County 4-H Home for the Holidays Club held their Achievement Day at the church on Dec. 14. Leader Denise Beaudette-Manley explained club members enjoyed the meetings during which they created a mixture of baked goods and Christmas craft items. These included wreaths, Christmas cards, a gingerbread house, ornaments, a vule log and cookies. Each member brought two dozen holiday treats to the NCE which were provided to those who had worked up an appetite while shopping.

Left to right, front row: Breanna Beaudette, Vanessa Sollows, and Jaimie Fraser. Middle row: Norah-Leigh Schorn, Evelyn Robitaille, Jacob Schorn, Liam Fraser, and Katharine Fraser. Back row: Abby Rutters, Claire Stewart, Denise Beaudette-Manley, Jen Marion, Chloe Marion, Kayla Marion, Shayla Fraser, Lorena Sollows.

Martin Lang

Continued from the front

The members of the current County Council who were present including Andrew Guidon and Bryan McGillis from the Township of South Stormont deputy mayor and mayor respectively, Township of North Stormont Deputy Mayor Steve Densham and North Stormont Mayor François Landry. Township of North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser, Municipality of South Dundas Deputy Mayor Marc St. Pierre and Mayor Jason Broad were present, with Deputy Mayor Theresa Bergeon sending her regrets. From the Township of North Glengarry Deputy Mayor Carma Williams, Mayor Jamie MacDonald with Township of South Glengarry Deputy Mayor Martin Lang and Mayor Lachlan McDonald.

UCSDG Director of Corporate Services/Clerk Kimberley Casselman administered the Oath of Office to Lang, with North Dundas Tony Fraser placing the Chain of Office on Lang. Fraser then provided a detailed description of the components found on the SDG Warden's

Chain of Office. Senator Bernadette Clement, SDSG MP Eric Duncan, SDSG MPP Nolan Quinn, Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict and Cornwall Mayor Justin Towndale congratulated Lang on becoming Warden of the UCSDG, pledging to assist as needed and to work together for the betterment of the United Counties.

Adams read a note of congratulations and commitment to collaborative work from Warden-elect of the United Counties of Prescott-Russell Warden-elect Yves Laviolette from the United Counties of Prescott-Russell.

After being presented with the Warden's Pin by 2024 Warden, Jamie MacDonald, Lang presented his inaugural address to those present. "It is an absolute honour to stand before you as the newly sworn-in Warden of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry. Your presence means the world to me, and I am truly grateful for your support."

More information on the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry can be found on either their website, located at www.sdgcounties.ca and on their social media pages.



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South Stormont Breakfast with Santa attracted a lot of hungry people

Terry Tinkess Record Stsaff

LONG SAULT

Breakfast with Santa is usually a popular activity at this time of year, but when it became known that Santa would be stopping in Long Sault for a bite to eat, a lot of people showed up early to make sure they didn't miss him.

The event was schedule to start at 9:00 a.m. and there were people waiting to get in when the doors opened. By 9:45 a.m. there were approximately 60 people on hand and by shortly after 10 a.m. it had grown to 75. Not a problem though, as the members of the Ingleside, Long Sault, Lost Villages Lions Club were busy in the kitchen making sure no one had to wait very long for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausages, eggs, beans, and either coffee or juice.



Breakfast with Santa is always a great time for a family photo. From left, back row: Brenda Jansen, Henry Jansen, Brett Baker. Front row: Santa Claus, Dawson Baker, Chelsea Adelard. Tinkess Photo

The man in the red suit arrived around 10:00 a.m. and immediately began visiting all the children, and while I could be mistaken, it

seemed like he was checking his list as he talked with them to make sure they were on the "nice"

There were children of all ages, but the parents as well seemed to be in the Christmas swing of things and many "interesting" Christmas sweaters were observed.

The cost of the breakfast was \$7.00, with the proceeds being used by the Lions Club for the many good things they do in the community.

Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry MP Eric Duncan stopped by, and while he didn't get the same type of welcome reserved for Santa, he did spend the morning speaking with those in attendance and extending best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New

A steady stream of people continued throughout the morning, and as more came in, some of the early arrivals went on their way with each of the children receiving a small Christmas gift to tide them over until Santa makes his journey annual Christmas eve.





Christmas season made their way through the North Dundas community of Morewood on Dec. 14. Organized by the Morewood Recreation Association (MRA) and building on a suggestion of MRA member Rick Hogeveen, the parade delighted young and old alike while collecting toys, toiletries, clothing, and food for those in need as well as donating \$566.20 for Naomi's Family Resource Centre in Winchester. A sincere wish for a safe and happy holiday season was expressed by MRA representatives in social media posts.

Thompson Goddard Photo



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NORTH DUNDAS PARADE OF LIGHTS THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

The 2024 North Dundas Parade of Lights Committee would like to express our gratitude to everyone who helped make this year's event a success.

Thank you to all the volunteers who took the time to help set up, collect donations, and so much more.

Thanks to all the businesses and community organizations who put floats in the parade this year, and to all our vendors and businesses who participated in the Vendor Show.

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Special thanks to the Township of North Dundas Recreation and Roads Department staff, the OPP, and the North Dundas Fire Services for all of their hard work. We apologize if we have missed anyone.



Box 368 Chesterville, Ont. **KOC 1HO**

EDITORIAL&Opinion

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Sometimes face value is all that matters

In recent years, the holiday season has become a time not only for joy and togetherness but also for a kind of cultural and social anxiety. At the heart of this problem lies a seemingly simple question: Is it appropriate to wish someone a "Merry Christmas"? What was once a casual and heartfelt expression of goodwill has become a potential minefield, weighed down with concerns about

inclusivity, cultural sensitivity, and the risk of unintentionally offending someone. How did we arrive at this point, and is all this thought processing necessary?

To begin with, it's worth noting that Christmas, while deeply rooted in Christian tradition, has grown beyond its religious origins for many people. Today, it is as much a cultural phenomenon as a sacred celebration. For countless individuals, the holiday symbolizes family gatherings, gift-giving, and shared meals rather than the Nativity story. In this sense, wishing someone a "Merry Christmas" need not necessarily carry religious connotations; it can simply be a gesture of goodwill, an acknowledgment of a festive time of year, and an attempt as sharing happiness.

Our increasingly diverse and pluralistic societies complicate this simplicity. We live alongside people of many faiths and cultural traditions, from Hanukkah and Kwanzaa to Diwali and Eid, and those who celebrate no holidays at all. In such a mosaic of beliefs, a wellmeaning "Merry Christmas" unintentionally might exclude or alienate someone. The question, then, becomes: Should we adjust our greetings to accommodate the beliefs and practices of others?

Custom tailoring our holiday wishes to reflect someone else's traditions can be seen as a sign of respect. Wishing a Jewish friend "Happy Hanukkah" or a Muslim colleague "Eid Mubarak" demonstrates an awareness of their culture and an effort to include them in the seasonal spirit. This approach acknowledges the celebrations that exist beyond one's own. Yet, for some, this effort can feel performative or even patronizing, an attempt to avoid discomfort rather than a genuine expression of goodwill. After all, how many of us are deeply familiar with the customs and significance of every holiday we name-drop in December beyond the name of the celebration itself?

There can also be a of cultural concern assimilation. Critics of tailored greetings argue that expecting people to conform to the practices of another culture, even in a wellmeaning way, risks eroding individuality. For instance, would a Jewish person feel obligated to respond to "Merry Christmas" with enthusiasm, even if they do not celebrate it? Conversely, should a Christian feel pressured to adopt more generic phrases like "Happy Holidays" to avoid potentially offending someone? These scenarios can create an undercurrent of unease, where every interaction feels more like a linguistic tightrope than a sincere exchange.

At its core, the debate over holiday greetings reveals much about how we navigate differences in an interconnected world. The tension arises from the intersection of two deeply held values: the desire to express our own beliefs and traditions authentically, and the commitment to respect the diverse identities of those around us. The balance between these principles is delicate, and the stakes feel particularly high during a season meant to embody unity and goodwill.

One possible solution is to focus on the intent behind the words rather than the words themselves. When someone wishes us "Merry Christmas," "Нарру Hanukkah," or "Joyous Kwanzaa," they are, more often than not, expressing a simple wish for our happiness and well-being. Interpreting these greetings through the lens of goodwill rather than difference could alleviate much of the discomfort. In this view, the specific phrase matters less than the sentiment it conveys. Another approach that has

become popular over the past decade is to embrace inclusive language while still maintaining sincerity. "Happy Holidays" has become a popular alternative precisely because encompasses the wide range of celebrations that occur during this time of year. "Season's Greetings" as well serves the same purpose, and it has been an accepted phrase for this time of year for well over half a century. While some may see this as an impersonal or overly cautious choice, others argue that it's a realistic and practical way to ensure no one feels left out. It's a small linguistic shift that acknowledges the diversity of our communities while preserving the spirit of goodwill.

Still, there's a case to be made for standing firm in one's traditions. For many, saying "Merry Christmas" is not an act of exclusion but a heartfelt expression of their own joy and faith. It means my heart is full of joy and I wish to share that with you. I have difficulty understanding how anyone could be offended by such a comment.

Ultimately, the decision of how to greet someone during the holidays is a personal one, shaped by our values, beliefs, and relationships. There is no one-size-fits-all answer, and perhaps that's as it should be. The diversity of our greetings mirrors the diversity of our communities, and navigating complexity is part of what it means to live in a pluralistic society. The thing we shouldn't do is fall into the trap of being fearful of making a misstep and not saying anything. I have trouble seeing how that could be anything but exclusionary.

So, should you wish someone Christmas" this year? The answer depends on the context and your intent. If you know the person's beliefs and feel comfortable acknowledging them, by all means, tailor your greeting. If you're uncertain, a warm "Happy Holidays" can bridge the gap without sacrificing sincerity. And if someone wishes you a greeting that doesn't align with your own traditions, consider responding with gratitude for their goodwill rather than focusing on the differences it highlights.

Forget the thought of asking "What do you mean by that?" and simply say "Thank you." or just smile. Sometimes face value is all that really matters, conveying a meaning that words can frequently fail to deliver.

Terry Tinkess

Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:

The North Dundas Parade of Lights Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make our annual parade such a huge success.

Thank you to all the businesses and community organizations who participated in the Vendor Show and in the parade. Thanks to Ron Porteous for doing a great job of emceeing the parade from the main corner. As always, we are grateful to the community organizations and businesses who offer dinners and refreshments on parade day, and those who opened their doors and parking lots to spectators during the parade, the North Dundas Fire Department for arranging a ride in the parade for Santa, and Aaron Dellah for showing Die Hard at the Old Town Hall after the parade. Thank you also to the volunteers who lent a hand on parade day.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our sponsors, and for them we are truly grateful.

We are always amazed at the effort and creativity that goes into the floats every year, and this year was no exception. We had 54 floats, and choosing winners for our float contest is never an easy task, but it's one our planning committee takes seriously. Floats are judged on several criteria, including creativity, originality, effort, detail and audience interaction.

Here are this year's float category winners:

Best Overall: JR Trucking

Best Business Float: Como Farm Equipment

Best Non-Profit Float: Camp Sheldrick

Best Agricultural Float: Tibben Farms Inc. Most Lights: D&H Fencing

People's Choice: Circle K

Float winners receive a gift basket with local products. Congratulations to all our winners.

Of course, what's a Christmas parade without the Santa? Thank you, Santa, for taking time from your busy schedule to take part in our event.

We can't wait to see everyone again at next year's parade. Sandy Burns, Brianne Scott, Matthew Roy, and Cheryl Beasley

North Dundas Parade of Lights Committee

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Spreading kindness and hope

For many people the holiday season is one filled with family, food, presents and other wonderful things. It certainly is a season packed full of special events like Christmas concerts, Christmas pageants, visits with Santa Claus (and maybe the Grinch too!) at community parties and Christmas parades and at the Monkland Recreation Centre an opportunity to bake with elves!

In the hustle and bustle of the frantic shopping, cooking and baking it is sometimes easy to forget that not all are as blessed as we may find ourselves There are those in the community which, through no fault of their own, need a helping hand not only in the holiday season but all year round. The FAITH Pantry at Christ Church United in Chesterville, the House of Lazarus and Community Food Share are a few of the organizations which assist those in need.

There are also organizations in the municipalities in our readership which collect toys, presents and food to create Christmas Hampers which will be distributed this week. There are snow suit funds in many municipalities that help to ensure that all youngsters have

warm clothing for the coming winter.

One of these organizations is "A Bunch of People" who recently raised \$800.00 which was recently presented to the House of Lazarus. One of their more recent events was A Dramatic Reading of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with carols sung throughout the event. An evening performance at the Old Town Hall on Dec. 6, was followed by an afternoon outdoor performance at Cannamore Orchard raised \$800.00 which when added to the funds raised throughout the year amounted to providing \$4,500.00 to HOL by this amazing group of people.

Anyone who attends the Chesterville Fair is sure to have a fun-filled experience. Recently the Chesterville & District Agricultural Society, host of our beloved fair in Chesterville, announced on their Facebook page how thanks to the generosity of those who donated tips while visiting the "Diesel & Octane Bar in the grandstands, and The Trough Bar in the entertainment tent" the CDAS was able to make a donation of \$1,100.00 to the FAITH Pantry at Chesterville's Christ Church United. It was noted how "This donation, the largest single

contribution they've received, will help cover a month's worth of food, providing vital support to families in need within our community.'

Throughout the area it seemed that almost every weekend there was a parade of some sort or the other as well as holiday craft shows or parties. What is heart-warming to notice is how many, if not all, organizers made sure there were opportunities provided for donations to food banks or other agencies during the event.

Lest the gentle reader feel that these activities are only to be found at Yuletide, rest assured that it has been noticed how throughout the year there are opportunities to support those in our community who need a helping hand. The size of the gift or donation is not important, but rather the size of the person's heart who provides it.

As my dear departed Mom used to say "Little acts of kindness, little deeds of love, make this earth an Eden like the heaven above!" which thanks to the world wide web I discovered while writing this is from a poem written by Julia Carney in 1845.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays to all!

Carolyn Thompson Goddard

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Thursday, December 19, 2024

Williamsburg resonates with the sound of the Seaway

Valley Singers Terry Tinkess

Record Staff

WILLIAMSBURG -The sounds of the seasons resonated throughout the Christian Reformed Church in Williamsburg on Sunday

afternoon as the Seaway Valley Singers performed their annual Christmas concert.

This year's offering was entitled "Christmas in Three Quarter Time", a reference to the time signature which indicates three beats per measure and is often referred to as a waltz rhythm (one, two, three, one, two, three, and so on.) It is quite common, as is the quality of any performance by the Seaway Valley

being no exception. The programme offered a variety of seasonal standards, some were much loved hymns, such as Oh Come All Ye Faithful, while others were more contemporary, such as Eight Candles in My Window, a Hanukkah song by Brent Hardesty, or the Christmas in Three Quarter Time

Singers, this performance



The Seaway Valley Singers, performed their 2024 Christmas concert entitled "Christmas in Three Quarter Time" on Sun., Dec. 15 at the Christian Reformed Church in Williamsburg.

medley arranged by Mark Brymer. These and each of the other selections were performed with the attention to detail that anyone who has held a spot on their calendar for this annual holiday tradition has come to expect.

The afternoon concluded with a rendition of Hallelujah Chorus from the oratorio Messiah by G. F. Handel.

The Seaway Valley Singers are under the direction of Robert Jones, who in 2024 marked his 20th season as the group's director.

> Accompanying the

Seaway Valley Singers was Margaret Whisselle who was the original accompanist from 1993-2000, and again from 2010 until the present.

The Seaway Valley Singers currently have 41 members, but new members are welcomed at the

beginning of the fall and winter sessions. The next session will begin on Wed., Jan. 8, 2025. Rehearsals are held at the Christian Reformed Church on County Road 18 in Williamsburg. For more information you can visit seawayvalleysingers.ca.



Santa, the Grinch and loads of holiday fun

The Avonmore Community and Athletic Association (ACAA) hosted at Christmas party for youngsters on Sun., Dec. 15 at North Stormont Place. In addition to visiting with Santa and seeing the Grinch, children were able to enjoy several Christmas themed games such as Frosty Mini putt and fishing for candy canes during the long-standing holiday tradition. A special treat was story-time with Santa and the opportunity to enjoy some refreshments and treats. A big thank you for the ACAA volunteers who plan this and other family friendly events throughout the year and the student volunteers from Tagwi Secondary School. Wishing all a very happy holiday season and joyous new year. Courtesy Photo

REFLECTIONS ON COMFORT & PEACE

As we approach Christmas, let's reflect on the first people to hear the Good News of Jesus' birth - the shepherds. Imagine this: ordinary men in the fields, surrounded by darkness, when suddenly they are enveloped in brilliant light. An angel appears and says, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10).

The angel didn't announce Jesus' birth to kings or scholars but to humble shepherds, often overlooked in society. This shows us that Jesus came for everyone, no matter their status. God sees us where we are and invites us into His story. Even when we feel unnoticed or unimportant, like the shepherds, God sees us and offers His love, calling us to share His light with others.

In Luke 2:15-20, after the angel's message, the shepherds immediately went to find Jesus. They didn't hesitate or make excuses – they responded with urgency and joy. When they saw the baby, they were filled with joy and couldn't keep the news to themselves. They spread the word to everyone they met. What's striking is that these were just ordinary people. They weren't trained speakers or religious leaders, but their excitement made them powerful witnesses.

The shepherds' story reminds us that sharing the Good News doesn't require special qualifications. It can be as simple as showing kindness, offering a prayer, or sharing a word of encouragement. We often hesitate to share our faith because we fear rejection or think we're not qualified. But the shepherds' witness shows us that sharing Jesus' love is about being willing and enthusiastic, not being an expert.

This Christmas, let's be like the shepherds – eager to share the light of Jesus with everyone we meet. Whether it's inviting someone into your home, offering a kind word, or simply being present with those who are struggling, we all have the opportunity to spread His joy.

Jesus offers an open invitation to all who are weary and burdened. Many people around us are facing loneliness, anxiety, or loss, even if they don't realize that what they truly need is Jesus. Just as the shepherds were invited to see Him, we can extend that same invitation to others. Your small gesture can reflect Christ's love and point others to Him.

This Christmas, let's embrace the example of the shepherds - sharing the joy of Jesus' light with everyone we meet.

> Blessings, Pastor Scott Sayers Solomon's Porch Nationside Pentecostal Church Chesterville, Ont.



- OBITUARY -**Roy Meldrum**

Passed away peacefully at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital on Thursday, December 12, 2024, Roy Meldrum of Chesterville, age 91. Beloved husband of the late Maralene Meldrum (nee McLean).

Dear brother of Gordon Meldrum (late Joy) of Russell, Glenn Meldrum (late Lauren) of Kenmore and Norma Ross (late Keith) of Ottawa. Dear brother-in-law of Marilyn Meldrum of Kincardine. Roy was predeceased by his parents Lorne and Ida Meldrum (nee McIntosh), his daughter Laura-Lee Lalonde, his sisters Gladys Crerar (late Bill) and Helen Meldrum and his brothers Lynn, Raymond, Maynard (late Velma) and Fred Meldrum. He is also survived by nieces and nephews. A public graveside service was held at Maple Ridge Cemetery on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 11 a.m. followed by a celebration of Roy's life at the Royal Canadian Legion in Chesterville. Donations to Maple Ridge Cemetery or the OSPCA would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. 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.



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December 22nd, 2024 - Sunday Advent 4 - Come celebrate together with Rev Lois on this Christmas Sunday - The Sunday of Love, Sacrament of Holy Communion, 9:15 a.m. in Chalmers Finch and 11 a.m. in St. Andrew's Martintown

December 24th, 2024 - Tuesday Night Our Christmas Eve Service will be held this year in Chalmers Finch at 4 p.m. Please come – let us bring our families and friends and celebrate this most holy of nights together.

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@stjohnscornwall.ca www.avonmorefinch-presbyterian.ca Office Phone: 613-932-8693

> December 22nd, 2024 - TBA Christmas Eve Service - TBA

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.



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

Please join us for Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. at the Nelson LaPrade Centre, 9 William St.

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.



CHESTERVILLE Connect, Equip, Serve 2 Water St., Chesterville 613-448-1758

Pastor Shawn Van De Visch 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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www.stclaresanglican.ca 2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester 613-774-2236

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Weekend Mass: Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 10:30 a.m. Fr. Oliver Wekesa (Parish Administrator) Cindy Morgan (Parish Secretary)



Iroquois Night Market

Continued from the front

The event helps to build community spirit, but it also serves as a fundraiser, this year for two worthy charities.

"Proceeds from the Angel balls will go to the Dundas County Hospice," said Latulippe, "while the proceeds from the pet balls will go to the SPCA."

Another part of the fundraising activity was the cookie crawl, for which three dozen were sold.

So, what can you offer to get a large crowd of people to stand outside for



Horse drawn wagon rides around the Iroquois plaza were a very popular part of the Night Market festivities, and a line formed for most of the evening. Tinkess Photo

a couple hours on a cold December evening? A lot of things, actually.

If you were hungry there

were baked goods, free mulled cider and hot chocolate and popcorn, and pizza slices for \$5.00, and you could sit around a nice wood fire to keep warm if you wanted to.

There was musical entertainment by the Seaway District High School band, horse drawn wagon rides, a chance to sit and chat with Santa and Mrs. Claus, or maybe have your photo taken with a real reindeer (there were two of them.)

There were several vendors selling their creations, and then there was the Grinch, who seemed to be everywhere.

And there were the trees, which were really the

stars of the show. Two of them held the Christmas memory balls, while the others had been decorated by local businesses. Those in attendance were able to vote for the one they liked best, but there really wasn't a bad choice in the bunch.

At 5:00 p.m. Reverend Lewis stopped by to bless the decorations and say a prayer for those who were still with us, as well as those who weren't.

Once again, a small plaza in a small community dreams big dreams that people with big hearts and boundless energy bring to life. May it always be that way



Newington welcomes Santa Claus!

On Sun., Dec. 15, there was plenty of people of all ages stopping by the fire station in Newington for the annual Community Christmas Party organized by the Newington Fire Fighters Association. While people of all ages enjoyed a hot dog, hot chocolate and other treats, the star of the gathering was of course an opportunity to visit with Santa. After speaking with the Jolly Old Elf, children were able to choose a toy from the gift table as well as chocolate bar courtesy of M&L Supply,

Fire and Safety located in nearby Ingleside. During the event people were able to make a food or monetary donation to the House of Lazarus. There was facepainting in the fire hall as well as the Achievement Day for the Multi-Media Craft Club of Stormont County 4-H was held. The club project was a calendar with several different techniques utilized, with leaders and members busily putting the finishing touches to the calendar. Firefighters in Newington wished to thank M&L Supply, Fire and Safety for the donation of chocolate bars to the event, to the people who organized the event and to the community for their continued support. From the left: Brady Lefave, Santa and Jodie Lafave are pictured during the Christmas Party held on Dec. 15 at the fire station in Newington.

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The Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree provides a special way to honour or remember family and friends with a gift to the WDMH Foundation. Proceeds support compassionate, excellent health care – close to home.

You can make your donation by:

- Visiting our website at www.wdmhfoundation.ca click any 'Donate Now' button, and choose the Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree to make a secure, online donation. You will be emailed a tax receipt within minutes of your gift.
- Calling us at 613-774-2422 to make a credit card donation. Our team is waiting to help you at extensions 6162 or 6169. If we miss you, please leave a message and we will call you back.
- Drop by our office in the hospital lobby at 566 Louise Street in Winchester. We'd love to see you and parking is free for 20 minutes.

For each Wish Tree donation, our team will ensure an ornament with a personalized tag is displayed on the beautiful tree in the lobby. Thank you so much for your support at this special time of year!



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HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Township of North Dundas Municipal Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24^{th} at noon and re-open Thursday, January 2^{nd} at 8 a.m.

For Road Emergencies, please call 1-866-828-6740.

For Water and Sewer Emergencies in the Villages of Winchester and Chesterville, please call 1-800-342-6442.

LANDFILL HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Boyne Road Landfill will be closed on Tuesday, December 24^{th} from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday, December 25^{th} – All Day, Thursday, December 26^{th} – All Day, Tuesday, December 31^{st} from 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. and Wednesday, January 1^{st} – All Day.

Recycling and waste pick up scheduled for Wednesday, December 25th will be moved to Monday, December 23rd and pickup on Wednesday, January 1st will be moved to Monday, December 30th. All other pickup schedules will remain unchanged throughout the holidays. Reminder to residents that waste must be placed out by 7 a.m. on your collection date.

Any questions, please call the landfill at 613-774-5157.

Please remember, emergencies can happen at any time. You and your family should be ready to take care of yourselves for a minimum of 72 hours. Remember to test your generator.





A dream is a wish a heart makes

Carolyn Thompson Goddard Letter" in support of the program is written and

WINCHESTER – Located in the lobby of the main entrance to the Winchester & District Memorial Hospital is a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree. Known as the Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree (JLCWT), and is named after Judy Lannin who began the tradition of the Christmas Wish tree close to 30 years ago, the annual tree lighting ceremony was held on Tues., Dec. 10, beginning at 5 p.m.

The JLCWT is a fundraiser for the WDMH Foundation with a Christmas ball placed on the tree when a donation is made to the Family Care Fund. The balls are owned by the Foundation and tags with the names of those in whose memory a donation was made are placed on tree by hospital volunteers.

Each year a "Wish Tree

program is written and mailed, with Debra McLean and Annie writing the 2024 letter to the public. Manager of Direct Mail and Events for the WDMH Foundation Justine Plummer mentioned how despite mailing issues resulting from the current Canada Post workers strike, a lot of people have donated to the program either online of by dropping off a cheque to the WDMH.

Prior to and during the

event, members of the Seaway Valley Singers provided holiday music which contributed greatly to the ambiance of the evening. Cindy Peters, Interim Executive Director of the WDMH Foundation welcomed people to the ceremony, thanking the public for their support and mentioning the funds raised will be provided to the Family Care Fund to



From the left, front row: Debra McLean, Jack, Annie and Paige. Middle row: Justine Plummer, Cindy Ault Peters, Cholly Boland and Hannah VanMoorsel. Back row: Dave

Black and Dr. Brian Devon. Thompson Goddard Photo

equipment or upgrade existing equipment.

"You truly make a difference to our hospital and our community" commented Cholly Boland, CEO of both

Manor, and offer thanks for the su since the hospital in 1948. WDM Staff Dr. Britand addressed those

purchase new medical

the WDMH and Dundas Manor, and offered a note of thanks for the support shown since the hospital was opened in 1948. WDMH Chief of Staff Dr. Brian Devin addressed those present by thanking the community for its continued support, mentioning it helps to ensure the patient care at the hospital remains at a high standard.

Following seasonal selections by the Seaway Valley Singers, Plummer thanked the many sponsors of the event for their support and introduced Debra McLean and therapy dog Annie. McLean was the author of the 2024 Wish Tree Letter. In the letter McLean, retired mentioned it was because of the support received while a patient at the hospital, she began volunteering in many departments at WDMH as well as sitting on hospital committees. She notes in the letter how she and Annie "have found purpose and connection through giving back to Winchester and District Memorial Hospital (WDMH)."

Annie, a beautiful Shetland Sheep Dog a breed known colloquially as a Sheltie, was trained by McLean and follows in the footsteps of Ceildh who had volunteered as a therapy dog with her beginning in 2020. She explained Annie provides staff and patients with "her special brand of comfort-whether its through a soothing cuddle, a playful interaction or her famous 'Annie Hugs'", noting how the gift given is returned with warmth from those visited.

A few seconds later the Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree was lit by Annie, McLean and her grandson Jack, as the Seaway Valley Singers sang "O Christmas Tree". As the event concluded, Jack walked Annie amongst the people in attendance to give them the opportunity to enjoy an "Annie Hug", while his sister Paige handed out candy canes. Light refreshments were provided and people were able to enjoy a time of socialization and good will.

Santa's Super Saturday in Finch

Carolyn Thompson Goddard Record Staff

FINCH – Christmas celebrations in Finch got underway on Dec. 14 with a Breakfast with Santa in the morning and the Parade of Lights along the streets in this North Stormont community in the evening. Organized by the Finch Recreation Committee, the event provided the community with an opportunity to enjoy the

season as well as make donations to the local food bank.

The day started with a delicious full course breakfast prepared by members of the Royal Canadian Legion Heather Branch 357 in Finch. People were able to enjoy scrambled eggs, home fries, a choice of ham, bacon or sausage (or all three!), toast and coffee. For those who enjoy a sweet treat there was a bake table with an amazing array of delicious delectables to take home or enjoy after breakfast.

People were able to enjoy the meal while visiting with

friends, family and neighbours while youngsters of all ages waited patiently for the arrival of Santa Claus. A joyous bell ringing heralded the arrival of Santa and straight away many children greeted him most enthusiastically.

As the Jolly Old Elf made his way through the crowd, one child hand delivered his letter to Santa directly which warmed the hearts of those who witnessed this. He made his way to the front of the hall, where children were able to enjoy a few moments with Santa, with his honourary elves providing the youngsters with a treat!

As the clock ticked towards 7 p.m., the sidewalks of Finch began to be filled with people waiting to see the annual Parade of Lights through the community. The weather was cold but people experienced the warmth of the holiday season as they watched while float after float after float passed by them, with organizers mentioning there were over 40 floats, beautiful horses and walkers spreading Christmas cheer.

There were plenty of costumed characters passing out

candy canes to youngsters and lots to see as the beautifully decorated floats went by them. During the parade and along its route members of the Finch and District Lions Club (FDLC) were collecting food for the local food bank as well as selling 50/50 tickets in support of their club. While they were all wonderful to see, there can be little doubt that the final float with Santa and his sleigh was the best one of all!

Following the parade there was a social time in the Finch Community Hall at the arena organized by the Finch Recreation Committee and members of the St. Bernard's Knights of Columbus. During the social time the winner of the 50/50 draw was held with Randy Douglas holding the winning ticket, Lisa Winters won the Hallowe'en early bird draw and Don MacLean the Labour Day early bird draw.

A sincere note of thanks is to be given to the organizers of Santa's super Saturday in Finch, to RCL Heather Branch 357 for the breakfast, to the volunteers, to float participants and to the people who turned out to enjoy all the events.





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Keep being you Love your ears







nas Charm: A house and porch tour in Moose Creek

Carolyn Thompson Goddard committee composed of Record Staff

MOOSE CREEK – The 2024 edition of "A Touch of Christmas House and Porch Tour" in North Stormont was held on Dec. 15. Hosted this year by the Moose Creek Recreation Association (MCRA), the event was organized by a

Ginette Quesnel, Nick Forgues, Nicole Latour and Amanda Brownrigg. Funds raised by the tour will be provided to the amalgamated Recreation Association in North Stormont which ensures the entire community will benefit from the event.

Quesnel explained prior to the COVID-19 pandemic tour hosts decorated their homes for the holidays and opened their doors to participants in the house tour. During the pandemic the tour transitioned to a porch tour, with participants decorating their porches only. She mentioned this year organizers decided to from the Boulangerie Swiss bring back the house tour this year, with owners of eight houses and nine porches in the Moose Creek area participating.

There were over 80 people registered to participate in the tour this year, with participants receiving a special treat Farmer Bakery (BSFB) as well as coffee and hot chocolate at the recently opened recreation centre in Moose Creek. In addition to picking up some treats from the BSFB, people were able to enjoy seeing youthful highland dancers perform, snap a photo aboard a sleigh

a draw for a gift basket. To the one side of the hall were entries in the holiday centrepiece competition from three of the six recreation association in North Stormont, with participants able to vote for their favourite.

Photo on page 11

Frank Desnoyers

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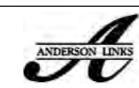
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The best gift is a safe ride home



If you're drinking or taking drugs, don't drive!

uring the holidays, you often hear tragic stories of people losing their lives in road accidents involving alcohol and drug use. However, these tragedies can be prevented. Here are a few simple tips to ensure you and those around you stay safe this festive season.

ARE YOU A DRIVER?

Even if you feel okay to drive, it's a proven fact that consuming alcohol and drugs — no matter how much — will still impair your judgment. It's best to have a plan of action before you go out.

Consider arranging to stay overnight at the party location or assign a designated driver for your group. Other options for getting home safely include hiring a rideshare service or taxi or taking public transit.

ARE YOU A PASSENGER OR WITNESS?

If you notice that someone is unfit to drive and still intends to get behind the wheel, speak up! Let them know it's not okay and suggest alternative options. The same applies if you're a passenger in a group that must share a vehicle. If you're asked to ride with a driver who has been consuming drugs or alcohol, refuse and do everything you can to encourage others to do the same.

When it comes to alcohol and drugs, everyone shares the responsibility to stay safe. As a driver, avoid getting behind the wheel, and as a witness, act. Everyone can do something to prevent the devastating consequences of impaired driving — including criminal penalties, severe injury and death — by working together.



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COMING EVENTS

Page 10 The Record

TRI-COUNTY COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION MUSIC AND DANCE

Sat., Jan. 4, 2025. Dance: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at South Stormont Township Hall, 2 Mille Roches Road, Long Sault, Ontario. For more information, please contact Elaine at 613-362-0173. Please note that information on dance cancellations will be posted on the Tri-County Country Music Association Facebook group.

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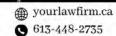
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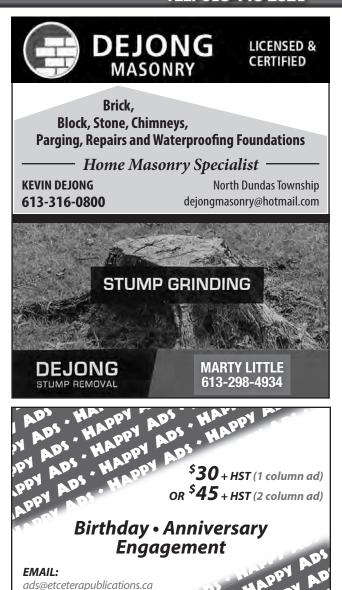




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Santa's Workshop: The world's most local small business

NORTH POLE - When it comes to iconic small businesses, few are as universally recognized and beloved as Santa Claus's North Pole operation. With a workforce of elves, a fleet of flying reindeer, and a mission statement focused on spreading joy, Santa's business seems like the epitome of a well-oiled machine. But behind the scenes, Santa's enterprise faces many of the same challenges confronting small businesses everywhere: rising costs, supply chain disruptions, labour relations, and the pressure to meet customer expectations in an ever-changing market.

Santa's workforce is legendary. The elves, renowned for their craftsmanship and cheer, are the heart and soul of his operation. But even at the North Pole, labour relations require attention. In recent years, the elves have sought more sustainable work schedules and better access to mental health resources, citing the stress of meeting tight deadlines.

"We love what we do," says Elvin Sprinkles, a level three senior toymaker. "But the demand grows every year, and sometimes it's hard to keep up without burning out."

Santa has responded by implementing wellness programs and offering flexible work hours during non-peak seasons. However, keeping morale high in the workshop while maintaining productivity is a balancing act.

"The elves are our greatest asset," Santa explains. "Their happiness and well-being are critical to delivering Christmas magic."

Like small businesses worldwide, Santa's workshop has felt the pinch of rising costs. From the materials used to craft toys to the magical feed required to sustain the reindeer, the expenses add up. Adding to this the suggestion of ridiculous malicious tariffs causes even Santa's joyful exuberance to wane just a bit. "That's one name I don't expect to see on the nice list anytime soon," he said sadly.

The surge in energy costs has been particularly challenging. Maintaining a climate-controlled workshop in the Arctic, where temperatures can plummet to extremes, is no small feat. To mitigate these



Santa Claus, while his workshop is at the North Pole, is really a local business because he exists in the hearts of people everywhere. Generated Photo

energy, installing wind turbines, groundsourced heat pumps, and, to a lesser extent solar panels (due to the lack of sunlight for a substantial portion of the year.)

"We've always aimed to be environmentally friendly," Santa says. "But now, it's also a necessity for staying within budget. We have even altered some of the grain products being fed to the reindeer to help reduce methane production."

Global supply chain disruptions have impacted even Santa's magical operations. With materials sourced from around the world, from sustainably harvested wood to ethically sourced glitter, delays have become a growing concern. In response, Santa's workshop has adopted a hybrid approach, combining global sourcing with a renewed focus on local production.

'We've started sourcing more materials locally here at the North Pole," says Jingle

expenses, Santa has invested in renewable Frost, head of procurement. "It's not just about avoiding delays; it's about supporting local economies and ensuring we have what we need when we need it."

> Santa's supply chain strategy also includes stronger partnerships with suppliers and the use of predictive analytics to forecast demand. These measures have helped mitigate disruptions, but they require constant vigilance.

> Santa's operation is perhaps the ultimate example of just-in-time delivery. Each year, millions of gifts must be manufactured, sorted, and delivered to households worldwide in a single night. It's a logistical feat that rivals the operations of the largest global corporations.

> To ensure timely delivery, Santa relies on advanced sleigh technology and GPS navigation. In recent years, he's also embraced digital transformation, incorporating cloud-based systems to track production and delivery schedules.

"Christmas Eve is a make-or-break moment for us," Santa admits. "But with the right tools and teamwork, we make it happen."

Despite the global scale of his operations, Santa insists that his business is fundamentally local. "I'm local to everyone," he says with a twinkle in his eye. "No matter where you live, I'm your neighbour in spirit."

Santa's message aligns with the growing movement to support local businesses. By shopping locally, communities strengthen their economies, reduce environmental impact, and build connections. Santa embodies these values by engaging with local artisans and encouraging families to celebrate the uniqueness of their own communities.

"When you support local, you're not just buying a product; you're investing in your community," Santa explains. "And that's the true spirit of Christmas."

Santa's ability to navigate challenges and adapt to change offers valuable lessons for small business owners. His commitment to employee well-being, sustainability, and innovation demonstrates that even the most traditional enterprises can thrive by embracing new ideas.

For Santa, the ultimate goal remains unchanged: delivering joy and fostering goodwill. And while his challenges are unique, his solutions are universally relevant.

"Christmas magic doesn't just happen," Santa says. "It's the result of hard work, creativity, and a little help from friends around the world."

As small businesses prepare for another holiday season, they can find inspiration in Santa's example. Whether it's by strengthening community ties, investing in sustainability, or simply spreading kindness, there's a little bit of Santa's magic in every entrepreneur. After all, every small business has the power to bring people together and make the world a brighter place.

> 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.

Pin Tales

Monday Men's: Men's High Single, Josh Cinnamon 293; Men's High Triple, Jacob Cinnamon 675; Men's High Average, Frank Jerome 234. Team Standings: East-Ont 81, Alley Cats 69, Raiders 59.5, Alley Rats 47, A-Team 52, Country Boys 39.5.

Defenders: Men's High Single, Blaine Symonds 244; Men's High Triple, Blaine Symonds 566; Ladies' High Single, Natalie Juhasz 215; Ladies' High Triple, Natalie Juhasz 643. Team Standings: The Missplits 180.5, Split Happens 152, Soggybottombowlers 146.5, Hasbeans 146.5, The Sixty Niners 137.5, Pin Pals 119.

Thursday Seniors: Men's High Single, Bas Vanwinden



Fun holiday tour in Moose Creek

The 2024 "A Touch of Christmas House and Porch Tour" was hosted by the Moose Creek Recreation and was once again quite successful. From the left, front row: Highland dancers Ava Delhey, Alyssa Delhey and Lyla Lalonde are seen. Seated in the sleigh are two members of the organizing committee Ginette Quesnel and Amanda Brownrigg.

Thompson Goddard Photo

171; Men's High Triple, Bas Vanwinden 422; Ladies' High Single, Tina Serviss 184; Ladies' High Triple, Tina Serviss 515.

Avonmore Mixed: Men's High Single, Mike Byvelds 288; Men's High Triple, Mike Byvelds 666; Ladies' High Single, Lindsay Burnett 241; Ladies' High Triple, Anne Burnett 522. Team Standings: Mike 202.5, Luke 156.5, Jen 156.5, Mary 156, Jeannette 144.5, Monique 129.

Youth Bowling Canada

YBC Peewees: Girl's High Single, Everlee Lanoue 76; Girl's High Double, Everlee Lanoue 238; Boy's High Single, Maximus Power 117; Boy's High Double, Maximus Power 220. Team Standings: Bruins 64, Kings 60, Stars 41.

YBC Bantams: Girl's High Single, Evane Gravel 153; Girl's High Double, Vanessa Bissonnette 270; Boy's High Single, Sam Bissonnette 139; Boy's High Double, Sam Bissonnette 219. Team Standings: Senators 48, Leafs 46, Sabers 45.

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YBC Juniors: Girl's High Single, Cheyenne Lanoue 251; Girl's High Triple, Cheyenne Lanoue 622; Boy's High Single, Merrick Richer 160; Boy's High Triple, Merrick Richer 428.

YBC Seniors: Girl's High Single, Lindsay Burnett 221; Girl's High Triple, Lindsay Burnett 652; Boy's High Single, Zach Robinson 293; Boy's High Triple, Zach Robinson 566. Team Standings: Red Wings 129, Jets 124, Flames 117, Blackhawks 98, Oilers 96.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Township of North Stormont Municipal Office will be closed from noon (12 p.m.) Tuesday, December 24, 2024 to Wednesday, January 1, 2025 inclusive. The Township office will reopen on Thursday, January 2, 2025.

For Road Emergencies please call Blake Henderson at 613-551-0498.

For Water and Sewer Emergencies please call Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) at 1-800-342-6442.

Please remember, emergencies can happen at any time. You and your family should be ready for a minimum of

Test your generator and have a safe and happy holiday!

Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025 from Council and Staff

The Corporation of the Township of North Stormont 15 Union Street, Berwick, ON K0C 1G0 Office:613-984-2821 1-877-984-2821 Fax: 613-984-984-2908 www.northstormont.ca | www.facebook.ca/NorthStormont



Page 12 The Record

Provincial funding for Russell Township announced

Carolyn Thompson Goddard Record Staff

EMBRUN – In an afternoon press conference on Mon., Dec. 16, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell MPP Stéphane Sarrazin announced \$1.5 million from the Eastern Ontario Development Fund will be provided to the Township of Russell to support the expansion of the 417 Industrial Park in Vars.

A Township of Russell press release issued shortly after the announcement noted the expansion project hopes to address labour shortages in the township and surrounding areas. It was noted in the release that there are currently 82 businesses in the park and once the expansion is complete it expected that over 1,500 jobs will be created in businesses which could locate there. "With all industrial lands already sold and a waiting list of 12 businesses selected based on strict criteria, it is crucial to develop new lands ready to attract investments."

"Our government is committed to building a stronger Ontario, and that starts with supporting significant investments within our communities" commented Sarrazin in the release. He continued how the expansion "will have a major impact on the local manufacturing sector" and noted this is an "important step forward for our region, and I am pleased to see this investment come to fruition."

There are several key activities in the project which will include "the design, surveying, topography, and construction of the extension of Emard and Robot Streets" as well as the install of essential services such as street lighting, natural gas, electrical energy and fiber optics.

"This grant is excellent news for our community. It

supports the continued growth of our 417 Industrial Park by fostering the creation of local jobs, stimulating our economy, and diversifying our tax base. We are grateful to the Ford government and our MPP Stéphane Sarrazin for their commitment to supporting the prosperity and development of our Township," said Russell Township Mayor Mike Tarnowski.

An aim of enhancing the industrial park is to attract and diversity business types in the community, with the expectation this could increase productivity and innovation as well as attract more businesses and "enhance local competitiveness" by having lands ready for investments. It was noted during the press conference the property in question has already been designated for industrial use, with the municipality seeking a balanced approach to land use while looking for solution for concerns raised about this development by residents.

Tarnowski mentioned, in response to a media question, the municipality has experienced a period of accelerated growth since 2016 for a variety of reasons including housing costs and employment opportunities. He continued the local government is working to support the needs of the entire community during this time of change, seeking a balanced approach to development and is committed to transparency.

Outside the municipal building there was a group of people protesting the increase in the size of the industrial park. Members of "Stand Our Ground" picketed outside the building before, during and after the media only press conference. Their literature mentions how "Stand Our Ground is a grass roots group opposed to the headlong and

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Following a media only press conference announcing the 1.5 million dollar funding for the expansion of the 417 Industrial Park in Vars, Glengarry, Prescott, Russell MPP Stéphane Sarrazin is shown with Russell Township Mayor Mike Tarnowski and Chief Administrative Officer Richard Godin.

Thompson Goddard Photo

dangerous spread of residential and industrial development in Russell Township." Some of the concerns raised by the group include "the loss of large tracts of rich farmland each year" which could "seriously threatens future food production and stable grocery prices." More information on this organization can be found on their website located at www.standourground.ca.

For more information on the municipal government of Russell Township can be found at www.russell.ca.

A perfect way to spend a Saturday: The Embrun Christmas Market

Terry Tinkess Record Staff

EMBRUN – It was a perfect weekend for Christmas shopping: The sky was clear, the roads were bare, and it was a bit chilly for being outside, so what better place to be than inside the Camille Piché Community Centre at the Embrun Christmas Market.

The event ran from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 14 and Sun., Dec. 15. Admission to the market was \$2.00 or a non-perishable food item with both the food and the admission collected was being donated to the Embrun food bank.

The market offered an attractive variety of gift ideas, whether you were looking for

something for a senior parent or a child (or grandchild) and every age in between. There were unique interior decor items, both seasonal and otherwise, clothing, toys, food items, woodworking, and much more. You could even speak with a psychic if you chose to.

One of the artisans in attendance was Donovan Kuhn from Smiths Falls, Ontario, who was displaying his spray paint art. Kuhn's art initially followed a circular, "planet" theme. He says he started following a workplace injury

"I hurt myself in the summer, I think it was June or July," said Kuhn. "After a week from work, I was really bored, and bought a bunch of spray paint and started doing spray paint art.

"It's the easiest thing to start doing with the spray paint art is the planets and then, like, as you can see. I've started doing more landscape art, as well, city landscapes."

A craft market is a good place to shop if you are interested in supporting small business and want to find something different from what you will find in the big box stores and shopping malls. There is a lot of hard work and creativity built into these creations. Some of the artisans on hand were working on their next creation in between serving customers who wandered by.

A bonus, especially this year, is that when shopping at

a local event like this, you don't have to worry about shipping since you carry your purchase out the door with

As much as most people like the convenience of shopping online, there is something more personal about a shopping event like this, and judging by the steady stream of people arriving, many would agree.



The Camille Piché Community Centre was the site of the Embrun Christmas Market last weekend. There was a steady stream of shoppers who obviously felt that shopping local and in person was something worth considering.

Horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, a special person in your life deserves all of your attention. Romance might be on your mind, and you'll look forward to all of the time you can spend together.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

You may feel artistically inspired this week, Taurus. Explore projects like home improvements or crafting. There are many things to try.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Your attendance at a wedding or another special event could have your thoughts moving in a romantic direction, Gemini. Maybe you're thinking of taking your relationship to another level?

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, forge ahead in your efforts if you aspire to learn a new skill or take on a different project. This might involve meeting new and interesting people. Expand your social network.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, it is important to put others first this week, particularly your spouse or romantic partner. You don't want any hurt feelings circulating right now.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

An unexpected visitor might come your way in the next few days, Virgo. This could require overhauling your schedule and even space in your home to make room

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Family and friends will have a difficult time changing your mind once you have taken a stance, Libra. You have dug in your heels on this topic.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, new work assignments or additional business may complicate matters in the days ahead. That can be great during times of year when spending can get out of control.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

As you prepare for the colder temperatures, holistic arts, acupuncture, herbs, and therapies might be on your mind, Sagittarius. You don't want to be sick this go-around.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you will try to meet the demands of your need for information this week. Chances are you'll be reading the newspaper and news outlets as much as you can.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

You cannot gain traction right now, Aquarius. Perhaps you haven't met the right people yet? Keep your eyes and ears open for new opportunities.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if a career change has been on your mind, the new year might be a chance to get those gears moving in the right direction.





2024Christmas Greetings





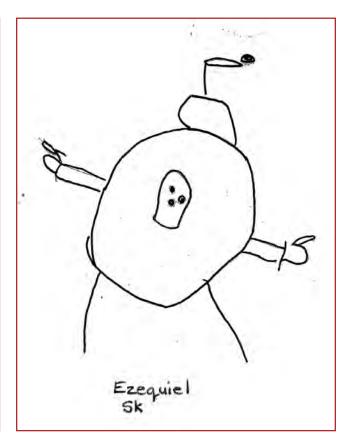


Page 2B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

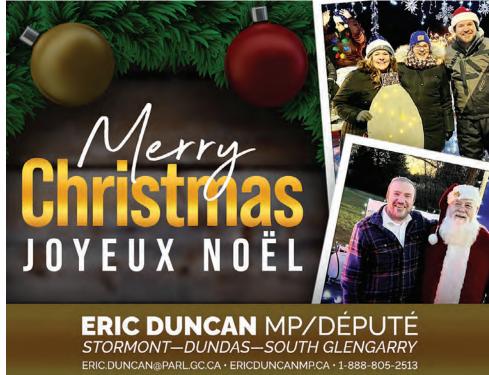
Chesterville Public School











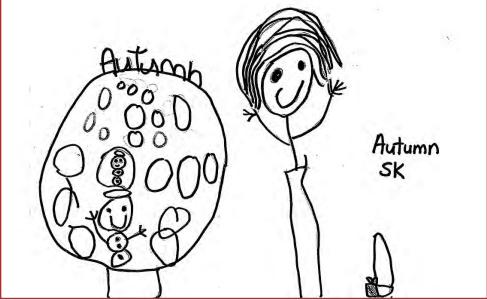




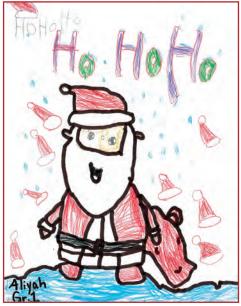


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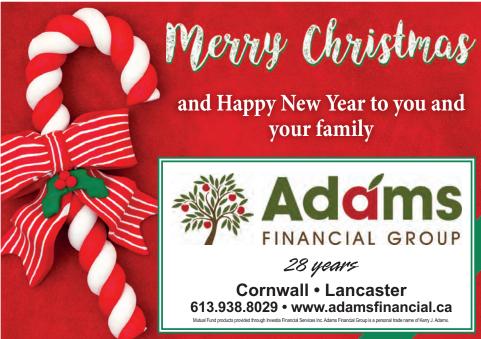
















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Page 4B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

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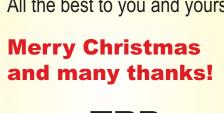












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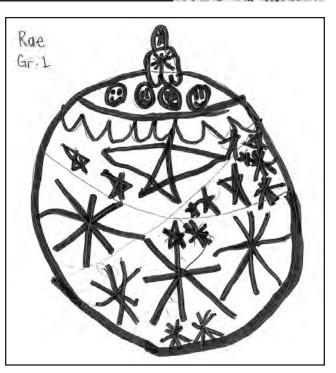


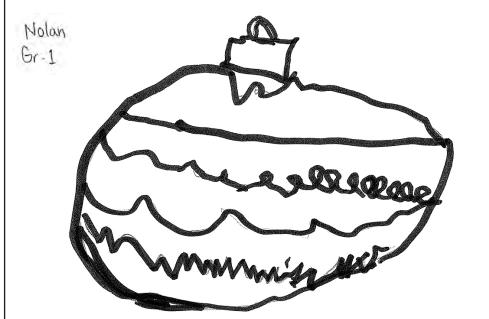


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It's Christmas in the barnyard...

It's Christmas all around...

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And it's Christmas in the park...

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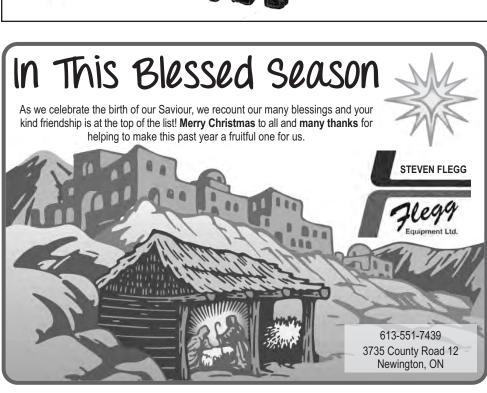
It's Christmas in our heart!

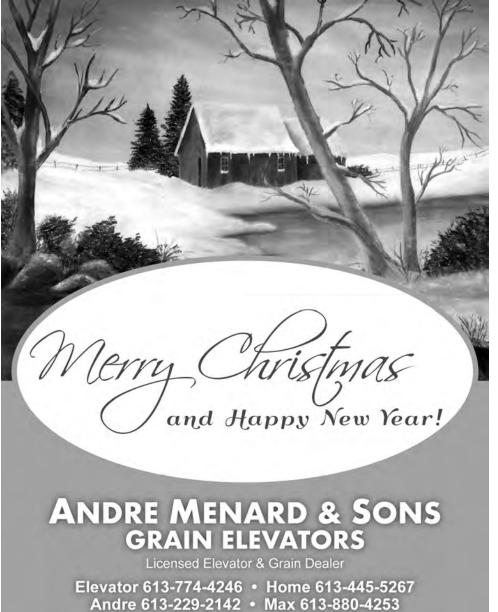
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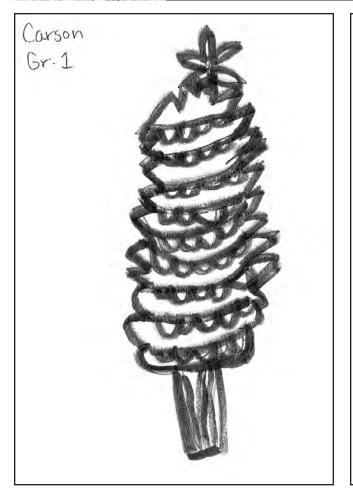


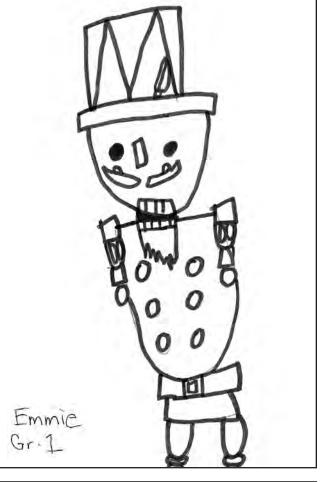


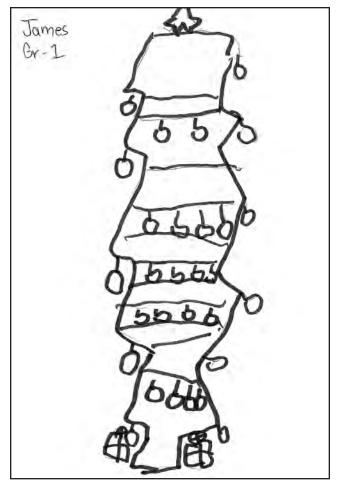


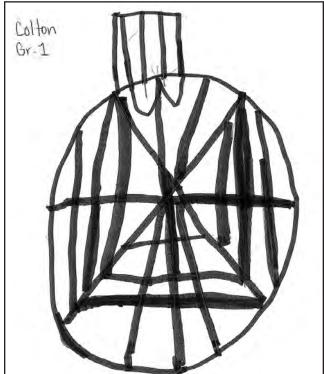
Page 6B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

Winchester Public School















and we hope that feeling lifts your spirit and fills your heart and soul with enough peace, joy and hope to last the whole year through!



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of those who have passed surround you with happiness and fill your heart with peace.

We wish you all the very best this holiday season.

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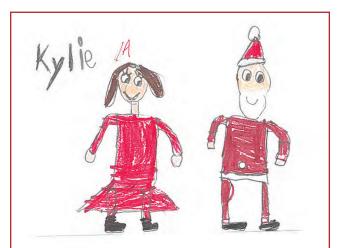
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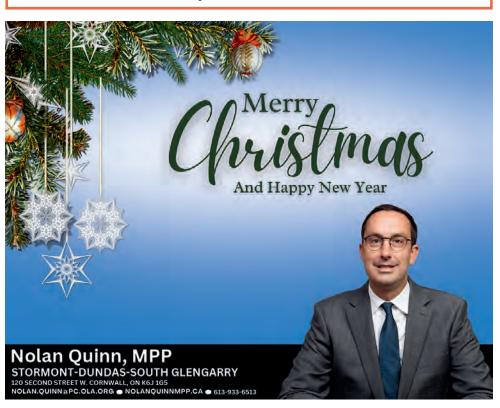
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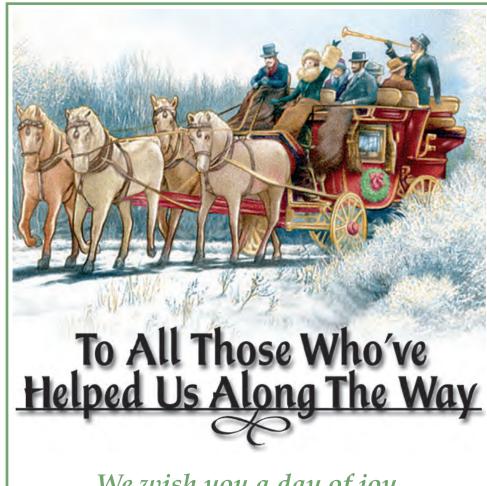
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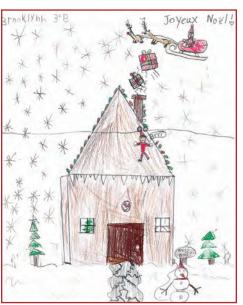
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Page 8B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

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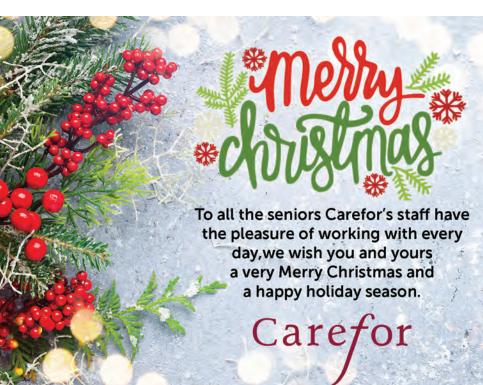




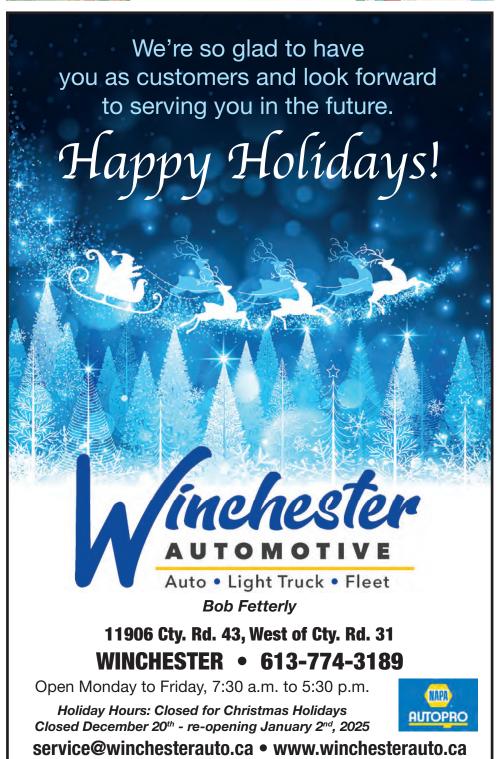








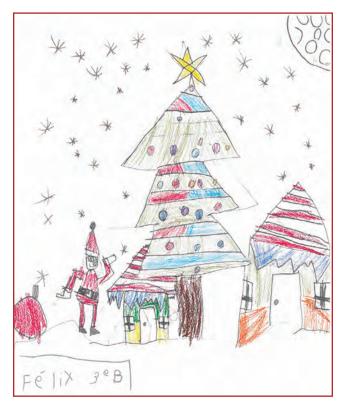








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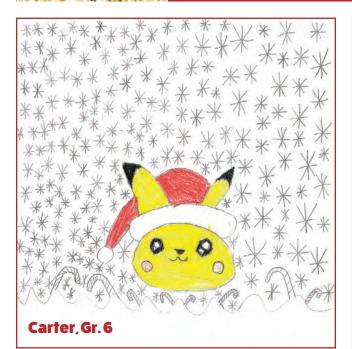


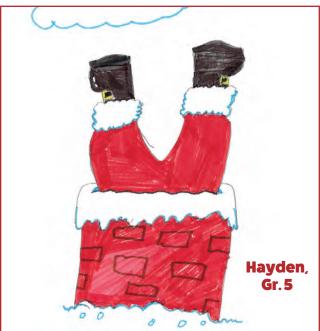




Page 10B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

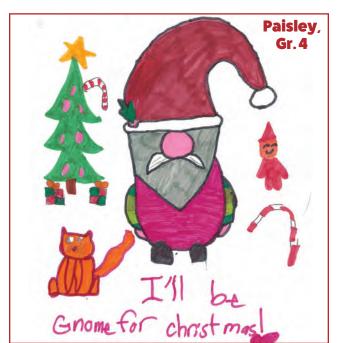
Avonmore Elementary School

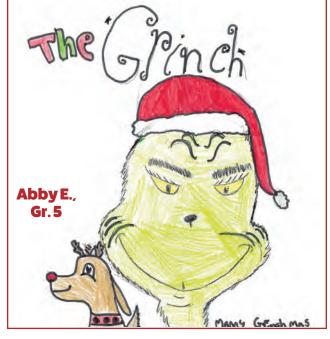






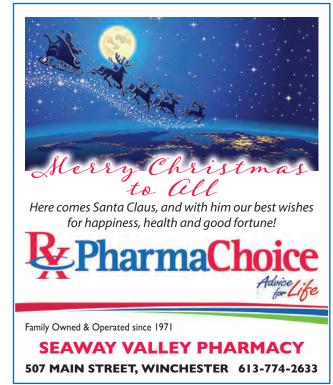




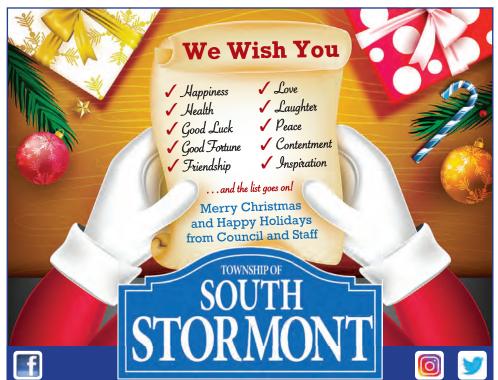












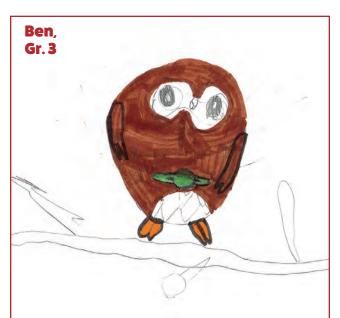




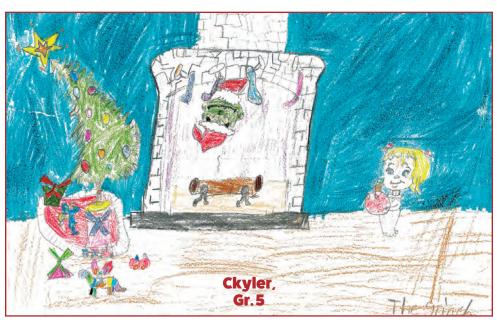


Avonmore Elementary School

















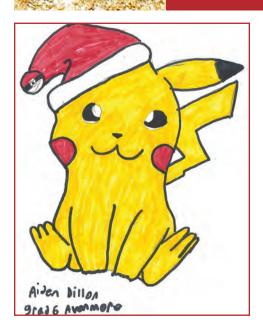


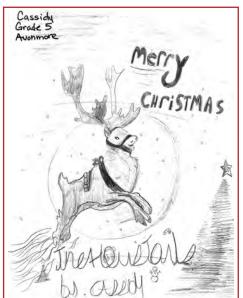




Page 12B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

Avonmore Elementary School

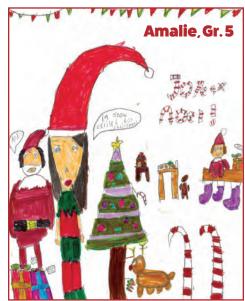














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148 Craig Street, Russell, ON K4R 1A1 **HOLIDAY HOURS:**

.7a.m. to 5 p.m. December 25th & December 26th. . CLOSED December 31st7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

January 1st ... CLOSED



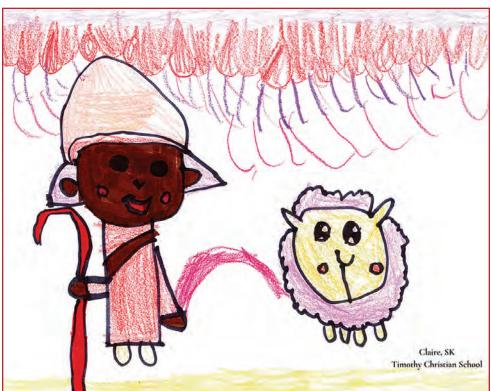


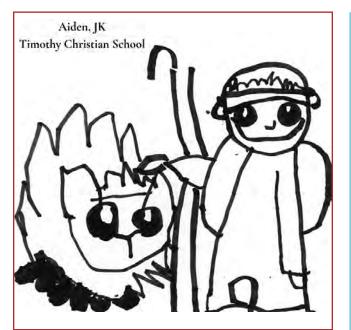




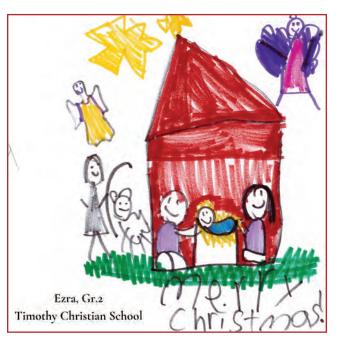
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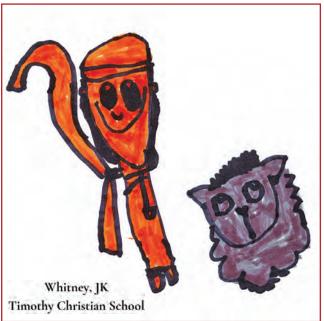








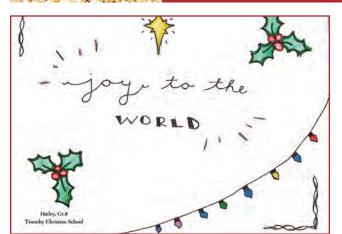






Page 14B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

Timothy Christian School





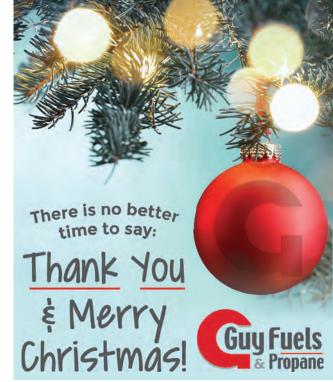












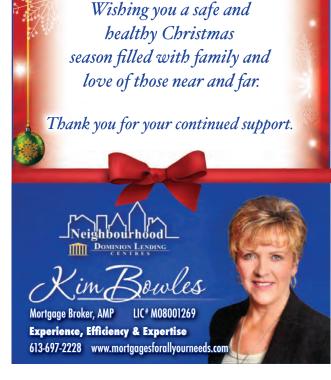














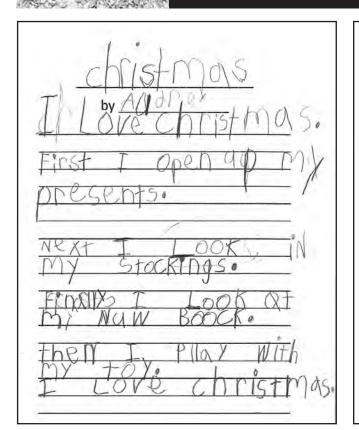
Russell

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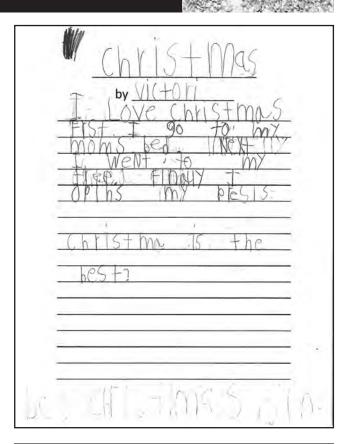
francis.drouin@parl.gc.ca



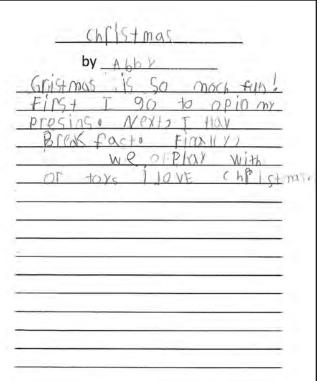
St. Mary Catholic School















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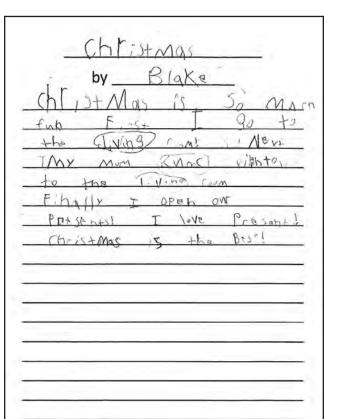


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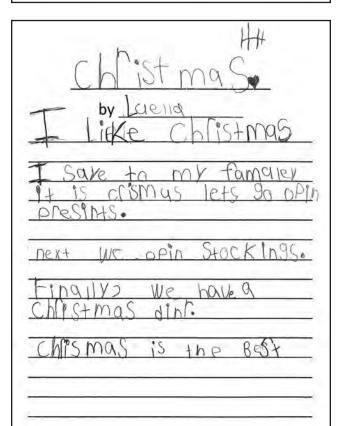
Page 16B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings

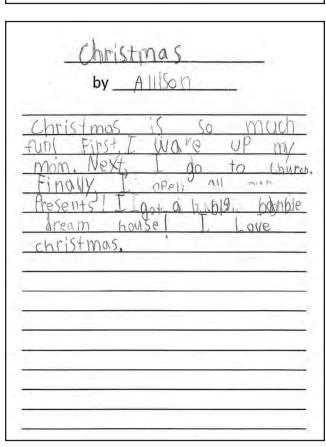
St. Mary Catholic School



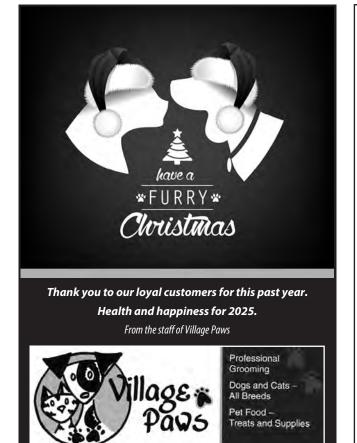
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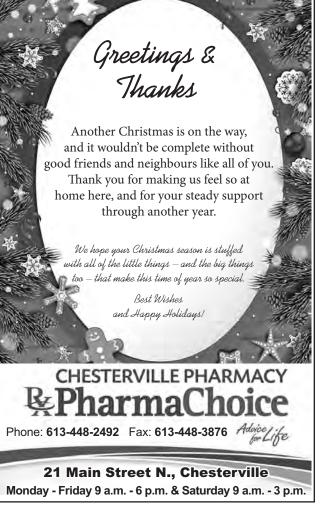
191 Castor Street

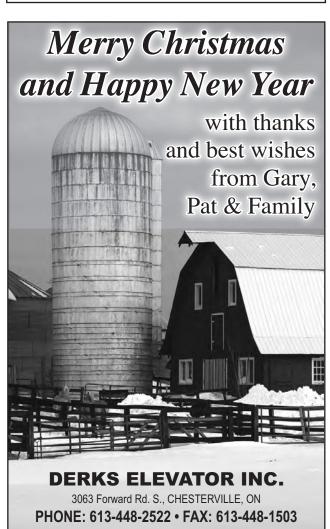
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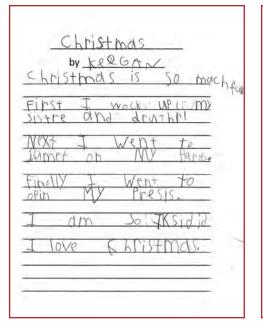


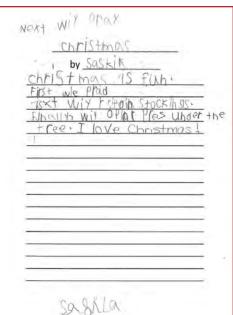


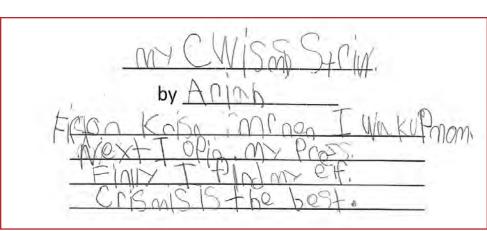


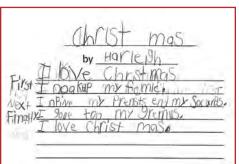
St. Mary Catholic School



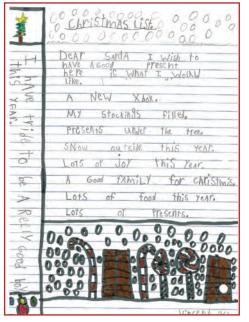


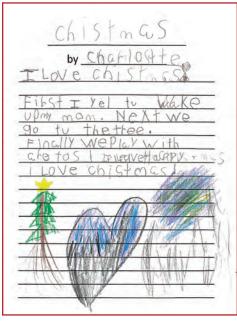






















Page 18B The Record/Villager's Christmas Greetings



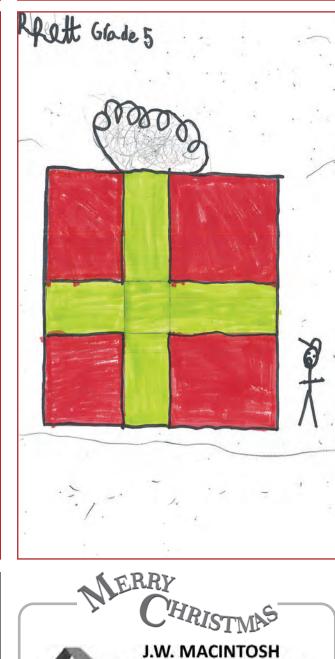
















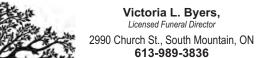


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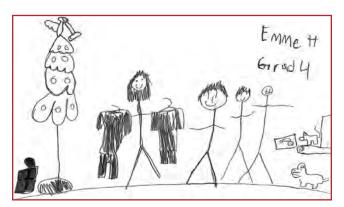


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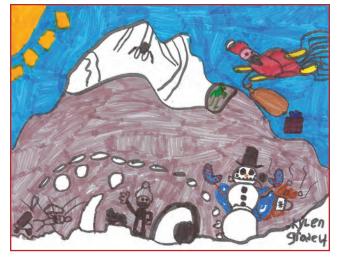
Russell Public School





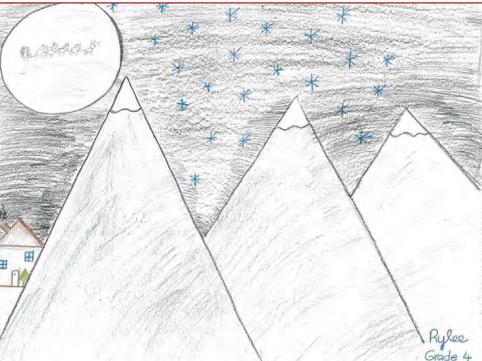
















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We're so

