

BackRoads

...connecting communities - December 2011

December Observances ...Christmas! Safe Toys & Gifts Month, Tomato, Winter Squash & Root Vegetables Month, Christmas!, Read a New Book Month, just to name a few ... oh ya and did we mention ... Christmas! :)

The Christmas Star

Many years ago a bright mysterious star appeared in the sky. It was no ordinary star. It was a special star sent by God to light the way for the wise men who went seeking God's Son, the Lord Jesus. That star shone brightly day and night and made finding the Lord as easy as simply following. When they found the Lord Jesus they beheld the embodiment of peace and love, and the fulfillment of a promise from God of an everlasting, perfectly fulfilled life.



A lot of years have come and gone since that historical quest and our world is a much different place than it was in those long gone days. While we have become what we would call more advanced we evidently still struggle to find real peace, good will toward mankind and contentment both in our society and in our own hearts. We are a people plagued with violent crimes, marital and family breakdowns, unwanted children, depression, general unhappiness and dissatisfaction.

Why are we seeking but not finding? We all want to find and experience personal and global good will and peace but they continue to elude us in spite of all our best efforts. Wouldn't it be great if we had a star that we could follow like the wise men of old to show us the way?

I sometimes wonder where that star went to. Is it possible that the star that guides is really not so far from us as we might think? Maybe it's still there - is that possible? Maybe if we would be willing to pause for a moment from our rushing about and take a look outside of ourselves and beyond our own ideas of where peace and love are to be found - and then just look up, we might just see the star is still shining and is still leading those who are simply willing to follow.

God still illuminates the way to His Son for any who are truly seeking. The wise men followed the star and it led them to the Lord Jesus. The star wasn't able to impart peace and love, it simply illuminated the way to the Person that could.

"Wise men still seek Him"



Article submitted by Steven Beaton

*The friends and families of BackRoads would like to wish all of our advertisers and readers
A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy - Healthy New Year!*

Days to Remember in December ...

1	Day With(out) Art Day
2	National Mutt Day
3	Earmuff Day or Chester Greenwood Day
4	National Cookie Day
5	Bathtub Party Day
5	International Ninja Day
6	National Pawnbrokers Day
7	National Cotton Candy Day
9	Weary Willie Day
10	Dewey Decimal System Day
12	Poinsettia Day
14	Monkey Day
15	Cat Herders Day
16	National Chocolate-covered Anything Day
16	Underdog Day
21	Humbug Day
21	World Peace Day/Winter Solstice
22	National Haiku Poetry Day
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas
26	Boxing Day
26	National Whiner's Day
29	Tick Tock Day
30	Bacon day
31	Make Up Your Mind Day
31	New Years Eve

Quotes to remember ...

* I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

At Christmas, all roads lead home. ~Marjorie Holmes

* Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. ~Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby

* Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

~Norman Wesley Brooks

* Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas.

~Peg Bracken

* When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things - not the great occasions - give off the greatest glow of happiness. ~Bob Hope

* Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.

~Calvin Coolidge, 1927

FUN FACTS ABOUT ACORN SQUASHSHOPPER'S TIPS

• Look for firm squash that have dull-colored skin and feel heavy for their size.

Avoid squash that feel soft or have cracks in the skin.

FACTS

• Acorn squash is named for its acorn-like shape and comes in a variety of colors – dark green, tan, yellow, and orange.
• Acorn squash is a type of “winter squash.” The term dates back to a time before refrigerators when squash harvested in the fall were known as winter vegetables because they could last until December.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

One cup of cubed acorn squash is:
• An excellent source of fiber, vitamin C, vitamin B6, potassium, thiamin, and magnesium. A source of vitamin A, iron, and folate.

SERVING IDEAS

• Remove seeds from two squash halves. Cover with plastic wrap and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Sauté one chopped apple, cinnamon, nutmeg, and a sprinkle of brown sugar. Fill cooked squash halves with the apple mixture and bake for 10 minutes at 400°F.
• Slice an acorn squash across the middle to create four rings and remove the seeds. Bake with a sprinkle of sage and thyme at 400°F.

STORAGE

Store uncut squash in a cool, dark, dry place for up to three months. Once cut, wrap and refrigerate squash for up to one week.



Dan & Lori Costello

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She lit the third match and an even more wonderful thing happened. There stood a Christmas tree hung with hundreds of candles, glittering with tinsel and coloured balls. "Oh, how lovely!" exclaimed the little match-seller, holding up the match. Then, the match burned her finger and flickered out. The light from the Christmas candles rose higher and higher, then one of the lights fell, leaving a trail behind it. "Someone is dying," murmured the little girl, as she remembered her beloved Granny who used to say: "When a star falls, a heart stops beating!" Scarcely aware of what she was doing, the little match-seller lit another match. This time, she saw her grandmother.

(The Little Match Girl - Hans Christian Anderson)



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TOY SAFETY

Skates, tricycles, toy trucks and cars, wagons and balls are among children's favorite playthings. But in one year, according to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates, there were 150,000 toy-related injuries serious enough to require hospital emergency room treatment.

Falls are the most frequent kind of accident, but many serious injuries result from children swallowing small parts or placing tiny toys in noses or ears, from exploding gas-powered toys, from flammable products, and from sharp edges.

Each year, some 5,000 new toys enter the market-place. The holiday season finds over 150,000 different kinds of toys for sale in approximately one million stores. Despite the efforts of manufacturers, retailers, safety inspectors, and others, it is impossible to examine every toy. But it is possible for parents and other relatives to check every new toy they buy and every old toy around the house for possible hazards. The following suggestions can help you keep playtime a safe, fun time.

SELECT TOYS WITH CARE

Choose carefully. Look for good design and quality construction in the toys you buy.

Watch out for toys that have sharp edges, small parts, or sharp points. Avoid toys that produce extremely loud noises that can damage hearing and propelled objects that can injure eyes.

Buy toys that suit the child's age, interest, and abilities. Avoid toys that are too complex for young children. Many toys have a suggested age range to help you choose toys that are appealing as well as safe.

Be a label reader. Look for safety information such as "Not recommended for children under 3 years of age," or "non-toxic" on toys likely to end up in little mouths, or "washable/hygienic materials" on stuffed toys and dolls.

Check with parents before you buy a child a toy that requires close supervision - electrically operated toys, shooting toys and games, chemistry sets, and the like. Remember, too, that younger children may have access to toys intended for older children once the toy has been brought into the home.

Look for the UL (Underwriters Laboratories) seal on electrical toys. It indicates the electrical parts have been tested for safety.

Charles A. Smith - Kansas State University, Manhattan) Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care - NNCC. Smith, C. A. (1987). **Toy safety**. [Extension Publication MF-643] Manhattan, KS: Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Service.)

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveller, thousands of miles away, back to his own fire-side and his quiet home!

~Charles Dickens, *The Pickwick Papers*, 1836



Are you ready for National Hand-washing Awareness Week December 4-10, 2011? The 4 Principles of Hand Awareness

1. Wash your hands when they are dirty and BEFORE eating
 2. DO NOT cough into your hands
 3. DO NOT sneeze into your hands
 4. Above all, DO NOT put your fingers into your eyes, nose or mouth.
- For more information on Hand Washing and Tips for Kids of all ages please see the great website www.henrythehand.com



Kudos Restaurant & Bar

*Wendy & the staff at Kudos
would like to wish
all our family, friends & customers
a very Merry Christmas &
all the best in the coming New Year!*



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*(We will be closed
Jan 1 to Jan 12th for holidays)*

FUN FACTS ABOUT BUTTERNUT SQUASH

SHOPPER'S TIPS

- Look for heavy squash with a thick neck and a small round base.
- Avoid squash that looks shriveled, bruised, or dented.

FACTS

- Butternut squash is a type of "winter squash." The term dates back to a time before refrigerators when varieties of squash harvested in the fall were known as winter vegetables because they could last until December.
- Butternut squash is also known as the African Bell.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- One cup of butternut squash cubes is:
- An excellent source of vitamin A and vitamin C.
 - A source of potassium, magnesium, fiber, vitamin B6, and vitamin E.

SERVING IDEAS

- Roast butternut squash chunks that have been seasoned with nutmeg and sage.
- Bake butternut squash halves and mash for a filling side dish.

STORAGE

Store whole squash in a cool, dry place for up to three months.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, Which shall be to all people. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, Lying in a manger.

-St. Luke ii. 10-12

Community Updates

POWASSAN Peter McIsaac, Mayor - pmcisaac@powassan.net

The Powassan Players just completed a sold out four night production of the Robin Hood Capers. This intelligent comedy showcased just how much local theater talent we have in Powassan. I am looking forward to the Powassan Players next production.

Congratulations to Mary Houghton, who accepted the position of Crime Stoppers Director for East Nipissing. Watch for Mary will be promoting the good work that Crime Stoppers does in Powassan and throughout the area through fund raisers and other events. Remember 1-800-222-TIPS to report a crime and keep Powassan and area safe.

It is the end of the year and the Council will begin the budget process. If you have any specific projects that you feel should be considered in 2012, take the time to contact myself or one of the members of Council to discuss.

Once again the Municipality will be celebrating New Year's Eve at the Trout Creek Community Centre. Just as last year this will be a Family event. We hope to see everyone out enjoying an evening with Family and Friends.

With one year into a four year term, our Council has faced many interesting challenges in 2011. We look forward to 2012 and continue to move Powassan forward in the right direction.

Have a Safe, Healthy and Happy Holiday Season.

CALLANDER Hector Lavigne, Mayor - mayor@callander.ca or call me 705-845-5010

We are closing in on the end of the year and I would like to thank our 125th Anniversary committee for all their hard work over the past year and more in Celebration of Callander's 125th. Organizing one event is hard enough but to coordinate, prepare and execute event after event over a period of a year deserves applause and congrats. We look forward to our final event on December 4th, with Ceremonies at the Bill Barber Complex, refreshments and fireworks to end things with a bang.

From fireworks to square dances, it has been a blast and hope some of the events take on a life of their own and with the help of a few hardy volunteers I am sure they will. One such event really struck me as a keeper - that was our cranberry celebration. The weather was absolutely horrible but even with that over 300 people showed up over the day to walk or enjoy a hay ride down our now famous Cranberry Trail. The trail meanders through the bush and marsh to Lake Nipissing. It is gorgeous any time of year but particularly in the fall. The trail is quickly becoming a favorite attraction for locals and visitors alike. The development of trails through Callander continues to the south with the ultimate goal to develop trails from Callander to Commanda. Much planning and work has to be done to see this through but I hope the idea will live on. *Hec*

CHISHOLM Leo Jobin, Mayor - www.chisholm.ca This coming new year brings lot's of celebrations, Chisholm's Centennial Ad-Hoc Committee is busy working on our 100th Anniversary in 2012 celebrations, as well as planning something special for our Volunteer Fire Department's 25th Anniversary. We extend an invitation to all Chisholm residents (new and old) to put a Family History display together for our June 2nd Kick Off event for our 100th. In addition we are also setting up a memorabilia display for the 200th anniversary of the war of 1812 and a display commemorating Queen Elizabeth's 60th Anniversary. We will be putting a display in at the Powassan Union Library in February, as well as other events during the year - stay tuned! We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming celebrations. On behalf of Chisholm Council & Staff, we would like to say Happy Holidays to everyone. ~Leo

Winnie the Pooh: [after he goes personally to take the letter to Santa but the wind blows it away] Please come back! I'm supposed to take you to Santa!

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NIPISSING Pat Haufe, Mayor - nipissingtwp@xplornet.com

The Council and Staff of Nipissing Township are currently reviewing our Strategic Plan which was established in 2007. Strategic plans are significant in the planning process for each municipality as they outline the direction Council wishes to pursue over a specific period of time. Our review process involves public consultation with our Town Hall meeting on November 1st held at the Community Centre and the second session planned for Tuesday, November 22nd at the Commanda Community Centre.

The review focuses on four main areas of discussion, namely, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS, MARKETING and RECREATION AND TOURISM. If you have not been able to attend these meetings but wish to share your thoughts and ideas, we would be very interested in hearing from you. You can contact us via the email address above or by mail at 45 Beatty Street, Nipissing ON P0H 1W0.

Our updated Strategic Plan will take into account the ideas and aspirations of our citizens and will remain cognizant of our mission statement, "The Township of Nipissing is dedicated to maintaining its rural Township atmosphere and its safe, healthy environment through the provision of effective and efficient government and planning so that all residents benefit." If you wish to find out more about the Township of Nipissing please visit our website at www.nipissingtownship.com.

On behalf of Council and Staff I wish you a wonderful, safe, Christmas season with family and friends and a New Year filled with opportunity. It is a great time to bless others as you have been blessed.

MPP NIPISSING, Vic Fedeli vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org or (705) 474-8340

With business under way at Queen's Park, the excitement of the election campaign has long since faded. But there are great memories that will always remain with me. Patty and I found a number of hidden gems while out on the lesser-travelled roads in Nipissing during the campaign. The most delightful visit was to the new store in Chisholm Township, Chisholm Country Market & Feed, owned by Clint and Kelly Litster. They're committed to promoting northern and local products, but moreover, committed to improving the quality of life for local residents with a place to get convenience, feed and fuel. And it looks fantastic! Stop in when you get the chance.

My constituency office is now open in North Bay at 165 Main St. E. You can reach me or my staff at (705) 474-8340, or by email at vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org with any issues you may have. On behalf of my family and my staff, I want to wish you a warm and safe holiday season. Please don't drink and drive.

HISTORY FROM...

OUR BACK ROADS...

The Powassan Chair

A few years ago an interesting piece of Powassan's past was brought to my attention. Doug Cox, president of the Powassan Historical Society showed me several old photographs that he had picked up from a local antique dealer. He was not sure who the people were, but they featured a very unique wicker chair. The back is quite ornate, but what makes this chair different is that it only has one arm.

While visiting Carmel Ulrich a little while ago, she was showing me a couple of old photos of the Ulrich family. The one photo was of Joseph Ulrich and is a fine example of what I refer to as "The Powassan Chair". Joe was born October 1st 1893, so that would date this photo to circa 1900. My grandmother Susan Toepfner was Joe's sister, and their parents Frank and Margarite raised their eight children on a farm at Wolfe Lake.

With no photographer name on this photo I had to do a little digging to see who may have taken these old portraits. As I often do, I asked Gladys Piper if she knew of anyone who may have been in this line of work in the early 1900's. She came up with the name Richard Barrett who ran a dry goods/fancy goods and confectionery store in Trout Creek and Powassan. The first issue of the Powassan News printed May 1st 1907 had an ad for Miss R. Barrett's Photo Studio and Confectionery. Searching the Internet led me to the web site www.vintagepostcards.org and listed with the names of local photographers was Mr. Barrett. It has him operating out of Trout Creek between 1897 and 1903 and in Powassan from 1904 to 1925.

You are welcome to visit my web site www.toepfner.ca for more Pictures and History. I also enjoy hearing from you on topics you would like to see in future BackRoads, please email me at jamie@toepfner.ca

I remember my grandmother talking about a portrait of the Ulrich family that was taken around 1905, when she was just a young girl maybe 8 years old. She said that her father had received a letter from family that had remained over in Germany. To show how successful and prolific he was, he had the portrait taken to send back to Germany. At the same time other photos were done, one which was mounted in a nice oval frame of Frank and his wife.

It is interesting examining old photos of the same time period and finding similarities. I am sure that there were many photos that were taken by this Powassan photographer, and many must contain this unique Powassan Chair. Have a close look at your early family pictures and see if they were taken by the same photographer in the early 1900's

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas. May the true spirit of the season bring you much love, happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

~Jamie



Joseph Ulrich circa 1900

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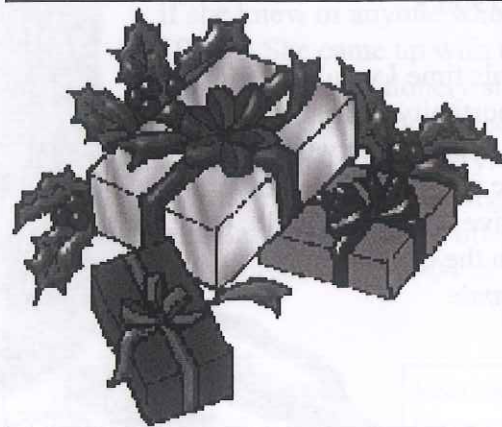
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And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more. ~*Dr Seuss*

Things that make you go "HMMMM"

- Did anyone else feel old upon realizing that kids who like Power Rangers and Ninja Turtles nowadays weren't even born when the shows first came on?
- How is it that we put man on the moon before we thought to put wheels on luggage?
- What's the difference between partly cloudy and partly sunny?
- If it's zero degrees outside today and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold is it going to be?
- If a person owns a piece of land, do they own it all the way down to the core of the earth?



Give the Gift of Local History!
With 2012 being Chisholm's Centennial Year Doug Mackey's books with a Chisholm connection would make Great Christmas Gifts!
The Fossmill Story - DVD Logging by Rail in Algonquin Park
The Kiosk Story - Voices from the Past
These books are now available at Chisholm Township Office, & Chisholm Country Market & Feed
Or see our website at www.pastforward.ca



What's red & white and red & white and red & white?
Santa rolling down a hill!
What's red and green and flies?
An airsick Santa Claus!

Why does Santa owe everything to the elves?
Because he is an elf-made man!
What goes oh, oh, oh?
Santa Claus walking backwards!

Reading can help reduce stress - Pick Up a New Book Today!

Reading is the best way to relax and even six minutes can be enough to reduce the stress levels by more than two thirds, according to new research. Reading can reduce stress levels by 68 per cent, according to the University of Sussex research. And it works better and faster than other methods to calm frazzled nerves such as listening to music, going for a walk or settling down with a cup of tea, research found.

Psychologists believe this is because the human mind has to concentrate on reading and the distraction of being taken into a literary world eases the tensions in muscles and the heart. The research was carried out on a group of volunteers by consultancy Mindlab International at the University of Sussex. Their stress levels and heart rate were increased through a range of tests and exercises before they were then tested with a variety of traditional methods of relaxation. Reading worked best, reducing stress levels by 68 per cent, said cognitive neuropsychologist Dr David Lewis.

Subjects only needed to read, silently, for six minutes to slow down the heart rate and ease tension in the muscles, he found. In fact it got subjects to stress levels lower than before they started. Listening to music reduced the levels by 61 per cent, have a cup of tea or coffee lowered them by 54 per cent and taking a walk by 42 per cent. Playing video games brought them down by 21 per cent from their highest level but still left the volunteers with heart rates above their starting point.

Dr Lewis, who conducted the test, said: "Losing yourself in a book is the ultimate relaxation. "This is particularly poignant in uncertain economic times when we are all craving a certain amount of -escapism. It really doesn't matter what book you read, by losing yourself in a thoroughly engrossing book you can escape from the worries and stresses of the everyday world and spend a while exploring the domain of the author's imagination. This is more than merely a distraction but an active engaging of the imagination as the words on the printed page stimulate your creativity and cause you to enter what is essentially an altered state of consciousness." (Taken from www.telegraph.co.uk)

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I'm dreaming of a white Christmas,
Just like the ones I used to know,
Where the tree tops glisten And children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow... ~*Irving Berlin*

Why does Scrooge love
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?
Because every buck is dear to him.



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Local Happenings

Powassan Legion's Friday Night Suppers call 705-724-2235 for extra information. Advance reservation recommended as the tickets sell quickly. **Dec. 2** - The Powassan Legion will be hosting a Roasted Chicken Leg Dinner complete with Mashed potatoes, vegetables, Caesar salad, tea/coffee and dessert. All for only \$10.00 per person, tax Incl. Serving starts at 5:30 pm. **Dec. 16** - the Powassan Legion will be hosting a Dinner of Cabbage Rolls with vegetables, Caesar Salad, tea/coffee and dessert. All for only \$10.00 per person, tax Incl. Serving starts at 5:30 pm. **Friday Dinners - Ladies Auxiliary of Callander Legion Br 445 (345 Lansdowne St, Callander)** has the following Friday Night Dine In and Entertainment planned for 2011 for only \$9.00 per person. All are welcome! **Dec 2** - Meat Draw, Chicken 5:30pm, Music Back In Tyme 6:30pm **Dec 9** - Meat Draw, Pork Schnitzel 5:30pm, Music Bill Vrebosch 6:30pm **Dec 16** - Meat Draw, Roast Beef 5:30pm, Music Rebecca 6:30pm **Dec 23** - Meat Draw, Steak BBQ 5:30pm, Music Bill Vrebosch 6:30pm **Dec 30** - Meat Draw, TBD 5:30pm Music Victor John 6:30pm

Dec. 3 - Powassan Legion will be hosting a Craft Show from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Wide variety from baking to preserves and knitting to tapestries. Something for everyone. Free Admission. Join us, and find that special Christmas gift.

Dec 10 Chisholm United Church annual Christmas Tea & Bazaar, December 10 from 2 to 4 pm. Everyone Welcome!

Dec 10 The Scott Woods Christmas Show 3:00pm - 6:00pm at Callander Legion, 345 Lansdowne Street Callander. Upbeat & uplifting, fast-paced two hour concert skillfully combines old time fiddling with perennial & Christmas favourites & a generous sense of humour.

The Edge youth group for grades 6,7,8 Monday 6:45pm - St Joseph Church, Powassan in the downstairs hall All welcome. Call for more details 724-5964

TOPS Every Tuesday weigh-in 5:30, meetings 6:45-8pm Lower level of Powassan Legion. For info call 724-5791

Line Dancing Golden Sunshine Club 9am-10am (walk-in basis \$2 charge) Contact Connie 705-474-5922

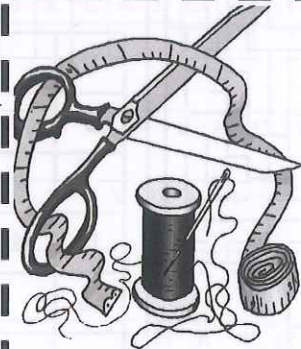
Second Chance Shoppe (Grace House) - Tuesday & Thursday 9am-3pm & Saturdays 9am-noon

Basement Bookshop, Powassan United Church, 15,000 books, Thursday 10am - 3pm & Saturday 9am-noon

Sunday Dec.4th - The Commanda Heritage Centre will be displaying Christmas Auction Items at the **Commanda Bazaar**. Advanced bids please call 705-729-1384 (Thanks to all volunteers and visitors for their continued support ~ Safe & Happy Holidays to all.)

Saturday Public Skating at Sportsplex in Powassan from 7:30pm - 9pm. Dec 3rd, Dec 10, Dec 17 - call for more skating times over the holidays 705-724-2537

Do you have community events or happenings you would like us to feature?? Email us with details and we will list them for free! We need the events by the 20th of the month for the next months activities miltownsystems@live.ca



JMI DESIGN STUDIO 58B Chiswick Line, Powassan 705-724-6408

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From the Kitchen December is the month of ... Tomato, Winter Squash & Root Vegetables

Rich and Creamy Tomato Basil Soup

(from Allrecipes.com)

Prep Time: 10 Min

Cook Time: 35 Minutes

Ready In: 45 Min Servings: 4

Ingredients:

4 tomatoes - peeled, seeded and diced
4 cups tomato juice
14 leaves fresh basil
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1/2 cup butter
salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Place tomatoes and juice in a stock pot over medium heat. Simmer for 30 minutes. Puree the tomato mixture along with the basil leaves, and return the puree to the stock pot.
2. Place the pot over medium heat, and stir in the heavy cream and butter. Season with salt and pepper. Heat, stirring until the butter is melted. Do not boil.

Gluten Free Honey-Peanut Butter Bars (from Allrecipes.com)

Prep Time: 15 Min Ready In: 45 Minutes

Submitted By: Chex® Cereal Servings: 24

Ingredients:

6 cups Honey Nut Chex® cereal
1/2 cup honey-roasted peanuts
1/2 cup honey or light corn syrup
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/4 cup dark chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Butter 9- or 8-inch square pan. In large bowl, mix cereal and peanuts; set aside.
2. In 3-quart saucepan, heat honey and sugar just to boiling over medium heat, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in peanut butter until smooth. Pour over cereal mixture in bowl; stir gently until evenly coated. Press firmly in pan. Cool 15 minutes.
3. In small microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate chips uncovered on High 30 to 60 seconds, stirring every 15 seconds, until melted and smooth. Drizzle over top of bars. Let stand at room temperature at least 30 minutes until chocolate is set. For bars, cut into 4 rows by 6 rows. Store loosely covered at room temperature.



Pumpkin Bars

(from www.kids-cooking-activities.com)

2 Cups flour
2 teaspoon cinnamon
4 eggs
1 1/2 Cups sugar

2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
16 oz. Pumpkin
1 Cup oil

Mix flour, baking powder, cinnamon and baking soda in mixing bowl and stir together. Beat in eggs, pumpkin, sugar, oil and mix together. Spread mixture in ungreased 13x9 pan. Bake for 30-40 minutes at 350 degrees. Allow to cool and frost with cream cheese frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting:

3 oz. Cream cheese
1/4 Cup butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 Cups powdered sugar

Blend cream cheese and butter with mixer. Add in vanilla and powdered sugar.

Glazed Root Vegetables

(from Allrecipes.com)

Prep Time: 20 Min

Ready In: 40 Min

Cook Time: 20 Min

Servings: 6

Ingredients:

5 small turnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch dice
5 carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch dice
2 parsnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch
dice
2 sweet potatoes, peeled & cut into 1-inch dice
2 teaspoons white sugar
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Spread the turnips, carrots, parsnips, and sweet potatoes in a single layer into the bottom of a large skillet. Pour enough water over the vegetables to cover, but not completely submerge; add the sugar and balsamic vinegar. Place the skillet over medium-high heat; bring the liquid to a boil. Cook and stir until the liquid is evaporated and the vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes. Season with salt and pepper and serve.

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Bumper Stickers

- If you are feeling good, don't worry. You'll get over it.
- Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean that they AREN'T after you.
- My opinions may have changed, but not the fact that I am right.
- They keep saying the right person will come along; I think a truck hit mine.
- You can't be late until you show up.
- Reality is a nice place, but I wouldn't want to live there.
- I don't know, I don't care, and it doesn't make any difference.
- Optimism: Waiting for a ship to come in when you haven't sent one out.

... from my side of the Road

“Do you hear what I hear ...” ... “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ... “Silent Night, Holy Night - All is calm” ... “You know Dasher, and Dancer - Prancer and Vixen ...” just a few of the many Christmas Carols I love to hear and sing. So we have made it through the year to Christmas and winter - how did you do? Its been a long year for some - and an even longer year for others. I'm drawn to a Christmas memory from years ago - when we live on a farm in the Elmvale area - I remember we had cats ... Kittens really ... that took a shining to the Christmas Tree ... oh no—they didn't play with the ornaments (much) but rather took pride in being the first one to the top of the tree and back down ... across the living room through the kitchen up the back stairs to the second floor across the landing and down the front stairs to the Tree ... and repeat lol. I find that my year was kind of like that - I was moving in the right direction ... leading at times and other times chasing the cat in front of me ... but always trying to focus on the tree and the star that was at the top ... then when I got sidetracked down I came to the bottom and off I went to do it all again. Hoping your year was a bit better than that :).

I was reminiscing about a week ago with a neighbour of my parents' when I was small and was talking of the time we hitched the toboggan to the horses and tore down the road towards the next farm—across the field—down the lane ... man holding on wasn't bad until the horse rider decided it was time to turn around and go back LOL that toboggan could turn on a dime! Usually the toboggan and passengers flew off into the banks of snow with shrieks and laughter and faces so cold you thought you would never stop smiling. I remember skating on a pond by another neighbour's home - playing hockey and figure skating all at once then a good game of 'Crack the Whip'. But the memories I have that are the best - are of family and traditions that just never die ... decorating the tree just so ... going to Christmas Eve Service ... having carol sings throughout the season (even if it is just me and the dogs) ... the cooking of the turkey and the smell that fills the house all day ... the laughter of family and friends as they reminisce about their memories and traditions. 2011 has come to a close and my friends I'm wishing you and yours a Christ filled Christmas - one with family and friends - with love and sharing and a wish for a Happy and Healthy New Year. See you in 2012 ... may it be our best year yet! From my side of the road to yours, God Bless ... Teresa