

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

December 2025 ISSUE | whatshappeninginhowick@gmail.com *in Howick*



## THE SEASON OF GIVING

The Howick Optimist Club has recently donated \$2,000 to Howick Central Public School. The cheque was presented by Optimist Club President Ben Blackmore to support an update to the school's non-fiction library collection. The funds will help the school refresh and expand its selection of educational resources for students across all grades.

The Optimist Club continues its mission of encouraging and improving opportunities for young people in Howick, and this contribution is part of their commitment to strengthening local education.

The Club also acknowledges the generosity of several local funeral homes, which collected community donations and chose to direct those funds to the Howick Optimists. The Club gratefully accepts this support and ensures it is put to meaningful use, including contributions to programs such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides free books to young children in the community.

### NEW, 49-SPACE LICENCED CHILDCARE FACILITY PROPOSED FOR HOWICK TOWNSHIP

November 25, 2025 – The Township of Howick is pleased to announce its intention to build a child care facility to bring 49 licenced childcare spaces to Howick Township by the end of 2026.

Howick Township has applied to the County of Huron for \$2 million dollars of infrastructure funding under the 2022-2026 Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWECC) system, which is a federal-provincial agreement between the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to make licenced child care more affordable and accessible.

The application proposes the construction of a licenced child care facility to be located adjacent to the Howick Community Centre. Staff are planning for an opening operating capacity of 10 infant spaces, 15 toddler spaces and 24 preschool spaces, with the ability to expand the centre in the future based on community need. A dedicated Before and After School room is also included in the proposed plans to accommodate the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Community Calendar



**"COME SEW WITH US"** is sewing at the Howick Community Centre from 10am- 3pm on Mondays Dec. 1 & 15. \$5. Darlene 519-335-3755.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**, Dec. 6 from 9-11:30am at Howick Community Centre. By donation. See page 9.

**WROXETER HALL ANNUAL BOARD MEETING**, Tues. Dec. 8 at 7pm at the hall.

**PUB NIGHT BINGO** at the Wroxeter Hall, Dec. 11. Doors open at 5pm, games begin at 6:30pm.

**WROXETER APPRECIATION DINNER**, Fri. Dec. 19 at 6pm. See page 6.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL NIGHT** on Sun, Dec. 21 at 6:30pm at Gorrie Bible Fellowship.

**YOUNG JEWELS** - The third Saturday of every month at Gorrie Bible Fellowship from 9:30-11:30 for girls ages 8-13.

**BEADS & BUBBLY BASH**, Dec. 31 at the Howick Community Centre. See page 8 for ticket info.

**BELMORE COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE AND BRUNCH** A New Year's Worship Service and Brunch at the Belmore Community Centre. Jan. 4. 10:30am. Brunch will follow. Brunch Prices: \$15/Adult, \$5/Child (6-11), Children 5 and under eat free. To purchase/reserve your brunch tickets, contact Laurie/Alan Willits 519-335-6422 or Abe/Debbie Versteeg 519-327-8578 or at the Workshop in Wingham 519-357-4503.

**PUBLIC SKATING** at the Howick Arena every Sunday from 9-10am. \$5/person. (Except Dec. 14). See page 5 for sponsored dates.

**Cheryl Mann**  
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## SHIFTING MOODS

The days get darker, the nights longer, the temperature cooler. Mud is everywhere, it's hard to keep on top of cleaning, and everyone is starting to get squirrely from being inside more. It's a perfect storm for a moody mom. It doesn't help that I'm an introvert who appreciates a bit of space and some quiet on a regular basis. So when the kids are within close proximity in an enclosed space for long periods of time, it can rapidly drain my energy.

Stringing up the Christmas lights in November can help combat the darkness, but without snow

the kids aren't keen to play outside quite yet. Sometimes they're willing to go play in the barn – jumping in the straw, helping push up feed with their little shovels, or simply riding their bikes down the feed alleys. I'm grateful for this space where the kids can freely move, instead of having to contain all their energy after long days at school.

Soon enough the snow will fly, and I think I'm ready for it. Instead of sledding down muddy hills of topsoil, they can glide more gracefully down fluffy white slopes and not require a load of laundry when they're done... They look forward to snow forts, snow ball fights, snow angels, and most things winter related. Hopefully I will feed off their energy yet also enjoy the warmth of hot chocolate.

Blessings to you and yours this Christmas season, regardless what your mood is. May we focus on the true meaning of Christmas and not get caught up with the stress of meeting all the seasonal expectations.

*Angie Koerssen*



Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 18.

[whatshappeninginhowick@gmail.com](mailto:whatshappeninginhowick@gmail.com)

519.292.0878

46075 Creamery Rd, Fordwich, N0G1V0



HELLO  
December



*"Here's to love, laughter, and leftovers."*

– UNKNOWN

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Council and Staff at the Township of Howick!

The Township of Howick Council and staff would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

As we wrap up another wonderful year in our community, we want to thank all of you—our residents, volunteers, local businesses, and community groups—for your spirit, support, and dedication to making Howick such a great place to live.

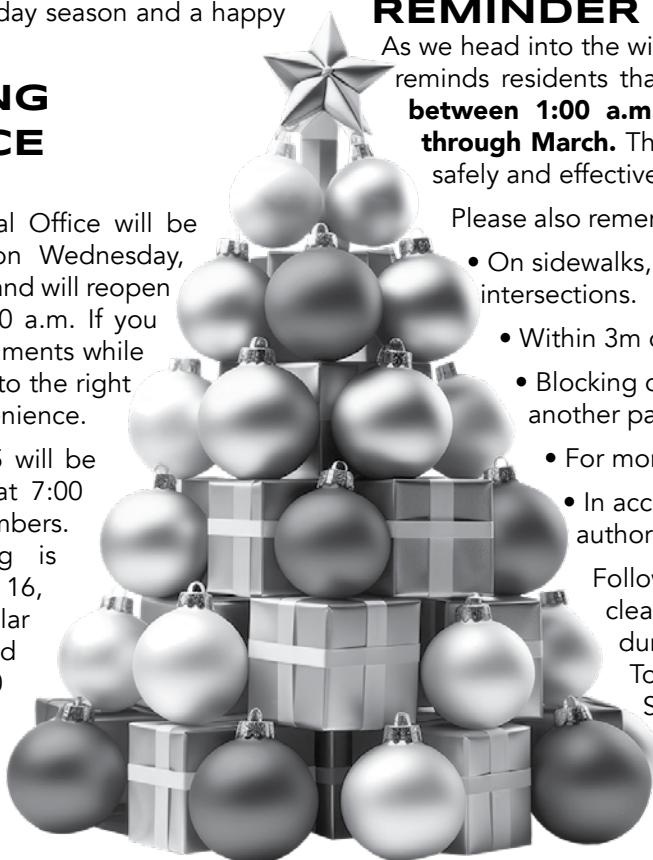
May your holidays be filled with laughter, good company, and plenty of holiday cheer. We look forward to another year of working together and celebrating all that makes Howick special.

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

## COUNCIL MEETING & HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE

The Township of Howick Municipal Office will be closing for the holiday season on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. and will reopen on Friday, January 2, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. If you need to drop off payments or documents while we're closed, a mail slot is located to the right of the front entrance for your convenience.

The final Council meeting of 2025 will be held on Tuesday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Howick Council Chambers. The first 2026 Budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. The first regular Council meeting of 2026 will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.



## HOLIDAY SPONSORED SKATES & SHINNY

The Howick Community Centre will be offering free sponsored skates and shinny over the holiday season from December 22, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

Grab your skates and bring the kids for a free holiday skate or a game of shinny!

For the full schedule and complete list of sponsors, please see page 5.

A big thank you to all the generous sponsors who made both free skating and free holiday shinny possible.

## PUBLIC SKATING

Every Sunday morning from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. \$5 per person. Please note as per the posted tentative schedule, there will be no public skate on December 14th, 2025

## BY-LAW: WINTER PARKING REMINDER

As we head into the winter season, the Township of Howick reminds residents that **street parking is not permitted between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. from November through March.** This restriction ensures snowplows can safely and effectively clear the roads.

Please also remember that vehicles cannot be parked:

- On sidewalks, crosswalks, or within 6m of intersections.
- Within 3m of fire hydrants.
- Blocking driveways, in fire routes, or beside another parked vehicle.
- For more than 24 hours on any roadway.
- In accessible or school bus zones unless authorized.

Following these rules helps keep our roads clear and safe for all residents, especially during winter weather. Per the Howick Township Parking By-law 05-2021, Section 6, vehicles found in violation of the by-law may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense.

DATE & TIME:

MON. DEC. 22	1pm	Bare Necessities
TUES. DEC. 23	1pm	Howick Optimist
WED. DEC. 24	10am	The Gillis Family
SUN. DEC. 28	1pm	Trevor Tout Custom Dozing
MON. DEC. 29	1pm	Bare Necessities
TUES. DEC. 30	1pm	Trevor Tout Custom Dozing
WED. DEC. 31	1pm	Howick Optimist

Generously Sponsored by:

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AT THE  
HOWICK  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRE



The Gillis  
Family

TREVOR TOUT  
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## SPONSORED HOLIDAY PUBLIC SKATING

AT THE

HOWICK COMMUNITY CENTRE

DATE & TIME:

Sponsored by:

MON. DEC. 22	12pm	Bare Necessities
TUES. DEC. 23	12pm	Howick Optimist
WED. DEC. 24	12pm	Trevor Tout Custom Dozing
SUN. DEC. 28	11am	Cross Heating
MON. DEC. 29	12pm	Bare Necessities
TUES. DEC. 30	12pm	Trevor Tout Custom Dozing
WED. DEC. 31	12pm	Howick Optimist



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For up-to-date Township  
information, contact the  
municipal office at  
**519-335-3208** or check out the  
website at [www.howick.ca](http://www.howick.ca)

# HOWICK LIBRARY

## DECEMBER IS HERE

and the Huron County Library has you covered for whatever holiday plans come your way. Need help with meal planning? Check out our extensive collection of cookbooks for new inspiration. Need some downtime with a great holiday movie? We have you covered both online with our Kanopy and Hoopla apps to the DVDs lining our shelves. Whatever holiday you celebrate we have something for everyone. Check out all the programs we have going on at our website <https://www.huroncountylibrary.ca/events/>

## SCAVENGER HUNT

During Library open hours.

## STORYTIME WITH MRS. CLAUS

Alice Munro Branch Saturday Dec. 13 @ 9:30 - 10:30 am  
and Blyth Branch from 11:30 - 12:30 am.  
Join us for an interactive fun Storytime featuring some  
of your favorite Christmas books and songs.  
Please contact the branch to register.

## A NEW YEAR IS COMING

and we would like to hear  
from you! What would you like  
to see happening in your library  
branch? If you have an idea  
that aligns with the Huron  
County Library's vision of  
"Imagine More: a place to  
learn, connect, create, and  
grow," and our values of:  
Respect, Inclusivity,  
Literacy, Collaboration, Curiosity,  
and Fun! We want to hear it!  
Send us your ideas by phone,  
email or leave a note in our  
Suggestion box. We look  
forward to hearing  
everyone's ideas!

## BRANCH CLOSURES

Howick Library branch will be  
closed December 24th, 25th,  
26, 31 and January 1st for  
the holidays. All Huron County  
Library branches will be closed  
December 25th and 26th and  
January 1st for the holidays. If you  
are unsure if a branch is open  
please contact the branch  
before visiting as some branches  
will have different holiday hours.

# Celebrations



*Margaret & James  
McMahon*

celebrated their  
**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

on October 30.

James celebrated his  
**85<sup>th</sup> birthday**

on November 28, 2025.

*Congratulations!*



PHOTOS BY  
LIZ ALLAN



## WROXETER HALL NEWS



## GORRIE HALL BOARD

The Gorrie Hall is open for rentals.

For rentals, call **519-335-3292**

We welcome new members interested  
in joining the Hall Board.

**Come in for a coffee and a visit!** We are open  
**Monday to Friday** from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 am..

The second Pub Bingo Night was held on Thursday,  
November 6th. Another fun and successful evening.

Pub Night was on Friday, November 14th. Ham, scalloped  
potatoes, corn and pumpkin pie were on the menu! Delicious.

On November 16th, a Pool and Euchre tournament  
was held. A great afternoon!

The Santa Claus Parade was great!  
Many floats were in the parade.  
Many families enjoyed treats and time with Santa.

Do you have an event you want to celebrate?  
**Book the hall!** Contact Carol Edgar.

**Tuesday Night is Ladies Night!** Games begin at 7:00 p.m..

Do you enjoy the game of **pool**? Come out on **Wednesday** and  
**Friday** evenings for a game or two at 7:00 p.m..

The hall board is holding it's **Annual General Board Meeting** on  
**Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00pm**. The meeting will  
be held in the Wroxeter Hall and it will start at 7:00pm.  
Everyone is welcome!

**December 11th is Pub Night Bingo.** Doors will be  
open at 5:00pm. Games will begin at 6:30.

The **Annual Wroxeter Appreciation Dinner** will be held on  
**Friday, December 19th**. Ham and Turkey with all of the  
trimmings will be served at 6:00pm. Santa Claus will be  
there after the dinner. Everyone is welcome.

The members of the hall board **thank everyone** for their  
continued support, the volunteers for giving their time to  
help the hall. It's greatly appreciated!

  
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# CHRISTMAS *Gift Guide* PART 2

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24 YEARS

NAME:  
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IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR PET FEATURED,  
CONTACT REESE AT: [reesemacewen7@gmail.com](mailto:reesemacewen7@gmail.com)



## Beads & Bubbly Bash

**WED. DECEMBER 31, 2025**  
Howick Community Centre  
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For tickets, contact  
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# CHRISTMAS CRACK

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 sleeve salted saltine crackers, about 42 crackers
- 1 cup unsalted butter, 2 sticks
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 (12 oz) package dark chocolate chips (can use semi-sweet or milk chocolate)
- heath toffee bits
- white chocolate, melted



## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375 F and line a rimmed cookie sheet with parchment paper. Grease parchment paper with cooking spray.
2. Place crackers side by side on lined pan. Set aside.
3. In a large saucepan, combine butter and brown sugar. Bring to boil over medium/medium-high heat and boil for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour evenly over crackers.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 5 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips on top.
5. Let stand for 5 minutes, then use the back of a spoon to spread melted chocolate chips evenly over the crackers (if the chocolate chips aren't melting, place in warm oven)
6. Top with toffee bits and drizzle with white chocolate.
7. Cool completely in fridge (at least 2 hours) or in freezer (at least 1 hour), then break into pieces. Store in fridge in covered airtight container.

<https://showmetheyummy.com/christmas-crack-recipe/>

**Join Howick Minor Hockey for a festive  
Pancake Breakfast with Santa!**



## Pancake Breakfast with Santa

**December 6, 2025 - 9:00 - 11:30 AM**

Howick Community Centre

*Come out and watch some hockey, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and meet Santa himself! A perfect way to kick off the holiday season!*

**BREAKFAST BY DONATION**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

program Howick Township already offers to Howick Central Public School students. The Before and After School room would also be utilized for Howick's day camp program that runs annually throughout the summer months, during holiday school breaks and on P.A. Days.

After receiving Howick Council's endorsement to proceed with the application for funding, Howick staff are working together with all partners to ensure that plans for the facility meet all licensing requirements, regulatory standards and quality benchmarks so that Howick families can have reliable, inclusive and affordable child care close to home.

"Making licenced child care accessible for Howick Township residents is a top priority," emphasizes Howick Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk Caitlin Gillis. "Anyone with young children knows there is a real childcare crisis right now. Being able to offer 49 childcare spaces to our community is life-changing for many local families. Most families require both parents to be employed in the workforce just to afford the everyday essentials, but what do you do when there is nowhere to send your preschool aged children within your community? It's a big problem that needs to be addressed."

Howick only has one licensed, home-based child care provider currently offering six childcare spaces for the entire community of over 4050 people. Over 7.6% of Howick's population is between the ages of 0-4, greater than the overall Huron County 0-4 population rate of 5.6%.

"We believe that smaller, rural communities like Howick Township that are underserved have a greater need for childcare spaces and we would like to provide that for our residents," said Gillis. "Establishing a licenced child care facility in Howick presents a long-term strategic investment that aligns with the municipality's goals to attract and retain young families by increasing access to affordable, high-quality child care and to support workforce participation, by enabling parents to return to or remain in employment. Access to quality child care is also crucial for local economic growth and small business sustainability. It allows parents of young children to be available for work, reducing employee turnover, boosting productivity and reducing absenteeism."

The proposed new centre is part of the 264 new child care spaces allocated to the County of Huron to be created before the end of 2026 through the CWECC initiative. Preliminary cost estimates for the licenced child care facility are approximately \$5 million, but Howick staff and a volunteer child care committee are working diligently to reduce those costs while maintaining the number of available spaces. Once all plans have been finalized and costing information has been received, Howick will provide an update to the community including fundraising plans for the construction of the facility. The \$2 million-dollar CWECC funding is a huge step towards making the facility a reality for Howick families.



**HOWICK OPTIMIST CLUB  
"Friend of Youth"**

**Thank you all for your continued support over all the years in Howick Township.**

Donations are focused in many ways to help the young people of the community. Contributions go towards various sports leagues, The Howick Optimist Pool, Howick Arena, Local Food Banks and Hospitals & More. We could not do this without the generosity of our volunteers and club members and the community as a whole.

# Maitland Valley camera CLUB

The November 6th meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Brussels Library. Seven members were present. Upcoming events were presented by the President, Blair Smith. On November 20th our meeting was at the Palmerston Outdoor Market. There were opportunities to take photos twinkling lights, holiday fun characters, a fire and Christmas Music to video. It was a great evening to practice outdoor lighting photography. Christmas Dinner will be potluck on Thursday, December 4th. Mark Robinson and Gary Moon will be at our dinner and presentation. We will review our Palmerston photos and they will give us some directions with the photos.

Members will serve hot chocolate and apple cider at the Brussels Library on December 6th at the Santa Claus Parade. A great opportunity for people to find out more about the club and present our photography.

Our group will be taking photos at the Neustadt Springs Brewery. We are currently setting up some potential dates.

Our water photo shoot was very interesting. Blair set up the water drop photography equipment. Clara and Joan provided the glassware, and materials needed for the other tables for the water set up. It was a fun and challenging evening.

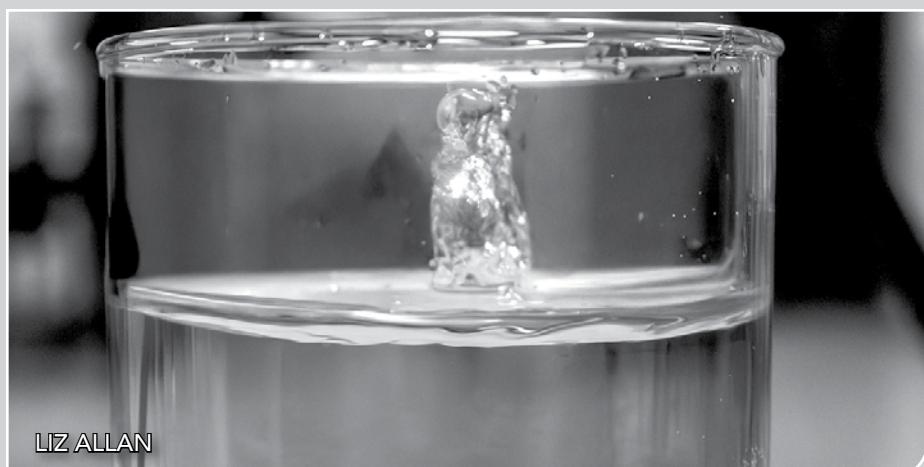
The Maitland Valley Camera Club currently meets the first Thursday of each of the following months, December to March at 7:00 p.m., April to November the first and third Thursday of the month. Want to know more about photography? Come out and join us. There are presentations, photo shoots, guest speakers and photo challenges!



JOAN PERRIE



CLARA BLAKE



LIZ ALLAN

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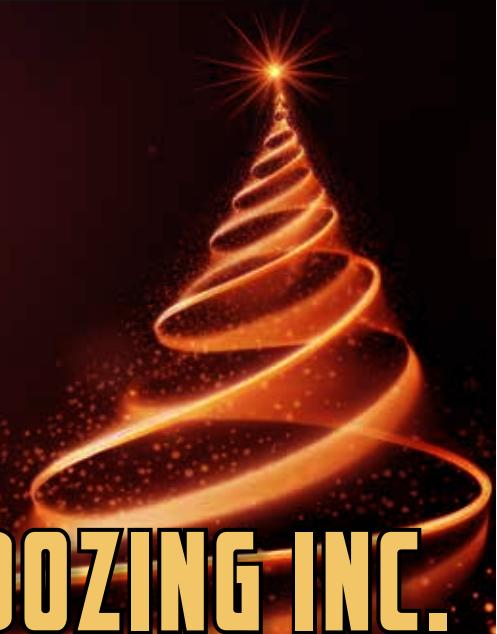
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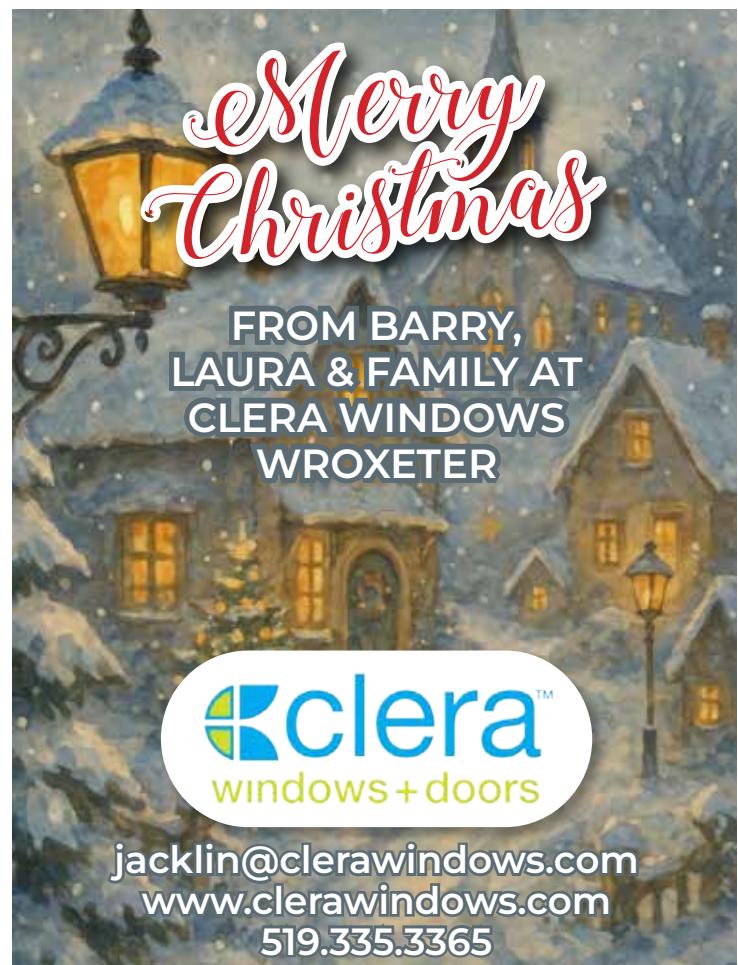
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[Beyondthelensmh@hotmail.com](mailto:Beyondthelensmh@hotmail.com)

# Merry Christmas

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BLESSED CHRISTMAS AS WE CELEBRATE  
THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.



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Merry  
Christmas



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- 4 car \$799/season
- 6 car \$899/season

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**226.622.2078**

# SNOW REMOVAL

# Obituaries

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



**STONE, Erwin "Butch"** Peacefully and surrounded by his family at Rotary Hospice, Stratford on Saturday, November 1st, 2025, Erwin "Butch" Stone of Wroxeter passed away at the age of 79. Devoted husband of Alice (Parson) Stone. Proud dad of Angela Schmidt and Amy Stone & Ian Hakkers. Loving grandpa of Josh Sanburn, Josie & Michael Hamilton, Amber Schmidt,

Brandon Stone & Katie Curtis, Brody Stone and Hannah Stone & Davin Pehlke and special great-grandpa of Jasmine, Harlen, Wyatt, Kayden, Benjamin, Maverick and Rayar. Dear brother of Janet Bithell, Linda Holmes, Earl, John, Peter and Michael Stone and brother-in-law of Elsie Gauthier, Dorothy Parson, Ruth Gautreau, and Kenneth Parson. Predeceased by his parents Irvin & Flindie (Davis) Stone, brother Jackie Stone, sisters Betty Stone, Joan Holmes and Jane Charby and great-grandson Edgar Hamilton. Erwin's family is deeply grateful for the compassionate care, support and guidance they received from home care staff and the many hospitals that helped along the way. Erwin loved his family with all his heart and that love was felt every single day in the way he cared, supported and stood by them. Visitation was held at McBurney Funeral Home, Wingham on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 from 2:00-4:00 & 6:00-8:00 p.m. Funeral service was held in the funeral home chapel on Wednesday, November 5th, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Interment will take place at Wingham Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to Rotary Hospice, Stratford or OneCare Home Support would be appreciated.



**WILLIAMS, James Frederic** of Fordwich passed away at St. Joseph's Health Centre, Guelph, on Sunday, August 31, 2025, in his 80th year. Husband of Annie (Stubbe) Williams. They would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 3rd. Father of Lee & Sharon (Hartung) Williams of New Liskeard, Paul & Anne (Peckover) Williams of Markdale, and Melanie &

Cameron Hill of Kenilworth. Grandfather of Matthew Williams & Leslie Bowman, Nathan & Claire (Coenen) Williams, Sarah & Branden Wilkinson, Jenna & Jesus Bondo, Ben Williams, Jonathan Hill, Eliana Hill, Mikayla Hill, and Steven Hill, and great-grandfather of Wrenley Wilkinson. Brother of Gerald & Pat Williams of Paris, and Keith & Gladys Williams of Brighton. Predeceased by his parents Frederick & Evelyn (Givens) Williams, brother Don Williams, and sisters-in-law Joan Williams and Pat Williams. Jim farmed his entire life on various properties between Oxford and Perth counties, ending up at the farm on the sixth of Wallace. He enjoyed milking cows, raising beef cattle and working the fields. He also took great enjoyment in cutting firewood, and spending time in the bush. On the side he enjoyed working at the Wallace landfill and driving for Stop 23. After moving off the farm, he and Annie retired to Fordwich. Jim's relationship with the Lord was an integral part of his life. His faith is a legacy that he has left behind as an example for his family to follow. While the last few years became challenging due to his Alzheimer's, we are forever grateful for the time and care he received at St Joseph's Health Centre in Guelph. Special thanks to Drs. Sid and Graham, nurses Thimo, Chandra and Chayse and the rest of the team at Whispering Oaks Palliative care unit for their compassion and kindness. Visitation was held at the Eaton Funeral Home, Listowel on Wednesday from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The funeral service was held at Listowel Baptist Church on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Mike Hutchinson officiating. Interment in Maple Grove Cemetery, Howick Township. Memorial donations to St. Joseph's Health Centre Foundation or Gideon's International (Shareword Global) would be appreciated. Online condolences may be left at [www.eatonfuneralhome.ca](http://www.eatonfuneralhome.ca)



**DONEGAN, Nancy Margaret (Helmka)** of Listowel passed away suddenly at Listowel Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, in her 63rd year. Mother of Cullen Donegan & Emma Cousins of Listowel, and Samantha Donegan & Derek Tout of Wroxeter. Sister of Denise & Ken Purvis of Ethel, and aunt of Nick and Ainsley. Loved and remembered by her many

aunts, uncles, and cousins, and by her dear friend Margaret Donegan. Missed also by her cat Blaze. Predeceased by her parents Donald & Dorothy (Dietrich) Helmka. Celebration of Life was at the Listowel Kin Station, 555 Binning St. W., Listowel, on Saturday, November 29, 2025 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. A brief service was held at 2:30 p.m. Memorial donations to Listowel Memorial Hospital or to a charity of your choice would be appreciated, and may be made through the Eaton Funeral Home, Listowel. Online condolences may be left at [www.eatonfuneralhome.ca](http://www.eatonfuneralhome.ca)

*Thank You - Williams*

Thank you to all the neighbours on Brookhaven Dr in Fordwich for their donation to St. Joseph's Care Centre in memory of Jim.

- ANNIE WILLIAMS

# Obituaries

In life we loved you dearly,  
In death we love you still,  
In our hearts you hold a place  
That no one could ever fill.

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN



**MCARTHUR, Donald William**, formerly of Fordwich, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025, in his 96th year. Beloved husband of the late Ruth (Mahnke McComb) McArthur. Stepfather of Louise Douglas of Guelph, Janice & Bob Howitt of Fordwich, and Marie & Richard Dodd of Wasaga Beach. He will be remembered by his grandchildren Dawn Douglas, Christine

& Keith Kitchener, Lisa Sage, Jessica Dodd & Chad Lehman, Jennifer & Mike Pryzman, and Kevin Meyer, by his great-grandchildren Riley, Reese, Tyson, Brooklin, Matthew, Melissa, Cole, and Kayla, and by his nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his granddaughters Darlene Douglas and Angela Meyer, brothers Keith McArthur and Albert McArthur, and by his sister Wilda Best and husband Ken. Don was born in Brampton on October 22, 1930 and grew up on the family farm. In the early 70's he met Ruth on a blind date and they were married on September 1, 1972. While Don had no formal training in the trades, he could work at any of them – mechanics, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, HVAC, etc. When Don & Ruth moved to Waterloo, they started Don's Trailer Service and ran a successful business for 18 years. They enjoyed several trips through work, camping with the Wandering Canadians, and finally enjoyed a permanent trailer site at Maple Leaf Acres near Fergus. In their 80's, Don and Ruth, with their cat, Lucky, took their camper to Alberta, the Grand Canyon, and back home. Don and Ruth retired to Fordwich in 1999, and enjoyed many years of large remodeling projects, designing, landscaping, and even taking time to 'camp at the river'. During the winter, Don found a new hobby. Woodworking. As many as 200 toys a year were donated to various charities at Christmastime. As his health declined, Don moved to Caressant Care, Listowel, and life was not the same. He greatly missed sitting at the scroll saw among so many other things. Don never wanted to be dependent, and now he is free – sitting somewhere at his scroll saw, making toys and enjoying the love and company of Ruth and the other friends and relatives that have gone on before. A family funeral service was held at the Hardy-Lee Funeral Home, Harriston on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 with Gail Clarkson officiating. Interment in Fordwich Cemetery. Memorial donations to Caressant Care Listowel Residents' Council, or to a charity of your choice would be appreciated.



**ROWLEY, Stewart Clifford** of Fordwich passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, in his 90th year. Husband of the late Joan (Watson) Rowley. Father of Roger & Mary Lou Rowley of Clifford, Glen & Donna Rowley of Belmore, and Richard & Cheryl Rowley of Fordwich. Grandfather of Whitney & Pat Terwoord of Palmerston, Mitch & Alicia Rowley

of Fordwich, Stephanie Rowley of Toronto, Mark Rowley of Walkerton, and Jenna Rowley of Fordwich, and great-grandfather of Russel, Leo, Chase, and Colton. Predeceased by his sisters Marie Stonehouse and Joan Latour, and his dear friend Bernice Noble. A private family service will be held, with interment in Fordwich Cemetery. Memorial donations to Listowel Memorial Hospital Foundation would be appreciated, and may be made through the Eaton Funeral Home, Listowel. Online condolences may be left at [www.eatonfuneralhome.ca](http://www.eatonfuneralhome.ca)



**COUTO, Antonio Toste** of Listowel passed away peacefully surrounded by family at Fordwich Village Nursing Home on Friday, November 21, 2025, in his 85th year. Beloved husband of the late Maria (Leal) Couto who predeceased him on August 15, 2025. Devoted and loved father of Tony & Tracy Couto, and Lino & Angela Couto, all of Gorrie. Proud and cherished grandfather to Samantha, Hope, Christina, Jesse, Jeff, and Eddie, and a loving great-grandfather to Amelia, James, Izaiah, and Ellie. He will be lovingly remembered by his brothers and sisters Maria Dutra, Rita Toste, Joao & Lasalete Couto, Jose & Lucia Couto, Luis & Conceicao Couto, and Lucia & Francisco Drumond, as well as his sister-in-law Ana Couto. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews who will hold his memory in their hearts. Predeceased by his parents Francisco Luis Do Couto & Rita Candida Toste, brother Francisco Couto, parents-in-law Emanuel & Amelia Leal, and brothers-in-law Manuel Leal, Jose & Maria Leal, Jose Dutra, and Jose Toste. The family of Antonio would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Fordwich Village Nursing Home and the staff for their exceptional support and care they provided for their father. Visitation was held at the Eaton Funeral Home, Listowel on Tuesday, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with parish prayers at 5:45 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Listowel on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation one hour prior. Interment in Fairview Cemetery, Listowel followed by a reception in the church hall. Memorial donations to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences may be left at [www.eatonfuneralhome.ca](http://www.eatonfuneralhome.ca)

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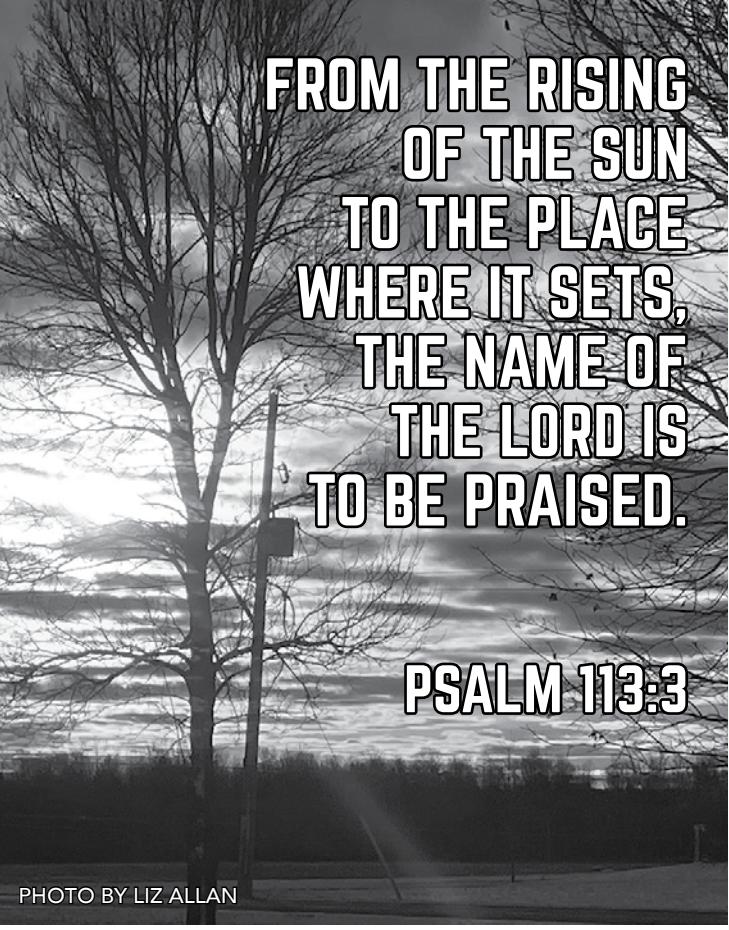
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Worship will take place at  
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For further information:

Dave - 519.392.6710 or Deanne - 519.418.9748



**FROM THE RISING  
OF THE SUN  
TO THE PLACE  
WHERE IT SETS,  
THE NAME OF  
THE LORD IS  
TO BE PRAISED.**

**PSALM 113:3**

PHOTO BY LIZ ALLAN

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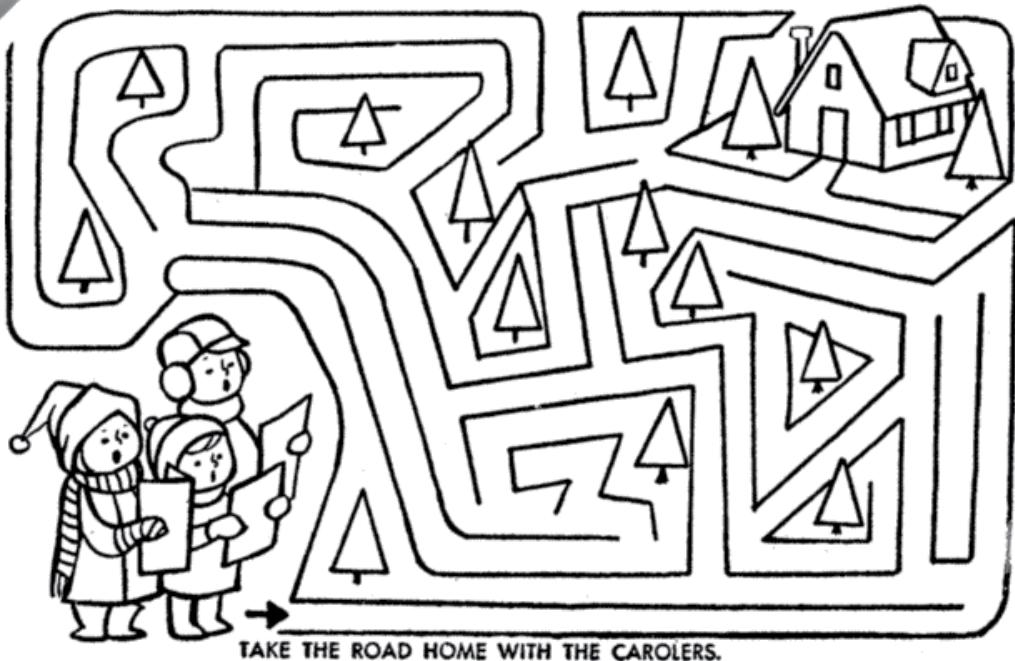


C D D E E G G N O G W K B L D  
J E L O P H T R O N F A M N S  
B F G T I S N O W B A L L M T  
Q L N E W L E S N I T D S S H  
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I Y J Q U F Z E K D A T M J E  
W C L D R E E D N I E R J S D  
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CHIMNEY	LIGHTS	SANTA
COOKIE	MISTLETOE	SNOWBALL
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ELF	PRESENT	TREE
FROSTY	REINDEER	

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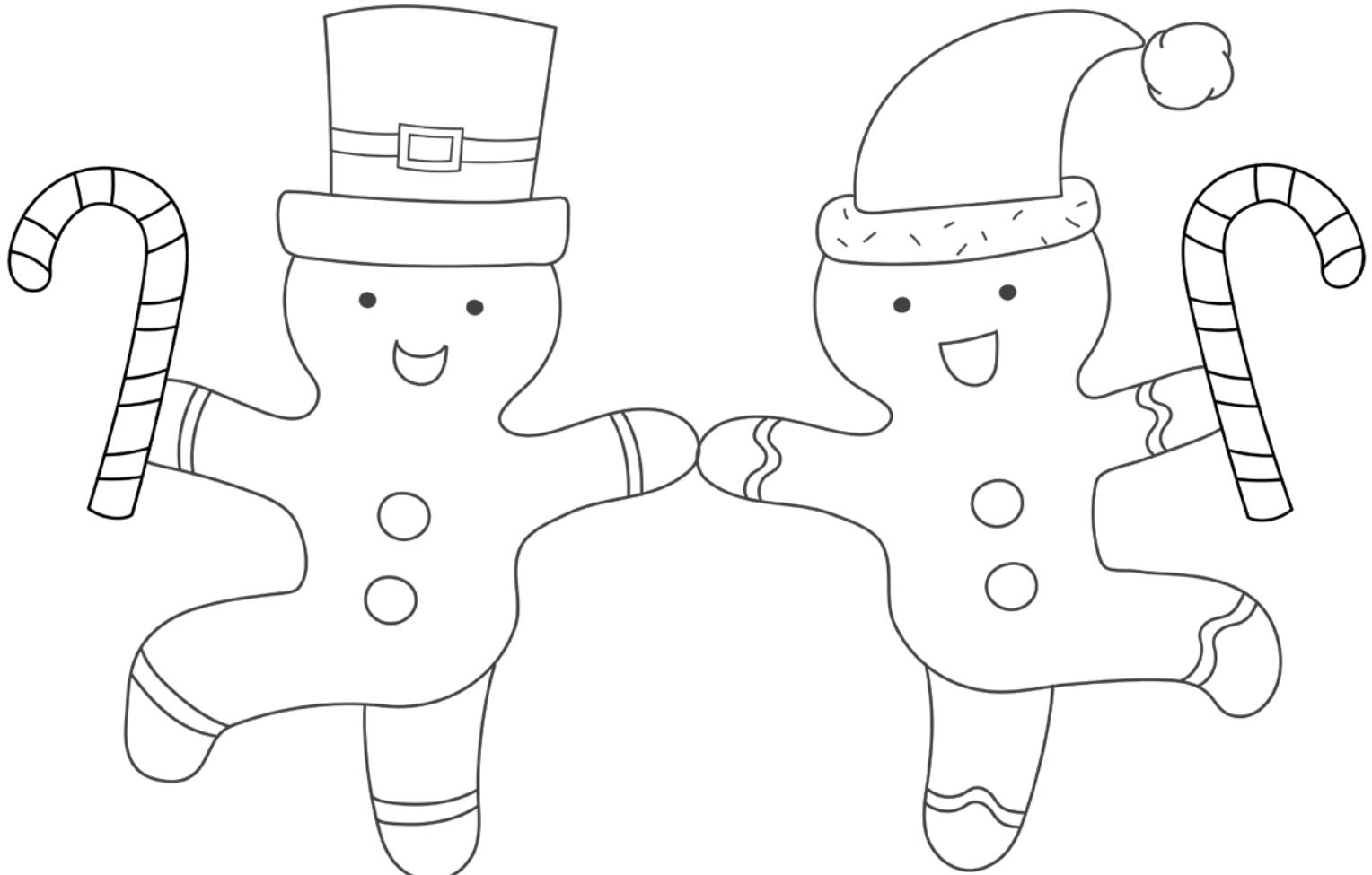
# CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLE

DYCNA -----  
ORCAL -----  
EETR -----  
EECRH -----  
FTAES -----  
YJOLL -----  
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**POP CANS:** will be picked up the first Saturday of each month. You may leave your pop cans in clear plastic bags at the end of your laneway. Monies from the pop cans will go to the Resident's Council of the Fordwich Nursing Home. We thank you for your donation.

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Roots  
& Shoots

HOWICK  
BLOOMERS

NOVEMBER  
UPDATE



Decorating for the Christmas season often involves decorating a Christmas tree. The pictures in this column were taken in the Caribbean or on board ship. The exception is the one decorated by Mother Nature in a Gorrie garden

Howick Bloomers will not meet in January. The next meeting will be in February. The date will be in the January Roots and Shoots column.

This year the Bloomers have taken on the challenge of decorating the gardens at the Community Centre for the Christmas season. Check it out in December.



