



After the Bell

in Scarborough

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario
Organisation des enseignantes retraitées de L'Ontario

Newsletter
December 2021

Caring and Sharing

Carol Nelson - President



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

In Austria, St. Nicholas rewards nice little boys and girls while Kampuno is said to capture the naughty children and whisks them in his sack.

The newest tradition in Japan is to order in KFC for their Christmas dinner.

Yule Lads visit the children of Iceland for 13 nights and look for their shoes on the windowsill. Gifts for nice girls and boys are put in the shoes and rotting potatoes are put in the shoes if they have been naughty.

Venezuelans' light firecrackers and ring bells each morning to awaken worshippers. It's not unusual for streets to be filled with worshippers on roller skates making their way to mass.

Christmas is celebrated by many Orthodox Christians, on January 7, as they use the old 'Julian' calendar for their church festivals. .

In New Zealand, where it will be summer, fresh seafood and seasonal vegetables are done on the BBQ.

Family members exchange gifts on Christmas Eve in Brazil.

The residents of Mongolia go to work and school on December 25 but do celebrate the Lunar New Year.

LOOKING FOR NEW RETIREES

Please send names and contact information for any friends and colleagues you know who have retired this summer! We would like to send them information and invitations!

Contact- Linda Jarvis at linjar47@gmail.com

or Brigitte Kolozsvary Bryan at bbryan@look.ca

COMMUNICATION

If your e-mail or phone number changes, please contact:

Connie Cole- Communications Chair 2020-2021
ed.cole@sympatico.ca

CARING & SHARING



Many of our members are carefully beginning to enter the world once again. This can be more difficult for those who live alone. With the fourth wave of Covid 19 still present and a new variant in the picture, it is important to maintain contact with those who are on their own. Take a few minutes to reach out and give someone a call to see how they are doing. Your Caring and Sharing will make someone's day so much better.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

"Effectively immediately all Members must present proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to gain access to RWTO/OERO in-person activities. This proof of vaccination will in place until further notice or an update is given."

At this time and in coming months, depending upon what information comes from Boards of Health--Scarborough is not having any person-to-person meetings. All information that we have sent out is coming through emails. For those who do not have email, all information has been sent by 'snail mail'. The newsletter will continue to keep everyone informed about what happens during this changing time in our world.

Scarborough has no plans to meet again at this time. Members will be told whenever that first luncheon date comes up and we will celebrate!

To let you know that the cheque presentation to Julliette's Place in December was held at their office and all Board of Health protocols were followed.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR KIDS



Brigitte Kolozsvary, Linda Jarvis and Carol Nelson had a very pleasant welcome at the executive office of Julliette's Place, while presenting RWTO's Christmas donation cheque. As you are aware, for the second time due to covid, this fundraiser replaced our collaborating with 42 Division in their Gifts for Kids Drive. The young mothers at Julliette's Place are grateful that we keep them in mind. They will use the money as they feel is best for their children.



Thank you to Linda for all her time and effort in collecting your cheques. Also, thank you to Carol for accompanying us for the cheque presentation. Ladies, thank you for your part in this very kind & cheerful endeavour.

From the Treasurer

I would personally like to thank those 51 members who gave so generously to the donations for Juliette's Place. They raised \$1666.00. Well, done!



DID YOU KNOW?

*The Poinsettia was cultivated by the Aztecs; it symbolizes purity for them.

*Did you know that in the wild or planted in tropical climates, the poinsettia can reach heights of 12 feet with leaves measuring six to eight inches across?

December 12 is National Poinsettia Day (www.poinsettiaaday.com/)

*The reason we associate poinsettias with the holidays comes from **an old Mexican legend**. A young girl named Pepita was sad that she didn't have a gift to leave for the baby Jesus at Christmas Eve services. ... From that day on, they became known as "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

*There are more than 100 varieties of poinsettias available today.

*The Poinsettia is also the national emblem of Madagascar.

*Poinsettias are not poisonous. A study at The Ohio State University showed that a 50-pound child would have to eat more than 500 leaves to have any harmful effect. However, you might want to keep your pets from snacking on poinsettia leaves.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Terry Kennedy (Insurance Agent) 1-519-583-0098
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Dear Santa:

I don't want much for Christmas this year. I just want the person reading this to be happy. Friends are the fruitcake of life – some are nutty, some are sweet but mix them together and they are my friends.

Love ya

How To Make Your House Smell Like

CHRISTMAS

INSTRUPIX.COM

3-5 cinnamon sticks



1 orange (sliced)



1-2 sprigs rosemary



1 cup fresh cranberries



1 tbsp cloves



2 tsp nutmeg



fill a pot with water and simmer!



Yup That Exists

@yup.that.exists

London company replants your Xmas tree each year and returns that same tree the next season. When it hits 7ft it "retires" and gets planted in a forest.



Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra-curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Frank, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Frank (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing!

Frank, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, Frank quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house ... Walked home... And left it there all night. You gotta love Frank!



SUNDRIED TOMATO, CHICKEN AND GNOCCHI



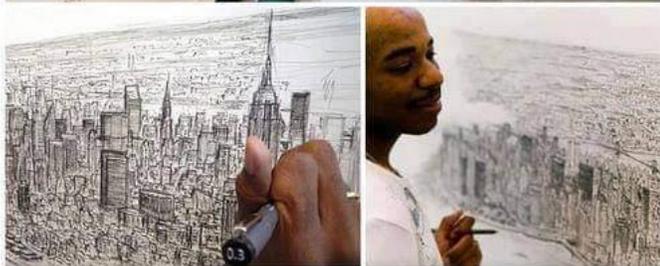
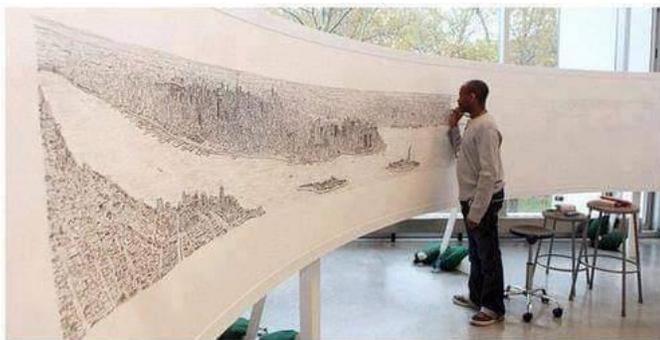
Tender, juicy chicken thighs in an AMAZING garlicky sun-dried tomato cream sauce. So simple, so good.

<https://damndelicious.net/2021/03/26/sun-dried-tomato-chicken-and-gnocchi/>

THREE CHEESE MEATBALL MOSTACCIOLI



<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/three-cheese-meatball-mostaccioli/>



After only a 20 minute helicopter ride over New York City, autistic artist, Stephen Wiltshire was able to draw the New York skyline, in pen, just from memory.

Mostaccioli is a kind of penne pasta which I didn't have so I used meat stuffed tortellini, didn't have extra ground beef so chopped up some of the frozen meatballs, added dried red chili flakes, small pickled hot peppers, some fried chopped bacon and some arugula. Make it your own!

ARDELL'S WHIPPED SHORTBREAD



1 cup soft butter
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup icing sugar
Beat butter with electric beater
Sift in icing sugar and flour.
Beat for at least 10 minutes. (My sister said this can be a messy step, so she mixes it in a bowl in the sink!)

Drop teaspoonfuls on parchment paper or pipe your favourite shape, like a star.
Top with cherry.
Bake at 350 for 8 to 10 minutes.



Helping a Family at Christmas

So, I spent some time at a Food Bank today, and spoke to the people getting food. Here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix, and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a Family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more.

CHRISTMAS MORNING AT OUR HOUSE

On Christmas morning the four of us would quietly go downstairs. We would stand in the kitchen waiting for Mom and Dad to “wake up” so we could go to the tree and see what was there for us. First, we opened our stocking which always had lots of fruit. Then we would see what Santa had brought us. There was always a toy, a book and lots of clothes. Next, we would take turns opening presents so we could see what each person received.



One year Mom had bought Dad a really nice cardigan. It was very bulky and it took both of us to wrap it, having first tied string around it to hold the box together and then wrapping it. After we had finished opening our gifts on Christmas morning, I looked at Mom and asked about the cardigan. I asked Dad what was in his last present – he had opened it so fast and shoved it under the couch. My Dad was a very quiet person but he had a very sly sense of humour. He started to laugh so hard we were all laughing at/with him. He said that the present had intrigued him so much that he couldn't wait until Christmas morning to open it. Of course, he couldn't get it wrapped up again so he folded one of his good shirts and wrapped it instead. Every Christmas after that we would ask Dad if he had opened any gifts!

My Dad, always the prankster, made my Mom search for one of her gifts. As we got older and could read, we also had a scavenger hunt to find one of our gifts. There were clues in a card on the tree. Then we would have maybe five clues before we actually found our gift. I especially remember when we were in grade nine. Our first clue sent us upstairs to our room where the next clue was in the closet. After going to the attic and the basement, our clue said to put on our coats and go outside to the car. In the car there was another clue telling us to look in the

trunk. At that time, we were going to several baseball tournaments each summer. We now had our first piece of luggage, a train case. In grade ten we had to search for our big suitcase.

After we finished opening our gifts, we had a big breakfast. When we were older and married, we got together in the afternoon to celebrate with all the family. When the grandchildren got older Dad started giving them a bond each Christmas. For the first year he got a paper towel box from the grocery store. He filled it with a lot of newspapers and some sticks. It was for my nephew. He opened it and was sure there was nothing in it but papers and sticks, but at the bottom was a bond for each of them. They were all so excited to have their own bond. I always took up a big gingerbread house for the nieces and nephews. After we had supper, we would rest before dessert. We would open our presents. Dad would gather the eight grandchildren around the table with the gingerbread house. It was covered in Reese's pieces and all kinds of candy. He would start taking off the candies one at a time and would say, “One for you and one for Gramps. One for you and one for Gramps” until all the candies were gone off the roof. He would then break it into pieces and each grandchild had a bag of “the house” to take home. Finally, when one of the nephews was older and wiser, he told gramps that he didn't think it was fair the way he gave out the candy, that he got a lot more than they did.

Christmas traditions often get passed down through the generations. For my teenage great nephews – before Covid hit – I always made a scavenger hunt for them. They had several small gifts to find and when they had them all, they came to me to get their big present. Even at their age they loved it

We may not have our loved ones with us, but they will always be in our hearts and in our memories and each year we can remember them by carrying on the traditions we knew as children. Today there are thirty-seven of us (four siblings, children, great grandchildren and one great, great grandson). Too big for a family dinner! But we siblings get together in the summer and in December for dinner, always reminiscing about the great times we had growing up. We missed three dinners because of Covid, but this year we have all had our boosters and we are getting together once more before Christmas. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing the good times, past and present.

LJ



Some Christmas Inspiration





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