



The Watrous Manitou

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From the Editor's desk

What started out like a long arduous journey up an unscalable mountain has ended at the summit. We have reached month 12 of 12 in 2022, a month that at times I thought may never arrive. Now it almost feels like the past few have just flown by.

I don't know about you but over these past few years it has felt like we may never reach the summit or the top of a mountain. Plodding away through the jungles of life, dipping down into one valley after another, the journey that contained obstacle after obstacle felt like it would never reach its conclusion. While it still has not, I think perhaps for many of us, we can now finally see some light at the end of the tunnel.

As was the case when I wrote in this space in 2021, so too is it for 2022: we have arrived at our final edition of the year, a blessing in itself. In our industry, like others, nothing is guaranteed. As newspapers, television and radio stations are forced to shut their doors, there are still those, like us, who continue to try and push ahead. One story at a time. One ad at a time. One reader at a time. And one paper at a time. I will be honest, it has not been easy, especially during these past few years.

As I thought about what to type this year, the word 'love' stuck out. In 2021, a key theme that popped out in my life was 'hope' and it was something I really focused on as I tried to figure out what was up and what was down during the pandemic. There was so much for us to process and I believe we still have so much to think about as we try and move through and toward what a new normal will be like.

But as we try and get a handle on a new normal (what is normal anyway?!), I think one thing that this past year has really shown me is to just love. The pandemic has created such hatred and division amongst so many. No matter what you believe, whether right or wrong, the world has become a place of hate and anger. What used to be such friendly and giving has turned into entitlement and jealousy. Helping others has become helping ourselves. Smiling and waving has become frowning and yelling. Kindness and compassion has transformed into bashing and slander. It is no wonder why there is so much negativity today. The anxiety of the past few years has snowballed into a world of unknowns. It breaks my heart to see and hear so much hate and anger. It hurts me to see such divide.

Thankfully this is not the case everywhere. My heart has been warmed by people who spread kindness and cheer. People who go out of their way to open a door for someone, offer to shovel their walk, pay for a meal, volunteer their time to help others in a meaningful way or even do a kind gesture without anyone ever knowing. Amidst the darkness in the world, there is light.

In my own personal journey, especially over these past few years, that has been very evident. I am so thankful for those who have walked alongside me with encouragement, have been there for me through the ups and downs and who support and continue to support me. Running a pair of newspapers, raising three kids (and now a puppy) and keeping up with our kids' activities is not easy but having such a wonderful wife, caring family, terrific staff and friends has made it work.

I know that this year has been tough for many people on many levels. There are perhaps days or weeks or even months where it seems bleak. I understand. Sometimes it might even be the smallest sliver of light that keeps you going. Please know that through the valleys there is a hope that we can put our faith in. I know that it can be or look different for everyone, but in my own personal journey, I find that hope and love in Jesus.

As we approach Christmas and have the opportunity to spend time celebrating His birth, it can also be a time to be thankful and blessed. The road is not always easy but there are mountains that we can conquer. Mountains that we can stand firm on and that we can eagerly look forward to reaching. It may take time to get there and you might feel as though you may never get there but if you can keep putting one foot in front of the other, it will come. While I don't read as often as I would like I came across a wonderful book called *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy. It is a very unique book and one of kindness, love and hope. I like picture books, always have, and that is one with deep meaning. The book allows you to picture yourself as one of those characters on their journey (and it involves cake!). I encourage you to check it out. I hope that it will encourage you like it did with me. Why am I writing all of this? It is my hope that if you are struggling or if you are feeling overwhelmed or anxious that you will know that you are not alone. The reality is we



- photo credit: Tanya Jansen

have all been through a lot, an awful lot. Whether you feel 100 percent or 50 percent or maybe even 10 percent great, know that there are others right there with you. I don't write often when it comes to editorials and so I want to take this opportunity to share my heart because I care about people and I care about our readers. Whether we have met or not, I care. And I sincerely try and care in the stories I write. You may not agree with everything I write or even decide not to write but I take the utmost care in what I do. If I have failed in that, I am sorry. I have always wanted to use our paper to tell the facts and allow our readers to formulate their own opinions about a story and I hope that has been conveyed.

As for this particular paper, each year we invest lots of time and effort into it with hopes that it will bring a smile to your face. A very special shout out to our staff who continue to go above and beyond every year to help make this Christmas edition and all of our editions possible! We are so very grateful for you and thank you for your willingness to be a part of our team!

We also want to thank our advertisers and our customers for their support. We are so grateful. We also thank our readers, you, for the support through renewing, subscribing and reading our paper. This year, like the previous few, has certainly seen more than its fair share of uncertainty but the faith our advertisers and subscribers have put in us has been a blessing to us and we thank you for that.

We also extend our sincerest gratitude to our local correspondents who provide us with news throughout the year and to Laura Novacosky for her delicious recipes. To those who have sent in items, whether stories, photos, or reports, your continued willingness to share happenings within your communities is sincerely appreciated. Thank you!

Thank you as well to our friends at our local post offices who sort and deliver our papers each week. While I know it is your job to do so, you go above and beyond for us and we sincerely appreciate it! I also want to thank my cousin for helping me with papers, you are so appreciated and we are grateful for your help! Thank you to others who have delivered our newspapers, like our parents, who graciously lent a hand.

I also want to give a shout out to the teachers and students at Watrous Elementary School who contributed to this year's edition. I always get excited to see what will come in. I also appreciate Manitou Lodge and Interlake for their willingness to help us out with a special feature this year. And to the many others who contributed. Thank you!

And none of this would be made possible without the generous support from local and surrounding area organizations and businesses for their willingness to include holiday greetings. Having that support throughout the year is vital for us to continue to operate and it is because of that support we can keep publishing a paper.

As we near Christmas and soon another year, Kim and I are thankful for the birth of Christ, for our kids, our families, our staff, advertisers, subscribers, our friends, and anyone who has played a part in our lives. I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, happy holidays and richest blessings in 2023!

-Daniel Bushman

WES Holiday Fun

December 21, 2022

Dear Santa,
There has been a terrible mistake! Some of the storm troopers informed me that I'm on the naughty list! May I introduce myself. I am the one and only Darth Vader. You may know me from the republican empire also the two movies, Episode IV and The Last Jedi. Santa, I believe I should be on the nice list because I didn't know how to use a lightsaber, I'm a very kind person and I'm a loving father. Santa, before you keep me on the naughty list please read this letter first.

To start, I didn't know how to use that red lightsaber. Someone gave it to me as a gift and did not come with an instruction manual. In other words I didn't know how to use it. It was like it had a mind of its own. That's why it injured everyone.

Another reason is that I'm a very kind person. In fact, I give everybody modern living quarters. Also I give them compliments about them. In particular I give them lots of

food.

Most importantly I'm a loving father. In fact, Luke Skywalker is my son. When I battled him it was just a play fight. In particular I want someone to spend Christmas with, especially my son Luke.

Santa, as you can see I've done and do so many good things like that lightsaber accident, I'm a very kind person and I'm a loving father. So Santa, talk to some of the elves and please get me on the nice list. Thank you!

Love,
Darth Vader
(**Oliver Haines**)
Gr. 4/5T, WES

December 19, 2022

Dear Santa,
There has been a terrible mistake putting me, Thanos, on the naughty list. I believe I should be on the nice list for these three reasons. I really wasn't snapping my fingers on purpose, I didn't know the gems had powers of evil, and

my condition makes me feel uncomfortable and left out. Before you make your final decision please let me further explain my three reasons.

First of all, I wasn't snapping my fingers on purpose. In fact, I am just that guy who snaps to music. Also snapping helps me relieve anger because I get angry easily. In other words, I'm like a ticking time bomb. Snapping just really helps me with anger. Additionally, it's just a habit of snapping while thinking. You know how some people have weird habits? That's one of mine.

Second of all, I didn't know the gems had powers of evil. For example, when I put the gems in the glove I didn't realize if I snapped my fingers someone would disappear to who knows where. Also, I like pretending to be a superhero with powerful stones to defeat bad guys. I also like cool colours and shapes. Collecting stones makes me feel happy and at home.

One last reason is, I have a rare skin condition that makes me purple and bald. It also makes me depressed and uncomfortable. I get made fun of for looking weird. In fact, I am commonly left out because I look different from the others. No one wants to spend time with me. Also, I am way too lonely and no one loves me which is why I live on this freezing cold planet.

All in all, I believe I should be on the nice list because I don't snap my fingers on purpose and I really like collecting gems. Also my very terrible condition makes me feel gloomy and different from the others. Being on the nice list this Christmas would just make me so happy.

Sincerely Thanos
(**Hunter Dunne**)
Gr. 4/5T, WES



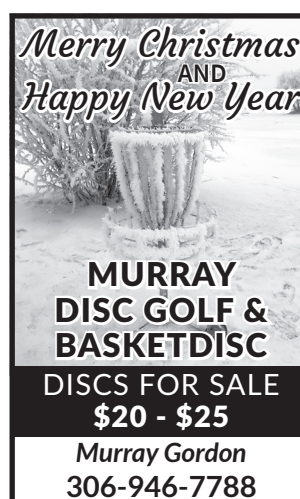
Merry Christmas!
As another year comes to a close,
we'd like to share our best
wishes with all of you.
Thanks for being such great
neighbours and friends.
R.M. of Wreford #280



Happy Holidays
from **LOCKWOOD SOURDOUGH**
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT IN 2022
LOOKING FORWARD TO
GROWING WITH THE
COMMUNITY IN 2023
WWW.LOCKWOODSOURDOUGH.CA



WE WISH YOU
**HAPPY
Holidays
& MERRY
Christmas**
FROM THE
**RESORT VILLAGE
OF MANITOU BEACH**
MAYOR Poppy Petersen
ADMINISTRATION: Elise Dale, David McVicar, Linda Hilts
MAINTENANCE STAFF: Wayne Vielhauer, Dean Kupchenko, Matt Somers, Tracy Street
COUNCILLORS: Bill Mattick, Robb LaRochelle, Vince Armstrong



**Merry Christmas
AND
Happy New Year**
**MURRAY
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BASKETDISC**
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306-946-7788

(see page three: WES)



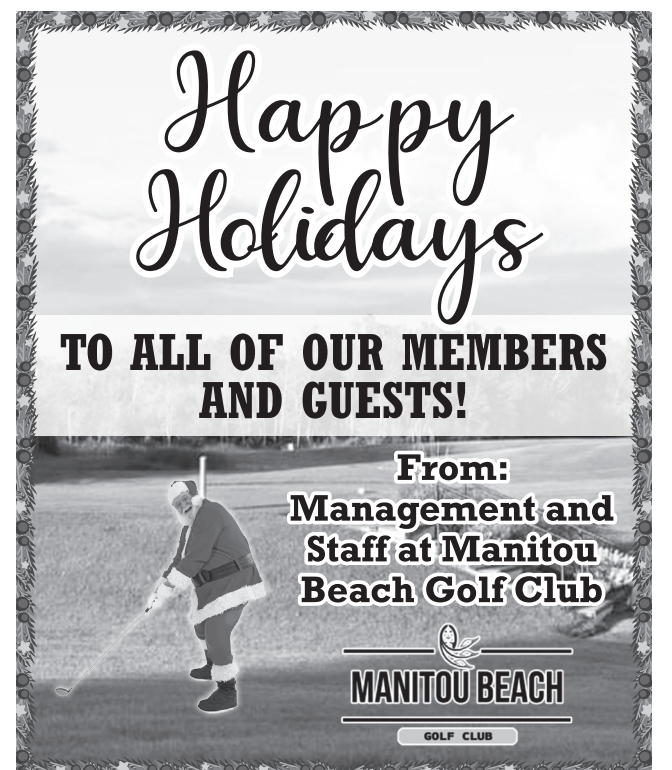
GUESS WHO
Is Wishing You A Happy New Year...
WE ARE!
We're not shy about telling you how much we
appreciate and value your friendship and support.
It's been fun
serving you,
and we
look forward
to seeing you
again next year!
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are Better
TOGETHER**
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Happy holidays from our
family to yours



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you every happiness this holiday
season and throughout
the coming year.
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Happy Holidays
**TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS
AND GUESTS!**
From:
**Management and
Staff at Manitou
Beach Golf Club**
MANITOU BEACH
GOLF CLUB

WES Holiday Fun

Dear Santa,

Imagine waking up and getting everything you want for Christmas!

I'm writing about what I want for Christmas so you know what I want for Christmas this year.

I am so excited for Christmas this year! Something that I really want for Christmas is a puppy or any type of animal. I also really need new hockey gloves, mine are tiny! Gordon Korman is my favorite writer so I really want some Gordon Korman books. I also want some new hoodies this year because mine are getting too small.

In conclusion, that is a couple of things I want for Christmas this year: Also how do you fly to everyone's house in one night? It's amazing! I wish I could do that.

Sincerely,
Raya Lockie
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Are you busy? If you aren't, I have a short list of stuff that would be nice to have. Oh, and by the way this is Jaxon.

I REALLY want a hoop for my 5 fish. I REALLY need a screen protector for my tablet. I really want some sunglasses. And since one of my books are ripped I could really use a new one. Title - The Rule of Three

I hope you try your best.

Are you busy? If you're not, I would love it if you could at least get me a hoop for my 5 fish. They seem kind of bored swimming around one small fish tank. I would be happy if you could make it happen.

Sincerely,
Jaxon Brown

Dear Santa,

How was your summer? My name is Colton. I'm writing this letter to ask for some presents. What do your reindeer do in the summer and spring?

For Christmas I want a new hockey stick. Preferably the Bauer agent. I need new elbow pads because the straps keep coming off of mine. I want to read the Pax book 2 even though we read the first one in Grade 4. It was a good book so I want to read the 2 one. I want to wear a new Watrous Hawk hat (with the new logo please). Thank you for considering the presents that I listed and also thank you for reading my letter. I just have a few questions for you. Like, what do you do during the summer and spring? And when were you and Mrs. Claus married, or if you guys are married? That is it for my letter Merry Christmas! And again, thank you!

Sincerely,
Colton Oakes
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine waking up on Christmas morning tip-toeing on the cold hard floor to see what's underneath the Christmas tree. Well I wonder how you do it? How do you travel the world in one night? My name is Brantley. I'm writing to ask questions and give you some ideas for gifts this year.

I am not sure what I would like this Christmas but I'll try to give you a few ideas. Maybe NHL 23 or a hockey stick. I need some new socks or hockey tape. I would like to read war stories by Gordan

Korman. For something to wear maybe a hat I tend to lose them a lot. These are some things I would like for Christmas.

Do you make a new sleigh every couple years? How long do you sleep before and after Christmas night? Just reminding you with a few ideas for Christmas NHL 23 or maybe a new hockey stick I need new socks or hockey tape and maybe a new hat. I hope you consider getting me some of these things for Christmas. Hopefully you have an awesome Christmas with no problems and get to everyone's home. Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Brantley Savage
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

This is Bentley. I have a question for you. How do you keep track of everyone's lists? I am writing about questions and my list. The purpose of this letter is to tell my list, questions, and my name.

So something I want this Christmas is a cute robot that I can take everywhere or at least just a robot. Another thing I want is a stand for my phone. Something I need is

more stuff gerbils and my cat because my gerbils ate messy and my cat loves her ball and she keeps losing so maybe we can have extra balls to play with as well. Also my gerbils are messy with their bedding and eating it plus they eat anything not edible like plastic which I know is bad for them and they also eat cardboard. Can I also please have the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Fourth Stall? Geronimo Stilton, I Survived, And maybe even some screech owls books. Something I want to wear is some more hats, Socks, Fingerless gloves, and a hoodie.

I have more questions too. The first one is do you practice every night to keep track of everyone's names? Do you know every possible name in the world? Is it stressful to keep track of the status, Lists, Elves, Kids names, Presents, and even know which presents belong to who? I hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Bentley Brown
Gr. 5E, WES

(see page four: WES)

A Wish For You at Christmas

May the coming season bring
Peace and joy and all good things;
And when the holiday is through,
May its message of hope remain
with you!
Merry Christmas
and many thanks
for your business
this year.

ADMORE CO-OP

Management, Staff
& Board of Directors
306-257-3213

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

People may come and go, but memories of the good times shared make the trip worthwhile.

To all those who've come through here, we offer our thanks and warm wishes for the most memorable Christmas, ever!

Manitou Springs

Resort & Mineral Spa

and the Management and Staff at:

Water's Edge

RESTAURANT

★ *Serenity Massage/Esthetics*

★ Gift Shop

★ Water Crest Cafe

From all of us to all of you, we extend our heartfelt thanks and sincere best wishes for a sparkling season!

(from page three: WES)

Dear Santa

My name is Malek I have a question for you how do you go around the city or a town in one Night? How do you go to peoples houses and I want to know do you go buy presents or do you make them? What do you do after Christmas?

I really want a cat. I really need a Ronaldo jersey. I really want to read dog man book. I want mitts.

Santa it is cool to talk to you. I wish you will have a lovely year. Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Malek Khouch
Gr. 5E, WES

Santa Letter

Imagine, plugging in the plug-in to the Christmas tree lights, and watching them flicker on. I am Miley Bushman, you probably know me though, because, duh, your Santa Clause. But I am from Watrous SK (also probably know that, and everything that I'll tell you about me, because you can practically read my mind), I am 10 years old and I go to the Watrous Elementary School in the class 5E with the best teacher Miss Engele. In this letter I am going to tell you what I'd like for Christmas AND I have a question for you. So pay attention, I have a lot to tell.

Santa, something I really really want for Christmas is blue light glasses for my eyes, (oops accidentally broke my other ones)! I know it's a struggle but I hope you understand. But Santa, I have something I NEED for Christmas. It is a heated blanket. Make sure it's rechargeable though, because then I can take it places. I need it because when I get cold at the rink it's on my lap! Then, I can't be cold anymore. I also have a book in mind, it's a graphic novel called Allergic. I would really like this book because it is a heartfelt story that I love to read. For Christmas something I'd like to get to wear is a bucket hat, with a butterfly or daisy on it. I also would like a crop-top.

Santa, I really want blue light glasses with a clear rim, a bucket hat, crop tops, the book Allergic, and I need a heated blanket. But before I mail this to you, I have a question. What if people mail you letters and it is written in a different language? Do you just know all languages? Also what if the house doesn't have a chimney? Like my house, what would you do? Anyway, I am going to go to bed now so you

The Best of the Holiday Season to You

Merry Christmas to everyone who celebrates this holiday, and Happy New Year to all.

Thank you for all your support. May the year ahead be happy and successful.

From all of us at

RITEWAY

Merry Christmas

Our wish for you:

Peace of mind,
prosperity through the year,
happiness that multiplies,
health for you and yours,
fun around every corner,
energy to chase your dreams
and joy to fill your holidays.

TOWN OF IMPERIAL

Mayor: Edward Abrey
Council: Debbie VanDamme, Patricia Joa, Ryan Kelly, Susan Parish, Leslie Sainsbury and Randy Shaw
Administrator: Joslin Freeman
Asst. Administrator: Kerrie Sainsbury
Foreman: Kelvin Klenk

can deliver my presents now, bye Santa! It was nice talking to you.

Sincerely,
Miley Bushman
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Have you ever wanted something really bad for Christmas? Well if you have or haven't I am here to tell you all about my list. Hello Santa my name is Jude Bartko. I am writing about my Christmas list. The purpose of this letter is to tell you about what I would like for Christmas.

Here are a few things I would like for Christmas. First something I would like is synthetic ice tiles, NHL 23, green machine helmet/biscuit, 2 mystery mini sticks, and a hockey stick. This Christmas I need a good time. I also need to be with my family. I would like some WWII books. Something I would like to wear is a LA kings or Annahiem ducks reverse retro jersey. I would also like my favorite team Washington Capitals toque.

All in all I would like synthetic ice tiles, NHL 23, green machine helmet/biscuit, 2 mystery mini sticks, and a new hockey stick. This Christmas I need to be with my family. Another thing is I need a good time. Also I would like some more WWII books. Something I would like to wear is a LA kings or Annahiem ducks reverse retro jersey. In conclusion I hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Sincerely,
Jude Bartko
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

My name is Gracie Tan and I am writing to you to find out a few things. I want to ask you some questions about Christmas. Is it cold every day at the North Pole? After Christmas, do you go on vacation?

For Christmas, I want a video game called Mario Superstars. Please may I have some special Christmas socks. I would really like to Read Dragon Girls; because I really like them. I think I need a NHL Hockey Jersey. So to finish off my Letter I would like to know does Rudolph really have a red nose?

Sincerely,
Gracie Tan
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Hello Santa Are you real or are the elves real? Probably not real or are reindeer real yes they are real they live in Sweden the reindeer don't real fly.

First I really want a Nintendo 64 to play super mario 64

It's Time To Say "Thanks!"

... And to wish you a season of peace and joy.

We loved every minute of serving you this past year.

IMPERIAL GARAGE

Kevin and Pat
Imperial, Sk • 306-963-2282

Have A Happy Holiday!

With sincere best wishes to our neighbours, patrons and friends.

Your support means everything to us. Thanks!

LEWIS AGENCIES LTD.

Sharon Crittenden and staff
Imperial, Sask.

or an Atari 600 or a Game Cube with the simpsons hit and run game.

I really need ski pants so I can play in the snow at school.

My favorite thing to read is the Zelda book series or the Tom Gates book series.

I would love a new sweater to wear I hope it's soft or warm!

That's all I really want or need for Christmas and santa if you are real I'm sorry if I upset you.

Sincerely,
Jase Tatum
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Hello Santa my name is Gage Reierson I'm going to be telling you things I want for Christmas.

To start, I want an xbox steering wheel, a new tv, gaming chair, the new modern warfare 2, 200 dollar gift card, pokemon cards and a dog. I need a new pair of ski pants, I would also like the new wonder book, and I would like a fluffy red robe.

I hope you will be able to get me this stuff for Christmas. I have a few questions for you. Do you go on vacation or do you stay at the north pole.

Sincerely,
Gage Reierson
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine waking up to the smell of scotch tape and hot chocolate/coffee or tea. This is a letter to santa for Christmas. My name is Braxton Rintoul Berger. I am writing this because I want some stuff for Christmas. But I don't want to be greedy I will take 12 items. Thanks Santa if you can get me one.

I would like for Christmas I want 3 things see my brothers and sister I would like an oculus quest two and a ps5. Three things I need are a desk in my room and a nice Calgary Flames hat and an Edmonton Oilers shirt.

3 books I would like to read are Diary of a Wimpy Kid 4 (dog days), Diary of a Minecraft Zombie number two. The Legend of Zelda Ocarina of Time. Three times to wear fishsticks sweater. A prestonplayz shirt and an unspeakable sweater. Thanks Santa Claus if you can get all of the stuff I want I would appreciate if you could.

I hope you like this and I hope everyone including you have a very good merry Christmas.

Sincerely,
Braxton Rintoul Berger
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

It's me Asher. Do your reindeer die? Or do they live forever? How was your summer? Santa I'm writing to tell you my Christmas list.

I want an oculus headset to play with. I need a snow shovel to shovel the drive way. I want to read pax book number two. I want to wear boxers.

I hope you have a great Christmas.

What do you do in the summer? And what do your reindeer do?

Sincerely,
Asher Dreger
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

I'm William. I am writing this letter so I can tell you what I want. What do you use to fly around the world?

Something I want for christmas is the True Hazard hockey stick. I need new pants because most of them are to small or have holes. I want more who would win books. I would also like a sweater.

These are some of the things I want and need. I hope you come around. Thank you.

Sincerely,
William Stratton
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear Santa,

Imagine waking up going in to your living room and seeing the tree glistening in the sun rise. That's what i like about waking up on Christmas day.

Hi my name is Jax Dreger from 5E. I'm contacting santa about my list.

Hi Santa, here are some of the things I want for Christmas. Something I want I just want 2 \$100 xbox gift cards to spend on gta 5 money. Something I need is I need socks because mine have holes or there to small. I need something to where and it is a Christmas sweater.

And i want the new diary of a wimpy kid to read during the break.

This is all i want for Christmas. Also how many reindeer do you have to travel the whole earth in one night? I hope you have a merry christmas this year see you next year!

Sincerely,
Jax Dreger
Gr. 5E, WES

A Bethlehem Trek

■ submitted by Rev. Marie-Louise Ternier/ All Saints Anglican Parish and Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church

The holy season of the year is upon us once again. However, for too many it is far from holy anymore. Not

only because of horrific hardships far and near, but also because Christmas is increasingly associated with quaint nativity scenes without knowing their origin, listening to “holiday music” in shopping malls, eggnog and unaffordable

gifts, and watching sentimental Christmas movies. It behooves us to go back to the beginning and realize that the first Christmas was far from cozy.

Mary was in the last days of her pregnancy when she and Joseph were forced to leave the security of their home

and travel to Bethlehem to fulfill the census decree. The shepherds quietly watching their sheep were shocked when the angel appeared to announce the birth of the Lord. Throwing caution to the wind, they abandoned the sheep and to visit the newly born Saviour. Upon their return, they “glorified and praised God for what they had seen.” (Lk 2:20)

The wise men (or magi) were astrologers who left jobs and homes to travel to Jerusalem at the beckoning of an unusually bright

star. King Herod pointed them to Bethlehem, where the magi rejoiced to find the newborn Saviour and presented precious gifts loaded with meaning. Being warned in a dream to avoid Herod, who was seething with jealousy about a potential rival, the wise men returned home by another route. Disobeying Herod was a dangerous act which could cost your life.

Anyone who's made the arduous journey to their own Bethlehem will know there is nothing cozy about

it. Unexpected turns of fate and hardships trip us up, setting traps of despair and chaos, erecting what seem insurmountable obstacles. Yet, as with Mary and Joseph, as with the shepherds and the magi, God meets us in the

(see page six: MESSAGE)

(from page four: WES)

Dear Santa, Imagine snow falling and Christmas presents under the Christmas tree! That's what I like about Christmas. Hi, this is Connor Jansen from 5E. I'm writing this letter to you in concern of my Christmas list. Hopefully this isn't too much for you but here is my list!

This year for Christmas I want a Gravitrax Vertical set. Also I want a VR headset. To add to that I also want some Lego. On Christmas I need to have an amazing time with my family. I want to read Mr. Wolfs Class Field Trip and Lucky Stars. Also I want to get The Fort by Gordon Korman. To wear, I want a

new Dallas Stars hat and a Dallas blackout toque. Also I want Jedi Fallen Order two for my Xbox.

That is what I want for Christmas. I hope you consider getting this stuff for me. Also I have one question, where is your workshop in the North Pole? Overall I would like you to get these things for me for Christmas and I hope it isn't too hard for you and the elves.

Sincerely,
Connor Jansen
Gr. 5E, WES

Dear, Santa

Are you busy? If you have some spare time I would love to tell my list. By the way I'm Danielle.

So I'm in grade five at Watrous Elementary school and I love to go sledding with my brother.

I can not wait for Christmas. I would love to get squishmellows for Christmas. I also need some new socks, oh, and maybe the book series Sunny Side Up. I could also use some jump-suits to wear.

So Santa, I hope you understand that I really really like squishmellows for Christmas. Also how do you make it to every house in one night? Now please hop on your sleigh and deliver my presents!


Sincerely,
Danielle Gross
Gr. 5E, WES



Many thanks and best wishes to our customers this holiday season!

GARY VANTHUYNE & THE STAFF OF TRI-CENTRAL INSURANCE

306-836-4446 • 306-946-2864 • 306-524-3331



Waiting For Santa Paws

We're putting on the dog to say, "Hope you have a great holiday!"

With thanks and best wishes to our many best friends.

Taylor Tub Grinding

Dean, Sharla, Tyson & Brayden
306-946-8530

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

At this special time of year, we recall all the good people we've had the privilege to serve and wish you all much peace, joy and harmony at Christmas. We value your friendship and are sincerely grateful for your loyal support.

I'd like to offer my heartfelt thanks for your friendship and business.

McIntosh Trucking
Simpson, SK • 306-567-7506



Christmas Is Coming!

You've given us so much this past year and now we'd like to give you our thanks, along with our best wishes for a very gifted season.

LONG LAKE TRUCKING
Mel & Delores



When it comes to serving you, the pleasure's been all ours.

With a multitude of best warm wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to all of you from all of us.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Simpson Co-op Service Station


Board of Directors and Staff 

Happy Holidays!

From our family to yours

 **LONG LAKE INSURANCE**

www.longlakeinsurance.ca



Have A Happy Holiday!

All the best to you and yours for a beautiful and sparkling holiday season.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you. Thanks, everyone!

R.M. of Wood Creek and Village of Simpson

Delivering Best Wishes At The Holidays



Straight from the heart to all of you, go our sincere best wishes and heartfelt gratitude. We know we couldn't have wished for a better bunch of friends than you.

Merry Christmas!

Richardson Services Ltd.
Simpson, SK • 306-946-9991 • 306-946-3333
Lawrence, Howard & Staff

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE TEAM AT
E.W. INDUSTRIES LTD.
HOME OF



RUBBER STONE



SIERRA STONE



ENDURAFLAKE FLOORS



(from page five: MESSAGE)

very moments of peculiarity, impossibility and crisis. And we catch ourselves in awe and wonder as we gaze upon new life in unexpected places and ways – in ourselves, in one another, in creation, in the most unlikely places.

So dear friends, walk in faith with all who share both brokenness and blessedness. Join one of our church families. And learn in community that God does meet us in the dark and painful times, in the form of a tiny babe in a stable's feeding trough – one

who knew firsthand what it's like to find no room at the inn of life. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us – he is Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Put your hand in his, and you will live.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks for six rich years of ministry in Watrous as the priest/pastor for All Saints Anglican Parish and Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church. I take you all with me in my heart as I move on in ministry and life. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

*Merry Christmas
and a safe and
Happy New Year!*

Hon. Dana Skoropad
MLA for Arm River

306-567-2843

armriver.mla@gmail.com



Look What's Cooking by Laura Novecosky Holiday Edition

Smashed Baked Baby Potatoes

Ingredients:

12-14 small potatoes
3 tbsp. olive oil
chives or other herbs you enjoy
Parmesan cheese
salt and pepper sprinkled on

Directions:

Preheat oven to 450°F. Boil the whole potatoes in salted water until tender. It is good to have them the same size so they are all done at the same time. Drain. Drizzle a parchment or foil-lined cookie sheet with olive oil. Put the cooked potatoes on the sheet, leaving room between them. With a potato masher press down on the potatoes until they are slightly smashed. If any potato sticks to the masher, put it back on top of the potato. Two smashes at right angles to each other works just right. Drizzle the tops of the potato generously with olive oil. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and any herbs you enjoy. Sprinkle the Parmesan cheese generously on top. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until golden brown.

Italian Cheese Bread

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups flour
1 tsp. sugar
1 cup warm water
1/3 cup Italian salad dressing
¼ tsp. oregano
¼ tsp. basil
¼ tsp. thyme
dash pepper
1 tbsp. Parmesan cheese
¼ tsp. parsley flakes
1 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. instant yeast
1 tbsp. oil
¼ tsp. garlic powder
1/2-3/4 cup grated mozzarella cheese

Directions:

Combine flour, sugar, salt and yeast. Mix oil and water and add to flour mixture, knead lightly into a soft dough. You may need a bit more flour. Place in well-oiled bowl, flip over and let rest for 20 minutes in a warm place. Punch down lightly and place in either a 9x13 pan or a 12 inch pizza pan that has been oiled. Using your fingers press into the dough to make indentations. Brush with the Italian salad dressing, sprinkle the spices on top. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese all over the top (you may need a bit more Parmesan). Sprinkle grated mozza on top. Bake at 425°F for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Best served warm. Fabulous substitute for garlic bread or to serve as an appetizer.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from The Mosaic Company



COLONSAY

Irene Gray • 306-255-2775

Ron Folk from Victoria, B.C. visited Barry and Marilyn Kirk Thursday, Dec. 1.

Nine Colonsay seniors met at Simply Kitchen for their monthly outing Dec. 1. They enjoyed a great supper and visiting. A short meeting was held after supper. Their Christmas supper was held at the Blue Horizon Dec. 13.

The Beryl Wieler family gathered at the Colonsay Senior Centre Saturday, Dec. 3 for a early family Christmas gathering. Lots of food and fun were enjoyed by the family.

John and Charlene Campbell from Martensville spent the Dec. 3 and 4 weekend with Joan Campbell who is recovering from surgery.

The Town of Colonsay and the RM of Colonsay enjoyed supper at the community hall Saturday, Dec. 3. The Pepper Tree Family Restaurant did the catering which everyone enjoyed. Entertainment was provided after supper.

The United Church service was provided by Rev. Bill Pollock from Saskatoon Sunday, Dec. 4. The family of Iris Frederickson asked that the congregation know that Iris passed away peacefully on the afternoon of Dec. 3 with daughters Cindy, Mona, Jacquie and Trish by her side. The family will have a celebration of her life at a later date. Prayers were said for the Frederickson family.

The Colonsay Golf Course Revitalization community Christmas tree lighting took place at Harris Park the evening of Dec. 16. New this year

was the angel tree. People joined the committee at the community rink for free skating and hot chocolate.

The Colonsay school students K to Gr. 5 are busy preparing for their Christmas concert Dec. 21. This will be their first concert since the covid restrictions were cancelled.

Adult drop-in pickle ball and badminton will begin Jan. 11.

Sympathy to the family of Walter Herbert Grainger of Fort Qu'Appelle who passed away Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the age of 78. He was the father of Tonia (Steve) Peters from Allan and Kaelan Peters who is the Town of Colonsay's town man. The funeral was in Lipton Dec. 10.

Versatile Plumbing and Heating Inc. have donated turkeys and hams to the Colonsay Food Bank. They will go a long way to help with the Christmas hampers.

Merilyn and Michelle Kirk travelled to Saskatoon to visit Marg Kirk formerly from Colonsay.

Evelyn Selby received news that her daughter Candace and grandchildren Hannah and Carmen from New Zealand will be in Saskatoon for a couple of days. They joined other family members Tuesday, Dec. 13 for an early Christmas supper.

Merilyn Kirk and Irene Gray joined members of Queen Esther Rebekah Lodge and guests Thursday, Dec. 8 in Saskatoon. They enjoyed a potluck luncheon and friendship. Val Bleile, Noble Grand welcomed everyone. Pat Melnychuck read a Christmas message written in

1933 and presented everyone with a bag of treats before everyone headed home.

Clarence and Donna Moen travelled to Saskatoon Sunday, Dec. 11 to join the Russel and Linnea Moen family at the Nutana Legion for an early Christmas gathering.

The Gord and Lori Buckingham family gathered Sunday, Dec. 11 to enjoy an early Christmas gathering.

Cram the Ram held Saturday, Dec. 10 was an incredible success. Three ladies organized the event and gathered everything from soup to nuts for the Colonsay Food Bank. They also collected monetary donations and gift cards throughout the day totaling \$845. The Co-op and its employees also donated many items and gift cards.

Congratulations to Sherry Anderson and her team from the Nutana Curling Club on winning her fifth straight Canadian senior title Saturday, Dec. 11 in Yarmouth, N.S.

Some people do not understand that sitting in your own house in peace, eating snacks and minding your own business is priceless.

December - a month of mingled gloom and glory, sun and shadow, frost and snow, weeping wood and silent garden firelit room and hearthside glow. Time of endings and beginnings bringing to a weary earth

wonder of the Christmas message. Tidings of the Saviour's birth. Welcome, welcome grey December with your gifts of hope and cheer. Light your lamp at winter's gate and crown with joy the passing year.

The Viscount Legion Branch #271 had 99 entries between Viscount and Colonsay schools for the literary competition! Pictured on page eight are the photos of the winning Colonsay School entries: first primary poster colour - Declan Wapash-VonMeesen; first intermediate poster colour - Olivia Palm.

These two pieces are the first place winners of the poem and essay intermediate level for the Legion Literary competition.

All first place winners will go on to Zone level for judging.

First intermediate poem - Sydney Wall

Our Brave Soldiers
Some left very young
Some left very old
Some were very frightened
But all had to be bold.

They had to say goodbye to family

And friends and neighbors, too.

They had to say goodbye to their country.

For the ones who came back were few.

The ones who came back were tired.

Though they were glad to be back home.

They mourn for the ones who died.

And we remember them as a whole.

First intermediate essay - Jordin Schmidt

The Fallen

As I look to my left, I see my best friend, Henry, lying beside me on a cot. The green army tent covering us from the war was only feet away. All the explosions and gunshots made me picture what I had experienced out there. I look up at the roof, wondering if this is where I die. Will I be buried like the rest? A funeral like the rest, where I am honoured for fighting for my country? Will poppies grow over the top of the grave like the rest?

I look to my left to see Henry. I try to say a word, but my words freeze before they come out. Henry turned to face me. We looked into each other's eyes. His eyes were green like the grass back home. He smiled so I smiled. A smile that was once so innocent, I wanted to say something to him, but my words came out of his mouth.

"By the time we're out of here, we'll be wearing poppies proudly."

I smiled proudly at him; he always knew how to cheer people up, cheer me up. I saw him look back up

at the army green roof of the tent. Then I looked up too. The peace we craved, the peace everyone craved.

It's been a few hours, I don't know how many but it's been a couple. Lying on this lumpy but comfortable cot. Staring at the Army green tent roof was my only source of entertainment. I don't know what to do, I was always told what to do. So I wait, wait for the next order.

(see page eight: NEWS)

Season's Greetings & Many Thanks

It's been a pleasure serving you this past year.

Viscount 50+ Seniors

Peace On Earth



...And many thanks for the goodwill you've shown us this year!

Concrete Elements appreciates your past patronage. We look forward to serving you in 2023:

Spirit of Manitou Studio Trail: July 8 & 9, 2023

Your hosts
Dave & Lea Titman
www.concreteelements.com

Keep Christ in Christmas



St. Alphonse
Knights of Columbus
Viscount

The Brightest Joy
The Warmest Cheer
The Greatest Happiness

Thanks to all of our ratepayers for making this year a special one!

RM of Lost River
Council & Staff

BRIGHT HOLIDAY WISHES

With warm regards from all of us to all of you this holiday season.



RM of Colonsay No. 342
Reeve, Councillors & Staff

Delivering Best Wishes At The Holidays



Town of Colonsay

Mayor, Councillors & Staff

Merry Christmas

PRO GRAIN EQUIPMENT

306-255-2112 • Colonsay, SK

(from page seven: NEWS)

I hear a mumble from Henry. I couldn't hear exactly what he said. There were people with him for the past couple hours, I think it was doctors. I turned to look at him. He was staring right back at me. How long was he looking at me? while looking at him, its like the world around me froze while we were staring into each other's eyes. His green eyes and his shiny brown hair, looking at me. He tried to say something but I inter-

rupted him saying "I bet we will be out of here in no time, either back on the battlefield or at home."

He smiled at me and I saw a tear fall from his eye.

I was sitting in my car, waiting with a bouquet of poppies. My eyes started to water as I waited. This was the hardest thing I had to endure in my life. I took a deep breath and opened the door and got out. I started to walk down a path. I was in the graveyard. I read every name on each

grave until I found the person I was looking for. When I got to the grave, I kneeled down and put the poppies on the grave. I looked up to the name "Henry Anderson". I started to cry. But, I said my goodbye.



photos submitted

PLUNKETT

Deloris Wilson (Sutherland) • 306-944-4852

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Visiting us on Sunday were Larry Caron and Pam of Drake and Marge

Haynes of Lanigan.

We really enjoyed the Watrous Dinner Theatre. It brought back old memories. Dave and

Lyla Muench came along with us. They had a great turnout.

Get well to anyone in the hospital.

This Christmas wish is sent to you in the hopes that all your dreams come true.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

- From the Staff & Students of Viscount Central School



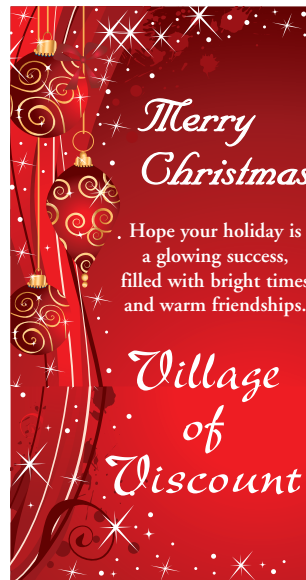
Joy To All!
Village of Young



Have a Jolly Holiday!

From snowmen to Santa,
To tinsel on the tree,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a year filled with glee!

Viscount Recreation Board



Merry Christmas

Hope your holiday is a glowing success, filled with bright times and warm friendships.

Village of Viscount



Best Wishes for the
Holiday Season

STR Farms

Shouse, M.L. Teneycke and Russell families
Young, SK 306-259-2006 | 306-946-7805

Merry Christmas



As another year has passed, we'd like to say thank you for your continued loyalty and faith in us. Put your feet up and have a well-deserved rest this Christmas and let every day of the holiday season be filled with joy.

BRADEN, BOB, RON & STAFF

202 2nd Ave. West, Nokomis SK

306-528-2044

Have A Happy Holiday!

From the council & staff of
The RM of Morris No. 312



TWM file photos by Daniel Bushman

