



**Mallorytown Christmas Horse-drawn Rides**  
Photo Credit: Sally Smid, Courtesy of The Mural



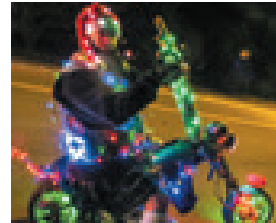
**Mallory Coach House Craft Sale**  
Photo Credit: Sally Smid, Courtesy of The Mural

**Right: Tree Lighting Celebration in Lansdowne**  
Photo Credit: Donna Dempsey

**Bottom Right: Mallorytown Christmas Parade**  
Photo Credit: Sally Smid, Courtesy of The Mural



**Christmas Tree Lighting, Mallorytown**  
Photo Credit: Richard Marcoux



# RURAL VILLAGES BRING ON THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS!

By Diann Turner

I will never outgrow the excitement of the approaching Christmas season!

Christmas music can't begin early enough for me. The first tumble of snowflakes sets the tone for massive preparations for weeks to come. Laura Ingalls Wilder stated that- "We are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime!" **"Living Here"** is a delightful Regional Contact magazine and it was richly rewarding to connect with local community folks in Lansdowne and Mallorytown, who are currently active in preparations to make Christmas unforgettable for local children and adults.

You can begin with the Tree Lighting Ceremony on **Thursday, November 21, 2019** in Mallorytown. Mrs. Claus will be there to greet you and hot chocolate and cookies will be served right alongside the tree (inside if it's too cold). The Caintown Choir leads and inspires everyone to get into the Christmas spirit with buoyant Christmas carols.

**Sunday, December 1st at 5:00 pm** you can come out and watch the annual Santa Claus parade, or better yet, become a participant! The theme changes every year. The parade starts at the KOA on County Road 2, winds its way through the village, and ends up at the Community Centre. Mr. & Mrs. Claus disembark and everyone happily heads into the warmth of the indoors. Hot dogs and hot chocolate are for sale and the Colouring Contest prizes are issued. There are invited guests and sometimes, a musical troupe visits

and plays lively Christmas music.

On **Saturday, December 7th**, there is a miscellaneous Christmas Craft and Bake Sale at the Community Centre and the Mallory Coach House. Make it a stop for shopping and plan on lunch; Junetown Women's Institute will provide soup or chili for a small fee. Friends of the Library will be hosting a Book Sale simultaneously. Yonge in Bloom beautifies the village with Christmas creations in their planters. Collectively, these events draw great crowds and bring community folks together during the most spell-binding time of the year!

Just a few kilometers west of Mallorytown lies the lovely village of Lansdowne. It is also ratcheting up preparations to enhance the Christmas season in its community. **Save the date – Thursday, December 5, 2019, 4:00-8:00 pm** for another evening of jovial activities in Lansdowne to usher in the Christmas season!

Lansdowne Association for Revitalization (LAFR) provides a Tree Lighting Celebration. With the help of the Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company, and their crew, a ginormous tree at the Community Centre is decorated with one thousand lights; perhaps one for every island?! There is a gathering around the tree; a countdown ensues and a member of the Lansdowne Fair Royalty connects the power. The joy of the season is further enhanced with carol singing, lead by the school choir. Back at the Telephone Office, a group of busy elves prepare to host Santa

with cookie decorating, face painting, snacks and many rousing events for all ages! Horse-drawn wagon rides amble through town, dropping folks off at the venues, passing everyone's lights. Craft vendors are located at the Community Centre and shoppers can get some Christmas shopping accomplished while the kids are entertained with laser tag, crafts and snacks in the library.

By the end of the evening last year, a letter was written to Santa, cookies were decorated, devoured, and faces were painted. Wagon rides culminated with parents and kids being dropped off at the Community Centre to take part in these events, where a cup of hot chocolate and cider awaited. Entertainers provided Christmas carols throughout the evening. Everyone anticipated, and loved this event; kids went home with sugar plums dancing in their heads!

The cheerful season of Christmas brings that special spirit of loving and the idea of life. Get out and enjoy your community events and make every bit of life an odyssey to remember, especially for the children! **LH**

**Editor's Note:** The Town of Prescott is hosting their 3rd Annual Tree Lighting Celebration Friday December 6th at 5:30pm to 7pm at the Clocktower Square, Downtown Prescott. Free family event activities, hot chocolate served.