

# Living HERE

FREE

5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

BROCKVILLE • PRESCOTT • GANANOQUE  
[www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com](http://www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com)

November | December 2018

**A Tribute to a Special WWII Veteran**

**"Dynamite for Santa" in the One-Room  
School Christmas Concert and Other  
Christmas School Memories**

**An Interview with Santa Claus  
"Preparing for that Midnight Trip"**

**Your Family Dollar Prescott- The Triumph and  
Success of an Entrepreneur's Dream!**

**A Very Inuit Christmas**



VISIT US IN OUR NEW LOCATION DOWNTOWN!



# Magnolia

## FLOWERS

A HIDDEN TREASURE IN THE 1000 ISLANDS

FLOWER STUDIO ~ ECLECTIC FINDS  
CANDLES ~ ANTIQUES AND VINTAGE  
CHALK PAINT™ BY ANNIE SLOAN

**613.382.8181**

66 KING ST EAST, GANANOQUE, ON.



[www.magnoliaflowers.ca](http://www.magnoliaflowers.ca) ~ [info@magnoliaflowers.ca](mailto:info@magnoliaflowers.ca)

**BROCKVILLE**  
613-345-2110  
**DENTURE CLINIC**

*We make smiles*

65 George St., Brockville, On  
[www.brockvilledenture.com](http://www.brockvilledenture.com)  
613-345-2110

**"There's No Plate Like Chrome  
for the Hollandaise!"**



**Give Yourself the Gift of a Smile  
for the Holidays!**

**Restore your Smile  
Restore your Confidence**

**WHAT WE DO**

- ✓ Complete & Partial Dentures
- ✓ Same Day Relines & Repairs
- ✓ Soft Liners for Lowers
- ✓ Implanted Support Dentures

**With Implant Supported Dentures**

- ✓ Denture Stability Increase
- ✓ Enjoy Healthier Food
- ✓ Prevent Further Bone Loss
- ✓ Enhance Your Natural Smile



**WE WELCOME NEW PATIENTS! ~ FREE CONSULTATIONS**



# What's Inside



People | Places | Lifestyles | Arts | Entertainment | History & More!

November / December 2018



5



8



6



16

## features

- 5 A Tribute to a Special WWII Veteran
- 6 "Dynamite for Santa" in the One-Room School Christmas Concert and Other Christmas School Memories
- 8 An Interview with Santa Claus "Preparing for that Midnight Trip"
- 16 Your Family Dollar Prescott- The Triumph and Success of an Entrepreneur's Dream!
- 19 A Very Inuit Christmas

### FOR YOUR INTEREST:

- 3 Christmas & Holiday Recipes
- 12 War Memorial Dedicated
- 13 Rockport Does Not Hibernate
- 14 Real Christmas Trees Create Family Memories
- 18 Dealing with Holiday Stress
- 20 Colour and Class



19



Cover Photo by  
Lorraine Payette

[Living Here](#)

Living Here Contact us: 613-342-0428  
24 Peden Blvd, Brockville, On  
[www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com](http://www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com)

**Publisher/Advertising**  
Jon Marshall

**Editor**  
Catherine Heritage

**Contributing Writers:**  
Lorraine Payette, Sally Smid, Diann Turner  
Lisa Crandall, Jonathan Vickers,  
Andi Christine Bednarzig

**Advertising Sales:**  
Catherine Heritage  
[cateheritage@bell.net](mailto:cateheritage@bell.net) | 613-342-0428

Living Here Magazine is locally owned by **Marshall Enterprises** and is published bi-monthly (5 issues every year) and distributed free in over 200+ locations throughout Brockville/Prescott/Gananoque and surrounding communities. The publisher assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed and reserves the right to edit or refuse contributions that are discriminatory or derogatory.

The publisher accepts no responsibility for advertiser claims, unsolicited manuscripts, transparencies, other materials, errors or omissions. No part of this magazine may be reproduced in any form without written permission of the publisher.

All rights reserved. Printed in Canada  
(printed in Brockville by Henderson Printing)

Letters to the editor: [jmarsh46@bell.net](mailto:jmarsh46@bell.net)  
Advertising: 613-342-0428, Jon Marshall  
[www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com](http://www.livingherebrockville.weebly.com)

*For those who would like to subscribe to Living Here, so you never miss an issue, you can for just \$22.50 (includes HST) This will give you 5 issues (1 full year) and will cover the cost of shipping and handling*

1000 Islands  
ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS

**CABARET**  
MUSIC SERIES  
The Firehall, Gananoque

**2019 Winter/Spring Shows**

**DEVOTED TO YOU**  
**Saturday January 19th, Sunday January 20th**  
We feature the music of 2 of the greatest singers in American music history, John Denver and Olivia Newton-John. Michelle Kasaboski, Cliff Edwards and a talented group of musicians to perform this great music.

*World on a String*  
With The **NOSTALGIC SOUND**  
**Saturday February 16th, Sunday February 17th**  
Re-live the years of the Big Band era as we present those songs which made our toes tap while we put on our dancing shoes. Featuring a new local vocalist Haley Miller.

**GEORGETTE FRY & FRIENDS**  
With **SHOUT SISTER**  
**Saturday March 9th, Sunday March 10th**  
You will want to hear some wonderful singing from the incredible Georgette Fry and musical friends with that vocal group of women who sing Gospel, Blues, Pop, and even some Jazz. A performance you won't want to miss.

*Gord, Ian & Neil*  
**Saturday April 13th, Sunday April 14th**  
Canada has produced some of the finest singer/songwriters known throughout the world. Three iconic Artists Gordon Lightfoot, Ian Tyson and Neil Young are all featured. Performed by Cliff Edwards, Kevin Head, and Wayne Huff.

*All Evening shows 7:30pm, Sunday matinees 2:30pm*

**TICKETS:**  
Individual \$25.00 per person (plus taxes and fees)  
All 4 Shows @ \$22.00 per person (plus taxes and fees)  
Group Prices: 10 or more \$21.00 per person (plus taxes and fees)  
613-382-7020 or [1000islandsplayhouse.com](http://1000islandsplayhouse.com) on-line

**IN THE FIREHALL THEATRE AT THE THOUSAND ISLANDS PLAYHOUSE**  
[1000islandsplayhouse.com](http://1000islandsplayhouse.com)  
613-382-7020  
Book early to avoid disappointment.

**Living**  
HERE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
To our Readers and all the Best in 2019!

We Thank our Advertisers for their Continued Support!



## Apple Pecan Pie Brie

**Prep Time - 15 minutes ~ Cook Time - 20 minutes**  
**Total Time - 35 minutes**

### What you'll need...

- 1 med. granny smith or fuji/gala apple • 1 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 tbsp. + ¼ cup brown sugar, divided • ½ tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped pecans • 1 tbsp. heavy whipping cream
- ½ tsp. vanilla • 1 200g-225g. wheel of Brie with the rind
- 1 can Crescent Rolls

### To Create:

- Preheat oven to 375°F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper or a baking mat.
- Peel and core apple, dice into bite sized pieces. Melt butter in medium skillet. Add apple pieces, 1 tbsp brown sugar, and cinnamon. Cook apples over medium-low heat until softened, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand until you're ready to assemble the brie.
- Stir chopped pecans, ¼ cup brown sugar, heavy whipping cream, and vanilla in a small bowl.
- Unwrap brie, use butter knife to scrape off as much of the white rind into the garbage as you can without cutting the brie.
- Unroll Crescent Rolls into a flat sheet. Divide into two squares (4 triangles each) then press all the seams together. Place one rectangle in the middle of your prepared baking sheet. Place the brie wheel in the center of the rectangle.
- Now comes the messy part. Carefully put the apples on top of the brie, then stack the pecan mixture on top of that. Some will fall down. Fold up the corners of the bottom sheet of crescent rolls as much as you can. Place the second crescent roll rectangle on top of the pecan mixture and press to seal over the folded-up bottom sheet. Try to seal edges as much as possible so cheese doesn't leak. (Alternatively: you can do this in a round pan that fits the brie wheel. Spray the pan with nonstick cooking spray, line it with one rectangle of crescent rolls, layer the brie, apples, and pecan mixture, then top with second rectangle.)
- Poke a few holes with a fork in the top of the crescent rolls to allow for steam to escape. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the crescent rolls are browned. Serve immediately with crackers, fruit, sliced baguette, or a fork.

## Uncle Buck's Holiday Bourbon Punch

**Prep Time - 10 minutes ~ Cook time - 4 minutes**  
**Total time - 14 minutes**

### What you'll need...

- 2 quarts apple cider
- ½ cup water (optional. If punch tastes too thick, thin with water)
- 2 quarts Orange Spiced Sweet Tea (recipe follows)
- 1 170ml bottle of favourite Bourbon (Bulleit, Jim Beam, etc.)
- Garnishes: orange slices, cranberries, rosemary sprigs

### Orange Spiced Sweet Tea:

- 4 cups water
- 2 family sized black tea bags (app. 6 tea bags)
- 1 orange peel
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 whole clove
- ½ cup sugar
- 6 cups ice

### Orange Spiced Sweet Tea:

- In a pot, place water, tea bags, orange peel, cinnamon stick and clove, bring to a boil. Once it starts to boil remove from heat and let brew for 3-4 minutes.
- Remove tea bags, orange peel, cinnamon sticks and clove, pour tea into a large pitcher
- Add sugar and ice, stir until ice melts completely
- Refrigerate until you are ready to make Holiday Punch

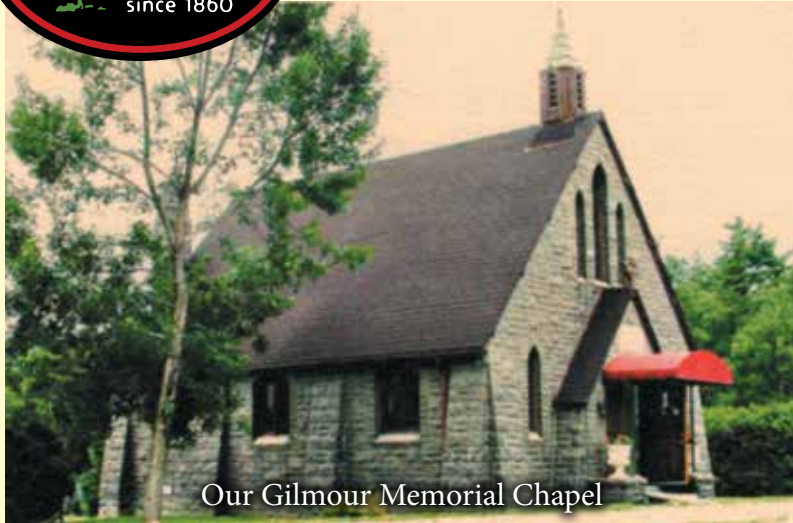
### To Create Holiday Bourbon Punch:

- In a large bowl, mix the apple cider, water, bourbon, and Orange Spiced Sweet Tea.
- Add 3 cups ice, 4-5 orange slices and ½ cup cranberries to the punch. Place garnishes on a serving plate.



## A History of Remembrance in a Heritage Setting

Owned by the City of Brockville and managed  
by the Brockville Cemetery Board



Our Gilmour Memorial Chapel

For more information, contact  
The Brockville Cemetery at 613-342-3858  
cemetery@brockville.com

## Rapid Valley

RESTAURANT

898 County Rd 2, Lansdowne On.  
613-659-2557

*"Come Home for the Holidays!"*

Everyday Breakfast Special with coffee included!

Holiday & Everyday Favourite

**Turkey Dinner \$17.99**  
(soup or salad), mash or fries, veg of the day & dessert.

**Bake to Order Pies & Cakes**

Wide selection, All Occasions, The Best Around!

Open 7 Days a Week! Gift Certificates Available.  
Closed Christmas/Day Boxing Day & New Year's Day!



W.O.  
**STINSON**  
& SONS LTD.

Check out our coffee bar with  
home made treats for takeout!

## THE STOVE STORE

ENHANCING HOME COMFORT FOR  
CITY, COUNTRY & COTTAGE



**HEAT UP WITH  
FALL SAVINGS**  
**SAVE UP TO \$717\***

**+ RECEIVE A \$200  
MANUFACTURER REBATE  
On a Regency Fireplace**

\*conditions apply. With **FREE ACCESSORY**  
Ask your salesperson for details.  
Expires November 25, 2018



6 Beverly St, Spencerville, ON  
**(613) 658-3101**  
www.thestovestore.net



## Alzheimer Society

LANARK LEEDS GRENVILLE

Wishing you a magical  
and blissful holiday!

*Have a Merry Christmas  
and prosperous New Year!*

For information on our programs  
and services visit our website  
[www.alzheimer.ca/lhg](http://www.alzheimer.ca/lhg)

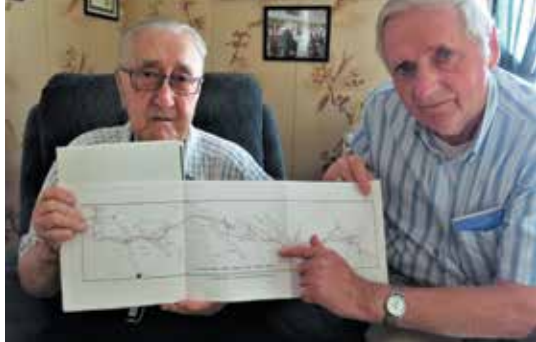
## Felicia Claire O'Hara

- Criminal Law
- Highway Traffic Act
- Provincial Offenses
- Drug Offenses under the CDSA
- Immigration & CBSA Offenses

Ms. O'Hara will bring to her clients the unique perspective and dedication gained while working as an Assistant Crown Attorney.



**OUR NEW LOCATION:**  
22 Courthouse Avenue, Brockville  
TEL: 613-342-5552 • feliciat@bellnet.ca



**Top Left: (L-R) Sir Henry Stevens and Henry Smid hold up a map that shows the route that was taken by Henry's Armoured Brigade.**

**Bottom Left: Henry Smid is at the far right in this family passport photo shortly after the war and before their immigration to Canada.**

**Above: Henry Stevens is seen barbering the hair of one of his comrades in front of their armoured vehicle.**

**Far Right: Sir Henry with his war medals**

# A TRIBUTE to a Special WWII Veteran

By Sally Smid

**H**enry Stevens is one of the few surviving WWII veterans in our area. Turning 98 this November 29th, he recalls his time of enlistment. "I had to do it," he explained. "We had to stop them and keep our freedom!"

Stevens was trained as a radio operator and was assigned to be a tank commander. He trained others to operate the radio and eventually moved to the rank of Lance Corporal. "Before going into the invasion, we were told that most of us would either be killed or captured," he recalls.

He was part of the 4th Canadian Armoured Brigade and landed on the shores of Normandy on July 26th 1944 as the commander of a Canadian armoured tank. "If we ever got hit we knew that we only had minutes to get out before the tank would explode," he explained. Several of the tanks that he commanded in fact were lost but more tragically was the loss of some of his comrades. He recalls the grueling days that ensued, witnessing much of the horrors of war. His brigade saw service in Belgium, Holland, and Germany before being disbanded in Henglo in the Netherlands in 1946. Stevens has many memories of his time in Holland especially.

Henry Smid was another survivor of that war. He and his family lived on a farm in Leeuwarden in the Netherlands at the time of Nazi rule. At 5 years old, he remembers the high stepping German soldiers marching in the street. He also recalls how his family feared their sudden visits as they looked to capture his father or uncles who often hid under a haystack on their farm. One uncle was in fact taken to a concentration camp. The Smid family also harbored several Jewish children from the city during the war, as did many other families. There was less scarcity of food on the farms than in the urban areas.

Stevens recalls his travels through Holland. "No one could cook potatoes like those Dutch women," he recalls. "Those folks there were very nice to us." Near the end of the war he recalls securing some meat and returning to share it with a grateful Dutch family. The day of Liberation was a joyous time and Smid recalls that the Dutch people were overwhelmed with gratitude to the Canadians who rescued them. This was perhaps one reason why many Dutch families made the choice to move to Canada after the war, as the Smids did, 70 years ago.

Upon leaving the military, Stevens worked in construction and became a minister with

the Independent Assemblies of God. He now resides in Athens where he helps care for his wife. Several years ago, he was recognized with the Knight of the National Order of the Legion Honour by decree of the President of France in a special ceremony in Ottawa. Today "Sir Henry" is often seen touring the streets of Athens on his motorized scooter and is always eager to joke and visit with anyone he may see.

Smid's family has gone on to farm, find employment, raise families, and give back to the country that gave so much to them at a time when their freedom and lives were in jeopardy.

Remembrance Day has a special meaning for these two Henrys. Stevens recalls his comrades who lost their lives and faithfully attends the ceremony at the Athens Cenotaph as perhaps the last living WWII veteran in the area. Last year he laid the wreath that honoured the servicemen who sacrificed so much.

Smid continues to honour them in displays provided by the local Athen's Museum where he is an active member. He speaks perhaps for so many others when he says, "We have to remember them. Without men like Sir Henry, we would not be here!" **LH**



*Left: Brick School, 1953, Anomalee  
Photo Credit Athens & Area Heritage Society*

*Above: Addison Public School, 2016  
Photo Credit Heritage Place Museum, Lyn, On*

# "DYNAMITE FOR SANTA" in the One-Room School Christmas Concert and Other Christmas School Memories

By Diann Turner

My attempt to encapsulate things reminiscent about a one-room school education in our region was easily compensated with abundant stories from former students and teachers. Their memories of the schools' Christmas concerts easily morphed into my conclusion that this had to be the most quintessential part of the one-room school experience. Coupled with my own memories from Glen Elbe School on Highway 42, east of Athens, Christmas concerts were undoubtedly the perfect evocation of a moment in time!

I'll begin with an early December, 1961 day in the school yard of Addison Public school on the Addison-Greenbush Road. Smoke from the school's wood box stove drifted across the landscape as large, weightless snowflakes tumbled to the ground and quickly dissolved. Excited, squealing children gathered eagerly to

catch them before they landed. Teacher, Mrs. Ina Blanchard, was inside writing out Christmas songs on the blackboard and she knew her class was wild with anticipation; Christmas preparations had begun! A variety of plays, skits and songs would have to be copied into students' scribbled from the teacher's impeccable cursive writing on the blackboard. Lyrics would be memorized and repeated a hundred times with the weekly music teacher, Mr. Kayak. "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", "Up On The Housetop" and "Here Comes Santa Claus" were favorites, but Mrs. Blanchard insisted they always end with "Away In A Manger" or "Silent Night." This ensured the program reflected the Bethlehem account of Christmas. "The Night Before Christmas" would be recited by one particularly confident student. A scraggly Christmas tree (Pre-Charlie Brown Christmas-1965) would be dragged in and students would craft

simple decorations from construction paper, popcorn, and perhaps, a few scrawny pine cones from a yard tree. There would be no dazzling lights.

The best year of all, reminisced one student, was the year she and two other eighth grade students were told to write a play. "We came up with the title 'Dynamite for Santa,' she told me. "We kept the whole thing a big secret and the younger students knew nothing about it." (I have no idea how they pulled this off in a room that accommodated eight grades.) "A chimney was built, costumes were sewn, a couple of cement blocks and lumber brought in to construct the stage, and an old sheet was hastily strung for a curtain." When the magical night came, the place was packed with students, parents and the community's curious. The younger students flawlessly delivered songs and recitations, but the



melodrama accelerated as the play began. The plot thickened as the drama proceeded and near the end, "there was a sudden ear-splitting bang and we blew Santa up!" said my story teller. "The chimney collapsed in a heap and roaring laughter and clapping filled the room." This concert gained such notoriety the Addison United Church invited the school children to repeat it at their hall a few nights closer to Christmas. The old wood stove was stoked to its maximum and all ages would find themselves warming to it as the children filled their ears with the sounds of the season. They didn't realize they were making history!

A few miles southeast, at Glen Elbe School, teacher Mary Topping had her students tapping their toes to similar music and when the music teacher, Mr. Addison, arrived things revved up another notch! I don't recall that we performed in front of anyone other than fellow students. However, I do remember the excitement as our teacher pumped away at the organ and our voices flew to the ceiling, while chains of paper rings fell on our heads as the Elmer's glue dried out in the heat. I can still see one smiling girl enthusiastically ringing sleigh bells as we belted out "Silver Bells." Norma Flood, Wilbert Whaley and Gerald Redford all rode to Glen Elbe School in an old army truck that had removable wooden sides. Come December, they had to have bundled

up for the ride!

In Junetown Public School, nestled in the woods near the end of Junetown Road, students were equally counting down the days, heartily singing- "It's Christmas, it's Christmas, it's finally Christmas, and soon it is going to be Christmas Day!" One gentleman recalls having Mrs. Jean Gainford-Burnham for a teacher in December of 1962. It just so happened her husband, Doug Gainford, was wing-man on the snow plough that cleared the road in front of the school. Mrs. Gainford hatched a brilliant scheme and talked her husband into stuffing himself into a Santa suit one morning before heading out for his work day on the plough. The operator agreed with the idea and readily stopped in front of the school. Mr. Gainford sauntered in, unannounced, and delighted the students with a hearty "Ho Ho Ho" as he tramped down the aisle and made everything merry and bright! Some said he even jumped from desk to desk! There wasn't much of monetary value in his sack: a one cent paper bag with perhaps an orange and a few hard candies for each student.

Barb Nichols wrote a lovely memoir of her Christmas concerts at Plum Hollow Public School, north west of Athens. "Early in November, all of the English lessons were dedicated to practicing for our Christmas concert. This was an excellent exercise

to insert drama, public speaking, music and pantomimes into the curriculum. Furthermore, it was the best way to conduct lessons when it was getting too dark in the classroom to see the board as well. School did not dismiss until four o'clock, EST. The parents, grandparents and the rest of the community largely attended school Christmas concerts. Television was not in wide use then, so everyone enjoyed seeing the children perform their plays, recitations and Christmas carols. We held the concert in the school, hanging curtains at the sides of the raised platform in front of the blackboard for change rooms and to store the props. Yes, it was crowded but they managed well! The school was full to the "rafters" and everyone had a good time. When the children acted out the "Old Ford Car" and the shadow play "Cat Pie" during one concert, the audience declared it was the best they had ever seen." (Story courtesy of Athens & Area Heritage Society)

It didn't take money, store bought items, over-extended credit, or the glitz and glamour of today's Christmases. Technology and inflated expectation were absent.

Simpler, idyllic times left lasting memories and influence was handed down in those one-room school houses that could never be paralleled today. I personally experienced it, and my story tellers confirm it! **LH**

**Porcelain Doll Toy**

*Photo Credit Diann Turner, AAHS Museum*



**Wiltsetown School, 1953, Wiltsetown**

*Photo Credit Athens & Area Heritage Society*





**Left:** Nicholas "Santa" Claus  
**Above:** Taking a break before harnessing up to fly

# AN INTERVIEW WITH SANTA CLAUS

## Preparing for the Midnight Trip

By Lorraine Payette

Getting ready for the big trip has almost become second nature for the Clauses of 1 North Pole Lane, Presentville, NP. Almost, but never quite, because there is always so much to consider.

"Travel was a lot easier years ago," said Nicholas aka "Santa Claus." "Back before NORAD and all the newfangled regulations, it was pretty much make the toys, wrap them, pack the sleigh, and away we go. But then people started looking a lot harder at everything, and we've had to adapt to the times."

Back in 1948, the US Air Force sent out an important communiqué telling the world that an "early warning radar net to the north" had detected "one unidentified sleigh, powered by eight reindeer, at 14,000 feet [4,300 meters], heading 180 degrees."

The message quickly got to the North Pole, and the elves changed the route to make sure Santa could still do his job undisturbed. However, in 1955, Santa got together with

(the now present-day bankrupted) Sears company and set up a telephone line to reach children more quickly than he could by letter. A misprint in the phone number accidentally connected them instead with the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) alerting Colonel Harry Shoup to this unusual aircraft and its pilot. He started tracking the sleigh, and reporting Santa's location to those who were interested. He also sent out a press release stating "CONAD, Army, Navy and Marine Air Forces will continue to track and guard Santa and his sleigh on his trip to and from the U.S. against possible attack from those who do not believe in Christmas."

NORAD took over in 1958, and now coordinates tracking Santa's trip, aiding whenever necessary. They have helped him get all necessary international permits for border crossings, and have made sure he is recognized as "undoubtedly friendly" in no-fly zones, as well as cleared him for all danger, restricted and advisory areas.

Due to his years of experience, Santa had little difficulty in obtaining his private and professional pilot's licenses. However, he is required to do a road test every year to make sure that in the case of emergency landings, he is capable of manoeuvring safely over various terrain. This is usually done with a horse and sulky to help him maintain his anonymity, but he has been seen more than once driving out on the Thousand Islands Parkway heading toward Gananoque. Road examiner "Happy the Elf" is pleased to say that Santa has a flawless record and expects it to remain that way.

To make the world trip, the sleigh and reindeer have got to be in top form. What looks like a simple wooden sleigh with basic metal runners is actually a very advanced piece of technology. While the sack used to move presents around is a simple bag, the compartment that actually holds the toys is a portal into another dimension, designed by the same team who helped Dr. Who create the TARDIS!

"That extra space is essential," he said. "With nearly 2 billion children worldwide who need to receive gifts, we have to find the most efficient way of getting them there. TARDIS Tech joined with the makers of the SC Third Millennium Sleigh Corporation to create something with infinite cargo capacity and the ability to twist through time making it more than possible to deliver every present to every child before dawn. The trick is to remain inconspicuous – we don't want anyone stumbling onto the science behind our magic."

In the stables, the reindeer are kept in top form by a dedicated squad of elves from "Lapland". Honoured to get a chance to work with the North Pole team, they have created special diets and training regimens to make sure only the strongest and best fliers pull the sleigh.

"Although people only see eight or nine reindeer at any time, there are actually many more," said Santa. "People know the names of the main team, but there are always others waiting to take over in case of emergency. When "Donner" pulled a hamstring muscle and couldn't fly, "Astra" stepped in to fill that important place. "Rudolph" also has a back up and – contrary to rumour – his nose is a perfectly healthy genetic mutation. His offspring all have the same wonderful ability."

Even toy making isn't what it once was. Every toy has to pass international standards, or it doesn't go on the sleigh.

"So much has changed now," said Santa. "Small parts, things that pinch or break or come apart or might be toxic. We had to hire an entire lab of specialist elves to make sure that children have the best without getting hurt. We still make occasional mistakes, but far less now than there were before."

"Even Santa's lifestyle has changed," said his wife, "Holly". "We've brought in healthy snacks and a gym. The elf fitness trainer is a toughie." While cookies and milk are still a big treat, the rest of the year he sticks to a carefully regulated diet and schedule so he will never get too tired before the job is done.

"It isn't easy, but every time a child smiles, it's worth it," said Santa. "And remember, there is an elf in every house who keeps in touch with me on Christmas Eve and all year round. They tell me when you're sleeping, so snuggle in tight – we're ready to make your wishes come true."

*'Time and Relative Dimension in Space (TARDIS) – method of conveyance, trademarked by the BBC*

LH

*All information concerning the history of Santa Tracking and NORAD may be found online.*



**Above: Holly Claus**

**TOP ROW**

**Far right:** The all important road test – Santa and Happy the Elf on the Thousand Islands Parkway

**Middle:** Waiting for a turn in the flight harness

**Left:** Elf Dan making some adjustments on a training sleigh



**BOTTOM ROW**

**Right:** The all important road test – Santa and Happy the Elf on the Thousand Islands Parkway

**Left:** Many animals are pets at the North Pole, and Shorty the Goat likes to help Elf Dan with sleigh maintenance



# Golden Soles

THIS CHRISTMAS WE HAVE THE LATEST STYLES FOR LADIES & MEN IN WINTER BOOTS & FOOTWEAR

Accessories to Accommodate Christmas Layaway's Gift Certificates



46 King St E, Brockville, ON  
613.342.7111 / C: 613.340.6330

# A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE

# Christmas

# THINGS

## CORNER STONE STYLISTS

117 King Street East  
613.382.7736



Debbie & Margaret  
Wishes you a Merry Xmas!  
Thanking all Patrons for their support for 2018!

XMAS CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>  
Stop in for Refreshments.

Mon - Fri: 8:00am - 6:00pm  
Sat: 8:00am - 3:00pm

### RIDGWAY CONFECTIONS

159 Main St. Seeley's Bay

Ridgway Confections is located in beautiful Seeley's Bay (159 Main Street). We are primarily a wholesaler of fine Belgian chocolates, brittle & barks, and bean to bar chocolate. Stop in and see our collection for the holiday season - and yes, Reg "The Ridgway Reindeer" will be making his debut Dec 1. Our showroom is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 5pm. We look forward to seeing you.

### CORNERSTONE STYLISTS

117 King St E., Gananoque, On  
613-382-7736

Debbie and Margaret would like to thank all their patrons for their support in 2018! Cornerstone Stylists specialize in Colours, Perms, Foils, Extensions, Facials and Waxing. They offer Unisex Cuts or Barbering as well. Don't hesitate to call and book your appointment today, for the Christmas and Holiday Season.

### GREAT WATERWAY HEARING

51 King St. E Suite 201 Brockville, On  
613-704-2532 or 1-888-850-0425

This Holiday Season give yourself "The Gift of Hearing." Locally Owned, our mission is to provide the area uncompromising, accessible and affordable Hearing

Healthcare. We offer a unique service that provides In-Clinic Hearing Services and we Specialize in In-Home services. We make you feel comfortable and explain the various service options available to you. New Location in Smith Falls @ 1A Main St @613-718-0708 or visit our Morrisburg Location at the Shopping Center 133 Main St. Phone 613 209 0187

### GOLDEN SOLES

46 King St E Brockville, On  
613-342-7111 or 613-340-6330 (cell)

This Christmas check out the latest in winter footwear and accessory styles for women and men. We carry Biotime Portofino, Patrizia by Spring Step, L'Artiste, Selmer, Spring Step and Piccadilly footwear plus much more. We also carry Trendy Orthotic Footwear for both men and women. Removable insoles to fit the orthotic. Gift Certificates too!

### PAULINE'S LINGERIE

156 King St. West, Brockville, On  
613-345-2244

For 43 years, Pauline's has been Eastern Ontario's premier boutique for fabulous fitting bras, lingerie, swimwear & fantastic service. Professional bra fittings leave our clients looking & feeling fantastic, while empowering them with confidence!

# Living HERE

Contact Us to Advertise in the February / March Issue Book by January 17

Contact Us at 613.342.0428  
jmarsh46@bell.net



## Give Yourself the Gift of Hearing!



Debbie Boehm, H.I.S.



Thomas Pilla, H.I.S.

Hearing That Lasts 24 Hours on a Single Charge!

Reserve your 14 Day Trial

**RISK FREE!**



Rechargeable Hearing Aid Trial | Litium-ion rechargeable battery

Mobile service available

CALL TODAY 613.704.2532 | 1.800.850.0425



51 King St. E #201. Brockville, On  
www.greatwaterwayhearing.com



## RIDGWAY CONFECTIONS

159 MAIN STREET, SEELEY'S BAY



FRI-SUN  
11AM-5PM

www.ridgwayconfections.com  
TEL: 613 532 4468



## Pauline's Lingerie

This Christmas...  
Wrap up in the luxury  
of the finest fabrics!

Perfectly Fitted Bras!  
Sexy lingerie, Cozy sleepwear  
Swim & Resort wear  
& SAXX plus more for HIM!  
**GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE**

156 King St W.  
Brockville On  
613-345-2244



*Fabulous Fitting Lingerie is our Passion!*

Likewise, we ensure our sleepwear, swimwear & casual lines all fit to a T! At Pauline's we take pride in resolving many comfort issues leaving our customers happy!  
"Fabulous fitting lingerie is our passion!"

### ROSEMARY'S OPTICAL

1000 Islands Mall 2399 Parkedale Ave.,  
Brockville, On

Rosemary Coleman has been a licensed optician for over 30 years now. Opticians have the skill and experience to help you find the best style and offer different choices for your eyewear needs. You should always purchase glasses or contact lenses from a licensed optician who is qualified to help you for insuring the proper and necessary measurements of your eyes, recognizing your facial features and structure which means we will get you a frame that FITS you, and follow the OAC dispensing laws. From Glasses to Frames, Designer Sunglasses and Contact Lenses, we KNOW we have something for everyone. There is a two-year warranty on all current the frames in the shop.

### YOUR FAMILY DOLLAR

"The Dollar Store with a Difference"  
109 Churchill Rd., Prescott, On  
613-924-1734

This holiday season Your Family Dollar Prescott is celebrating its 15th year in business. This Christmas we are your family's gift and stocking stuffer Headquarters with all kinds of Christmas goodies. Check out our special Christmas custom basket selections and displays of stocking Stuffers/Cards/Wrapping Paper/ Toys/Crafts/Gifts/Gift Baskets/Village Craft Candles/Oma's Knitting and more!  
Open 7 Days a week!

### RAPID VALLEY RESTAURANT

898 County Rd 2, Lansdowne, On  
613-659-2557

This Holiday Season bring the family in and treat them. With Home Cooked Food at its best....Food at its best... We have an everyday breakfast special with coffee included. Daily Specials for Lunch & Dinner. Check out our Turkey Dinner Special @\$17.99. We offer baked desserts, cakes (check out our pies!) A great takeout coffee bar with homemade treats. Gas, diesel and propane. Open 7 Days a Week! Gift Certificates Available. Closed Christmas Day Boxing Day and New Year's Day!

## Your Family Dollar

"The Dollar Store with a Difference"

Your  
Christmas & Holiday  
Headquarters for your family!



Cards • Gift Baskets • Gifts • Toys • Crafts  
Wrapping paper • Stocking Stuffers

Custom Gift Baskets  
Village Craft & Candles  
Oma's Knitting

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!**



109 Churchill Rd. Prescott, ON  
613-925-1734

## Rapid Valley

RESTAURANT

898 County Rd 2, Lansdowne On.  
613-659-2557

*"Come Home for the Holidays!"*

Everyday Breakfast Special with coffee included!

Holiday & Everyday Favourite

**Turkey Dinner \$17.99**

(soup or salad), mash or fries, veg of the day & dessert.

**Bake to Order Pies & Cakes**

Wide selection, All Occasions, The Best Around!

Open 7 Days a Week! Gift Certificates Available.  
Closed Christmas/Day Boxing Day & New Year's Day!



Check out our coffee bar with  
home made treats for takeout!

## Rosemary's

OPTICAL SHOP

LOVE WEARING YOUR GLASSES

Personalized Service  
for Eyewear and  
Contact Lenses



1000 Islands Mall, Brockville, ON  
613.498.2200  
rosemarysvisual.com



**Left:** Family members of the fallen came out to participate in the dedication

**Top:** The War Memorial in Lansdowne

**Top Right:** Inscription on one of the tablets

**Right:** Monument at the War Memorial in Lansdowne



# WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATED

## in Celebration of 100th Anniversary of End of WWI

By Lorraine Payette

Ceremonies started at 11 a.m. on September 22 this year in front of the Thousand Islands Elementary School in Lansdowne. After months of exhaustive research, fundraising, and meticulous preparation, the Memorial Arch at the Veterans Garden in Lansdowne was ready for dedication. Joined by branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, Lansdowne United Church, and service clubs, the LTI Historical Society supported Legionnaire Janet Gaylord in her efforts to place a monument in the village and list the names of local people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

"We are marking the hundredth anniversary of the First World War this year," said Gaylord. "Our community is honouring our area women and men by this dedication of the placement in the arch at the entrance to the Veterans Garden at Thousand Islands Elementary School of four granite plaques bearing the names of thirty local men who lost their lives during the two World Wars and Afghanistan. In addition, commemorative stones will be set into the ground engraved with the names of more than 240 area men and women who enlisted in war.

"We reached out everywhere to make this as close to perfect as we could. Everyone was invited to honour those men who lost their lives in the cause of freedom and all area women and men who served in war."

Major General Steven Whelan was the featured speaker and guests were invited from Brockville Rifles as Honour Guard, Military from Ottawa, Trenton and Kingston. Military members who live in the area, many who have students going to the school where the memorial is, attended. Legion members from Zone G2 and District G (eastern Ontario) joined the local Fire Department, many family members of the fallen and veterans from London, Owen Sound, Barry, USA and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. The youth choir sang, leading all in "O, Canada", with a flyover from a military and private plane, as well as a helicopter.

"The memorial honours the Fallen (30) and Veterans (approximately 240 WWI, WWII and Korea) of our community – Lansdowne – and the surrounding area that used to be 'Front of Leeds and Lansdowne'," said Gaylord. "There never has been a memorial in our village. Our veterans and their families

are aging and passing on. It was with great honour that we started the memorial in 2006. We have more than 200 members of the public who come out to our November 11th ceremonies, as well as over 400 students each year."

The plaques with the names of the fallen were placed on the newly erected Arch and ground stones carrying the 240 veterans' names were on display this year as part of the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI.

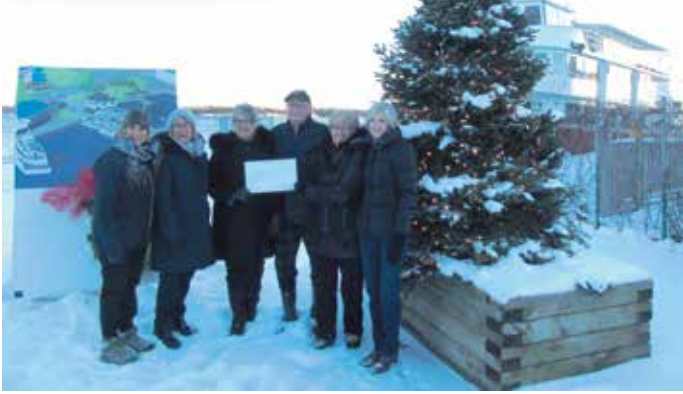
"We invited family members of the fallen to be at the ceremony to unveil the plaques," said Gaylord. "Later, as an ongoing project, markers will be placed yearly with the names of recent veterans. We are asking for donations to cover the cost."

Gaylord has also begun a collection of the stories and photos of these honoured fallen and all veterans.

She is collaborating with Bill Beswetherick to produce a book which will share these stories and help keep these memories alive for generations to come. The information may also be found at

[www.ltihistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ltihistoricalsociety.org)

LH



**A Church of Redeemer fundraiser and donated part of the proceeds to the Rockport Customs Project. Pictured by the Customs Christmas Tree near the dock and waterfront.**

**Left to right are Linda Grant, Pat Jackson, Cheryl Pickens, organizers of the fundraiser presenting cheque to members of the Friends of Rockport Customs Board Wendy Merkley, Hunter Grant, and Dianne Phillips.**



**Rockport Light up the Gate at main entrance of Rockport off the Parkway.**

# ROCKPORT DOES NOT HIBERNATE

By Andi Christine Bednarzig

From Easter weekend to Thanksgiving, or for as long as foliage season lasts, Rockport, affectionately known to locals as “The sleepy little drinking village with a fishing problem”, is teeming with activity on the water, mainland and surrounding islands.

Fishing boats splutter along the shore as early morning mist lifts off the river. The calm gives way to strident megaphones on tour boats touting the natural beauty of the 1000 Islands and pointing out luxurious island mansions reminiscent of the golden age. Later in the season, the roar of speed boats on poker runs slices through the afternoon haze.

On land, rows and rows of double-decker busses discharge visitors armed with cameras and tripods, smiling and posing with selfie sticks.

But what happens in winter? Tucked in homes along the river, a scant 100 residents form the main core of Rockport.

After the last leaves have fallen, Rockport’s various committees, societies, groups, associations and volunteers keep this tiny community vibrating through the cold winter months as organizers plan festivities, fundraising dinners, and art shows.

The Christmas season opener will occur on Friday November 23rd as villagers gather at the west gate of entry into Rockport to celebrate “Light up the Gate”.

“We decorate the gate with white birch branches, fresh green pine and red bows” explained organizer, Dianne Phillips, Chair

of the Rockport Development Group. For seven years now, the gate has been lit up to the delight of an estimated 45 to 55 carollers. Enthusiastic singers are invited to meet at The Church of the Redeemer just to the left of the gate at 7:30 p.m.

After warming up with hot drinks and home-baked treats at the church, the fortified group will proceed to the customs dock at the waterfront to light a tree.

The lighting of the tree is of special interest to long-time resident, Wendy Merkley, Chair of the Friends of Rockport Customs Restoration Society.

During the busy summer season, Merkley can be found at her desk tucked in the back of RiverRock Shoppe, overlooking the customs property. She explained the prime objective of the society is to plan renovations with a focus on recreation and to provide greater public access.

Phillips, whose group is also involved in fund raising for the customs property, agreed, emphasizing the customs property is the only public access point, as all other access is privately owned.

“All people, visitors and residents alike, have a place to go and have a picnic, do some fishing and dock their boats.”

The 80-year-old Canada customs property and building, where the tree will be lit for the second year, has been in development since 2009. It was purchased by the Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands from Canada Border Services Agency. Donations for renovations have come from various

fundraising events, businesses, individuals and the township.

Once Christmas lights are stowed away, the Rockport Recreation Hall Association will go to work planning the 39th Rockport Winter Carnival. The carnival is traditionally held over the second weekend of February from Wednesday to Sunday. Meg Mallory, Chair of the Association, confirmed this year’s activities of traditional games and indoor activities. Outdoors, participants can join in a family skate, or horse shoes, curling, snow-golf (a version of golf played on snow), and frozen chicken bowling. Lumberjack skills can be tested at log sawing and nail driving, as well as the ever-popular redneck rodeo.

Mallory expects attendance of 60 to 75 people. The rodeo, held on Sunday, features a beer toss from a van seat strapped to a truck, as contestants aim empty cans at a mail box. They can also test their aim by attempting to toss a toilet seat over a pylon.

“We just like to have fun,” Mallory says.

The mission statement of the Rockport Development Group encapsulates the year-round goals of the community.

“To promote good quality sustainable tourism in our village that preserves and fosters a continued awareness of our long heritage and to make Rockport a premiere destination in the 1000 Islands.”

This sleepy village, with its energetic residents and volunteers, is certainly keeping its heritage alive and the neighbourhood flourishing. It certainly does not sleep.

LH



**Right:** Visitors to Mensons Tree Farm will meet Bumble, the abominable snowman from the Rudolph movie. He appears on their Christmas parade float each year and puts the star on the top of the Christmas tree.

**Left:** What could be a more memorable family activity than bringing home the family tree from an area tree farm.

**Middle:** The community Christmas tree bonfire in Athens is always a special conclusion of the holiday season each year.

# REAL CHRISTMAS TREES

## Create Family Memories While Supporting the Environment

By Sally Smid

While Christmas trees seem to have a German origin, Canadians have claimed them for their own, from the large trees in our village squares to the family trees that grace our living rooms. While there has been a history of artificial trees of aluminum, plastic, and even feathers, many still opt for a tree of pine, fir, or spruce. Perhaps it is especially fitting that evergreens have been given that special role as they are the trees that remain green throughout the frigid winter, a Christian symbol of eternal life and perhaps, also a symbol of never-ending holiday memories.



**The Mensons Tree Farm cultivates and grooms' rows of trees in anticipation of the Christmas season each year.**

For many families it has become a tradition to take out an ax and a sleigh to find the "perfect tree" on their own rural property or on an area tree farm where the local economy is also supported. Cutting your own tree also means that you may likely have trimmings to use for wreathes and centerpieces.

The tree cutting event can also include a bonfire with hot chocolate and caroling. In a memorable tree cutting outing, as the tree is brought into the house, it is then decorated

with ornaments that often hold many sentimental memories. Under the tree is the traditional space for the placement of those "secret gifts". Its boughs provide the perfect climbing place for the family cat, who most likely will toss an ornament to the floor. The pine smell that fills the house, the twinkling lights and the snapping of pine cones in the evening warmth, all add to the joy of the season.

There is often the debate over buying a real or fake tree. While many prefer real trees due to tradition, proponents of artificial trees often find them more convenient and less messy. Such trees however, are often made of non-biodegradable materials that go into the landfills once they've been used a number of years, and pose environmental hazards. Real trees can be chipped for mulch, are biodegradable and support the environment in a variety of ways. Conservationists from Tree Canada say that when you choose a live tree you are helping the environment.

Real trees are planted like any other crop and provide wildlife habitat as they grow until they are harvested and replaced by new saplings. They represent more than \$100 million to the rural Canadian economy.

Christmas trees are often grown on family farms such as the Mensons Farm near Soperton. Josh Menson explains that the trees are trimmed yearly to help in shaping them. After their fall season of corn, squash and pumpkins, it is time to prepare for their

Christmas tree business. This involves an invitation for local families to come and choose the tree that they want to take home. They make it a festive time which includes hot chocolate as well!

There are also those who decide on a rooted tree in a pot that can be decorated and enjoyed for the holidays and then planted outside later on. Some even put their tree into a snowbank after the holidays, where it can be a great shelter for winter creatures. Decorations of popcorn, nuts and seeds for the birds can be added. If placed near a window visiting birds can be easily viewed and enjoyed through the winter months. A discarded tree could even be used for firewood in the household fireplace. For some communities, many trees are collected for use in a festive bonfire celebration. Participants gather around the blazing fire for warmth and connect with neighbors in a spirit of community, while reflecting on the joys of the past season and anticipating what the new year may hold! **LH**

You can visit the Menson farm and make an appointment to pick your tree at (161 County Road 42, Delta, Ontario 613-928-2555) you can also visit their Facebook page @ [facebook.com/Menson-Farm-138754269660756/](https://www.facebook.com/Menson-Farm-138754269660756/) they also sell farm fresh produce and also have a gift shop.



# Santa shops locally and so Should You! Warm Hospitality Awaits!



“Local Businesses Keeping our Community Strong!”



Propane  
**LEVAC**  
Propane INC.

We Specialize in Propane Gas Delivery to Residential, Cottage, Agricultural and Commercial Properties.

**Adam Ferguson - Territory Manager**  
613-544-3335 • 877-544-3335  
adam@propanelevac.com

Servicing: Brockville/Prescott/Gananoque & Area

Athens  
**PHARMASAVE**

On Behalf of Athens Pharmasave

*Merry CHRISTMAS* to you and your family!

**FREE DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

16 MAIN ST. E., ATHENS, ON Mon-Fri: 9am-5:30pm  
P:613.924.2070 F:613.924.6133 Sat: 9am-1pm  
fsathenspharmasave@gmail.com Sun: Closed

FOR SALE  
**BURT HUDSON**  
924-9141  
ATHENS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

*Area Real Estate Service for over 40 Years!*

**Justin Hudson**  
Broker of Record  
10 Main Street East  
Athens, ON  
613-924-9141  
burthudson.com  
justin@burthudson.com

**Athens Carpet Plus**  
SALES & INSTALLATION

**ARMSTRONG CERTIFIED INSTALLER**

**Duncan Peer**  
30 Main St., Athens  
613-924-1200  
www.armstrong.com

*Peace, Joy & Good Cheer  
Merry Christmas to All!*

Hardwood • Vinyl • Laminate • Carpet • Ceramic

**STUART NESBITT**  
RE/MAX RiverView Realty Ltd. Brokerage Sales Representative

- Multi-family
- Commercial
- Investment
- Farm • Residential
- Cottage

**613-328-6211**  
389 King St. E.  
Gananoque, ON K7G 1G5  
stuart@remaxriverview.com  
www.remaxriverview.com

Top Multi-Unit Sales  
RE/MAX Riverview 2013-2014

Top New Agent  
RE/MAX Riverview 2013

**Seeleys Bay Drugmart**

All Major Drug Plans Accepted  
Convenient "Dosette" Packaging  
Senior Discount  
Health and Beauty Products  
Cosmetics – Greeting Cards

Delivery Available  
Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 6 pm

106 Drynan Way Unit# 4, Seeley's Bay ON.  
**613-387-3939**

**WING'S LIVE BAIT & TACKLE**

**Fishing • Hunting • Moccasins**  
**OPEN ALL YEAR ROUND!**

413 Lyndhurst Rd, Lyndhurst  
613-928-2382 • wingslivebaitandtackle.ca • siderisjp@sympatico.ca

**Living HERE**

Contact Us to Advertise  
in the February / March Issue  
Book by January 17

.....

Contact Us at 613.342.0428  
jmarsh46@bell.net



**Chris Kollar ( Owner  
-Your Family Dollar  
Prescott)**

# YOUR FAMILY DOLLAR PRESCOTT

## The Triumph and Success of an Entrepreneur's Dream!

By Jonathan Vickers

**“Don’t be afraid to ask for something, you already have no”** is a quote that Chris Kollar of “Prescott’s, Your Family Dollar” remembers her parents (Rikkie and John Witteveenaying) saying to her growing up. It was to her a motivating quote that stuck with her when an opportunity presented itself to her almost by a happy coincidence in 2003.

Chris at the time, was working at Angelo’s Restaurant on old HWY 16 as a waitress for almost 20 years when she saw an opportunity to become her own boss as the Dollar Depot store was up for sale in Prescott (the same current location Your Family Dollar is in today). While Dollar Stores in the early 90’s, were becoming big business and consumers saw advantages in shopping at these types of retail outlets, this particular store in Prescott was waning, and was becoming obsolete. Chris however, saw big potential in the community of Prescott and noticed the store lacked the correct inventory mix and services that clientele wanted and needed. She noticed that in this small outlet mall the stores at the time were Curves, Herbal Magic, and a flower shop, which would be a perfect retail mix at a time she felt her vision of a dollar store would succeed. With the encouragement of her husband Les and her adult children Rick and Tami, Chris decided at the age of 46 to become

an entrepreneur and go for a major career and life altering change. She bought the existing inventory and started out on her own.

Now 15 years later, “Your Family Dollar - The Dollar Store with a Difference” has successfully, over the years, not only succeeded in an everchanging retail market, but thrived and grown against big box retailers like Giant Tiger and Liquidation World (now closed in Prescott), Dollarama and Dollar Tree in Brockville and even Walmart (Brockville). Chris proudly points out when she took over the store back in 2003, salesmen used to visit her store to help her stock the inventory. She remembers with a laugh “one of her first orders was for 72 sponges and wondered if they would sell?” (they did). Now Chris stocks the store with 1000’s of items from 12 suppliers she deals with, mainly on-line for ordering. She can rapidly adapt to the monthly or seasonal ordering changes.

**“Don’t be afraid to ask for something, you already have no”**

Through the years Chris added and became a Sears Catalogue outlet store (she sadly remarked how her customers miss ordering now from the bankrupt Sears company), she added gift baskets, cards, crafts, Oma in Oma’s Knitting, wrapping paper, wedding supplies and the growing party & balloon supply line for all occasions. Where back in 2003 a dollar store was “cash only”, Chris has now added debit and credit card options for her customers’ convenience and ease of payment. One big change Chris has made compared to a lot of smaller retail stores, is that Your Family Dollar is OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK! Chris felt this was important to the community and to make sure her business succeeds in today’s economic climate.

One thing Chris reflected on was a personal tragedy for her and her family back in 2008 when her home caught fire on the North Channel Rd. nearby. She had only been in business 5 years back then, but on April 16th her life was turned upside down. Yet, the community of Prescott and her customers came daily to her store and offered help in any way. The community offered food, clothing and household items, as well as quilts, cards of support and money. Chris remembers how overwhelming it was and emotional, for the support and feeling so grateful to live in this area. She has not forgotten this, nor has her family. Chris, through donations of gift baskets or merchandise, when community groups or charities stop by the store, Chris is happy to help out.

Chris has been married to her husband Les for over 40 years, and has 4 grandchildren: Emma 9 years old and Abi 5 years old, her son Rick’s children. Her daughter Tami has Evan who is 7 and Ana who is 5 years old. Family is the center of everything for Chris and she has no plans to retire anytime soon. As we finished up our conversation, she remarked, “It’s been a privilege to have a business in Prescott and I am so grateful to be part of this community. I’d like to extend a “Special Thank You” to all of my customers for the last 15 years. I feel truly blessed.” **LH**

# CONGRATULATIONS

*Your Family Dollar*

**ON YOUR  
15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**~ 2003 - 2018 ~**

CELEBRATING **15** YEARS IN BUSINESS!

**YOUR FAMILY DOLLAR**

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING 15 YEARS OF  
SUCCESS IN BUSINESS IN THE TOWN OF PRESCOTT!

PRESCOTT  
BIRTH OF  
THE FORT TOWN

O'Reilly's  
**Independent**  
Your Independent Grocer

Meat & Seafood  
Deli & Ready Made Meals  
Dairy & Eggs ~ Bakery  
Produce ~ Pantry  
Joe Fresh® Beauty  
Joe Fresh® Cosmetics  
Pharmacy ~ Wellness & More!

**613-925-4625**  
150 Prescott Centre Dr., Prescott, ON

 **optimum**

Your  
*Dressing Room*



Your Dressing Room Boutique & Artisans  
121 King Street West, Prescott, On.

Gently used Clothing,  
Local Artisans handcrafted items.

Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm



**DEBRA LYNN CURRIER**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

LET ME TAKE THE STRESS  
OUT OF YOUR MOVE!

**ROYAL LEPAGE**

Specializing in the  
Brockville to Cardinal Corridor

C: 613.246.1349 | Off: 613.345.3664  
agents.royallepage.ca/debralynncurrier



**Olde  
Magick  
Prescott**

Tarot & Angel Readings  
Crystals, Oils, Incense, Stones & Books

123 KING ST. W. PRESCOTT, ON  
oldemagickshoppe@gmail.com



**O'FITNESS**

Congratulations  
**Your Family Dollar Prescott**  
On Your 15th Anniversary!

**WE OFFER:**  
Gym Memberships  
(Annual/Semi-annual/Monthly)  
Personal Training ~ Cardio Classes ~ Meal Plans  
**OPEN 24 HOURS**

113 Churchill Rd E., Prescott, On.  
613-213-3957

Congratulations  
from



**Uncle Buck's News**  
BROCKVILLE / PRESCOTT / GANANOQUE & AREA

..... & .....

**Living  
HERE**



Congratulations  
**Your Family Dollar Prescott**  
On your 15th Anniversary in Business!

*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year*

To all our Friends and Customers and  
Thank You for your Patronage in 2018!  
*Donna Adams*

**186 King St. W. Prescott, On  
613-925-0174**



# Dealing with **HOLIDAY STRESS**

By Lisa Crandall

**T**he holiday season has arrived once again, a stretch of weeks that is often filled with love and laughter, a time of hectic busy-ness, high levels of emotion that run the extremes of juggling family politics, to the loneliness of being away from some family members. We also often find ourselves facing financial challenges, as well as too much not necessarily good for you food, plus the shock of cold temperatures and less daylight, often inconvenient weather events, along with the whack of other things that can culminate into an overwhelming crescendo of emotions. (breathe) Did you get through that sentence without pausing or gasping for air? That's what this season can be like and it can be stressful.

Taking care of yourself during the holiday season is important. By the time you are

**Editor's Note:** *If you are struggling to cope with feelings that seem seriously out of whack, even for you, the Canadian Mental Health Association website has a series of short informative videos that can offer encouragement and techniques for dealing with depression and anxiety which can be exacerbated this time of year. They are part of an online self-help program called "Bounce Back". They are available at <http://ontario.cmha.ca/bounce-back-ontario/bounceback-for-clients/>.*

reading this it is almost too late to suggest you should ease the strain by starting early, with a budget and a plan. But if you can, try to get things done early – like the baking and the decorating and at least some of the shopping.

Once the season starts, it's up to you to do what you can to help yourself get through it, so you can enjoy it.

Perhaps these suggestions will help:

Make time to get a little exercise. It can be as simple as walking to the mail box. Moving around improves your blood circulation and getting out of doors will energize you. Going for a walk every day can also allow you to savour some alone time away from the crowds and chaos.

Eat well: This must not be mistaken for overeating or indulgent eating, both easily accomplished this time of year. Focus on fresh healthy food, for instance; serve a veggie and fruit platter instead of chips and dips when you have guests, or if you are standing at someone else's buffet table. Make soups instead of heavy meals. Do not shop or arrive at a party while hungry.

Get enough sleep. More and more studies have shown that getting enough sleep is critical. Getting less than 7-8 hours of sleep each night has been linked to everything from obesity to heart disease. At the very least, turn off the TV, the electronics and the people for an hour before you try to fall

asleep. Allow your body that brief respite from external stimulation before you try to sleep.

When you are in the moment and it all catches up with you - change your physical state of being. For example; take a deep breath, hold it for two or three beats, let it out, then do it again as many times as necessary to become calm.

A couple other quick exercises are: Gently pull down on your earlobes. This will help bring blood to your head to help you feel more awake and alert. Rub the roof of your mouth with your tongue. It gives you a quick nerve jolt. Roll up and down on your toes. This increases blood circulation and you can do it standing in line at the grocery store or the bank.

Ultimately allow yourself to go slow occasionally. Treat yourself to small pleasures – read a good book, take a nap, plan for a few moments to soak in a warm tub, sip a second cup of coffee while you're planning your day.

Finally: If you know you are going to be just crazy busy because there's too much to do, why not stretch the season? Your community Christmas gathering or the office party can be scheduled in January and still have a seasonal theme. Don't worry about taking down the tree and the decorations quite so quickly. Let them linger and let yourself enjoy them in a quieter way for a few extra days or weeks. **LH**



**Inuksuk overlooking Hudson Bay -30 C**



**Above: White Spruce with tin foil star**



**Top Right: Snowman Contest in Cree Nation of Mistissini**



**Bottom Right: Snowman Contest at Whapmagoostui**



**Far Left: Christmas Day**



**Middle: Christmas Wreath gleaned from the land**



**Left: Painted cookies drying on a line**

# A VERY INUIT CHRISTMAS

By Andi Christine Bednarzig

“**Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!**” My husband and I sat on folding chairs arranged on the periphery of the gym. People from the community passed by, offering their hands in welcome. It was Christmas Day 2013 and we were at a feast on the Inuit side of a fly-in community on Hudson Bay. Great Whale River, or Whapmagoostui to the Cree and Kuujjuarapik to the Inuit, is the only place in Canada where the two nations co-exist.

As recent empty nesters – too young to retire, but young enough for an adventure, we decided to sell our large, drafty Victorian home in the outskirts of Montreal and headed north. Over a span of five years, we lived in teachers’ residences in three very different communities.

Though it had been an easy choice for us to settle in the 1000 Islands, as my children and I had spent many summers visiting family, swimming off the docks in the river, boating and attending country markets and festivals.

Last Christmas was the first in our new home, perched on a granite outcrop in Rockport. I unearthed a large storage bin marked “Christmas Decorations” and put on some holiday music. Burrowing through years of accumulated baubles, I found a misshapen tissue box. Inside were a tangle of strings, crumbling painted cookies, cinnamon sticks tied in red bows, dried red winter berries and pine cones. I sat back and

reflected on that special Christmas of 2013 when we didn’t come home...

We found a wispy spruce, in a ravine protected from the brutal westerly winds that blew off the bay. I hadn’t brought ornaments, so we improvised by gathering from the land and making our own. On December 25th, after opening presents sent from home, we bundled up and headed to the Inuit feast. The gymnasium had been garlanded with lights and streamers for the occasion.

“There will be a draw,” a woman at the door said as she handed my husband a ticket for a ‘man prize’ and one to me, for a ‘woman prize’. She pointed at the stage filled with items to be won, some quite grand. My husband admired a bright yellow snow machine.

“Look at the ski-doo!” I poked my husband.

“Some lucky guy will be very happy tonight,” he mumbled.

We circled around the gym and greeted each person with a hearty handshake and a “Merry Christmas” before sitting down.

Little girls twirled on the gym floor in party dresses and shiny shoes as young boys in vests and white shirts chased each other. Teenagers in jeans, shuffled about in clusters talking and laughing, while elders and young families greeted each other warmly.

Dark burgundy hunks of raw caribou, seal meat, and white feathered ptarmigans lay in

huge piles in the centre of the gym on black plastic garbage bags that had been taped to the floor. Large coolers held mounds of fresh shrimp.

At an announcement and after prayers, we were invited to feast. Elders, as is tradition, came first. A few squatted down on the floor cutting hunks of meat with a traditional ulu, or knife; others brought meat back to their families sitting at the edge of the gym. The young mother beside me chewed meat for her baby, as a young man cut raw slivers for her.

At the other side of the gym, tables were laden with at least a dozen bronzed oversized stuffed turkeys, pots and pots of caribou stew, and a couple of cardboard boxes, lined with plastic, filled with macaroni salad. There were no utensils. A smiling Inuit woman passed us a pair of surgical gloves and indicated to “just dig in!”

We felt it was time for us to leave before the prizes and games, so I handed our raffle tickets to the young man beside me. A few weeks later, I was approached by the same man at the grocery store. “Thank you for the ticket,” he said. My ticket had won a brand-new bed. “My mother needed a new bed,” he smiled.

In another month, after the first snow falls, I will again unpack the makeshift decorations stowed in a tissue box, so I can bask, ever so fleetingly, in the memories of that warm place in the barren north. **LH**



**Far Left:** Dennis O'Connor will be more than happy to help select the perfect gift of art for your holiday giving.

**Middle:** Dennis O'Connor is always happy to help guide a client through the art selection process

**Above:** Canadian mandolin luthier Ray Vincent, who produces beautifully crafted and functional musical instruments, currently has several pieces on display at the gallery.

# COLOUR AND CLASS

## Giving Fine Art at the Holidays

By Lorraine Payette

Perfect gifts can make the holidays even brighter, and nothing could be more perfect than a gift. “The more people that see art, the more people that will enjoy it,” said Dennis O'Connor of the O'Connor Gallery in Gananoque. “The more people that enjoy it, the more people that will hopefully want it”

For O'Connor, high quality art is as essential to life as eating, drinking or breathing. He carries a wide variety of art from paintings to sculpture to fine furnishings – everything that will not only make a house a home, but is guaranteed to do so with style and panache.

“Look at those paintings, these furnishings – it's not instant gratification, nothing is, you have to work at anything,” said O'Connor. “Part of what I do as a job is to teach people

how to look at and understand art. I've always been a teacher of art and I'm a champion of the arts.”

Art is available in most price ranges. Knowing the recipient, understanding the tastes of the individual and what would please them the most makes a gift of art something to be treasured for a lifetime.

The works at the O'Connor Gallery are exclusive to Gananoque. As a design house with an art gallery that changes monthly, it provides all that is needed to make a house into an absolutely beautiful space. They carry lighting and Inuit art, as well as doing custom framing. With everything from the casual to the debonair, you can find something for anyone who wants a living space that is truly their own.

He has a BFA from Concordia University in Art History and had a gallery in Toronto for 15 years. He has long provided advice and design services, and thoroughly enjoys helping select the perfect art or furnishings, whether for personal use or for special occasion gifts.

“All of the furniture we carry is Canadian and all of our products are shipped within Canada so nothing is overpriced,” said O'Connor. “And, of course, we have our design services. Art, beauty and grace

are a way of life that should be open for all. An original gift of art or craft is an excellent choice for that someone who has everything. You are supporting the arts and giving something that everyone will cherish. Gift certificates for design work are also great gifts that allow your friends to enjoy their gifts on a very personal level.”

Always keep in mind the size of a person's space, their personal taste, colour scheme and how much you are willing or able to spend. Good art is something that will bring pleasure to all for many years to come.

“My goal is to make everyone's life a little more beautiful,” said O'Connor. “With services from design, lighting, custom Canadian furniture, fabrics for drapery and custom picture framing my gallery provides all that anyone needs for their home. Come in and chat, and we'll find exactly what you need.”

The gallery recently featured a display and concert by Canadian mandolin luthier Ray Vincent, who produces beautifully crafted and functional musical instruments.

**“Art is for everyone, and a gallery is a living breathing space,”** said O'Connor. “There are no limits. Find and share what you love – these gifts will last forever.” **LH**

**Editor's Note:** You can visit the Gallery at 130 King Street East, Gananoque, Ontario. Or call (343) 363-6844. You can visit the Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/OConnorGallery-228073441110725/> to view photos or see about special events or showings. O'Connor Gallery features Interior design for your home and work place. Custom furniture, picture framing, original art, Inuit art, lighting, fabrics and unique accessories.

# O'CONNOR



# GALLERY

FINE INTERIORS - FINE ART  
CUSTOM FURNITURE - PICTURE FRAMING - ORIGINAL ART  
INUIT ART - LIGHTING - FABRICS - UNIQUE ACCESSORIES

PHONE: 343 363 6844

DESIGNLIVES1954@GMAIL.COM

130 KING STREET EAST, GANANOQUE, ON

*Interior design for your  
home and work place.*



2019  
SEASON

CANADA'S  
DOCKSIDE  
THEATRE

**GIFT CERTIFICATES  
SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS  
PATRON MEMBERSHIPS**

*There's a gift for EVERYONE  
on your list*

ORDER NOW: 613-382-7020 | [www.1000islandsplayhouse.com](http://www.1000islandsplayhouse.com)



## **Brockville Farmers' Market 2018 Fall/Winter Schedule**

**November - Saturdays From 9am to 2pm @ Courthouse Lodge  
7 Courthouse Lane, Downtown Brockville**

**December - Christmas Markets From 9:30am to 2pm @ Aquatarium  
Saturdays Dec 1st, 8th, 15th - 6 Broad Street, Downtown Brockville**

**Follow Us On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!**



**Brockville.Farmers.Market**



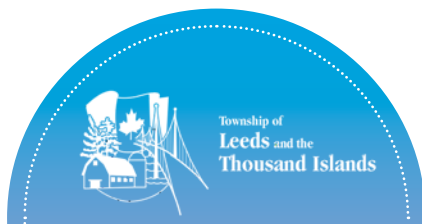
**@BrockvilleFM**



**Brockvillefarmersmarket**

*Come,  
Join Us...*  
and choose  
your adventure!!

*Seeley's Bay, Ontario*



Township of  
Leeds and the  
Thousand Islands

**www.leeds1000islands.ca  
613-659-2415  
1-866-220-2327**