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Greetings
2016*



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Dale Moberg with the Wishing Tree he and his wife, Kelly, started at Pyramid Building Supplies in 1992.

25th Christmas for Wishing Tree

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRIAN LAWRENCE

I Love Creston Editor

The Wishing Tree at Pyramid Building Supplies isn't put up and decorated until after Remembrance Day, but that doesn't stop generous members of the community from anticipating the Christmas spirit it creates.

"People phone at the beginning of November wondering when we're putting the tree up — they're wanting and waiting to give," says Pyramid co-owner Dale Moberg.

This is the 25th year for the tree, which allows the public to buy children and teens gifts that are distributed in the Creston Ministerial Association's annual Christmas hampers. The process is simple:

Visit Pyramid, pick a tag off the Wishing Tree, buy a present for the age and gender on the tag, and then return it unwrapped to Pyramid, this year by Dec. 10.

The idea was inspired after Moberg and his wife, Kelly, attended a trade show in Vancouver, where a motivational speaker urged attendees to become more involved in their communities. The inspiring words were all they could think about on the trip back to Creston.

"We had an eight-hour talk about how we could step up and help out," says Moberg.

It wasn't a stretch for them to focus their efforts on children.

"We love kids," says Moberg. "I coached young kids' softball for six years while my daughters were

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!



Tamya Wall
Regional Director, Area B

growing up. This is our third year of coaching curling. I love putting a smile on kids' faces."

About 150 gifts were donated in the first year, and the average had hovered just over 200 since.

"This community is such a fantastic community that way," says Moberg. "It's very, very giving."

Moberg is no stranger to helping out the less fortunate — he's been doing so since he was young.

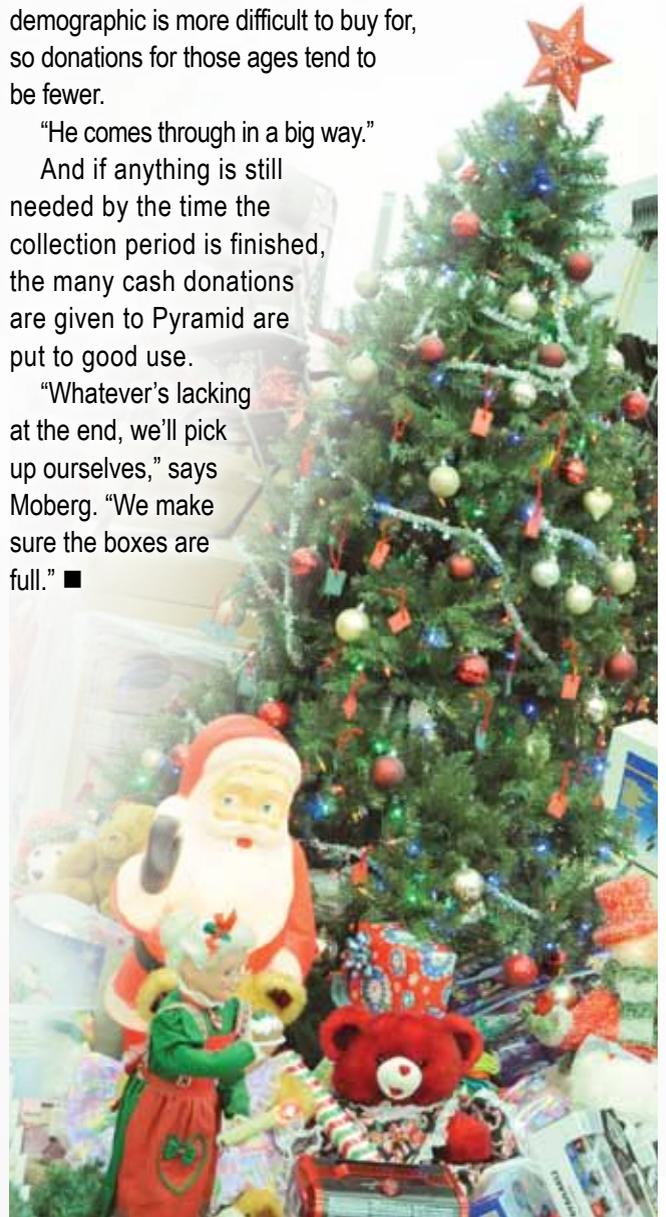
"I've always had a soft spot for the needy," he says. "As a child, I always passed my lunch around to others who needed it."

A few regular donors participate each year, including one woman who brings in stuffed bears. One man buys gifts for older children and teens; the demographic is more difficult to buy for, so donations for those ages tend to be fewer.

"He comes through in a big way."

And if anything is still needed by the time the collection period is finished, the many cash donations are given to Pyramid are put to good use.

"Whatever's lacking at the end, we'll pick up ourselves," says Moberg. "We make sure the boxes are full." ■



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 2017.



Larry Binks
Regional Director,
Area C



Merry Christmas

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

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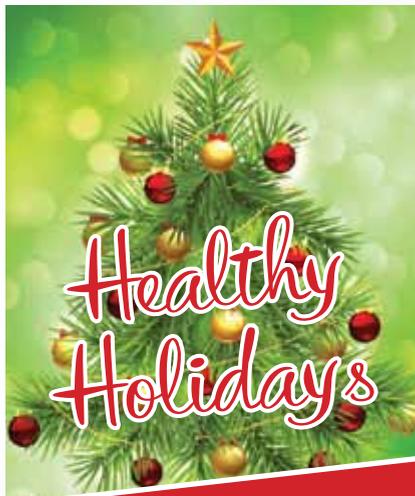
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Christmas*



With all
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wishes
for the
New Year.



Blossom Valley Singers Ring in Season with Annual Christmas Concert

BLOSSOM VALLEY SINGERS

The Blossom Valley Singers, Creston's popular community choir, had virtual sellouts for its Christmas concerts in the past two years, so this year the choir will perform on three consecutive dates, Dec. 9-11 at the Prince Charles Theatre.

A Christmas Carol Gallery is the title for this year's Christmas concert by the Blossom Valley Singers — but it comes with a twist! The Creston Community Band will be special guests for the

entire second half of the concert. This joint production is a first for both the choir and the band, and both groups are very excited about joining forces for this annual Creston Valley Christmas tradition.

Acclaimed composer Larry Shackley has created a sumptuous musical tapestry titled *A Christmas Carol Gallery*, and it is arranged for joint choral and band/orchestral performances. This cantata is comprised of four suites, or portraits,



*Merry
Christmas!*

Wishing everyone in the
Creston Valley the happiest
of holidays and all the best
in the New Year!

Sears

1510 Cook Street, Creston • 250.428.5301
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of the season, and each suite features a medley of four traditional carols for choir and soloists, with joining narrative adapted from revered historical texts.

A small ensemble from the choir will surprise and entertain the audiences with a rendition of "Various Themes on Fa-La-La", a version of "Deck the Halls" that includes familiar classical music excerpts. Other guests include the Blossom Valley Men's Quartet and the Kokanee Brass Ensemble. There will also be the usual concert sing-a-long of your favourite Christmas carols.

The choir again will be conducted by Anita Stushnoff and accompanied by Monte Anderson, two of the most

talented musicians and teachers in the valley. Anderson also has role of leading and preparing the band for this performance, but will share the conducting duties with Stushnoff for the concerts. Both are looking forward to another best-ever Christmas concert as both the choir and band boast their largest memberships in years.

Stushnoff recently commented that the "wholehearted participation at our rehearsals, and our concentration and focus" have made a big difference as the choir continues to improve and impress. ■

Tickets to *A Christmas Carol Gallery* are available at Black Bear Books or choir members. The concert runs 7 p.m. Dec. 9 and 10, and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 11.



Christmas Greetings

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Church Hosting Annual Nativity Display

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

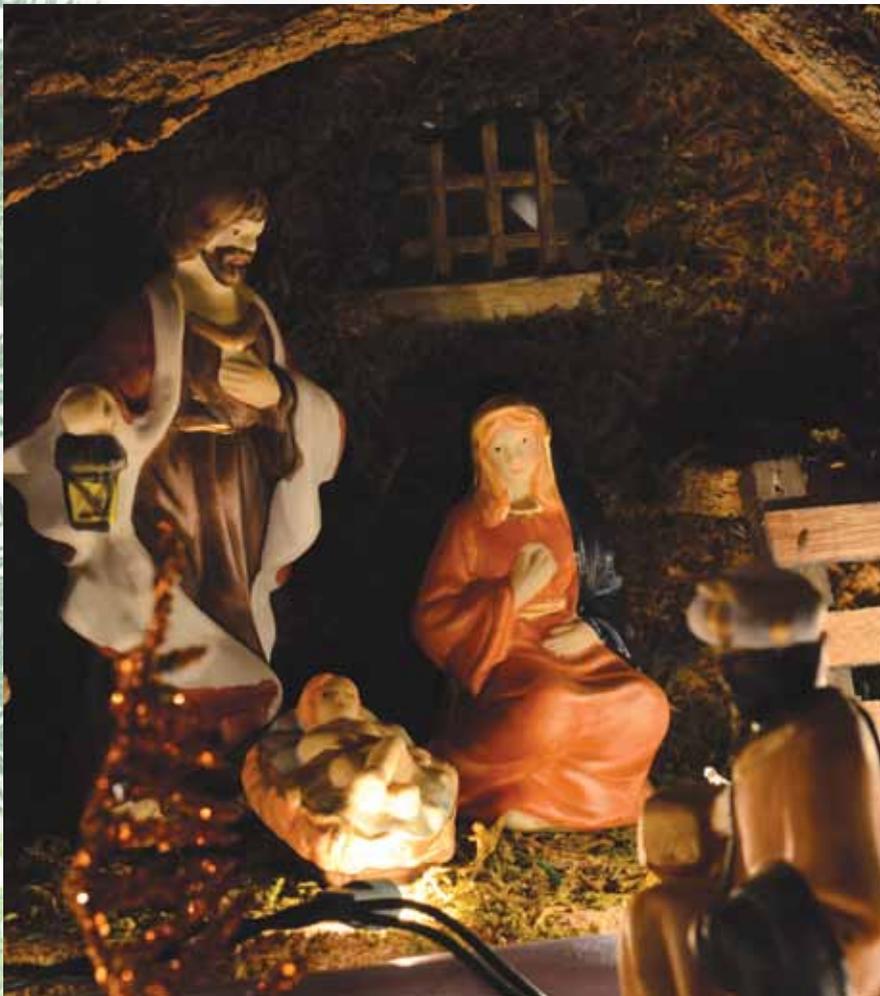
Are you looking for that special feeling that Christmas brings? Are you having trouble finding it?

Almost every year for 14 years, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have worked together to give a special gift to the community of Creston: a nativity exhibit.

The church hosts this beautiful display of crèche or nativity scenes, free of charge, to help us remember what the true meaning of Christmas is. There are around 350 sets, ranging from 1.5 inches to a large 27-piece Avon collection. Some elegant ones have been bought at various shopping venues; others are simply handmade



Jeff Banman Photography



with love. They vary in description from traditional to First Nations to Inuit. From almost every country on Earth, some are made from handmade dough art, wood, paper, carved stone, wheat, straw, banana skins, resin or ceramic — and one is even made of flannel cloth, sewn by hand with love from an aging mother.

They may be old treasured keepsakes, fragile with age, or newer, more elegant faceless pieces whose body tells the nativity story. Included are the artistry of Jim Shore, Willow, Glen Olsen and Del Parsons to name just a few. Each depicts the story of Mary, Joseph and the newborn baby Jesus. Some show shepherds and wise men as they came to worship the baby Jesus. Others depict a rock cavern with a donkey and cow behind a lowly manger holding the Christ child, while Mary and Joseph stand near. From meticulous carvings to childlike simplicity, from seriously breathtaking to whimsical and enchanting, this display has it all.

These exquisite pieces are set up with

colourful fabric, mini-lights and spiritual music. The true Christmas spirit is felt; it is hard to leave, but when you do, it lingers with you. It brings to each of us the feeling of peace and wonder of that blessed night, so long ago, when the Saviour of the world was born.

There is a Children's Room featuring various nativity activities. Children can make a stable or a manger, or colour the wooden nativity pieces to have their very own nativity. After guests have enjoyed the nativity displays, they can drop into the refreshment room, where they can enjoy a hot apple cider and homemade shortbread cookies.

So come, and bring your families, neighbours and friends to share the special magic that is Christmas, and feel the spirit that brings remembrance of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus the Christ Child. ■

The nativity exhibit runs 2-8 p.m. Dec. 9-11 and Dec. 16-18 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at 1010 36th Ave. N. in Erickson. Community organization can arrange viewing by appointment from Dec. 12-15 by calling 250-428-2796.

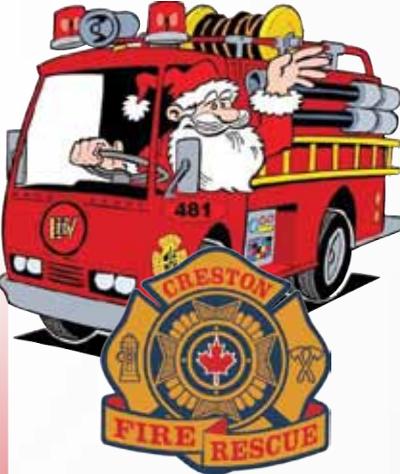
Merry Christmas To All!



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

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**Sunday, December 18th
 Monday, December 19th**

Merry Christmas



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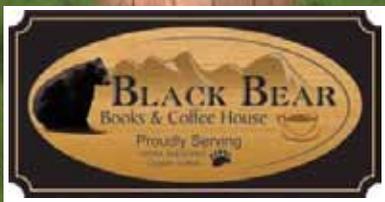
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Spread Cheer with Gingerbread Butter

Tis the season of baking delicious desserts and pastries filled with festive flavours. For many of us, it's a time to bake and fill our cookie tins with the traditional holiday taste of gingerbread.

This year, try experimenting the flavours of gingerbread in more than just cookies. Follow this recipe to purée the perfect gingerbread spread. Made in less than 10 minutes, spread the sweetness of gingerbread butter on your homemade or store-bought cookies, toast, pancakes, and more.

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 2 minutes

Makes: 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) or 24 (1 tbsp/15 mL) servings

Ingredients:

- 225 g gingerbread cookies, about eight cookies



- 1/2 cup (125 mL) icing sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) coconut oil
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) water
- 2 tsp (10 mL) Club House pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) Club House organic ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground ginger

Directions:

1. Pulse cookies in food processor

until resembles fine crumbs. Add sugar; pulse until just blended.

2. Heat oil and water in small saucepan on low heat until oil is melted. Slowly add oil mixture to processor while pulsing. Add vanilla and spices; pulse until just blended and refrigerate.

For more on preparing festive flavours and holiday feasts head to flavour.ca. ■

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Bake at Home this Holiday

Gift with love this holiday season by giving a homemade DIY gift to the special people in your lives. According to a recent survey, 63 per cent of Canadians say they would like to receive a DIY gift this holiday season. Furthermore, 45 per cent report homemade baked goods as a gift they'd like to receive, compared to the 19 who want store-bought baked goods.

Try this expert-tested and easy to make recipe that will ensure soft and chewy cookies, every time.

Prep time: 14 minutes

Freeze time: 24 hours

Cook time: 8 minutes

Makes: 36 cookies



Anything Goes Cookie Dough Chocolate Peppermint Spiral Cookie

Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups (610 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda

- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1 cup (250 mL) Becel Buttery Taste margarine
- 1 cup (250 mL) firmly packed light brown sugar

Season's Greetings

with all good wishes for the new year.

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- 1/4 cup (60 mL) granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. (5 mL) vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. (5 mL) peppermint extract
- 2 tbsp cocoa
- 20 hard peppermint candies, crushed

Directions:

1. Combine 2 1/2 cups (610 mL) flour, baking soda, and salt in medium bowl; set aside.
2. Mix in eggs and vanilla extract until blended.
3. Gradually add in flour mixture; mix just until blended. Stir in additional 1/4 cup (60 mL) flour and peppermint extract.
4. Divide dough in half (about 1 2/3 cups). Stir cocoa powder into half and candies into the other half. Roll out cream dough between two sheets of parchment or wax paper into 10 x 16 inch rectangle. Repeat with cocoa dough.
5. Using parchment paper, place cream dough on top of cocoa dough, trimming excess so dough is even. Gently roll dough lengthwise into log, using the parchment paper to assist (dough will be soft). Make sure to not leave in any paper.
6. Carefully roll log into peppermint candies, using parchment paper to assist. Wrap log in parchment paper then plastic wrap. Place on cookie sheet and freeze 24 hours.
7. Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Unwrap log and slice into 1/4 inch rounds, rotating the log 1/4 turn after each slice to maintain shape. Put dough back into freezer between batches. Place on ungreased cookie sheet — cookies might need to be reshaped into circles at this point.
8. Bake 7 minutes or until edges are golden. Cool cookies on sheets 2 minutes on wire rack; remove cookies from sheets and cool completely. ■

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





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OFFICE CLOSURE:
**December 22, 23, 26, 27, 28
and January 2**

238-10th Ave. N., Creston
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Your Shots

We asked you for photos of your favourite Christmas ornaments — and you responded!



Brooke Douma collects fish — pictures, candle holders, kitchen accessories — and has collected Kissing Fish ornaments for years, among them Mr. and Mrs. Claus (above left) and a teacher (above), fitting because she's the Prince Charles Secondary School drama teacher. She's also the adoptive mother to Lily, and bought the China doll ornament (left) the first Christmas after adopting Lily from China. "She's such a special gift," says Douma.



Erica Keen sent us these photos of her family's angel (top) — "our little angel blessing" — as well as a vintage Santa (above) and a Santa pillow her kids love (below).



Anna Payne submitted photos of a Willow Tree nativity set (above), a gift from her mom, and an ornament made by her daughter, Macy, when she was in kindergarten (right).



Christmas Blessings

Wishing you the many blessings of Christmas now and throughout the year.

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*May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
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Merry Christmas

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Dec 31.....2:45-4:15pm

Holiday Swimming Pool Hours

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Dec 25 **CLOSED**
Dec 26....2-6pm
Dec 27 & 29....9:00am-7pm
Dec 28 & 30....7:30am-7pm
Dec 31....1-6pm
Jan 1st **CLOSED**

Winter 2017 Leisure Guide is available Nov 28 for viewing online. Registration starts Dec 5th. Go to www.rdck.ca for details.



At the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our success possible.

It is in this spirit we say thank you and best wishes for the holidays and a happy new year.



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