

2015  
*Season's  
Greetings*

**INSIDE**

Stories, Trivia,  
Puzzles, Recipes,  
Crafts & More!





*Merry Christmas*  
and a happy,  
prosperous  
New Year!

From our families to yours  
Continuing Over  
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*Christmas Blessings*



Wishing you the love, peace and happiness that the true meaning of Christmas brings.

From all of us at...

**Home hardware building centre**

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*May all your Christmas Dreams come true.*

**Creston Valley Teachers' Association**

*Wishing you a healthy, happy holiday*  
From our family to yours



**Family Practice Associates**  
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*Wishing you a Beautiful Holiday Season*

From all of us at...

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Notary  
\_ PUBLIC \_

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Creston, BC  
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1.800.649.7194  
email: lmann@uniserve.com

*Merry Christmas To All!*



*Sending out our appreciation to all of our customers and friends for making this year a success!*

**Denné Ahlefeld**  
CPA  
Affordable Accounting Solutions  
137 10th Avenue North, Creston  
Tel: (250) 402-6277 • Fax: (250) 428-2067  
Email: denne@denneahlefeldcga.ca

# Wrapping Presents With A Cat

[www.corsinet.com](http://www.corsinet.com)

Go to closet and collect bag in which present is contained, and shut door.

Open door and remove cat from closet.

Go to cupboard and retrieve rolls of wrapping paper.

Go back and remove cat from cupboard.

Go to drawer, and collect transparent sticky tape, ribbons, scissors, labels, etc.

Lay out presents and wrapping materials on table, to enable wrapping strategy to be formed.

Go back to drawer to get string, remove cat.

Remove present from bag.

Remove cat from bag.

Open box to check present, remove cat from box, replace present.

Lay out paper to enable cutting to size.

Try and smooth out paper, realize cat is underneath and remove cat.

Cut the paper to size, keeping the cutting line straight.

Throw away first sheet as cat chased the scissors, and tore the paper.

Cut second sheet of paper to size — by putting cat in the bag the present came in.

Place present on paper.

Lift up edges of paper to seal in present. Wonder why edges don't reach. Realize cat is between present and paper. Remove cat.

Place object on paper, to hold in place while tearing transparent sticky tape.

Spend 20 minutes carefully trying to remove transparent sticky tape from cat.

Look for roll of ribbon. Chase cat down hall in order to retrieve ribbon.

Repeat above steps until you reach last sheet of paper.

Retrieve old cardboard box that is the right size for sheet of paper.

Put present in box, and tie down with string.

Remove string, open box and remove cat.

Put all packing materials in bag with present and head for locked room.

Once inside lockable room, lock door and start to relay out paper and materials.

Remove cat from box, unlock door, put cat outside door, close and relock.

Repeat previous step as often as is necessary (until you can hear cat from outside door).

Lay out last sheet of paper. (This will be difficult in the small area of the toilet, but do your best) .

Discover cat has already torn paper.

Unlock door go out and hunt through various cupboards, looking for sheet of last year's paper. Remember that you haven't got any left because cat helped with this last year as well.

Return to lockable room, lock door, and sit on toilet and try to make torn sheet of paper look presentable.

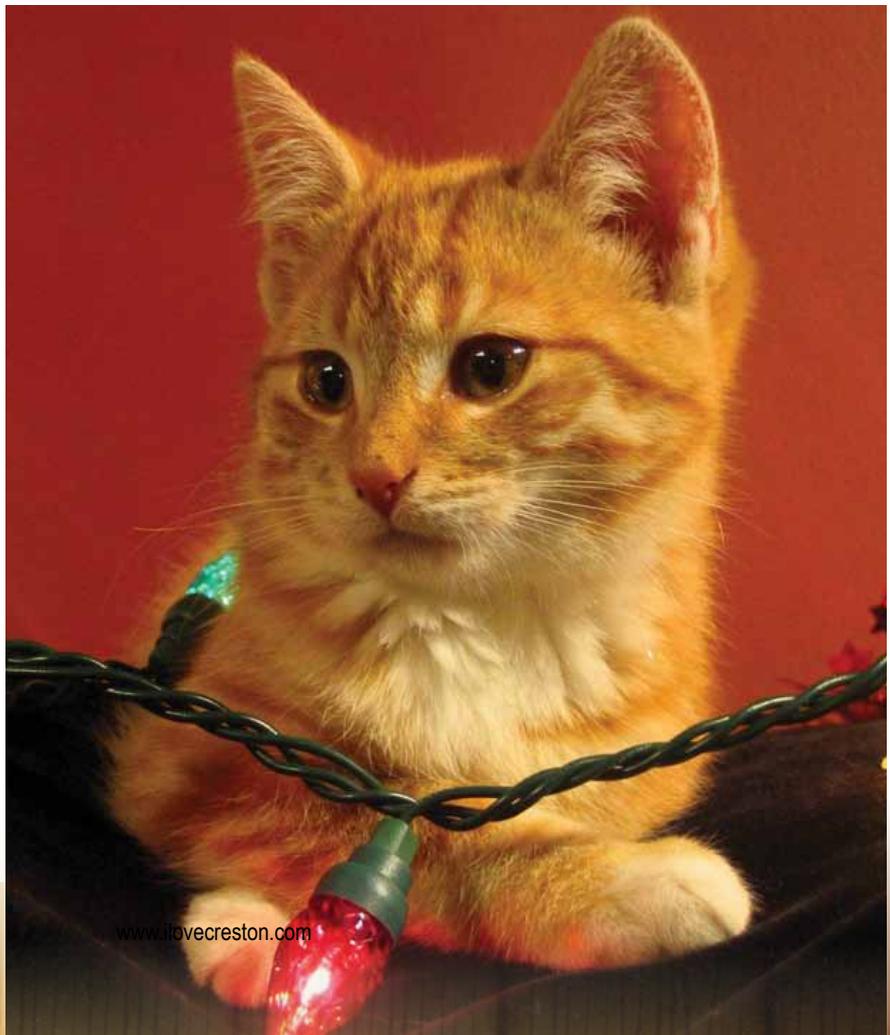
Seal box, wrap with paper and repair by very carefully sealing with sticky tape. Tie up with ribbon and decorate with bows to hide worst areas.

Label. Sit back and admire your handiwork.

Unlock door, and go to kitchen to make drink and feed cat.

Spend 15 minutes looking for cat until coming to obvious conclusion.

Unwrap present, untie box and remove cat. Go to store and buy a gift bag. ■



# Holiday Characters

[www.worldofchristmas.net](http://www.worldofchristmas.net)

## Santa Claus

Santa Claus is one of the most famous characters that is loved by children all over the world. He is known for giving gifts to good kids on Christmas Eve. He is also known as Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kriss Kringle, Santy or simply Santa. In many countries, kids, especially 'in spirit', believe Father Christmas as being real. Other names by which Father Christmas is known in other countries are:

- Afghanistan - Baba Chaghhaloo
- Armenia - Gaghand Baba
- Brazil - Papai Noel
- Czech Republic - Jellíšek
- Denmark - Julemanden
- France and French Canada - Le Père Noël
- Germany - Weihnachtsmann
- Iraq and South Africa – Goosaleh
- Ireland & Scottish Highlands - Daidí na Nollag
- Italy - Babbo Natale
- Portugal - Pai Natal
- Romania - Mos Craciun
- Spain and Mexico - Papá Noel
- Netherlands and Belgium - Sinterklaas

Saint Nicholas or Kriss Kringle was a historical figure, believed to be the kind bishop of Turkey. He used



to give presents to the needy, poor and good kids, just to make them smile. Thus, he became the subject of many folktales and mythical fantasies. With time, his image changes to the modern version of Santa Claus with a long white beard, red robes and red bonnet with white trimmings, a big round belly and a kindly cheerful smile on his face and sparkling eyes.

## Frosty the Snowman

The song is about a snowman who came to life by some magical hat some children found; he then had playful adventures before he "hurried on his way." However, Frosty reassures them by exclaiming, "I'll be back again some day."



## Ebenezer Scrooge

Ebenezer Scrooge is the name of a fictional character, the protagonist in Charles Dickens' novel The Christmas Carol. In the novel Scrooge is portrayed as a rich but stingy

businessman who especially dislikes festivities of all kinds.

## Tiny Tim

Tiny Tim is a fictional character in the classic story A Christmas Carol. When Scrooge is visited the first ghost all he sees of Tim is his crutch, as Tim has died. This, and several other visions, lead Scrooge to reform his ways.

## Jack Frost

In English folklore, Jack Frost appears as an elfish creature who personifies crisp, cold, winter weather; a variant of Father Winter (also known as "Old Man Winter").

## Christmas Elf

A Christmas elf is a fictional diminutive creature (elf) that supposedly lives with Santa Claus in the North Pole and acts as his helper. Christmas elves are often depicted as green-clad with pointy ears, long noses, and pointy hats.



## Nestor the Christmas Donkey

Back in the days of the Roman Empire, a small donkey is born with very long ears, that keep getting him

into trouble. When his owner throws him out of the stable in disgust, his mother sacrifices her life to save him from a blizzard. And, guided only by his guardian cherub, he has to find his rightful place and destiny, somewhere on the road to Bethlehem.

## Grinch

The Grinch, a cat-like figure, is a cartoon character created by Dr. Seuss. He first appeared in the 1957 children's book, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

## The Little Drummer Boy

The story of a boy who lets out all his frustrations on a drum, little knowing

how significant this drum will be in the birth of the newborn Jesus.

## Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a character created in a story and song by the same name. He has become a figure of Christmas folklore. ■



## Holiday Trivia

*The poinsettia, traditionally an American Christmas flower, originally grew in Mexico; where it was known as the "Flower of the Holy Night". It was first brought to America by Joel Poinsett in 1829.*



*Celebrate the Season*  
*Joyful Holiday Wishes from our Family to Yours*

**Creston Valley Winecrafters**  
Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am-5pm,  
Saturday 9am-3pm, Sunday & Monday-Closed  
3116 Hwy 3, Creston • 250.428.8969

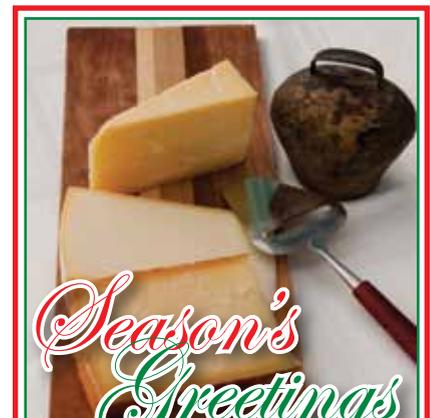


**Merry Christmas**

*Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year of Health, happiness and prosperity.*

From the staff at...

**Integra Tire Auto Centre**  
918 Pine Street, Creston  
(up the hill from the grain elevators)  
**Phone: 428-2000**



*Season's Greetings*

*Thank you to the Creston community for all their support over the last year. From all of us at Kootenay Meadows Farm.*

As always, stroll down the feed alley to see the "girls" tucked in for the winter and meet "Belle and Doll" our two new Clydesdale horses. Come & see new "foodie" gift ideas in our retail shop.

**KOOTENAY MEADOWS**  
3071 16th St., Creston • 250-428-9655  
www.kootenaymeadows.com

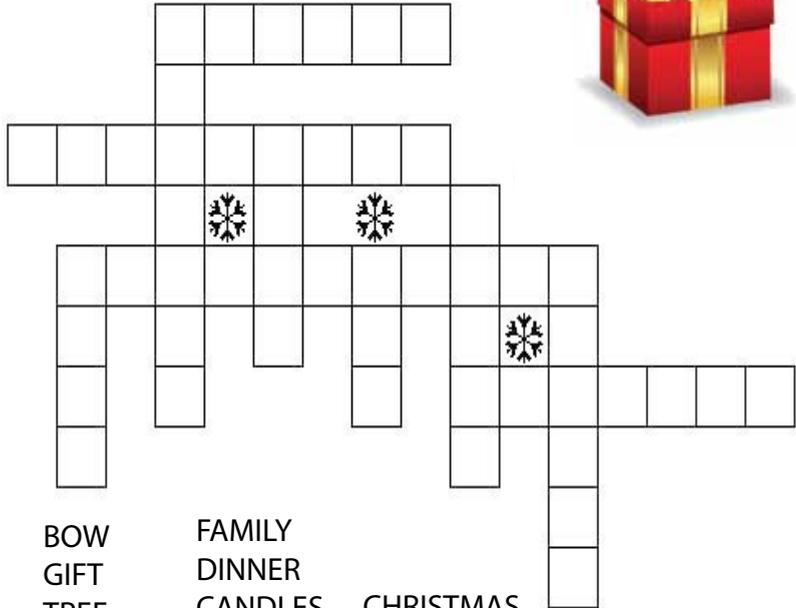
# Holiday Trivia

The best selling Christmas trees are Scotch pine, Douglas fir, Noble fir, Fraser f1953)ir, Virginia pine, Balsam fir and white pine.

The Canadian provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia leads the country in producing Christmas trees.

Christmas trees are edible. Many parts of pines, spruces, and firs can be eaten. The needles are a good source of vitamin C. Pine nuts, or pine cones, are also a good source of nutrition.

# Crossword



BOW                      FAMILY  
 GIFT                     DINNER  
 TREE                    CANDLES      CHRISTMAS  
 PEACE                  FRIENDS       GINGERBREAD

*Happy Holidays*

*Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season*

*From All The Staff At...*

**SHOPPERS DRUG MART**

1030 Canyon St., Creston  
250.428-9334

**Merry Christmas**

**All the best in the New Year!**

**250-428-6014**

*Happy Holidays*

*and all the best of the season to you and yours from Century 21 Veitch Realty-Creston, your hometown Realtors.*

1131 Canyon St., Creston • 250-428-9331  
[www.c21creston.com](http://www.c21creston.com)  
 sales@c21creston.com

# 25 Best Christmas Movies

www.rottentomatoes.com

25. Bad Santa (2003)
24. Batman Returns (1992)
23. The Bishop's Wife (1948)
22. A Mignight Clear (1982)
21. Lethal Weapon (1987)
20. Elf (2003)
19. Gremlins (1984)
18. A Christmas Carol (1951)
17. Un Conte de Noël (A Christmas Tale) (2008)
16. Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010)
15. Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang, (2005)
14. In Bruges (2008)
13. The Miracle of Morgan's Creek (1944)
12. Trading Places (1983)
11. Tokyo Godfathers (2003)
10. A Christmas Story (1983)
9. Arthur Christmas (2011)
8. Die Hard (1988)
7. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)
6. The Apartment (1960)
5. Stalag 17 (1953)
4. Holiday Inn (1942)
3. The Shop Around the Corner (1940)
2. Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
1. It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

## Warm Holiday Wishes



**Warmest thoughts  
and best wishes for a  
wonderful Holiday and a  
Happy New Year!**

*From all of us at...*



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Community  
Complex**  
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312 19th Ave. N., Creston • 250-428-7127  
[www.rdck.bc.ca](http://www.rdck.bc.ca)

### Holiday Public Skating Hours

Dec 21 & 23 1-3pm  
Dec 25 CLOSED  
Dec 26 2:15-4:15pm  
Dec 27 3:30-5:00pm  
Dec 28 & 30 1-3pm  
Jan 1 CLOSED  
Jan 2 2:45-4:15pm

### Holiday Swimming Pool Hours

Dec 24 9am-4pm  
Dec 25 CLOSED  
Dec 26 2-6pm  
Dec 27 1-6pm  
Dec 28 7:30am-7pm  
Dec 29 9am-7pm  
Dec 30 7:30am-7pm  
Dec 31 9am-6pm  
Jan 1st CLOSED

**Winter 2016 Leisure Guide  
available Dec 1st for viewing online.  
Registration starts Dec 7th.  
Go to [www.rdck.bc.ca](http://www.rdck.bc.ca) for details.**

# Happy Holidays

*We would like to wish everyone Merry Christmas  
and all things WONDERful for 2016  
From all of us...*



**Full Of Wonder**

#1 1127 Canyon Street,  
Creston, BC  
(250) 428-GIFT  
Mon.-Fri. 10-5:30, Sat/Sun 10-3:30

**Julie Malowany  
RMT**

Located at Full of Wonder,  
downtown Creston  
(250) 428-3445  
Tues/Wed, Fri/Sat



# Christmas Songs

## Away In A Manger

Away in a manger,  
no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the heavens  
looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing,  
the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus,  
no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus;  
look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle  
till morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus;  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever  
and love me I pray!  
Bless all the dear children  
in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for Heaven  
to live with Thee there.  
Away in a manger,  
no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the heavens  
looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus  
asleep on the hay.

## Silent Night

By: Joseph Mohr(1792-1848), 1818

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, All is bright  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so Tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar;  
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!  
Christ the Saviour is born!

Christ the Saviour is born!  
Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light!  
With the angels let us sing  
Alleluia to our King!  
Christ the Saviour is here,  
Jesus the Saviour is here!  
Silent night, Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord at thy birth;  
Jesus Lord at thy birth.

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye,  
O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of angels;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.  
Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above;  
Glory to God,

Glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.  
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be  
all glory given;  
Son of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord.

# Go, Tell It On The Mountain

While shepherds kept their watching  
Over silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens,  
There shone a holy light:  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.  
The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Saviour's birth:  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.  
Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God send us salvation,  
That blessed Christmas morn:  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.  
When I am a seeker,  
I seek both night and day;  
I seek the Lord to help me,  
And He shows me the way:  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.  
He made me a watchman  
Upon the city wall,  
And if I am a Christian,  
I am the least of all.  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, Tell It On The Mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas*

**Check out our great gift ideas...**

- Dutch Imports
- Cherrybrook Farms Jam
- Local Orchards Cherry Juice
- Salt Water Taffy & Candy

**playmobil** *Come check out our great selection of Playmobil*

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Wednesdays Til' 8:00 PM

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**Hours:** Wed. 12-8, Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 11-5, Sun. 12-5. Closed Mon. & Tues.



*Wishing you all the joys of Christmas and happiness throughout the New Year.*

**Town Hall Holiday Office Hours**

**OFFICE CLOSURE:**  
December 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and January 1

**CRESTON VALLEY**  
TOWN of CRESTON

238-10th Ave. N., Creston  
250-428-2214  
[www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca)

# Holiday Symbols

[www.worldofchristmas.net](http://www.worldofchristmas.net)

There are many things that became a regular part of Christmas festivities and celebrations with time. There are Christmas toys that became popular gifts for kids and Christmas ornaments that graced Christmas trees and other holiday decorations.

Christmas stockings became a part of the celebrations due to the story of kindly Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus, who is believed to bring toys for children who wash and hang their stockings near the fireplace.

Stars of all sizes symbolize the divine Christmas Star that made

its appearance when the Christ was born.

Christmas angel ornaments are symbolic of divine angels while Santa Claus is symbolic of not only the kind patrons that delighted in giving gifts to the poor and the children to bring happiness to them during the Christmas season but also of the kindness and charity that are integral part of Christmas spirit.

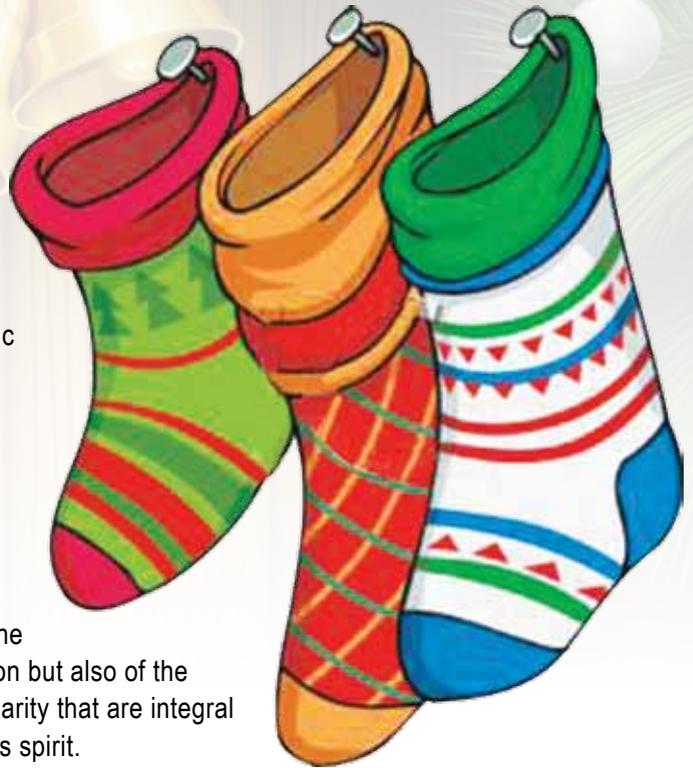
Christmas cakes and puddings were part of the Christmas festive meals and Christmas crackers and candy canes became popular sweets that had a touch of fun and looked quite interesting to children.

Christmas trees such as firs and pines and other evergreens such as holly and ivy were symbolic of long life and hope. They also add cheer to the look of the household.

Holly with its red berries and ivy were

fashioned into wreaths and garlands and were used to decorate the house.

Tinsel, Christmas ornaments and toys were added to Christmas trees to make it look sparkling and livelier. Hanging mistletoe and kissing under it is considered to bring good luck to the household and spread the message of love all over the world. ■



*In appreciation of my loyal clients,  
I will be sending out flash drives  
this Christmas season.*



Kevin Boehmer CPA, CA.

115 36th Ave. N., Creston  
Ph: 250-402-3471  
kevin@boehmerconsulting.ca  
[www.boehmerconsulting.ca](http://www.boehmerconsulting.ca)



**MICHELLE MUNGALL**  
MIA NELSON-CRESTON

*A Strong Voice  
Standing Up For You*  
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**Season's Greetings!**

# Word Search

S	M	Y	E	O	C	N	Q	O	Q	D	L
T	R	E	E	I	L	Z	G	F	R	N	M
A	T	V	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	N	I
R	T	I	N	R	A	P	C	A	N	D	Y
E	E	X	Y	E	B	R	E	H	S	A	D
E	M	E	E	S	N	A	M	W	O	N	S
D	O	N	N	E	R	N	Q	H	S	C	W
I	C	S	M	N	K	C	A	S	A	E	R
P	B	L	I	T	Z	E	N	S	N	R	E
U	E	E	H	F	F	R	O	S	T	Y	A
C	L	D	C	I	J	P	P	H	A	O	T
E	L	F	U	G	N	R	B	C	W	T	H

- |       |         |        |         |
|-------|---------|--------|---------|
| SACK  | SNOWMAN | TREE   | BALL    |
| SANTA | STAR    | VIXEN  | BELL    |
| SLED  | TOY     | WREATH | BLITZEN |
|       |         |        | CANDY   |
|       |         |        | CHIMNEY |
|       |         |        | COMET   |
|       |         |        | CUPID   |
|       |         |        | DANCER  |
|       |         |        | DASHER  |
|       |         |        | DEER    |
|       |         |        | DONNER  |
|       |         |        | ELF     |
|       |         |        | FROSTY  |
|       |         |        | GIFT    |
|       |         |        | PRANCER |
|       |         |        | PRESENT |
|       |         |        | RUDOLPH |

# Holiday Trivia

*Historians have traced some of the current traditions surrounding Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, back to ancient Celtic roots. Father Christmas's elves are the modernization of the "Nature folk" of the Pagan religions; his reindeer are associated with the "Horned God," which was one of the Pagan deities.*

*During the Christmas and Hanukkah season, more than 1.76 billion candy canes will be made.*



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

from all of us at...



**Sunset Seed Company**  
Feed, Pet, Grower Supplies & More!  
Beside 7-11, Creston • 250-428-4614

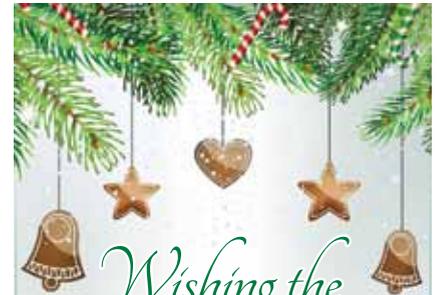


*Merry Christmas*

With all good wishes for the New Year.



**ACTIVITY BASE**  
1126 Canyon St,  
Creston  
250-254-9707



*Wishing the Creston Valley the Happiest of Holidays.*



1510 Cook Street, Creston • 250.428.5301  
[www.sears.ca](http://www.sears.ca)

## RDCK Resource Recovery Facilities

# HOLIDAY SEASON HOURS OF OPERATION



### REDUCE AND REUSE

- Choose organic, local and sustainable gifts.
  - Give experiences.
- Avoid wrapping paper—use material or newspaper and reuse ribbons.
- Give generously to local charities.
  - Conserve energy, use timers for holiday lights.

### RECYCLE & COMPOST

*During December and January at any RDCK transfer station or landfill:*

- Recycle old outdoor and tree lights for FREE
- Compost residential Christmas trees for \$2.50

### *Remember to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Compost!*

**Resource Recovery will be closed on: December 25, 26 and January 1.**

**Resource Recovery will close at 2:00 pm on December 24 and 31**

For more information visit our website at [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca)

**More information: Recycling Council of BC Hotline 1-800-667-4321 or RDCK at 1-800-268-7325**

# A New Canadian Christmas Tradition

Submitted

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Canadians with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods -- merchandise that has been produced at the expense of Canadian labour. This year will be different. This year Canadians will give the gift of genuine concern for other Canadians.

There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by Canadians hands. Yes there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

Everyone -- yes everyone gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local Canadian hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, Canadian owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

*May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,  
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,  
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.*



# Merry Christmas



Creston Ramada 1809 Hwy 3A, Creston BC

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down the Benjamins on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants - all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big National chains -- this is about supporting your home town Canadian with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or

motorcycle, done at a shop run by the Canadian working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would love the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I know I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

Okay, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre.

Musicians need love too, so find a

venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you really need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of lights, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or babysitter a nice big tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining Canadian pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about us, encouraging Canadian small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Canadians, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. This is the new Canadian Christmas tradition. ■



**Merry  
Christmas**

This holiday season we would like to thank all those who made our success possible.



**Imagine Ink**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINTING

132 5th Ave. North., Creston • 250.402.6071



**Merry  
Christmas**

*Wishing you  
good times,  
good cheer and a  
Happy New Year!*



**Lectric Ave  
Electronics**

1017 Canyon Street, Creston BC  
(250) 428-7873



Wishing you all  
the joy, hope  
and wonder  
of the season.

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# Christmas Tree

[www.worldofchristmas.net](http://www.worldofchristmas.net)

One of the most awaited Christmas décor items, especially by kids, is undoubtedly the magical looking Christmas tree. It is said that Christmas tree was included in the celebrations ever since humans observed these evergreen trees glistening in the moonlit sky on a clear night sparkling against the backdrop of white snow.

One of the most important Christmas symbols for centuries, Christmas trees were used in many pagan festivals to honor their gods and spirits.

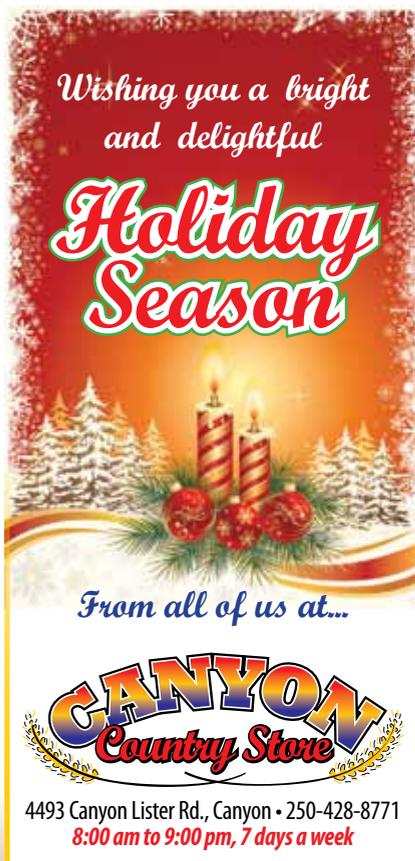
Vikings in North Europe considered these evergreen trees a reminder of the spring that is about to approach

and that the winter will end soon. In ancient England and France, Druids used to honor God of harvests by decorating oak trees with fruit and candles, just as Romans adorned trees with trinkets and candles on Saturnalia.

It is said that the German Christians were the first to bring the trees into their homes to decorate or use a Christmas pyramid made of wood in areas where there was a scarcity of trees. Soon, all of Europe caught up with the trend and the English royalty popularized it among the elite. Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, decorated the first Christmas tree. They had then used candles, candies, fruits and gingerbread.

The Christmas tree came to America with the German immigrants and was accepted by the general public only in the late 1800s. At the time of the first public display of a Christmas tree by German settlers in Pennsylvania, it was considered a symbol of pagans. Till then, apples, nuts, cookies, candies, coloured popcorn and candles were the popular Christmas tree ornaments.

In the early 20th century, electricity brought a revolution in Christmas tree decoration. Electrical Christmas lights grew more and more popular every year and now most communities feature public displays of Christmas trees. ■



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# Holiday Treats

## Christmas Crepes

[www.worldofchristmas.net](http://www.worldofchristmas.net)

### Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1/2 tsp vanilla
- Strawberries (cut in half)
- 1 package vanilla instant pudding
- Icing sugar

### Method

- Prepare vanilla pudding.
- Refrigerate pudding.
- Mix the dry ingredients in a mixing bowl with a fork.
- Stir in milk, eggs, butter and vanilla.
- Beat batter until smooth.
- In a 6-inch skillet pour about 1/4 cup of the batter.
- Pick up pan and rotate until the batter covers bottom.
- Cook until crepe is light brown.
- Remove and stack.
- While serving, lay crepe out on plate.
- Place 2 tablespoons of pudding on crepe and roll in up.
- Sprinkle with icing sugar
- Place a cherry or strawberry on top. ■



## Christmas Package Cheese Snack

[www.familyfun.go.com](http://www.familyfun.go.com)

### Ingredients

- 8 ounces of cream cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dill
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- Scallion
- Red bell pepper

### Instructions

- Mix the dried dill, garlic powder, and salt into the softened cream cheese.
- Pack the mixture into a lined rectangular container.
- Refrigerate it for at least 3 hours. Before serving time decorate it with a scallion bow and red pepper polka dots and gift tag. ■



## Cranberry Fudge

[www.worldofchristmas.net](http://www.worldofchristmas.net)

### Ingredients

- 2 cups - semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup - light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup - powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup - evaporated milk
- 1 tsp - vanilla
- 1 - 6-ounce package of sweetened dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup - chopped pecans or walnuts

### Method

- Line the bottom and sides of 8x8 inch pan with plastic wrap.
- Combine chocolate chips and corn syrup in a medium saucepan.
- Cook over low heat until melted and smooth.
- Remove from heat.
- Add powdered sugar, evaporated milk and vanilla; stir vigorously until the mixture is thick and glossy.
- Add sweetened dried cranberries and nuts and mix well.
- Pour into prepared pan.
- Cover and chill until firm for about 8 hours.
- Cut into 1 1/2 inch squares.
- Store covered in refrigerator.
- Serve at room temperature.
- Makes about 25 pieces. ■

# Holiday Safety Tips for Pets

By: Creston Veterinary Hospital

Here are some safety tips to keep your pet happy and healthy throughout the Christmas holidays:

- Only decorate the top two-thirds of the Christmas tree.
- Use ornaments less likely to attract attention, such as wood, fabric or pinecones.
- Stay away from tinsel and garland.
- Wipe pets' paws, legs and stomach with a warm, damp towel after being outside. Salt and other ice-melting substances can irritate or burn sensitive skin.
- Keep chocolate (especially baker's chocolate), sweets, poultry bones and people food out of reach. Be careful with turkey strings. Instead, offer rawhide strips or special made-for-pet treats.
- Poisonous plants to be aware of are mistletoe, holly, ornamental pepper and Christmas rose.
- Best to keep pets on their regular diets during the holidays. Pets who overindulge can wind up with a stomach upset, diarrhea or pancreatitis. ■



## Merry Christmas

I would like take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Area C and the Creston Valley, a safe, happy and prosperous Holiday Season and all the best for 2016.



**Larry Binks**  
Regional Director,  
Area C

## Merry Christmas



I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the residents of Creston Valley a Happy Holiday and all the best in the New year!



*Tara Wall*  
Regional Director, Area B

