

## **COUNSELLOR CONFLICT**

There are several members of Council who we believe are in a pecuniary conflict of interest related to these Applications. We made mention of this when we submitted our documentation a few days ago, but being ignorant of the process, did not realize that there was only really one way that we could communicate this information to you once the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading had taken place. We now understand that we have only one means of bring this forward to you. We were trying to make this less embarrassing for all concerned and did not realize that that was possible.

The first concern relates to Mayor Donald Scott.

Over the past several years, Brad Friesen has talked to various Draper Residents and vacant property owners about starting an association with the goal of changing the zoning and Character of Draper to legalize his non-allowable commercial activities. People opposed to his activities have been invited to such meetings and have discussed the matter with other Residents.

This past year, Mr. Friesen organized and started the Draper Community Spirit Association with several other land owners, with the objective to:

“Build community spirit and positive relationships with Wood Buffalo residents. Promote tourism, advocate for community development, advocate for appropriate infrastructure and land use. Promote responsible and reasonable development. preserve the heritage and historical sites and promote responsible and recreational use. Educate the public about the historical significance of the Draper area. Raise funds to carry out the goals of the organization.”

We see this as nothing more than a group trying to commercialize our community, change our zoning, contravene our Municipal Development Plan and make money in a Community that was mandated as quiet country living for its residents. The Dunvegan Garden applications are obviously part of this objective.

Mayor Scott, after he was elected in the Municipal election in 2017, chose to carry on operating his local Fort McMurray law practice. He is still a practicing member of the Law Society of Alberta (Exhibit 1) and is still the owner of the “Don Scott McMurray Law Office (Exhibit 2) and acts as a lawyer while doing his role as Mayor.

The Don Scott McMurray Law Office acted as legal counsel for the Draper Community Spirit Association, formed the Association and continues to act as the Association’s registered office (Exhibit 3). Mr. Brad Friesen is a Director of this Association.

Accordingly, we believe that this creates a pecuniary conflict of interest as this Association pays this law office for its services and there exists a further conflict related to the duties of a lawyer to his client and we respectfully ask that he recuse himself from this matter.



*Ward 3 candidate, Mr. Brad Lucier, pictured at his campaign function at Dunvegan Gardens' retail store in Draper, campaigning with Donald Scott, Ward 1 candidate Krista Balsom and Brad Friesen. This event took place after Mr. Friesen sent each candidate a letter on September 20, 2017, asking them to provide him with their position concerning these Applications.*



A second concern of pecuniary conflict relates to Counsellor Krista Balsom.

We believe that this Counsellor is in a material conflict in relation to all matters related to Dunvegan Gardens. Ms. Balsom owns a local magazine called YMM Magazine, which is owned by her corporation, “Balsom Communications Inc.”, with a registered office at Don Scott McMurray Law Office. She is the “Editor-in-Chief/Publisher” of the magazine (Exhibit 4).

The Magazine has regularly promoted Dunvegan Gardens over the years (Exhibit 5) and recently did an article in its Happy Holiday Guide 2017 Special Edition, published and circulated just before this past Christmas (Exhibit 6), after the election and the letter sent by Brad Friesen to candidates on September 30, 2017. In this edition, it contains on page 33 an advertisement of Dunvegan Gardens, advertising its “Winter Wonderland, discussed in our Submission in relation to Counsellor Peddle’s promotions of the Christmas retail store. The magazine also has an article about Dunvegan Gardens on page 34.

Draper Residents also noticed that Krista Balsom posted a large election sign in Draper (Ward 3) during the last election, despite being a Ward 1 candidate. We can only assume that she was attempting to obtain the support of Dunvegan Gardens’ customers who live in Ward 1.

On September 30, 2017, Brad Friesen sent each candidate the following email:

“Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you in regards to the rezoning of Dunvegan Gardens 128 Garden Lane property. As Fort McMurray is about to vote in a new mayor and council, we feel it is important we know all the candidates views on this topic.

Last winter we had over 15,000 signatures on a petition to keep the business here in Fort McMurray all signed by local residents. We're working on rezoning our property with the RMWB. With this in mind, we are going before council in October for this. We would like to know if you are in support of this application or not and please give us a reason for your answer. We would also appreciate your reply by Tuesday October 3, 2017 as we would like to share this with our social media followers since they are also curious to know who/ who doesn't support this.

Thank you,

Brad Friesen  
Dunvegan Gardens (AB) Ltd.  
VP of Operations, NCSO”

After receiving this letter from Brad Friesen on September 30, 2017, Krista Balsom posted the following online on October 2, 2017:



*Counsellor Balsom published this information, two days after Dunvegan Gardens asked Counsellor candidates to provide their position concerning the legalization of its business in Draper. To our knowledge, Counsellor Balsom made no effort to determine what the issues*

*were in Draper from the Residents who oppose Dunvegan Gardens or who are affected by its illegal activities all these years that she has supported the business in her magazine.*

Accordingly, we believe that Counsellor Balsom is in a pecuniary conflict of interest in that she profits from the advertising of Dunvegan Gardens in her magazine that is at risk in these applications and has an established bias and we therefore respectfully request her to recuse herself from this matter.

## Exhibit 1



# Don Scott, QC

Gender	Practising Status	Enrolment Date
Male	Practising	2001

## Practice Location

Don Scott McMurray Law Office  
102, 122 Millennium Drive  
Fort McMurray, AB T9K 2S8  
Canada  
Office (780) 750-9888  
Fax (780) 750-9588

## PROCEEDINGS HISTORY

Proceedings History prior to January 1, 2015, if any, is not yet available through Lawyer Directory. Contact the Law Society of Alberta for this information.

## Current Citation(s)

None

## Discipline History

None

## Notices and Report(s)

None

## Exhibit 2

# Government of Alberta ■ Trade Name / Partnership Search

## Corporate Registration System

Date of Search: 2018/04/12  
Time of Search: 03:56 PM  
Search provided by: 1536334 ALBERTA LTD.

Service Request No: 28823709  
Customer Reference No:

Registration No: TN19522457  
Current Business Name: DON SCOTT MCMURRAY LAW OFFICE  
Status of Business Name: Active  
Trade Name / Partnership Type: Trade Name  
Commencement Date: 2002/01/28 YYYY/MM/DD  
Date of Registration: 2016/02/23 YYYY/MM/DD  
Type of Business: LAW OFFICE

### Current Declarant:

Last/Legal Entity Name: DONALD K. SCOTT PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
Street: 102-122 MILLENNIUM DR  
City: FORT MCMURRAY  
Province: ALBERTA  
Postal Code: T9K 2S8

### Other Information:

### Filing History:

List Date	Type of Filing
2016/02/23	Register Trade Name

Alberta Registries certifies that the information contained in this search is the most recent information filed in the Register of Corporations.



**FORATIS**



### **Exhibit 3**

# Government of Alberta ■ Corporation/Non-Profit Search

## Corporate Registration System

Date of Search: 2018/04/12  
Time of Search: 03:53 PM  
Search provided by: 1536334 ALBERTA LTD.

Service Request Number: 28823661  
Customer Reference Number:

**Corporate Access Number:** 5020219704

**Legal Entity Name:** DRAPER COMMUNITY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION

**Legal Entity Status:** Active

**Legal Entity Type:** Alberta Society

**Registration Date:** 2017/02/01 YYYY/MM/DD

### Registered Office:

**Street:** 102-122 MILLENNIUM DRIVE  
**City:** FORT MCMURRAY  
**Province:** ALBERTA  
**Postal Code:** T9K 2S8

### Other Information:

#### Outstanding Returns:

Annual returns are outstanding for the 2018 file year(s).

**Fiscal Year End:** 12/31 MM/DD

#### Filing History:

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List Date (YYYY/MM/DD)	Type of Filing
2017/02/01	Incorporate Society

**Attachments:**

Attachment Type	Microfilm Bar Code	Date Recorded (YYYY/MM/DD)
Application	10000607127512546	2017/02/01
Bylaws	10000407127512547	2017/02/01
Notice of Address	10000207127512548	2017/02/01
Nuans	10000007127512549	2017/02/01

This is to certify that, as of this date, the above information is an accurate reproduction of data contained within the official records of the Corporate Registry.



This information is collected in accordance with the *Societies Act and Regulation*. It is required to determine whether the applicant qualifies for a certificate of incorporation. Collection is authorized under s. 33(a) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Questions about the collection can be directed to Service Alberta Contact Centre at: cr@gov.ab.ca or 780-427-7013 (toll-free 310-0000 within Alberta).

The persons who signed this form declare they wish to form a society under the *Societies Act*.

1. Society Name

DRAPER COMMUNITY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION



10000607127512546

5020 219 704

2. Society Objects

State the society's object(s)

Build community spirit and positive relationships with Wood Buffalo residents. Promote tourism, advocate for community development, advocate for appropriate infrastructure and land use. Promote responsible and reasonable development. preserve the heritage and historical sites and promote responsible and recreational use. Educate the public about the historical significance of the Draper area. Raise funds to carry out the goals of the organization.

3. Applicants

A minimum of five applicants are required. Create additional spaces by clicking the 'Add' button below the signature line.

Last Name Mack-Jarrett	First Name Wanda	Middle Name Marie
Street/Post Office Box Box 5261 (c/o 5882 Draper Road)	City/Town Fort McMurray	Province AB
Postal Code T9H 3G3		
Signature 		

Last Name Briffett	First Name Stephen	Middle Name Michael
Street/Post Office Box 11-266 Mackay Crescent	City/Town Fort McMurray	Province AB
Postal Code T9H 5C6		
Signature 		

Last Name McCraig	First Name Steven	Middle Name Arthur
Street/Post Office Box 7299A Draper Road, P.O. Box 5887	City/Town Fort McMurray	Province AB
Postal Code T9H 4V9		
Signature 		

Last Name Thorne	First Name Christopher	Middle Name Shawn
Street/Post Office Box 6126 Draper Road, P.O. Box 6244	City/Town Fort McMurray	Province AB
Postal Code T9H 4W1		
Signature 		


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Registrar of Corporations  
Province of Alberta

CH1700289 0072



Last Name Friesen		First Name Bradley	Middle Name Vere	
Street/Post Office Box 128 Garden Lane		City/Town Fort McMurray	Province AB	Postal Code T9H 0B6
Signature 				

#### 4. Witness

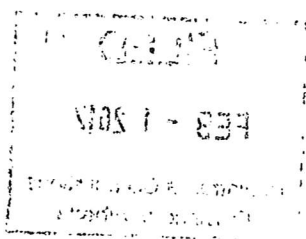
Last Name Burton		First Name Christine		Middle Name	
Street/Post Office Box 102-122 Millennium Drive			City/Town Fort McMurray		Province AB
					Postal Code T9K 2S8
Signature 					

**5. Authorized Representative/Authorized Signing Authority for the Society**

Briffett	Stephen	Michael
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name (optional)
Agent of Society	drapercommunity@hotmail.com	780-880-0129
Relationship to Society	Email Address (optional)	Telephone Number (optional)
2016-11-08		
Date of submission (yyyy-mm-dd)	Signature	

I, Stephen Michael Briffett, certify that the information above  
is true and correct.  
Authorized Representative

is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to file this form on behalf of the applicants listed above.



NOV 14 2016

CORPORATE REGISTRY



# Notice of Address for Society or Notice of Change of Address for Society

Societies Act Section 24(2)

This information is collected in accordance with the *Societies Act and Regulation*. It is required to register or update the society's address for the purposes of notice and service. Collection is authorized under s. 33(a) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Questions about the collection can be directed to the Service Alberta Contact Centre at: cr@gov.ab.ca or 780-427-7013 (toll-free 310-0000 within Alberta).

## 1. Society Name

## 2. Corporate Access Number

DRAPER COMMUNITY SPIRIT ASSOCIATION

## 3. Registered Office

Street/Legal Land Description	City/Town	Province	Postal Code
102-122 Millennium Drive	Fort McMurray	Alberta	T9K 2S8

## 4. Mailing Address (if applicable)

Post Office Box	City/Town	Province	Postal Code
<del>102-122 Millennium Drive</del>	<del>Fort McMurray</del>	<del>Alberta</del>	<del>T9K 0M8</del>

## 5. Authorized Representative/Authorized Signing Authority for the Society

Briffett

Last Name

Stephen

First Name

Michael

Middle Name (optional)

Agent of Society

Relationship to Society

drapercommunity@hotmail.com

Email Address (optional)

780-880-0129

Telephone Number (optional)

2016-11-08

Date of submission (yyyy-mm-dd)

Signature

I, Stephen Michael Briffett, certify that the information I have  
Authorized Representative

provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that I am authorized to file this form on behalf of the society.

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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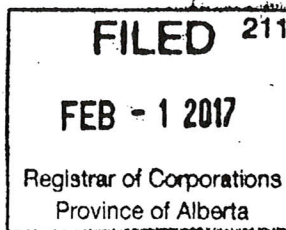
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 Registrar of Corporations  
Province of Alberta


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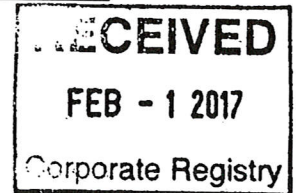
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**A BY-LAW GOVERNING THE PROCEDURE AND BUSINESS OF THE DRAPER COMMUNITY SPIRIT  
ASSOCIATION ("THE SOCIETY")**



BE IT HEREBY ENACTED as a By-Law of the Society as follows:

**Section 1 – Interpretation**

In all By-Laws of the Society, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:

- (a) "Act" means the Societies Act, R.S.A. 2000 Ch. S-14 as from time to time amended and every statute that may be substituted therefore, and, in the case of such substitution, any references in the By-Laws of the Society to the provisions of the Act shall be read as references to the substituted provisions in the new statute or statutes;
- (b) "Annual General Meeting" means the Annual General Meeting called pursuant to Section 7.01;
- (c) "Appoint" includes "elect" and vice versa;
- (d) "Board of Directors" Executive Committee or Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Society;
- (e) "By-Laws" means this By-Law and all other By-Laws of the Society from time to time in force and effect; and
- (f) "Member" or "Membership" means a member as defined in Section 2.01.
- (g) "Special Resolution" means:
  - i) A resolution passed:
    - a) at a special or general meeting of the Society of which not less than 21 days' notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution has been duly given, and
    - b) by vote of not less than 75% of those members who, if entitled to do so, vote in person or by proxy,
  - ii) A resolution proposed and passed as a special resolution at a general or special meeting of which less than 21 days' notice has been given is, if all the members entitled to attend and vote at the general or special meeting so agree, or by a resolution consented to in writing by all the members who would have been entitled at a general or special meeting to vote on the resolution in person or by proxy.

**1.02 Interpretation**

Save as aforesaid, all terms contained in the By-Laws of the Society which are defined in the Act or regulations shall have the meaning given to such terms in the Act or regulations. Words



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importing the singular number include the plural and the converse shall also apply. Words importing gender include the masculine, feminine, and neuter genders. Words importing a person include a body corporate.

### **1.03 Headings**

The headings preceding the clauses of the By-Laws have been inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not be considered or taken into account to constrain the terms or provisions of the By-Laws, nor deemed in any way to qualify, modify or explain the effect of any such terms or provisions.

## **Section 2 – Membership**

### **2.01 Membership**

Any person being the full age of 18 years and owning land in Draper, within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Alberta, and who supports the aims of the Society may become a Member by a favourable vote passed by a majority of the members at a regular meeting of the society, and upon payment of the Membership fee. Such voting shall be by ballot, unless the meeting by resolution otherwise decides. The interest of each Member is not transferable to another.

### **2.02 Membership Fees and Categories**

Membership fees and categories of Membership in the Society shall be determined from time to time by the Members at a general meeting. The Board, in its absolute discretion, may waive the fees for any Member.

### **2.03 Withdrawal from Membership**

Any Member wishing to withdraw from the Membership may do so upon giving notice in writing to the Society through its secretary.

### **2.04 Expulsion or Suspension of Member**

If any member is in arrears for fees or assessments for any year, such member shall be automatically suspended at the expiration of six months from the end of such year and shall thereafter be entitled to no membership privileges or powers in the society until reinstated. Any member upon a majority vote of all members of the society in good standing may be expelled from membership for any cause which the society may deem reasonable.

## **Section 3 – Board of Directors**

### **3.01 Duties of Board of Directors**

- (a) The Board shall, subject to the bylaws or directions given it by majority vote at any meeting properly called and constituted, have full control and management of the affairs of the society.
- (b) To vote on any resolutions brought forward to the board either in person or by proxy
- (c) To attend all meetings including general, special and annual meetings



- (d) To act in utmost good faith and promote the best interest of the Society when acting as a representative of the Society

### 3.02 Board Makeup

- (a) The Membership, by majority vote, will appoint all vacant positions of the Board from within its membership at the Annual General Meeting for a standard term as defined in section 3.03 of these by-laws
- (b) A person appointed or elected a director becomes a director if they were present at the meeting when being appointed or elected, and did not refuse the appointment. They may also become a director if they were not present at the meeting but consented in writing to act as director before the appointment or election, or within ten (10) days after the appointment or election, or if they acted as a director pursuant to the appointment or election
- (c) The Board will consist of seven (7) Directors, who will be elected from the membership;
- (d) The Board, by resolution, may appoint any director of the Board to sit, for a period of one year, as a member of the executive committee; and
- (e) The Executive committee is made up of the following:
  - Chair
  - Vice-Chair
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer

### 3.03 Term

The Directors elected by voting Membership shall serve as Directors for a term of one (1) year unless they are removed pursuant to this By-Law or have resigned. A Director may serve an unlimited number of terms.

### 3.04 Removal of Directors and Officers

- (a) The office of a Director or Officer shall be automatically vacated:
  - (i) If the Director or Officer resigns the office by delivering a written resignation to the Society;
  - (ii) On the death of a Director or Officer;
- (b) The Board may remove a Director or Officer:
  - (i) If the Director or Officer is absent from more than three meetings without notice or excuse;

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- (ii) If the Director or Officer engages in a course of conduct that could seriously harm, or harms, the organization's finances, operations, or reputation/credibility in the community
- (c) The membership can remove a Director or Officer
  - (i) If a motion to remove the Officer or Director is submitted to the Society and passed by a majority of the membership
  - (ii) If a motion is made at the Annual General Meeting, and is passed by a majority of the membership

### **3.05 Vacancies**

The Board may, by a majority of votes, from time to time, appoint a person as a Director for the purpose of filling a vacancy on the Board created by the resignation or removal of a Director. Such appointment shall continue until the next Annual Meeting and shall not be considered part of the said Director's official term for the purposes of Section 3.02.

### **3.06 Remuneration and Expenses**

The Directors and Officers shall serve without remuneration and shall not directly or indirectly receive any profit from the position as a director or officer. A Director or Officer may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by the Director or Officer in the performance of their duties. Any Director or Officer who is engaged in or is a member of a firm engaged in any business or profession shall not be retained by the Society to provide services to the Society without the approval by resolution of two-thirds (2/3) or the Directors present at a properly constituted Board meeting. The said resolution shall specify the term and conditions of the engagement. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to preclude any employee of the Society from serving the Society as an officer and receiving compensation for their employment with the Society.

### **3.07 No Liability**

No Director or officer of the Society is liable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults, or for any loss or expense happening to the Society through the insufficiency or deficiency of title to any property acquired by order of the Board for or on behalf of the Society, or for the insufficiency or deficiency of any security in or upon which any of the monies of the Society shall be invested or contributed, or for any loss or damage arising from the bankruptcy or insolvency or tortuous act of any person with whom any monies securities, or effects of the Society shall be deposited, or for any loss occasioned by an error of judgment or oversight on the Director's part, or for any other loss, damage or misfortune whatever which may happen in the execution of the duties of the Director's office or undertaking or in relation thereto, unless the same happened through the Director's own dishonesty or willful neglect.

### **3.08 Indemnity by the Society**

Subject to such limitations as may be imposed by law, every Director and officer of the Society and the Director's heirs, executors, administrators, and other legal personal representatives shall be indemnified by the Society against, and the Board shall pay out of funds of the Society, any

liability and all costs, charges and expenses that such Director or officer shall sustain or incur in respect of any action, suit or proceedings that is proposed or commenced against the Director by reason of any act or thing done or permitted by the Director by reason of the execution of the Director's office or undertaking, if:

- (a) The Director acted honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Society;
- (b) In the case of a criminal or administrative action or proceeding that is enforced by a monetary penalty, the Director had reasonable grounds for believing that the conduct was lawful; and
- (c) The Director acted without dishonesty and without willful neglect.

### **3.09 Meetings of the Board of Directors**

Meetings of the Board shall be held at such time and on such days as the Chair of the Society may, from time to time, determine.

### **3.10 Notice of Meetings**

- (a) Notice of Meetings shall be by mail or electronic media to the Member's address as noted in the records of the Society. Postmark or dated electronic media shall be used to confirm delivery of the material. Meetings of the Board shall be called by providing ten (10) days' notice in writing mailed, or by providing three (3) days' notice given by electronic media prior to the meeting.
- (b) Meetings may be held without notice if a quorum of the Board is present, provided however, that any business transactions at such meeting shall be ratified at the next regularly called meeting of the Board; otherwise they shall be null and void.

### **3.11 Quorum**

Four (4) of the Directors elected or appointed shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board.

### **3.12 Voting**

- (a) Questions arising at any meeting of the Board shall be decided by a majority of votes cast at that meeting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall not have a second or casting vote and the question in such case shall be considered lost.

### **3.13 Rules of Procedure**

The Board may establish by resolution rules to be followed at the meetings of the Board. Without limiting the foregoing, the Board may, by resolution, direct that votes be taken by secret ballot.



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### **3.14 Resolution in Writing**

A resolution in writing signed by all the Directors personally, or confirmed by email, facsimile or other similar method of communication from all Directors in accordance with the policies of the Society, shall be valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly called and constituted.

### **3.15 Meeting by Telephone**

Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of telephone or other communication facilities that permit all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and, the Directors participating by those means are deemed to be present at the meeting.

### **3.16 Conflict of Interest**

The Directors may establish, by resolution, policies designed to address real or perceived conflicts between the interests of the Society and the interests of the Directors, officers, Members and employees of the Society.

## **Section 4 – Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Committee**

### **4.01 Duties of the Chair**

- (a) To sit on all committees of the society (ex officio)
- (b) To prepare the agenda, and, when present, preside at all meetings of the society and of the Board. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside at any such meetings. In the absence of both, a chairperson may be elected at the meeting to preside.
- (c) To publicly represent the board in all written documentation and media responses
- (d) To vote on any resolution of the board only in the event of a tie
- (e) To prepare an annual report to the membership
- (f) To delegate any duties of the chair as required

### **4.02 Duties of the Vice Chair**

- (a) To assume the duties of the chair, should the chair forfeit, or delegate them.

### **4.03 Duties of the Secretary**

- (a) To attend all meetings of the society and of the Board, and to keep accurate minutes of the same.
- (b) To have charge of the Seal of the society which whenever used shall be authenticated by the signature of the Secretary and the President, or, in the case of the death or inability of either to act, by the Vice President. In case of the absence of the Secretary, their duties shall be discharged by such officer as may be appointed by the Board.
- (c) To have charge of all documentation and correspondence of the Society and be under the direction of the President and the Board.
- (d) To be responsible for reviewing, and updating all documentation, as necessary, and ensuring all documents are safely stored and readily accessible

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#### **4.04. Duties of the Treasurer**

- (a) To receive all monies paid to the Society and be responsible for the deposit of same in whatever Bank, Trust Company, Credit Union or Treasury Branch the Board may order.
- (b) To properly account for the funds of the Society and keep such books as may be directed.
- (c) To present a full detailed account of receipts and disbursements to the Board whenever requested
- (d) To prepare for submission to the Annual Meeting a statement duly audited of the financial position of the Society and submit a copy of same to the Secretary for the records of the Society.
- (e) The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be filled by one person if any annual meeting for the election of officers shall so decide.
- (f) keep an accurate record of all financial transactions of the society
- (g) To adhere to, and administer any financial policy documents of the society
- (h) To work with any external book keeper, accountant, and auditors as required to conduct society business.

### **Section 5 - Execution of Instruments**

#### **5.01 Signing Authority**

The Board may, from time to time, designate by resolution the manner in which the person or persons by whom any particular instrument or class of instruments may or shall be executed, and all instruments so executed shall be binding upon the Society without further authorization or formality. In the event that such a resolution is not passed, any and all documents, deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts, obligations, certificates and other instruments may be executed on behalf of the Society by any two officers or any two Directors or by one officer and one Director, together.

#### **5.02 Cheques, Drafts and Notes**

All cheques, drafts or orders for the payment of money and all notes, acceptances and bills of exchange shall be signed in such manner and by such Directors of the Society or other persons or any combination of the foregoing as the Board may, from time to time, designate by resolution.

### **Section 6 - Records, Fiscal Year, Annual Report**

#### **6.01 Books and Records**

The Board shall see that all necessary books and records of the Society required by the By-Laws of the Society or by any applicable statute or law are regularly and properly kept and shall, at all reasonable times during regular business hours, be open to inspection by the Members. The treasurer/secretary is responsible for taking and keeping the minutes of the society meetings.

#### **6.02 Fiscal Year**

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the fiscal year of the Society shall terminate on the 31st day of December in each year.

### 6.03 Annual Report

Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the Society shall prepare and, on or about one hundred and eighty (180) days after the end of each fiscal year, submit to the Membership an annual report, which shall include the financial statements and any other statements and reports that the Board may require.

## Section 7 –Meetings

### 7.01 Annual General Meeting

- (a) The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting. This meeting is the only general meeting required of the society. At the Annual General Meeting, the Membership shall elect all vacant or to term board positions, from the Membership.
- (b) The Annual General Meeting will take place on or before June 30th of each year.
- (c) Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be made by mail or electronic media to each Members' address as noted in the records of the Society. Postmark or dated electronic media shall be used to confirm delivery of the material. Where a Members' address has changed it will be the responsibility of the Member to inform the Society of said change in a timely manner not to exceed 30 days from the date of change.
- (d) The membership shall receive notice of the Annual General Meeting and all Special Resolutions with no less than twenty-one (21) days of notice.
- (e) Twenty (20) per cent of voting Members in person or by duly executed Proxy, as recorded in the records of the Society, shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of its Membership.
- (f) Each voting Member shall have the right to vote at any meeting of Members of the Society. Votes may be made in person or by proxy.
- (g) The Membership may establish by resolution the rules of procedure to be followed at all meetings of the Membership. Without limiting the foregoing, the Membership may, by resolution, direct that votes be taken by secret ballot.
- (h) A proxy may appoint an individual to vote on behalf of the appointer or record a vote where a copy of the resolution is included in the meeting notice. The instrument appointing a proxy or recording a vote shall be in writing in any effectual form under the hand of the appointer or the appointer's attorney duly authorized in writing and need not be attested. No person who is not a Member may be appointed as a proxy.
- (i) A proxy is valid only at the meeting or for the resolution in respect of which it is given or any adjournment of that meeting or resolution. A proxy may be revoked, at any time, in writing under the hand of the appointer or the appointer's attorney.
- (j) The proxy shall be left with the chairperson or with such other person in such other place as may be specified in the notice of meeting or at the meeting with the chairperson thereof before the vote is taken. In default of such deposit, such proxy is not valid.



CR1700289 0068

## **7.02 Special Meetings of the Society**

Upon the written request setting forth the reasons for calling such meetings signed by at least five (5) Directors or at least one-third (1/3) of the Membership, the Chair shall call a special meeting of the Society. This meeting shall occur within thirty (30) days of the request.

## **7.03 Notice of Meetings**

- (a) Notice of scheduled meetings of the board of directors shall be made available to the membership via electronic media. Formats of transmission may include, but are not limited to: Email, Website notices, and posts on social media.
- (b) Non board members, shall be excused for all in camera sections of board meetings.

## **Section 8 – Borrowing Powers**

### **8.01 Powers of Society**

For the purposes of carrying out its objects, the Society may borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as it thinks fit. In no case shall debentures be issued without the sanction of a special resolution, as defined in the Act, or the Society's By-laws.

## **Section 9 – Audit**

### **9.01 Audit Annually**

The books, accounts and records of the Society shall be audited each year by a duly qualified accountant or by two Members of the Society elected for that purpose at the Annual General Meeting. A complete and proper statement of the standing of the accounts for the previous year shall be submitted by such Auditor at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

## **Section 10 – Amendment to the By-Laws**

### **10.01 Method of Amendment**

These By-Laws may be amended, altered, added to or rescinded by special resolution of the Society. Such changes to the By-laws are not effective until such time as the changes have been accepted and registered by the Registrar under the Societies Act.

## **Section 11 - Distribution of Property upon Winding Up or Dissolution of the Society**

### **11.01 Return to Grant Sponsors**

All property in the hands of the Society upon winding up or dissolution of the Society that has been placed in its hands by a grant sponsor and has not been disbursed pursuant to the terms of the granting agreement between the Society and the Grant Sponsor shall be returned to the Grant Sponsor or otherwise dealt with in accordance with the agreements between the Society and the Grant Sponsor.

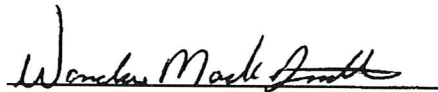
**11.02 Casino Funds**

Any funds remaining in the hands of the Society upon winding up or dissolution of the Society that originated from casino revenue which remain after the payment of all debts, liabilities and other obligations of the Society for which such funds can be used pursuant to the terms of the casino license, shall be delivered to a registered charitable organization determined by the Board and which is acceptable pursuant to the terms of the casino license.

**11.03 Remaining Funds or Assets**

Any remaining funds or assets in the hands of the Society, with the exception of casino funds per bylaw 11.02, and grants funds per bylaw 11.0, upon winding up or dissolution of the Society after the payment of all debts, liabilities and other obligations of the Society of any kind shall be delivered to a registered charitable organization determined by the Board.

These Bylaws approved as to form and content by the Applicants:



Wanda Marie Mack-Jarrett

P.O. Box 5261 (c/o 5882 Draper Road)  
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 3G3



Stephen Michael Briffett

11-266 Mackay Crescent  
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 5C6



Steven Arthur McCaig (MCCAIG) L.L.M.  
7299A Draper Road, P.O. Box 5887  
Fort McMurray, AB Y9H 4V9



Christopher Shawn Thorne

6126 Draper Road, P.O. Box 6244  
Fort McMurray, AB T9H 4W1



CR1700289 0070



Bradley Vere Friesen

128 Garden Lane

Fort McMurray, AB T9H 0B6

Witness:



Christine M. Burton, Barrister & Solicitor

Don Scott McMurray Law Office

102-122 Millennium Drive

Fort McMurray, AB T9K 2S8

## **Exhibit 4**

# Government of Alberta ■ Corporation/Non-Profit Search

## Corporate Registration System

Date of Search: 2018/04/12  
Time of Search: 03:55 PM  
Search provided by: 1536334 ALBERTA LTD.

Service Request Number: 28823685  
Customer Reference Number:

**Corporate Access Number:** 2016867547

**Legal Entity Name:** BALSOM COMMUNICATIONS INC.

**Legal Entity Status:** Active

**Alberta Corporation Type:** Named Alberta Corporation

**Registration Date:** 2012/06/27 YYYY/MM/DD

### Registered Office:

**Street:** 102-122 MILLENNIUM DRIVE  
**City:** FORT MCMURRAY  
**Province:** ALBERTA  
**Postal Code:** T9K 2S8

### Records Address:

**Street:** 102-122 MILLENNIUM DRIVE  
**City:** FORT MCMURRAY  
**Province:** ALBERTA  
**Postal Code:** T9K 2S8

### Directors:

**Last Name:** BALSOM  
**First Name:** KRISTA  
**Street/Box Number:** 4-200 ARABIAN DRIVE  
**City:** FORT MCMURRAY  
**Province:** ALBERTA

**Postal Code:** T9H 5S2

**Voting Shareholders:**

**Last Name:** BALSOM  
**First Name:** KRISTA  
**Street:** 4-200 ARABIAN DRIVE  
**City:** FORT MCMURRAY  
**Province:** ALBERTA  
**Postal Code:** T9H 5S2  
**Percent Of Voting Shares:** 100

**Details From Current Articles:**

**The information in this legal entity table supersedes equivalent electronic attachments**

**Share Structure:** SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE "A"  
**Share Transfers Restrictions:** SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE "B"  
**Min Number Of Directors:** 1  
**Max Number Of Directors:** 9  
**Business Restricted To:** NONE  
**Business Restricted From:** NONE  
**Other Provisions:** SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE "C"

**Associated Registrations under the Partnership Act:**

Trade Partner Name	Registration Number
YOUR MCMURRAY MAGAZINE	TN16867608
YOUR MCMURRAY MAGAZINE	TN17593534

**Other Information:**

**Last Annual Return Filed:**

File Year	Date Filed (YYYY/MM/DD)
2017	2017/05/26

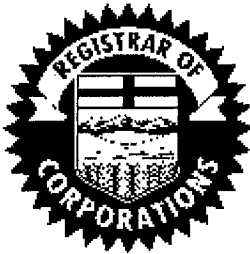
**Filing History:**

List Date (YYYY/MM/DD)	Type of Filing
2012/06/27	Incorporate Alberta Corporation
2017/05/26	Enter Annual Returns for Alberta and Extra-Provincial Corp.
2017/05/31	Change Address

**Attachments:**

Attachment Type	Microfilm Bar Code	Date Recorded (YYYY/MM/DD)
Share Structure	ELECTRONIC	2012/06/27
Restrictions on Share Transfers	ELECTRONIC	2012/06/27
Other Rules or Provisions	ELECTRONIC	2012/06/27

This is to certify that, as of this date, the above information is an accurate reproduction of data contained within the official records of the Corporate Registry.



## Exhibit 5



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# HOME & GARDEN GUIDE 2015 (/SPECIAL-EDITIONS/HOME-AND-GARDEN/HOME-GARDEN-GUIDE-2015) PUTTING DOWN ROOTS WITH DUNVEGAN GARDENS

HOME &  
GARDEN  
2015



BY KERRI LELAND (/AUTHORS/KERRI-LELAND) —

([HTTP://YOURMCMURRAYMAGAZINE.COM/SPECIAL-EDITIONS/HOME-AND-GARDEN/HOME-GARDEN-GUIDE-2015/527/PUTTING-DOWN-ROOTS-WITH-DUNVEGAN-GARDENS#ITEM-COMMENTS](http://yourmcmurraymagazine.com/special-editions/home-and-garden/home-garden-guide-2015/527/putting-down-roots-with-dunvegan-gardens#item-comments)) COMMENTS

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DUNVEGAN GARDENS IS A FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 62 YEARS, MAKING THE ART OF BEAUTIFYING OUR REGION THEIR BUSINESS.

“Our family moved to the region in the fall of 1952, and quickly got used to the hard work and long hours that were needed in order to plant, water, fertilize, hoe and harvest our vegetable crops successfully,” shares Brad Friesen. “Eventually my father and two uncles began purchasing greenhouses. We’ve been putting what we learned from them into our businesses ever since.”

---



II



With garden centres, greenhouses, tree nurseries, market gardens, gift shops and landscaping, the Friesen family has become firmly established as the go-to experts when growing living things in our northern backyards.

Over 30,000 square feet of greenhouse features hanging baskets, potted plants, tropical house plants, garden furniture, gardening tools, fertilizer and annuals; they have everything you need to make your yard your own personal oasis.

For YMMers who need more than just the right plants and tools to transform their yard in the perfect escape, the Landscaping division at Dunvegan Gardens is available to put their expertise to work on creative solutions for landscaping projects.

With lawn maintenance and landscape construction, including sod installation, seeding, retaining wall construction, playground installation, contract hauling, masonry work, grade finishing, tree and shrub installation, topsoil screening and hauling, and gravel hauling, the Landscaping division will ensure you have a beautiful outdoor retreat to enjoy. They even offer snow removal during the winter months...but let's not even think about snow right now!

Lacking a green thumb, or the time or space available to commit to growing fruits and vegetables? Dunvegan Gardens grows crops for the fresh market, where you can buy fresh produce...and nobody needs to know that you didn't grow it yourself!

From July through September, garden-fresh beans, beets broccoli, cabbage, (green/red), carrots, cauliflower, corn, cucumbers, onions, parsnips, peas, peppers, potatoes, radishes, tomatoes, strawberries and wide variety of squash (pumpkin, spaghetti and zucchini) are available.

Delicious fresh food like this is also benefiting local non-profits, such as the Wood Buffalo Food Bank.

“The Food Bank is our top charity,” explains Brad. “We feel that it is always in need of fresh produce and we grow plenty. The Food Bank relies on the generosity of this community, and donating fresh food is a way for us to help out.”

With a passion for the community, giving back is important to them. “We help to beautify the city through work projects and donations to local charities,” says Brad. “Dunvegan Gardens as a family likes to give back to the community that supports us. We feel that this is very important.”

Looking for information on beautifying your own surroundings? Dunvegan Gardens offer a comprehensive tree and shrub guide online at [dunvegangardensfm.com](http://dunvegangardensfm.com) as well as information about how they can help you put down roots in your own piece of Fort McMurray!

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SUMMER-IN-FORT-MCMURRAY-  
A-SOUNDTRACK-TO-SUMMER)



## **KERRI LELAND (/AUTHORS/KERRI-LELAND)**

Kerri has always enjoyed a good story, and favours jotting them down on paper where her thoughts become way more organized. She has always called Alberta home, and delights in the tales that come from there. In her free time, Kerri daydreams, rides bikes, goes on long walks, and cries over videos about dogs. She also donates her time to raising two pretty fantastic kids who call her "mom".




### **Latest from KERRI LELAND**

- **HONOMOBO: A MODERN TAKE ON BEAUTIFUL HOMES IN WOOD BUFFALO (/SPECIAL-EDITIONS/HOME-AND-GARDEN/HOME-GARDEN-GUIDE-2017/1995/HONOMOBO-A-MODERN-TAKE-ON-BEAUTIFUL-HOMES-IN-WOOD-BUFFALO)**
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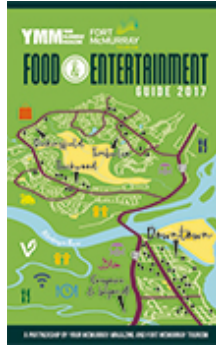
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# YOUR MCMURRAY HAPPY HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

HOLIDAY  
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BY YOUR MCMURRAY TEAM (</AUTHORS/YOUR-MCMURRAY-TEAM>) —

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## Points North Gallery

Whether you're looking for original Canadian artwork, with a focus on local and regional artists, or you'd like to have that special picture custom-framed, Points North Gallery is the perfect place to find the perfect gift. Be sure to check out their selection of high quality artisan gifts, including Adrian Klis Fine Leathers, Beelites Beeswax Candles, books, honey, soap and chocolate from The Violet Chocolate Co.!

---

10015 Centennial Drive

780-790-1777

pointsnorthgallery.ca (<http://pointsnorthgallery.ca>)



(<http://ymm-magazine.balsomcommunicat.netdna-cdn.com/images/articles/holidays/2015/03-gift-guide/poin-north/1.jpg>)

### **Dunvegan Gardens**

Deck your halls and do your holiday shopping all at one place! Pick up a beautiful Christmas tree and all the trimmings, and also find the gifts to place under the tree! From garden décor to ornaments, jewelry, antique furniture and children's gifts, you're sure to find what you're looking for!

128 Garden Lane (off Draper Road)

780-791-4363

[dunvegangardens.ca](http://dunvegangardens.ca) (<http://dunvegangardens.ca>)



(<http://ymm-magazine.balsomcommunicat.netdna-cdn.com/images/articles/holidays/2015/03-gift-guide/dunv-gardens/4.jpg>)

### The Final Touch

That something special is waiting for you at The Final Touch. Take your holiday décor to that next level, find that perfect something for that special someone, or find that one thing that completes the look of your home all in one place.

11-100 Real Martin Drive  
780-790-1151



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### Peter Pond Mall

Holiday shopping just got easier! Peter Pond Mall gift cards ensure that you never buy the wrong size, shape or colour again! In denominations from \$5 to \$500, this is the perfect gift for any budget. Also now open: Bath and Body Works! Stock up on your festive body care and candles...perfect for treating yourself or someone else!



9713 Hardin Street

780-791-4044

peterpondmall.com (<http://peterpondmall.com>)



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### **THE Original Basket Boutique**

Show your gratitude, appreciation, care and holiday wishes to a client, employee, colleague, or anyone else on your holiday shopping list! These customized gift baskets range in price from \$50-\$500, and are a unique and thoughtful gift idea.

780-791-5654

obbfortmcmurray.com (<http://obbfortmcmurray.com>)





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### Heritage Park Gift Shop

Looking for unique gift finds from Fort McMurray, Canada, and around the world? The Heritage Park Gift Shop has gift ideas for everyone, whether it's books, jewelry, toys, clothing, home décor or goodies for the kitchen that you're looking for.

1 Tolen Drive (gift shop located in the Community Historical Resource Centre)

780-791-7575

[fortmcmurrayhistory.com](http://fortmcmurrayhistory.com) (<http://fortmcmurrayhistory.com>)

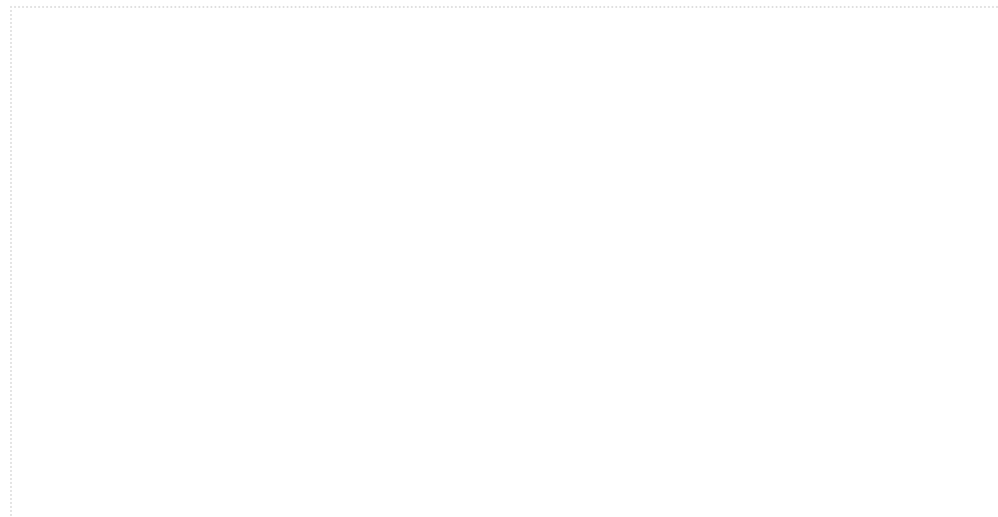


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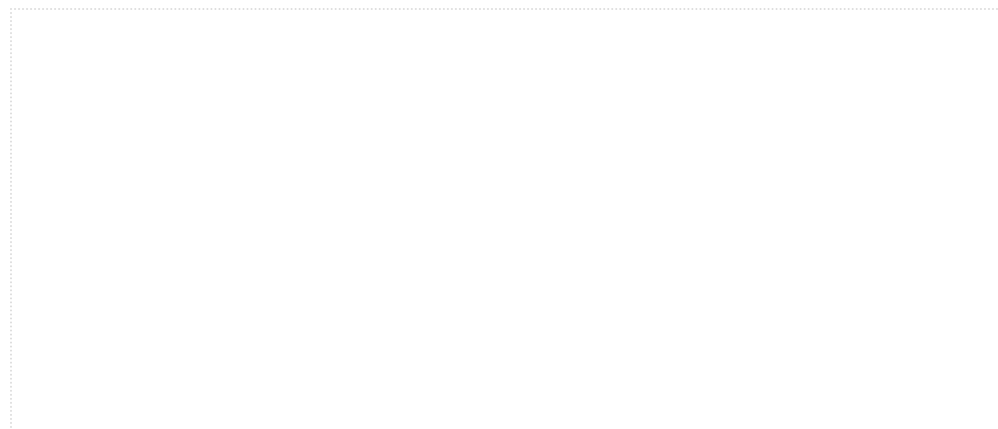
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These fabulous ladies are bound to get you giggling with their sassy moves and hilarious characters. With influences from cult classics to Broadway favourites they create imaginative show-stoppers! The performers are as individual as the stars on the walk of fame - cute and geeky, rock 'n' roll, classic and elegant - audiences can't help but have a favourite or two or three! They're known for high energy acts, lavish costumes, stand out performers, comedic timing, seductiveness and girl-next door accessibility.

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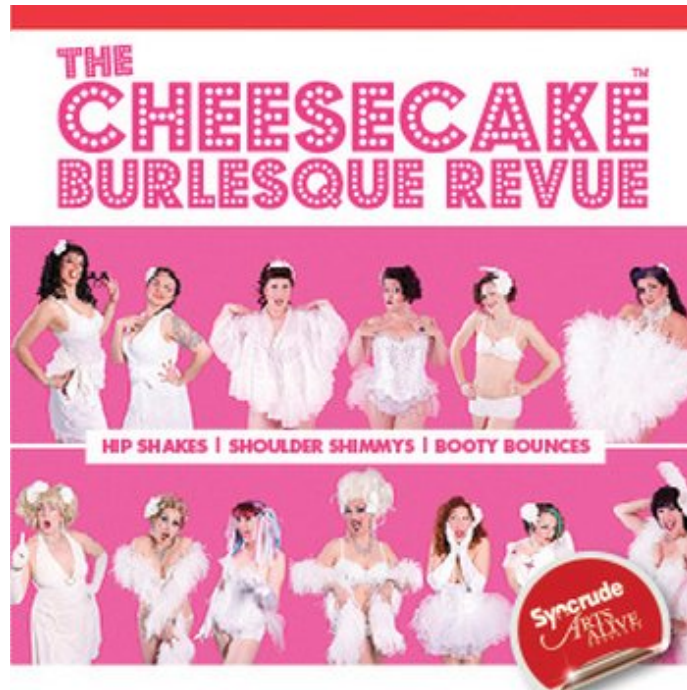
[keyano.ca/theatre](http://keyano.ca/theatre) (<http://keyano.ca/theatre>)

Ladies don't Miss SASS CLASS 101 on January 15!

A women's only burlesque workshop where you learn about the history of burlesque, make your own stage name and practice the

saucy moves in a fun and safe environment.

For details and registration please call the Keyano Box Office at 780 791 4990.



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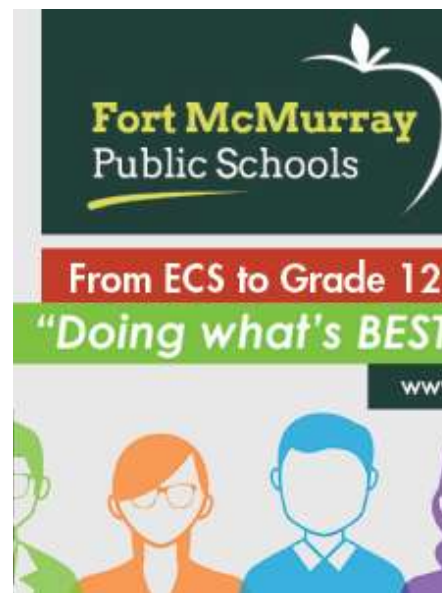
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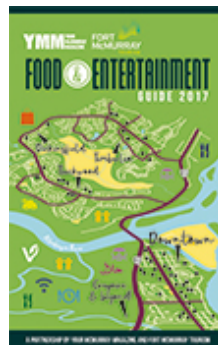
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### CHRISTMAS AT DUNVEGAN GARDENS



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When it comes to the holiday season in Fort McMurray, nobody does it like Dunvegan Gardens. Brad Friesen, VP of Operations, tells us more about how it all started, and what you can expect when you visit.

---



**YMM: Take us back to when Dunvegan Gardens started supporting Christmas in Wood Buffalo. When did it all begin, and why?**

Dunvegan Gardens' first Christmas for the residents goes as far back as about 1982 with the greenhouses in Grande Prairie and Peace River. We have been in the business of Garden Centres for more than 35 years. The trend within Garden Centres used to be Ma

& Pap operations that were opened May to July, but if you then needed to try and find a job the other months always made things tough only wanting seasonal work then in March you started having to seed and plan for the next season. Q

Like everything throughout our world came progress and the competition in the world with Big Box stores. We had to change the product mix, hours of operation and rethink all that we were doing. When the box stores started flogging our products at cost or as loss leaders then we had to re-invent ourselves, and with that came the 12-month Garden Centre open year-round with full-time staff, greater than just the family, and an increase in product line.

So our supporting of Christmas in Wood Buffalo came in 2001 with our first Christmas in a small store on Gregoire Drive. We had it plenty full the first year, and to so many people's amazement, Christmas came to Fort McMurray grander than it was in the past. We have become the Christmas Store; from that first year and every year since we have had wonderful Christmas displays that start as early as the 15th of October. People want to shop for the tree and home before worrying about presents or the food that will be on the table during the Christmas season as we remember Bethlehem and the birth some 2000 years earlier.

We believe that Garden Centres and nurseries, farms and market gardens are the ones who have helped invest back into Christmas in communities around the world.

### **YMM: Tell us about the Christmas Village.**

The Christmas Village was one of our ideas. We had all of this empty space, so my wife, Terri, suggested that we create trails and make it like a walk in the park. Together with her team, Terri has

created an experience like none other for the third year in a row. It's magical for kids, young families, and friends to walk through as we play a special Christmas soundtrack created by Terri.


Our Christmas Village gives people ideas for Christmas decorating, themes, and just a magical environment to shop in. In the past we've done a Winter Wonderland in the past, as well as Christmas in the City. This year we've combined the two and also added in the Elves Playground at the North Pole.

### **YMM: What makes Dunvegan Gardens a great place to buy your Christmas tree locally?**

Dunvegan Gardens reinvests what it makes all back into this community. The owners live here; they do not send it to shareholders around the world, across the country or across the province. We are local to this community; we do not answer to people who tell us what have or sell, but to the people we serve.

Our trees have come from the same tree farm for the past 15 years. We have been selling Christmas trees for over 30 years; in that time, we have had four suppliers, one we no longer deal with as the true Charlie Brown trees are not sought after anymore as more people want the fuller tree: Grand Fir, Fraser Fir or Pine tree. My favourite has always been the Grand Fir for its needle texture in decorating, and the smell that it produces throughout the house. When we find a supplier who will stand behind their product and continue to give you a great product at a reasonable price we keep our loyalty with them for years. We also strive to look for closer suppliers to help reduce our carbon footprint on the environment.

### **YMM: Talk a bit about all of the amazing Christmas décor that you have.**

The Christmas decor is ordered at shows in January. Only weeks after all of it is taken down, we are planning for the next year. We look forward to that time every year as in January we have a little rest before starting to plan the next season. We go to shows from Vancouver to Toronto to bring you some of the more unique things that can be found out there. We spend over a week browsing for what we will want, and then doing the purchasing throughout showrooms and trade shows. 

### **YMM: What kind of Christmas gifts can be found at Dunvegan Gardens?**

We have a little bit of everything...things for men, women, and children. You can find gifts for people when you're invited out to a friend's for a house warming. You can find things related back to the farm, things to do with travel and things for teachers. First Christmases for babies, as well as a full line of artificial and real Christmas trees, garlands, poinsettias and all the decorations.

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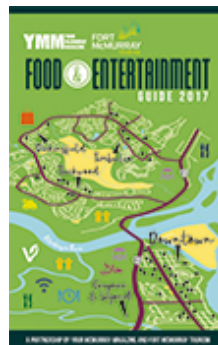
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## YOUR MCMURRAY LOCAL GIFT GUIDE



BY YOUR MCMURRAY TEAM (/AUTHORS/YOUR-MCMURRAY-TEAM) —  
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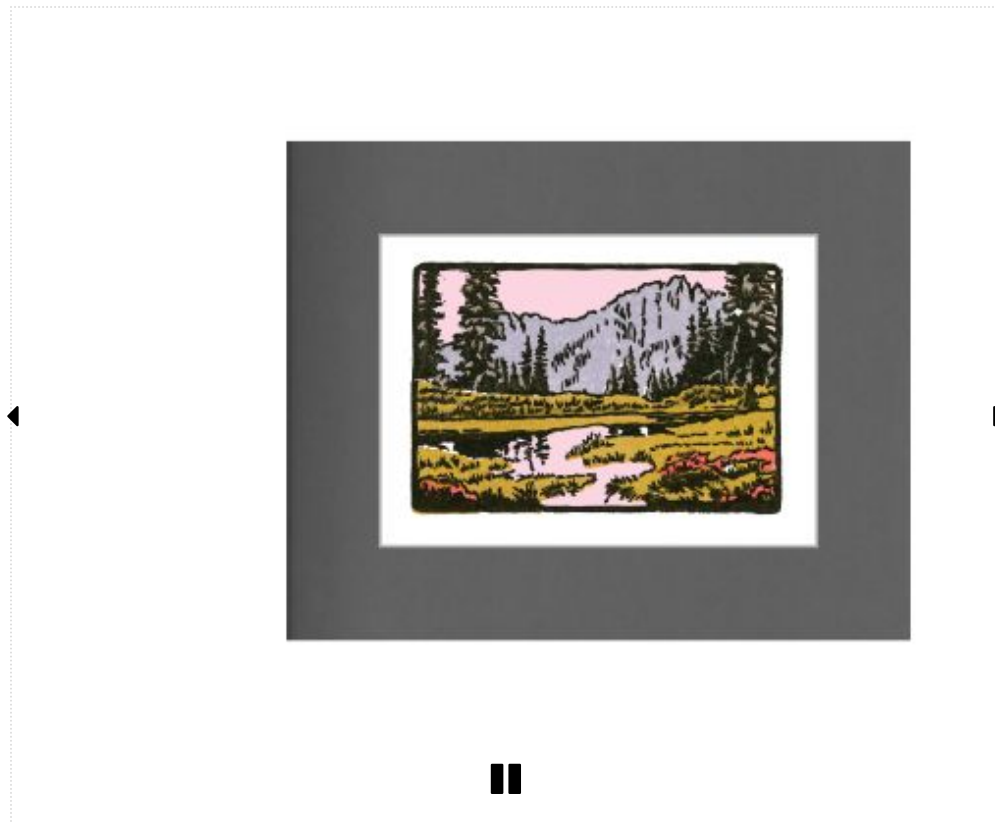
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We asked you, our readers, where you like to shop in Fort McMurray. Here's what you had to say!

---



## Best Places to Shop for Kids

- Children's Place —Prakash M.
- Blankies and bums, Monroe Bow Baby Boutique —Robin H.
- Belly Bubbles & the school markets —Crystal M.
- Precious Threads —Rebecca D.
- Coles —Robin E.
- Sew Sweet Studio —Colleen M.



## Best Places to Shop for Guys



- Lusso —Robin S.
- Le Chateau —Rose
- Project Clothing, Campus/Street, Spareparts, The Source, EB Games —Danielle M.
- Bob Barrett's —Said A LOT on Facebook!
- Mark's, Staples, Home Hardware/Rona, Canadian Tire, Nerdvana, EB Games, HMV, Coles —Patrick B.
- Tommy Gun's Original Barbershop —Jason C.

## Best Places to Shop for Women

- Heritage Village —Alice G.
- Chocolates & Candlelight, Peter Pond Mall —Paul H.
- Frames and More —Sadik K.
- The Final Touch —Charlotte A.
- Yvonne Lauren —Rachael D.
- Helen Arong Fine Fashion —Shanita T.

## Best Places to Shop for Teens

- Kazaam Skate & Snow —Lauren M.
- Peter Pond Mall —Neville T.
- Coles —Justine R.

## Best Places to Shop for Pets

- Pet Valu —Crystal M.
- Bone & Biscuit —Tracey G.
- Pawsitive Pet Boutique (SPCA) —Andryia B.

## Other Great Gift Ideas...



- Nicole Cormier Photography
- Original Basket Boutique
- Sophia Graine Handmade linocut fine art prints
- Chrystal Stringer Photography

## Other Great Places to Shop...

- Heritage village
- Dunvegan Gardens
- Tommy Gun's
- Peter Pond Mall
- Kazam
- Chocolates & Candlelight

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**Welcome to Fort McMurray**

1 comment • 2 years ago

**Amal Manaa** — I was totally appalled when read this lies about TCTP not only me also the

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**Shawn** — A true testament to the graciousness, caring and kind spirited people that live in

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- **SOCIAL PROCUREMENT: A NEW WAY OF CREATING IMPACT (/FEATURES/2065/SOCIAL-PROCUREMENT-A-NEW-WAY-OF-CREATING-IMPACT)**

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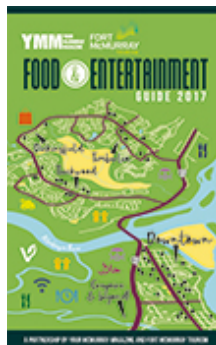
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# THE HUNT IS ON AT DUNVEGAN GARDENS

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**5-3**



BY STEPH SEIDEL —

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In 2011, Dunvegan Gardens and KAOS 91.1 co-founded a Giant Easter Egg Hunt held at Dunvegan's Draper Road farm. Neither Dunvegan Gardens nor we could have imagined the extent of the crowds that would show up to search for the plastic eggs in the hay and the greenhouses. The Giant Easter Egg Hunt morphed into an annual event attracting more than 3,000 people every year. This year is our seventh annual hunt and we're expecting to have our most participants yet.



In preparation for the Easter egg hunt, more than 33,000 plastic eggs are stuffed with wrapped candy or notes that lead hunters to a bigger prize at the front of the store. Chocolate eggs and bunnies, bags of candy, and small toys are among the prizes. The most sought-after prize is a golden egg with a note inside which may entitle the participant to a new bike or 'Melissa and Doug' branded toys.

The planning for the Giant Easter Egg Hunt begins the day after the previous year's hunt and the excitement continues all year long. Busses are rented and scheduled, off site parking is arranged, portable washrooms are ordered, permits are applied for, community mascots are locked in, traffic directors are requested and the prizes are collected. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is a huge undertaking but it is always worth it when we see the kids caught up in magic it creates.

KAOS 91.1 continues to partner in the event as part of our commitment to promoting healthy families and healthy communities. We get on board with advertising the event through commercials and our announcers talking about it in the lead-up. On the day of the event, we offer hot drinks, face painting and balloons. We also arrange for our staff and a host of volunteers to help manage the crowds of excited hunters. This year's hunt is on April 17 so if you tune your radio to 91.1 that day, in between the broadcast of some 'Real. Good. Music,' you'll hear live updates of each of the Easter egg hunts.

The Easter Bunny himself and owner of Dunvegan Gardens, Brad Friesen spoke with us about the event saying, "We delight in putting the Easter Egg Hunt on every year. It's such a great event for young and old and inclusive of all people. We love watching the joy and laughter it brings to the folks who come out. It's so heartwarming to see the children having fun and we're so thankful

for the local businesses and neighbours who have partnered with us in helping to make a difference in the community for good. It's definitely a huge highlight on our calendar."

This year, ten Easter egg hunts are scheduled with the first one starting at 10:00.am. Buses run from off-site parking checkpoints every 20 minutes. A small fee is collected per child and adults are free. A mom of two, regular attendee and KAOS staff member Carina van Heerde remarked, "It's truly great day for families. The kids always enjoy themselves but mom and dad also have fun. It's wonderful to see the community come out on such an important weekend." At KAOS 91.1 we couldn't agree more, so please plan to join us in a day of fun, at Dunvegan Gardens on April 17th!

Also, we are always looking for sponsors and volunteers to partner with us to make the Giant Easter Egg Hunt, a true community building event, better than ever. If you would like to help in either of these areas, please call the station at 780-791-5910 – We'd love to welcome you onboard!

For tickets or more information, check out our event on the Snapd Wood Buffalo online calendar at [woodbuffalo.snapd.com](http://woodbuffalo.snapd.com) (<https://woodbuffalo.snapd.com/>).

**Above left to right: Kaileigh Murphy proudly shows her easter egg basket; Brad Friesen and the Dunvegan Gardens Staff; Deanna Reid-Boostrom and her family.**

❶ By the time this article is printed, we'll have a new name! For 10 years, KAOS 91.1 has always strived to be a bridge between social profits and the community of Fort McMurray. It was time for a name change to better reflect our vision and mandate, introducing 91.1 The Bridge!



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**Vicky Anger** — Where do I get a copy of these magazines?**Departed Teens Remembered - Families left in devastation**

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**Katie Cruickshank** — Would have been nice if you had used a correct picture of my cousin**Kintsugi: Beautifully Broken**

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**Nic Carvalho** — Thanks, Anthony. Beautiful to read such a hopeful story! And especially

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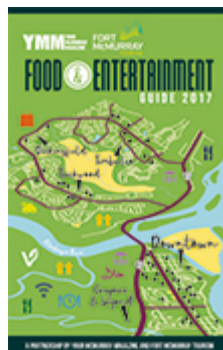
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*Tim Hortons*



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of Syncrude Food Drive  
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peter pond

# Santa

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SANTA ARRIVES NOV 25 AND IS HERE UNTIL DEC 24!  
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SATURDAYS FROM 10 AM – 5 PM  
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## BREAKFAST *with* SANTA

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## SANTA *paws*

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One 3 x 5  
Two Wallets

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- DEC 26 (BOXING DAY): 9 AM – 9 PM  
(SELECT STORES WILL OPEN AT 8 AM)
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- DEC 31: 12 PM – 5 PM
- JAN 1: CLOSED

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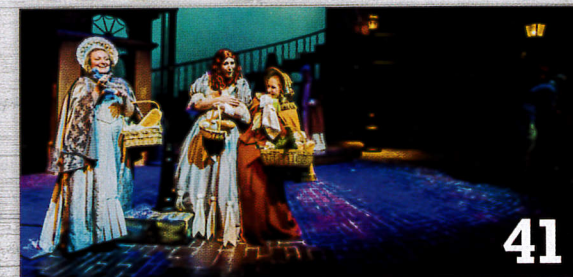
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MAGAZINE  
**Happy Holiday**  
GUIDE 2016

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Proud winner of the 2013 Micro  
Business of the Year Award from the  
Fort McMurray Chamber of Commerce

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# Letter

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our 2017 Happy Holiday Guide!

It's hard to believe that we're gearing up to  
celebrate another holiday season here in the  
beautiful region of Wood Buffalo, and yet there's  
no denying it: things are about to get festive!



And while it's hard to believe 12 months have  
passed since we last gathered on the pages of  
the Holiday Guide, what's even more amazing  
is that the Wood Buffalo Food Bank is celebrating  
25 years of their annual Food Drive!

On page 9 Carol Christian takes us on a trip down memory lane,  
celebrating the success of the Syncrude Food Drive, and chronicling its  
journey over the past 25 years. Together with the Corporate Challenge,  
the Wood Buffalo Food Bank Association is able to continue to support  
and serve the members of our community. Be sure to check it out!

Speaking of supporting our community, we're excited to announce  
our collaboration with Country 93.3 on the first ever Santas Anonymous  
Holiday Cookbook presented by Hines Health Services! Featuring recipes  
and stories from local restaurants and personalities, all proceeds will  
benefit Santas Anonymous, so be sure to pick up your copy! (A full list of  
sale locations can be found at [www.country933.com/cookbook](http://www.country933.com/cookbook).)

So from the family here at Your McMurray Magazine to yours, we wish you  
the very best this holiday season!

*K Balsom*

**Krista Balsom**  
Editor-in-Chief/Publisher

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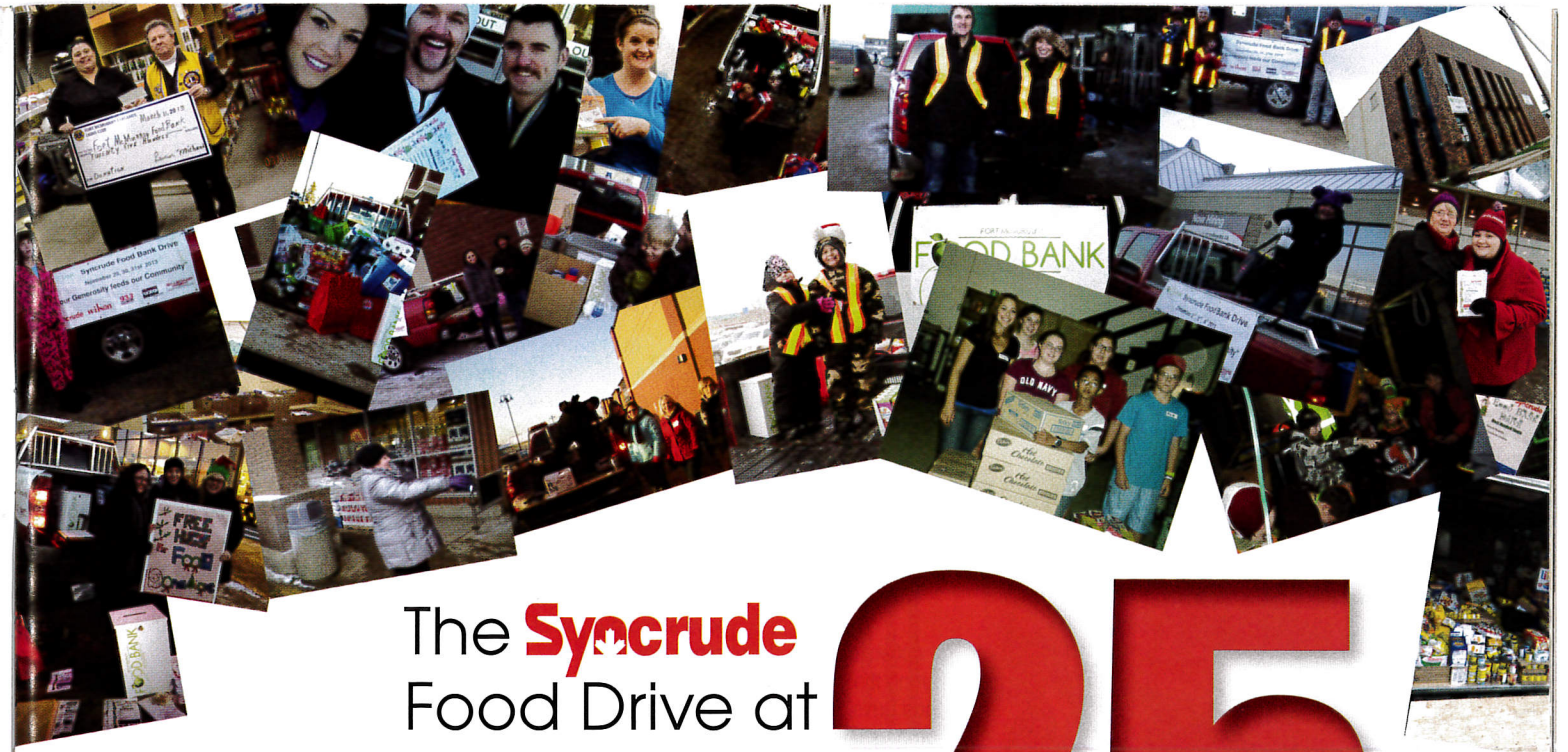
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# The **Syncrude** Food Drive at

# 25

BY CAROL CHRISTIAN

## A COMMUNITY SUCCESS STORY

**T**here are a variety of reasons that people find themselves at the front doors of the Wood Buffalo Food Bank.

There are some who have unexpectedly found themselves in a tough financial position whether it's from unexpected bills or a lost job.

For others, the food bank is what helps them bridge the gap between pay days.

Then there are some who, for the first time in their life, had to turn to the food bank when returning to Fort McMurray following evacuation and had a real need for help to put food on the table.

No matter the reason, clients are thankful the food bank was there to help them and thankful for people's generosity to keep those shelves stocked.

That generosity is what helps the food bank provide its essential service to the community.

A big part of that generosity happens thanks to the annual Syncrude Food Drive, a community endeavour that has helped feed this community for 25 years .... and still counting.

"There were many years where it was touch and go, and the generosity of this community is the only thing that has kept the food bank alive all these years," points out Arianna Johnson, the food bank's current executive director. "Funding through grants is

scarce for food banks so it is only through donations that we are able to do what we do.

It's human nature to want to put a 'face' to an issue to help identify with the purpose of a particular social profit, but that is sometimes a misnomer.

"There is no face of hunger," says Johnson, who has been with the food bank for six years.

"Every year there are many different faces and demographics of those struggling with food security, especially in this region."

Traditionally, food bank users are the working poor, the disabled, the unemployed, single parents and rural residents who don't have access to nutritious food.

"I would say the only addition to that as of recently, are those who lost it all in many of the disasters and emergencies that have happened in the last six years from apartment fires to floods to the wild fire.

"The face of hunger is your neighbour," describes Johnson. "It is your co-worker. It is your client; your family. It could be anyone and for any reason. It could be a two-income household that has a sudden illness that requires travel for treatment. It could be a family who has had a sudden death that is paying for a funeral. It could be a retiree whose rent is well beyond their pension. There is no one face of hunger. It could happen to any of us."

Johnson's words echo comments of Jeanine Colley, the food bank director in the 1990s.

In an interview dated about 1993, Colley had said the ratio of new users to repeat users was formerly about two for every 10. At the time of the interview, there were almost as many new clients coming in as repeat users. These new clients lived in what some had considered to be the more affluent areas of Fort McMurray such as Thickwood, Beacon Hill and Dickinsfield.

"Right now, we're seeing areas we never saw before," Colley noted. "(What) people have to understand is that poverty doesn't have a face, it doesn't have a colour ... it's out there. You don't know if it's the neighbour across the street or your daughter's friend."

Colley had made these comments at a time when the food bank was in crisis; a time so dire, it was actually facing closure.

That's because its predecessor started by postal workers in 1986 was forced to end. Jokingly referred to as the Break My Back campaign, the letter carriers would deliver pamphlets to households encouraging them to leave food donations on their doorstep





"However, in true Fort McMurray style, when the call went out, the community responded as they have so many times before, and I am sure they will again," said Johnson.

There have been some changes through the years such as at the turn of the century, when the CJOK/CKYK Radio Group introduced a kick-off event. Then in 2005, Syncrude Canada Inc. stepped forward to make the Corporate Challenge a greater success. These changes continue to shape the format of the annual Syncrude Food Drive.

Food bank staff work tirelessly to ensure the success of the food drive alongside valued volunteers who, depending on the weather, have stood outside of grocery stores shivering in frigid temperatures collecting donations.

And it's not always the grown-ups as some of Fort McMurray's younger residents have also lent a hand at collections such as Evan Hamilton and teammates Taylor Bulbuc, 11 and Kennedy Dirk, 12, from the peeewee AA minor hockey team in 2009. It was one simple reason they helped: "Our community supports us a lot so we want to support them, too." A similar sentiment had been voiced by John Wilson for his company's involvement: "I feel that it's important to give back to the community that has given me so much."

Even when the community has been hurting, it has responded to calls for help. For example, in the grips of a recession in 2008/09, there was an overwhelming support from residents highlighting Fort McMurray as "an amazing, generous, caring place."

As Fort McMurray was reeling from the devastating Horse River fire, the 2016 food drive kicked off with Syncrude making a record-breaking donation of \$200,000, over double its pledge from the previous year.

"Our region has shown its resiliency in coming together during the wildfire and the continued recovery," said Mark Ward, Syncrude President and CEO, in announcing the donation.

He also praised the volunteers saying "volunteers including more than 150 Syncrude employees and their families collect food and cash donations at grocery stores and other retailers across the region. The food drive helps provide immediate food needs for residents while working towards long-term solutions to hunger and poverty."

Even with the support and growing awareness of hunger issues, Johnson admits that the stigma around food bank use still exists though much less than previously.

"In the last six years, we have increased the visibility of not just the issue of hunger, but of the food bank and educated the community about the reasons why a family may need us and that there is no shame in seeking assistance.

"There is still a ways to go, but it certainly has decreased and especially after the fire when the food bank offered re-entry support services to any and all who needed it without question."

Through the years, the Corporate Challenge and Syncrude Food Drive have become critical components of the relationship between the food bank and all members of the community. This is driven by the growing need for the food bank services and the growing willingness of individuals, unions, corporations, social clubs, schools and churches to make a contribution to its success.

And that all important relationship will ensure the success of the Syncrude Food Drive for another 25 years.

for collection. During the food drive, the carriers would be weighed down with the food

donations as they walked their routes. Eventually the loads became just too heavy for them to carry and the collection ended in 1992.

The program's end coincided with growing unemployment and declining social assistance provided by the federal and provincial governments.

Colley knew something had to be done, that a new way to collect donations needed to be introduced to keep the shelves full. Taking more direct action to organize community support, she approached Kelly Boyd, the then manager of radio stations CJOK and CKYX, to deal with the crisis. The station already had a record of community involvement having inaugurated its Marathon of Hope.

Their collaboration picked up where Break My Back ended, organizing a food and cash drive with the radio stations doing all the promotion.

That first food drive eliminated any concerns Colley had about community support. Reeling from the unprecedented generosity of McMurrayites, she knew it as enough to continue providing service.

The success of the inaugural food drive made it an annual event. It gained further momentum the second year when the CJOK/CKYK Radio Group teamed up with Wilson Industries, a key involvement that has continued with H. Wilson Industries providing the means to collect the donations and transport to the warehouse.

Today, the Syncrude Food Drive is still going strong, but that's not to say it hasn't faced its share of challenges such as falling woefully short of its fundraising goals and being the victim of thefts. It has also enjoyed triumphs such as surpassing fundraising goals in some years and being the recipient of significant individual donations – some anonymous.

One of the most remarkable food drives was in 2016.

With 20,000 people missing from Fort McMurray, the economy crippling families and the region, and the cost of the wildfire, the food bank had readied itself for a decline in donations.

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## Celebrating the Holidays

WITH CANADIAN TIRE

BY KIRAN MALIK-KHAN

It's here, and it's everywhere - the most wonderful time of the year, Christmas, and the holidays bring out the best in everyone. As you get ready with gifts for family and friends, you are also getting your house ready for potential guests coming to stay with you, or just to entertain. So we are taking you on a tour of Canadian Tire's holiday section - where from gifts to house décor, there's something for everyone at "Canada's Christmas Store."

The local Canadian Tire, which is the second busiest one in Canada for all sales is in downtown. This is the third location for the store since it started in the 1980s. A second "Outdoor Store" was added last year in April. Sitting at about 12,000 square feet, the store carries fishing, camping, firearms, and camping merchandise, to name a few items.

Joanna Goc is the store manager for the main location. She speaks

about priorities for the store during their busiest season.

"Our focus is to ensure customers leave happy. This August we've launched a new program called ProActive. It is an inventory management software, which helps us quickly restock shelves; thereby ensuring customers don't leave empty-handed. It also means less stress for our employees, so they can focus on customer service during the holidays," explains Goc, who has been with the store for nine years.

Thanks to the software, and its smooth launch - the entire store, which is 55,000 square feet is filled twice a day by many of the 110 employees.

As for her personal take on the holidays, "Fort McMurray is home to me with my mom and sister here. I look forward to the holidays to relax with them," added Goc, who hails from Poland.

Despite an RBC report predicting lower holiday sales for 2017 due to overspending last year at 51% - compared to 41 per cent in 2015 - and the largest majority of over-spenders - that's 63 per cent living in the Prairies - Rob Martin, general manager of the local branch is confident sales will be strong.

"The Fort McMurray store has more Christmas sales than any other Canadian Tire in the country, with over \$1M annually. We are a one-stop shop. Ranging from the handy person to the car lover, we have something for everyone on your list. We pride ourselves on having good, better, best of everything, and also for every budget. We are constantly upgrading according to the season, and keep up with the latest trends," notes Martin, who has been in town for six years.

Speaking of trends, home decor, and furniture are relatively new to





the Canadian Tire line-up, which has changed its inventory from just an "outdoors store." Centrepieces, cushions, dishes, stylish furniture, accessories, window treatments, and artificial flowers plus plants are few of the sundry items adding to the décor line-up, complete with holiday motifs.

This evolution has come with the changing trends in Canadian shopping habits, and demographics. The store has introduced themes, and "colour of the season," which for the curious, happens to be Alpine White this year. They dub it a "refreshing hue capturing the essence of crisp fallen snow and sparkling crystal accents." There is also an emphasis on "Canadiana," because of Canada's 150th anniversary.

And, when it comes to the season, front and centre in the store nowadays are of course the Christmas trees. These are "lifelike magic," made with real evergreen features. With over 50 varieties and sizes, you would surely find something aligning with your home décor.

In addition, laser light show items are also available at the store enabling digital lovers to decorate the house easily. Not to be forgotten are toys. Perennial favourites for the holidays, the inventory for toys at Canadian Tire has grown in the last 10 years. Martin explains.

"We have a Canadian exclusive with Disney. This often gives us an exclusive line-up as well. The big ones this December are Star Wars with the new movie out. Toys from the new Cars movie from this summer are huge too, and pretty much on everyone's radar."

Giving back to the community is also near and dear to Canadian Tire. Throughout the year the store supports as many groups as possible.

"Whether it is providing a table at the front of the store for a group to sell raffle tickets or providing space for a charitable BBQ or an auction item for any giving event, we try and help everyone. Some of those groups include Jumpstart, Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters,

YMCA, Canadian Mental Health Association of Wood Buffalo, both school boards, Waypoints and many sports associations," Martin notes.

"When it comes to Christmas specifically we support the Keyano Gala, Festival of Trees in support of the Northern Lights Health Foundation and the Salvation Army Kettle program. Many of our staff are involved in the Santa's Anonymous program. Also throughout the year, the staff donates to a Food Bank Fund and during the holidays the business matches all funds raised by staff and donate it the Wood Buffalo Food Bank."

Personally, the holidays are a "reason to get together, and slow down for a day or two," for Martin, who has been in Fort McMurray for six years, and moved from Ontario.

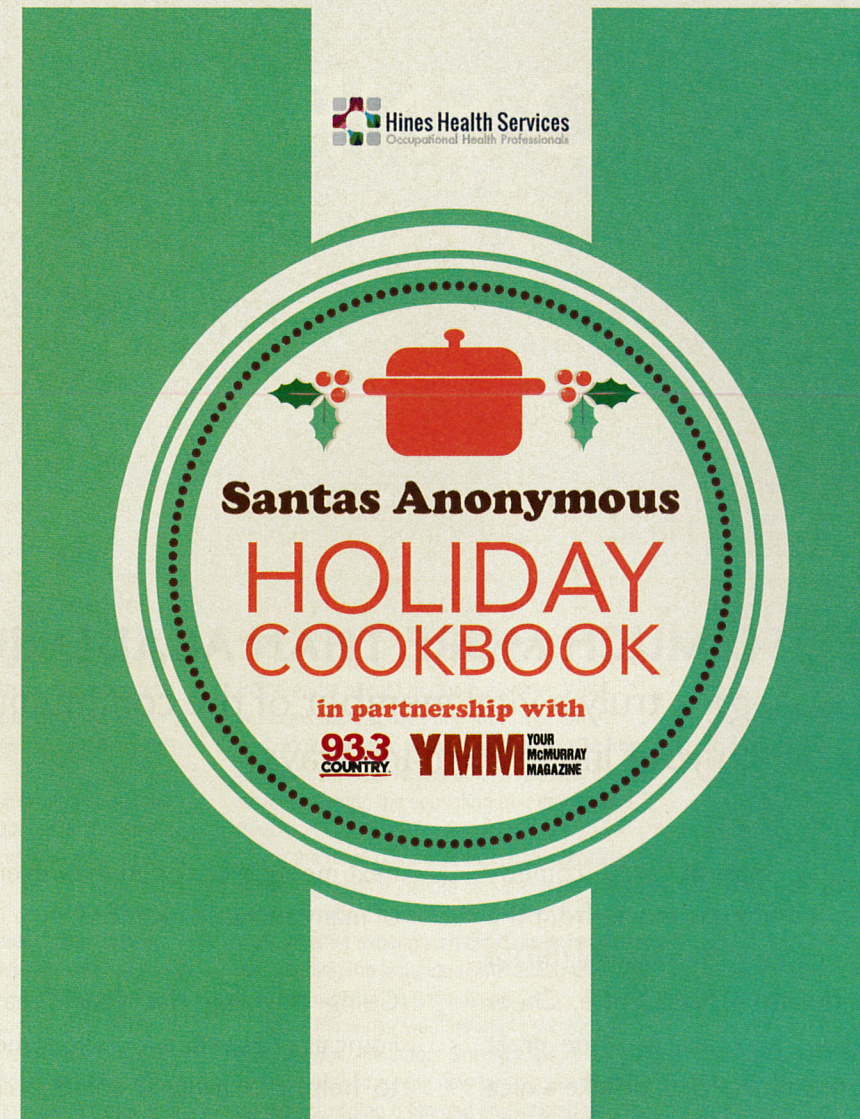
Another Ontarian on the Canadian Tire team is Ray McDonald, the owner of the local store for two years. Prior to this he owned Canadian Tire stores in Ontario, and was with the Canadian Tire Corporation head office as senior vice president for seven years. Holidays at the store mean a special time for him.

"The breadth of our products is special. When you think of Christmas, and holidays it encompasses a lot in someone's house. We touch on housewares, toys, décor, and so much more. We give our customers an experience. Whether it's fall, or Christmas, we give you that experience in-store. We also offer customers a different online experience. There are added suggested items with video tutorials."

"We are re-inventing our business successfully while staying true to our basics. The Canadian Tire way is to provide the products and services for the jobs and joys in Canada," McDonald says.

Indeed, for all the jobs and joys that come for the holidays, Canadian Tire is your first choice. Stop by today, and see how the friendly and helpful staff can assist you. After all, it's your "Christmas Store."

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BY THERESA WELLS  
PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY REGIONAL RECREATION  
CORPORATION OF WOOD BUFFALO

**W**hile some residents of the region choose to head to warmer destinations for the holiday season, there is still an opportunity for those who choose to stay in Fort McMurray to enjoy a holiday at an Island – in this case, at MacDonald Island Park!

From indoor and outdoor skating to aquatic adventures, it's all at MacDonald Island Park for those seeking recreation and leisure fun over the holiday season.

"At the Island, we offer a variety of activities ideal for every age and interest," says Rachel Orser, Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Recreation Corporation of Wood Buffalo. "Whether it's skating outdoors at Shell Place under the canopy during one of our warmer winter weather spells or indoors at one of our arenas or our leisure skating pond, or spending time splashing in the Syncrude Aquatic Centre, there is truly something for everyone to enjoy!"

In the winter months, the outdoor rink at Shell Place comes alive with the sights and sounds of skaters gliding across the ice under the shimmering lights of the spectacular canopy above the CNOOC Nexen Stage. The canopy, lit through programmable LED lighting, mimics the starry sky above and provides an unforgettably unique skating experience in the north. In addition, on colder days leisure skaters can enjoy scheduled public skating times at the arenas, as well as the leisure skating pond which is available for

drop-in public skating on a daily basis.

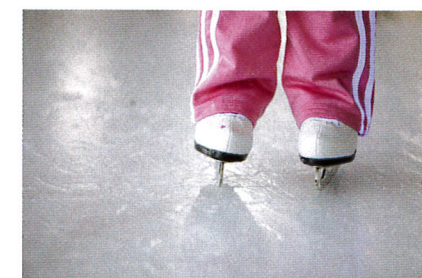
The Syncrude Aquatic Centre is truly a hint of summer in the darkest and coldest of winter months, allowing visitors to enjoy a small oasis in the midst of cold northern weather. With water slides, a spray park, lazy river, family and adult hot tubs, training pool and more, the aquatic centre serves as a mini-vacation for anyone seeking the sensation of a day at the beach.

For the more adventurous, a rock climbing adventure awaits! Visitors can challenge themselves or others to make it to the top of the rock wall, whether experienced climbers or beginners just learning the technique and finding their way onto the wall for the first time.

While the winter weather might preclude a round of golf, the Indoor Golf Simulators are ready to welcome both new and experienced golfers, providing a fun and challenging way to improve their swing and stay in shape for the golf season to come.

And for those with an even more competitive spirit, the squash and racquetball courts, as well as the courts at the Don Scott McMurray Law Office Badminton Centre, offer the chance to test their skills against those of their rivals.

If that isn't enough, the running track, fitness centre and High Performance Training Centre are ideal for those who wish to continue their personal health and wellness journey over the holidays, or maybe add the additional caloric intake of holiday party foods and beverages.



Finally, the perfect way to kick off your Island getaway, take a break or end a day of fun is with a stop at the Frosty Fox, the Island's newest dining option located on the second floor of the Suncor Community Leisure Centre. The atmosphere and menu are ideal for all family members, with an emphasis on good food and friendly service.

Of course in addition to celebrating the holidays with a mini-Island getaway, MacDonald Island Park is also the perfect place to find the kind of gifts that keep on giving throughout the year, such as ONE Pass Memberships for facility access, Miskanaw Golf Club memberships for when the warm weather returns and more.

"MacDonald Island Park presents so many opportunities for leisure, sport, adventure and pure fun," says Orser. "We are proud to be your Island getaway that requires virtually no travel to reach and that is open year round to deliver the best in recreation experiences! Come check out the Island this holiday season – it's all here!" [YMM](http://YMM)



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join us so we can say



**What Children Want You  
 to Know About...**

# Eid

BY KIRAN MALIK-KHAN

First things first, it's a super fun event. Wait, there are two Eids, so super fun events. And, we thought who better to tell you about these amazing festivals than children, who make it the "funnest." But, before we head to the little ones, a bit about Eid. Celebrated by over a billion Muslims around the world, the word "Eid" means "recurring happiness," in Arabic. The first one is Eid-ul-Fitar, which marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. The second one is Eid-ul-Adha, celebrated at the end of Hajj, annual pilgrimage to Mecca. Both are three-day festivals kicked off with morning congregational prayers, and observed according to cultural traditions around the world. Few staples found in every culture though are dressing up in new, or best outfits for the festivals, gifts for loved ones, often money for children, or those younger than you, and enjoying a feast with family and friends.

And, now on to the children.

**Rameen Iqbal, 11, grade 7:** "Eid is a lot of fun, and a time to celebrate. We visit friends, and get money for Eid-ul-Fitar. For Eid-ul-Adha, animals are slaughtered to remember Prophet Abraham's almost sacrifice of his son, Ishmael. I find that cool. Eid gets stress off your mind, you go back to life fresh."

Stress of an 11-year-old? Yes, still enjoying that one from smart Rameen.

**Meerab Iqbal, 8, grade 4:** "I get days off from school, because I'm in the Islamic School. That's fun. Eid is the best, because I celebrate with my family and friends, and get gifts."

Sounds like total fun.

**Adam Kourani, 12, grade 7:** "My whole family gets together. I have my entire Mom's side here, cousins, uncles, aunts. Eid is great because we celebrate with friends too. We have a special breakfast party, then we go to the park and take pictures and have fun."

Wow. Joys of having family and friends together is amazing.

**Teeba Kourani, 9, grade 4:** "Our whole family prays together. And, all the kids get money. I don't know how much I got this year, but it was a lot. We play games in the park. I didn't win anything, but my cousin won \$90. The prizes and the money is not what I like best about Eid, being with my family is best. I love being with them because of the way they care for me."

Okay. Let's say awwwwwwww together on that.

**Adil Rehman, 7, grade 3:** "We have so many people visit our house, and I play with my friends. We wear fancy outfits from Pakistan. It's called shalwar kameez. (Shalwar is loose pants, kameez, long tunic). Everyone wears them. I also wore a fancy jacket (called Sherwani). I got a lot of money too."

**Umar Ghorri, 7, grade 3:** "Getting presents, loads of money was fun. I wore a Sherwani, but don't wear it in the summer, you get hot."

Yep, he's funny. And, for the record summer Sherwanis exist. Though they can be hot for a seven-year-old.

**Iqra Tahir, 9, grade 5:** "It's a time of gathering with other Muslims, and having fun with the family. Best part of Eid is spending time with family and friends. We pray all together in the morning. And, then visit. I like both Eids a lot."

**Savaira Mann, 13, grade 8:** "Eid is a fun day, we have good food. Family and friends get together. You wake up for morning prayers, and wear your best clothes. Everyone's happy."

**PHOTOS ABOVE:**

1. Rameen (left) with her sister Meerab. The sisters are wearing beautiful Pakistani outfits for Eid
2. Teeba (second from left) with friends
3. Iqra Tahir (middle) with her siblings. Beautiful in her Eid outfit.
4. Savaira Mann with her little brother Abdullah - all dressed for Eid
5. Adam Kourani 12 years, Teeba Kourani 9 years, Hussain Kourani 2 years with their mom Wissal on Eid
6. Adil in his Sherwani
7. Umar Ghorri talks about all the fun Eid stuff

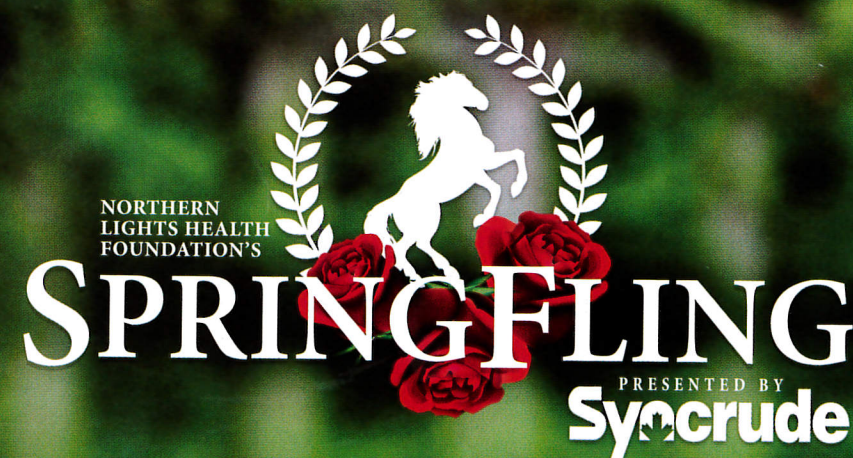


NORTHERN LIGHTS  
Health Foundation



November 17-19, 2017

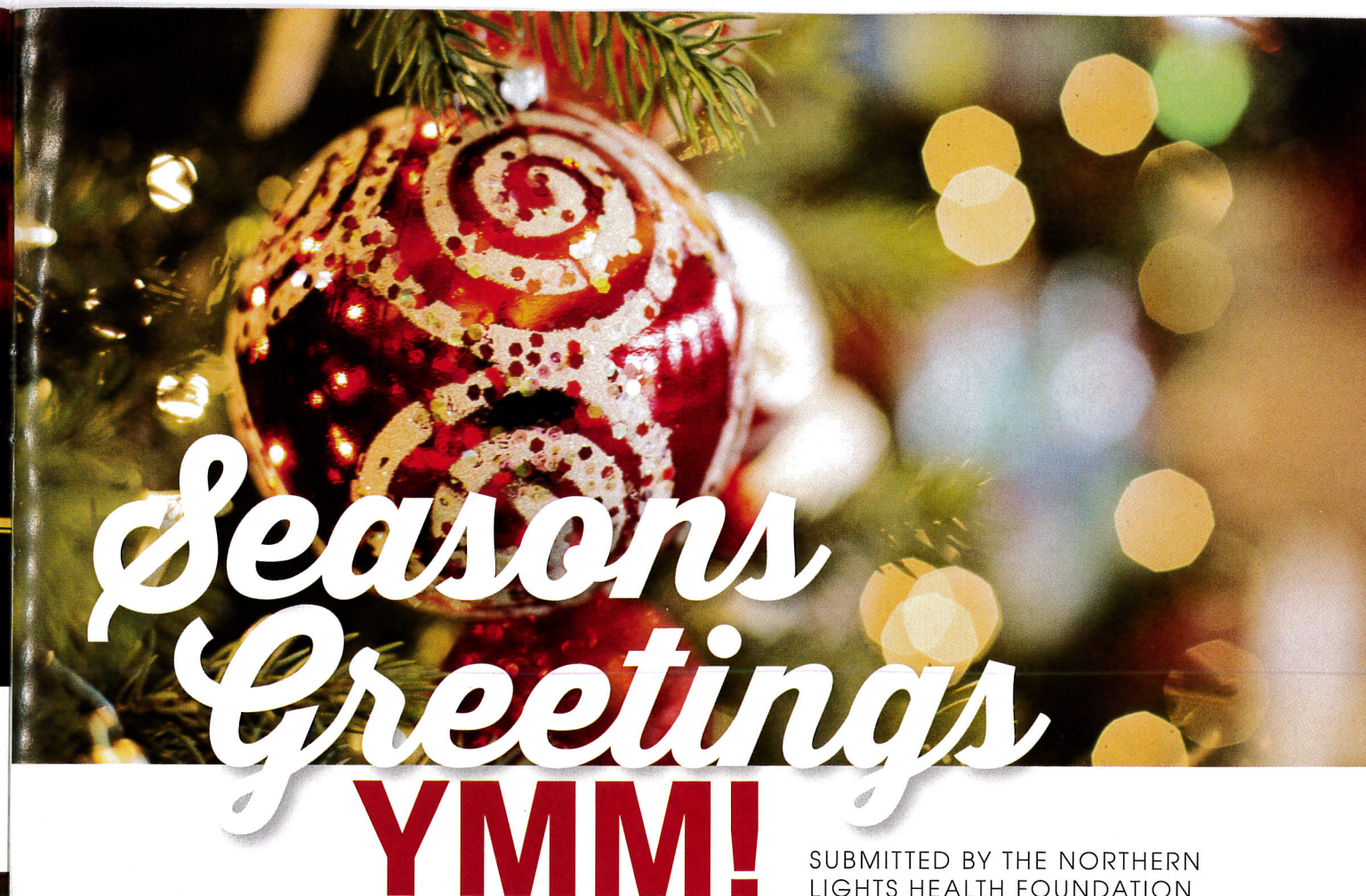
Suncor Community Leisure Centre at MacDonald Island Park



MARCH 24, 2018 • SHELL PLACE

Join your fellow Health Foundation supporters at the  
**Kentucky Derby themed Spring Fling!**

[www.northernlightshealthfoundation.ca](http://www.northernlightshealthfoundation.ca)



SUBMITTED BY THE NORTHERN  
LIGHTS HEALTH FOUNDATION

**T**he holiday season is here and it reminds us that another year is quickly coming to a close. Looking back on 2017, we here at the Northern Lights Health Foundation are extremely grateful for what the year has brought us and it was an exciting one indeed!

While the beginning of the year began with uncertainty due to the economy and as our community continued to rebuild their homes, lives and businesses, there was one thing we were certain of; the residents of Fort McMurray are resilient. We are very fortunate to live in such a generous and compassionate community and because of you we have so much to be thankful for this holiday season.

Throughout the year, your commitment to enhancing local health care enabled us to achieve significant milestones in our Gratitude Campaign as well as fund other important programs, services, and technology here in Wood Buffalo.

On March 18th, our 30th annual Spring Fling, presented by Syncrude Canada Ltd., raised a record \$205,000 for local health care.

On March 31st, the Northern Lights Health Foundation signed 2 historic MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with Alberta Health Services which initiated the planning stages for the Palliative Care Suites and Minimally Invasive Suites projects.

The 3rd Annual Jeremy Snook Memorial Raffle raised an additional \$115,000 to bring the total raised to \$313,388 over three years and the \$1.5 million Palliative Care Suites project is now fully funded.

Upgrades to the Public Health Clinics in Anzac and Conklin were completed this fall thanks to funding from Canadian Natural Resources Limited and CNOOC Nexen.

Donor funds provided for a Youth Mental Health Navigator position that was filled in 2017. This means our region's vulnerable youth have better access to mental health resources when they need them.

Operating Rooms, Diagnostic Imaging, Allied Health, Pediatrics and other departments received over \$177,000 in funding for tools, services, and programs to improve the health care experience for residents in Wood Buffalo.

As we close out the year and look forward to 2018, we remain focused on our Gratitude Campaign and specifically fundraising for the Minimally Invasive Surgical Suites project. These suites will dramatically change how and what types of surgery can be performed right here at home. But most of all this season, we are thankful. We are thankful for our dedicated supporters, donors, sponsors, and volunteers; both corporate and individual. We are thankful to see our community starting to thrive again.

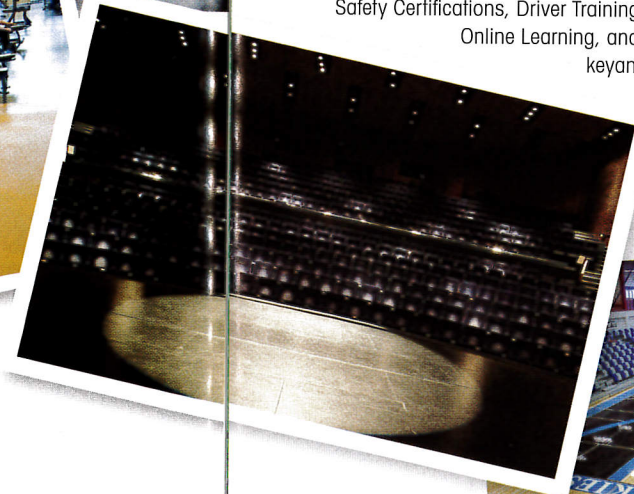
From all of us at the Northern Lights Health Foundation, we wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season filled with peace and good health.

P.S. Don't forget tax season is just around the corner! There is still time to make a charitable donation in yours or a loved one's name and receive a tax receipt for 2017 income tax purposes. Go to [www.northernlightshealthfoundation.ca](http://www.northernlightshealthfoundation.ca) or call our office at 780-791-6178. **YMM**





# Enriching YOUR LIFE AT KEYANO



**F**or Keyano Theatre and Arts Centre Director Alan Roberts, there is something very satisfying to watch hundreds of people engrossed in a show. It is a shared experience, one that often leaves lasting impressions on those on stage and behind the scenes, and in the seats. The audience is a part of the magic.

The power of theatre has been an integral part of Keyano as it has been a jewel of live entertainment and social gathering for the Wood Buffalo Region for more than 37 years. The Theatre brings a wide range of entertaining, emotional, and thought-provoking experiences to audiences and has assembled a loyal and solid foundation of actors, volunteers and patrons through more than 200 performance events annually.

The Theatre is much more than just a facility; it is a keystone towards cultivating a healthy and vibrant arts community. As the Theatre enriches the community it is in turn enriched. The vision and quality of the work on stage is not only intended to entertain but also inspire its community to be its friends and patrons.

As a result, the Theatre is indebted to committed audience members, angels, sponsors, volunteers, and friends in the community for supporting its efforts to bring live productions to

our vibrant and growing Region.

The Theatre is just one way that Keyano College helps to enrich the life of the community and, as part of examining how the college fits in, there are other important and enriching bonds worth celebrating, including the Syncrude Sport and Wellness Centre, The Keyano Huskies, and the School of Continuing Education.

## Syncrude Sport and Wellness Centre

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Syncrude Sport and Wellness Centre (SSWC) is a linchpin facility for Keyano's students and staff, as well as the wider community.

Through it, the College provides exciting sporting and special events as well as state-of-the-art facilities aimed at enabling people to pursue a more active and healthy lifestyle. Those facilities include:

- Cardio and strength conditioning fitness centre
- 15,000 sq. ft. of hardwood gymnasium space
- 14,000 sq. ft. synthetic floor playing surface (multi-use)
- Group fitness studio
- Indoor walking/running track

- Meeting rooms
- Kinesiology classroom
- Dance and aerobic studios

Supporting those facilities are team members who are leaders in their chosen fields of study, experts in sport development, physical training, and in the use of sport science to help patrons achieve their personal goals.

Another important function of the centre is to provide high performance training for those athletes wanting to pursue athletics at an elite level, and providing an excellent home facility for Keyano College collegiate athletes, otherwise known as the Keyano Huskies.

## Keyano Huskies

Whether you love soccer, basketball or volleyball, Keyano College Huskies Athletics offers the community some of the most skilled and exciting live sports in the Wood Buffalo Region.

The college recruits the best local, national and international athletes, and is committed to fostering the academic and athletic development of its students.

As a result, our teams and athletes have earned a reputation of excellence and achievement through a history of success within regional, provincial and national levels, as our current athletes follow in their footsteps.

To the community, the Huskies provide superb sports entertainment and in return, rely on support from the community through the Adopt-A-Husky initiative, used to support the students of Keyano College who have chosen to pursue athletic goals alongside their academic studies.

## School of Continuing Education

Keyano's School of Continuing Education is a vital part of how the College can enrich the lives of people in the community.

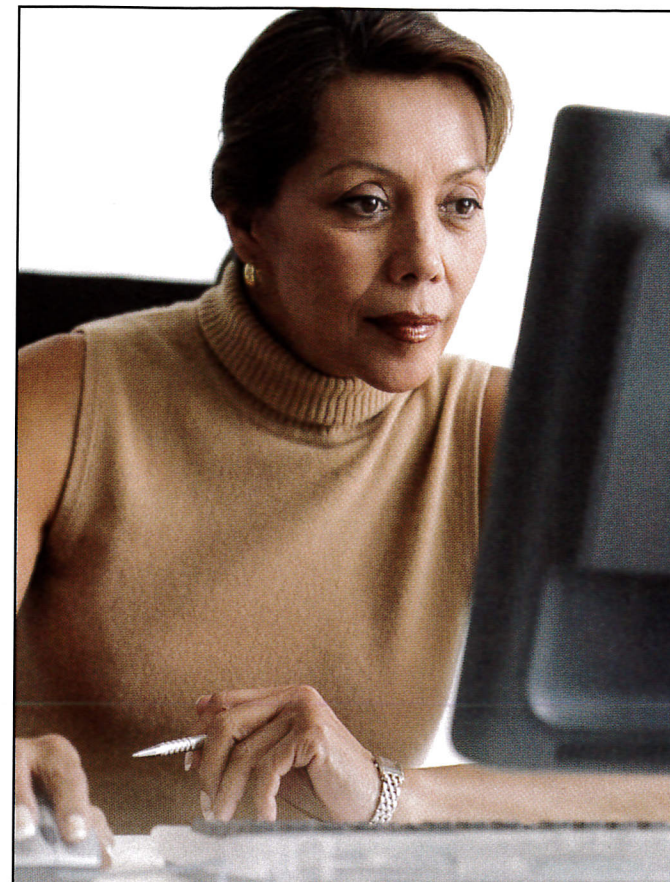
The School of Continuing Education helps Keyano to fulfill an important part of its mission to provide high-quality lifelong learning opportunities. By offering everything from technical training to language courses, Continuing Education has been described as a gateway to the future you want to build. So, whether you're looking to take your career to the next level, develop your professional skills, or enrich your life through the arts, this is where you will find the programs and courses to make it happen.

Through Continuing Education, Keyano partners with industry, school districts, the community and other post-secondary institutions to provide extensive course offerings—too extensive to catalogue here completely—but there is something of interest to almost everyone, including Prehospital Care, Professional Certificate Programs, Computer Training, Safety Certifications, Driver Training, Languages, Aboriginal Education, Online Learning, and Testing Services. For more, visit [keyano.ca/continuingeducation](http://keyano.ca/continuingeducation)

The Wood Buffalo region is an engaging, aspiring and growing community and the College is growing with it. Keyano College has become an established part of the community helping first and foremost to support the needs of the area through education, recreation, and the arts.

Keyano College has become more than an educational institution. Having touched many residents' lives as students, the college remains a pertinent part of the community and provides everyone the opportunity to experience top-class theatre productions, year-round sporting events and access to lifelong learning.

All are supported by our state of the art facilities on campus, which enable us to better serve the region's needs and appetite for the arts, sport and education. [www.yourmcmurraymagazine.com](http://www.yourmcmurraymagazine.com)



## Looking for Resources?

**211 is a 24-hour, free information line for community, government, health, and social services.**

**Dial 2-1-1 or visit our website [www.ab.211.ca](http://www.ab.211.ca)**



When you don't know where to turn.

[www.ab.211.ca](http://www.ab.211.ca)



Fort McMurray Boys & Girls Club Presents

# junior WHO

## A HOLIDAY WHO-BILATION

BY MICHELLE FARROW & LORILEY WHITE

A whimsical wonderland awaits for the children of our region through this unique event fit for Cindy Lou Who herself!

**J**oin us for our Seussical adventures as we present Junior WHO-A Holiday Who-Bilation. Enjoy this family event featuring bouncy castles, face-painting, games and activities, sweet treats and a few who-tastic surprises! Visit our Whoville village, get your sweet treats at Cindy Lou's Candy Cane Shop, and a Whoville hair-do at Martha May Whovier's Hair Shop. Special appearances featuring the Grinch are also in store. You could not, would not, want to miss this!

December is the month, the 16th and 17th are the days. The party's on from 9am-6pm, so that's when we'll play! You're off to great places, it's true, it's true! We want to celebrate this holiday season with you!

Step up sponsors, big or small. We have opportunities to share with you all! Join the high fliers, who soar to high heights. Giving back to our community, that is what's right!

We'll need volunteers, so come one, come all. Our contact info is below, no need to search at all!

We are a non-profit, it's true, it's true. Helping children and youth, it's just what we do!

### BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE FORT MCMURRAY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

The Fort McMurray Boys & Girls Club (FMBGC) is a non-profit agency and a registered charity. The Club has been serving the children and youth of Fort McMurray since 1981 by providing a safe and fun place to learn, play and grow.

Our expert staff offer guidance, care and

mentoring for children aged one to 18. Our mission is "To provide a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers, build positive relationships and develop confidence and skills for life".

Our childcare programs are licensed, accredited and certified for inclusive care. Although Boys & Girls Clubs provide lower cost childcare options and financial assistance where available, they are open to all individuals seeking quality care.

### THE FMBGC'S MAIN PROGRAMS ARE:

- **Tiny Toes Daycare:** For children aged 12 months to Kindergarten (contact Erika, tinytoes@fmbgc.ca)
- **ZAP Out of School Care and Camps:** For children aged 4.5 to 12 (contact Grace, zap@fmbgc.ca)
- **Limitless Youth:** Inclusive youth programs for youth aged 13-17 (contact Ashley, youth@fmbgc.ca)

### WHAT DOES THE FMBGC DO?

- **Our Club Instills Values.** Strong core values guide us in our work and teach our kids the importance of mutual respect, teamwork and being socially responsible.
- **Available and Affordable.** The FMBGC is accessible and affordable. The Club is open weekdays, after school, and occasionally on evenings and weekends.
- **Connected to Community Needs.** The FMBGC is at the heart of our community. We create programs that address the unique needs of children and youth in our region.

- **Professional Staff and Dedicated Volunteers.** The FMBGC is staffed by experienced professionals trained in child development. Our volunteers assist Club staff in providing positive role models for children and youth while engaging in programming, events, and activities throughout the year.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Donate:** Drop by the Club, visit our website, or find us on Facebook and click the donate button.
- **Attend our Fundraisers:** Junior Boo, and Junior WHO are our two annual fundraisers. Bring your family out for some holiday fun, while contributing to a wonderful cause.
- **Volunteer:** We have an ongoing need for volunteers. Please email youth@fmbgc.ca for more information. We provide reference letters and sign off on volunteer hours for school.
- **Donate Services:** We have ongoing needs for building maintenance, organizing, and many other services. If you think your company may be able to help, contact us.
- **Donate Items:** The FMBGC often does social media contests or raffles. We have an ongoing need for prizes. Please contact us if you'd like to donate gift certificates, services or other items. These items really help us extend our reach on social media platforms. [YMM](#)

# EnduraClean

CLEANING SERVICES

Make your house

*Sparkle*  
this **Holiday Season!**



Shauna Keats, Owner



**T: 587.723.1373 • Email: endura.clean@outlook.com**

From the staff and volunteers at  
Some Other Solutions Society for Crisis Prevention,  
we would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

**SOME OTHER SOLUTIONS**  
SOCIETY FOR CRISIS PREVENTION

CRISIS LINE: 780-743-4357 / 1-800-565-3801  
[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [someothersolutions.ca](#)





## FORT MCMURRAY'S CHRISTMAS STORE

Canadian Tire's Christmas Store helps gift wrap your home with lights, wreaths and tinsel garlands to twinkle like ornaments on your tree, plus gifts for everyone on your list!



**WISHING YOU ALL  
A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

Main Store: 1 Hospital St., Fort McMurray T9H 5C1  
Tel: 780-791-4000

[canadiantire.ca](http://canadiantire.ca)

When students were asked why they love our school they said, "We love our gym, and seeing our friends and doing lots of fun activities. We go on lots of field trips and they are fun!"



L I L W O L V E S

# Christmas in Anzac

BY HILARY BANKS

Anzac Community School and Bill Woodward School are a one campus/ two school model with grades K-5 in Anzac School and 5-12 in Bill Woodward School. At our schools, we strive to provide a quality education that will enhance the development of the whole child in a safe and caring environment. It is our mission to provide the best possible education for all students entrusted to our care.

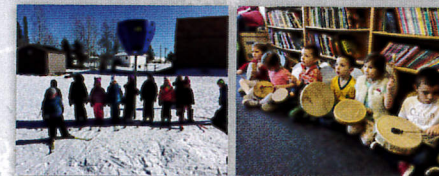
The hamlet of Anzac is on the western shore of Willow Lake in the southern region of the Municipality and is in close proximity to Gregoire Lake Provincial Park. We are located approximately 45 kilometres southeast of Fort McMurray and can be accessed from Alberta Highways 63 and 881.

If you were to visit Anzac Community School you would immediately feel the caring environment created by students and staff. Our secretary would warmly welcome you and you would smell the aroma of the school's snacks and lunch being prepared each day for our free hot lunch program. When you walk past the classrooms you would see children engaged in accredited programs such as Daily 5, CAFE, JUMP Math, Levelled Literacy Intervention, researching on their Chromebooks, Coding, engaged in their lessons and hands-on activities in an inclusive environment. On top of what happens in our classrooms, we also have: mindfulness classes, Roots of Empathy, Speech Language supports, Wood Buffalo Regional Library visits, counselling and mentorship programs, and are an Apple School.

We are proud of the success rates of our high school graduates. Bill Woodward School is fortunate to have a number of specialist teachers working with our Jr and Sr High students. Our state of the art facility comes complete with science labs, a sports auditorium, fitness centre, library, shop station and smartboard technology in all classrooms.

Bill Woodward School prides itself in the number of quality sports programs offered. Our students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities such as basketball, volleyball, golf, track and field and more. Students can choose to be a part of the Bill Woodward High-Performance sports Academy, which runs three days a week.

We are very proud of both our schools in Anzac. This holiday season we will be our first big fundraiser for the Anzac Elementary School at the Anzac One Rec Centre; we invite you all to come and enjoy the festivities and raise money for a good cause. The Lil' Wolves Christmas events will take place Dec 8th - 9th. Proceeds from the events will go towards the Anzac Community School helping fund things like Science kits, gym equipment, set up a sensory room, and much more. There are sponsorship packages available, you could also sponsor a tree for the Festival of Trees event, or you could simply purchase tickets to attend the Ugly Christmas Sweater Party or Breakfast with Santa. Contact guest services to book tickets or a tree for the festival of trees event: 780-793-6900 or email: [hilary.banks@nsd61.ca](mailto:hilary.banks@nsd61.ca) for sponsorship opportunities. [www.yourmcmurraymagazine.com](http://www.yourmcmurraymagazine.com)



A parent's reply when asked why she loves our little school, she said, "I love the fact students get more one-on-one attention from their teachers. The teachers really go above and beyond for their students. A second parent mirrored that response and added, "Teachers go above and beyond what is normally expected of one's teacher. The staff is very personable and easy to talk to with regards to their child's education."



# GET DRESSED FOR THE GAMES!

BY EDEN BOUTILLIER

Hey YMM, guess what time it is? It's Games Time! And what better way to celebrate than with some Games Wear!

The 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games has developed a quality collection of items that are priced perfectly and custom designed to add to your souvenir collection. Remember the Games in style with items for the whole family.

2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games merchandise makes great Christmas Gifts and stocking stuffers while celebrating the spirit of the Games!

As well as the items here, the Games merchandise will also feature an oversized-logo hoodie, classic ¼ zip, limited edition wool ball-cap, games tee, and a branded bison stuffy!

Merchandise can be found at the Fort McMurray Airport Kiosk (by the baggage claim) from mid December – January, at the Keyano College Bookstore from mid December onward and at select pop-up shops throughout the season. For the most up-to-date information on Games Wear and so much more visit [AlbertaWinterGames.ca](http://AlbertaWinterGames.ca)

## KNIT-WEAR HIGHLIGHT



### POM-POM TOQUE

This heavy, yet breathable, knit toque features a pom-pom accent with 2018 AWG branded colour stripes. The peppered grey folded band highlights the Games logo. Certain to keep you warm and cozy this winter. (Retail: \$29)

### CHEERING SCARF

This commemorative scarf is the ultimate collector's item and fan cheering favourite. Detailed with snowflakes on Games' blue and a base colour of peppered grey, it is quality knit that will carry you through many winters to come. (Retail: \$29)



### LOGO MITTS

Show your 2018 Wood Buffalo Alberta Winter Games pride with our classic logo mittens. Fleece lined and with a base a peppered grey, these mitts are the backbone of the Games knit-wear collection! (Retail: \$25)



The knit items can be purchased individually, or save when you buy them as a bundle for \$65.







# BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY THIS YEAR AT BOSTON PIZZA

LET US DO THE PLANNING, DECORATING AND COOKING. FOR PRIVATE BOOKINGS IN OUR DOWNTOWN LOUNGE OR TEAMROOM PLEASE CONTACT [WHITCOMBL@BOSTONPIZZA.COM](mailto:WHITCOMBL@BOSTONPIZZA.COM)

Downtown: 780.743.5056  
Timberlea: 780.715.1999



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## YOUR MCMURRAY LOCAL *Gift Guide* BY JEN KENNETT

### PETER POND MALL

Fort McMurray's Premier Shopping Centre experience. With almost 70 stores and restaurants to choose from, it's easy to cover your shopping list while staying out of the cold winter temperatures. You can purchase Peter Pond Gift Cards in any amount from \$5 to \$500. Gift Cards can be used in any store/restaurant within Peter Pond Mall (excluding Money Mart).

If you are looking for a suggestion for the trendsetter in your life, check out SpareParts. Located on the second floor, SpareParts boasts its cabin-meets-rustic style with all of the latest trends. Carrying brand name sunglasses, bags and watches, even tuques, socks and SAXX underwear.

**Peter Pond Mall**  
9713 Hardin Street  
780-791-4044  
[peterpondmall.com](http://peterpondmall.com)

**SpareParts**  
Unit 2050, Upper Level Peter Pond Mall  
587-537-8130  
[sparepartslife.com/spareparts-fort-mcmurray](http://sparepartslife.com/spareparts-fort-mcmurray)



### Jen's Pick:

Check out the Vitality Jewelry line for the special man in your life. Pieces in gold, hematite in black. Simple, unflashy items for men.





# YOUR MCMURRAY LOCAL *Gift Guide*



## POINTS NORTH GALLERY

Points North Gallery is your local treasure trove if you are looking for work from diverse Canadian artists. Points North Gallery focuses on local and regional artists to bring some of the North to your home. Everybody has that friend who is difficult to buy for because they love fine, original gifts, this is the place where you would find a gift for them. Carrying a variety of items from prints and paintings to honey and yarn, Points North Gallery can cover all your bases and provide you with a one of a kind piece. Perhaps you already have a sketch or painting you would like framed? Points North Gallery offers this service as well.

### Jen's Pick:

If buying a physical product isn't what you were thinking, sign up for knitting classes to give an "experience" as a gift to keep on giving!

### Points North Gallery

B3, 10015 Centennial Drive  
780-790-1777  
pointsnorthgallery.ca

## CANADIAN TIRE

With hundreds of options for tools, automotive accessories, sporting goods and hunting supplies, Canadian Tire is a one-stop shop for your Mr. or Ms. Fix-It in your life or anyone close to you who enjoys the Northern great outdoors! With the addition of a Homewares section which includes everything from cake decorating supplies to small kitchen appliances, and a large selection of children's toys and games – it's possible to cross off your entire Christmas list in this locally owned location. For those who are working long hours or find it difficult to make it into the store, you can order items online and arrange to pick up in store! A great option for shift workers or those with limited opportunity to go in-store.

### Canadian Tire

102-19 Riedel Street  
780-791-6470  
canadiantire.ca

### Jen's Pick:

Mastercraft 24" 5 drawer Tool Chest and Mastercraft 24" 4 drawer Tool Chest. Win-win situation! He gets a place to pull all of those tools and you get your garage back as a warm place to park.



## TOMMY GUNS

Everybody deserves a little "me time", but Tommy Guns in Fort McMurray refers to it as "He Time". With 2 locations to choose from, Clearwater Landing and Stoneycreek village, schedule your brother, father, son, significant other or that wonderfully-bearded man you know in for some pampering. With a large array of products and services, as well as an app to "check in" when you arrive and hold your place in line, the average dude can come in and kick his feet up in this retro-man cave while he waits for his haircut. For ages 0 and beyond, there is an option for all hair lengths and styles.

### Tommy Guns Clearwater Landing

Unit 109, 19 Riedel Street  
780-790-0061

### Tommy Guns Stoneycreek

Unit 104, 100 Riverstone Ridge  
587-276-4867  
tommyguns.com

### Jen's Pick:

A gift certificate for the Original Classic Shave coupled with Grooming Products for at home.



## DUNVEGAN GARDENS

Come to Dunvegan Gardens & experience a winter wonderland!



From Christmas trees, to holiday décor, gifts for that special someone and so much more!



Fort McMurray Garden Centre & Market Garden at "The Farm"  
128 Garden Lane (off Draper Road)  
Tel: (780) 791-4364 or (780) 791-0212

dunvegangardensfm.com



# YOUR MCMURRAY LOCAL *Gift Guide*

## DUNVEGAN GARDENS

Dunvegan Gardens located near Draper Road is the key to your family's landscaping and gardening needs. The garden centre is open from spring to late fall and entering the business is an experience of its own. Beautifully laid out with a koi pond in the back of the greenhouse and rabbits lining the garden centre. Year round there are home décor items and classic children's toys for sale. In the winter time, the centre is completely transformed to become a winter wonderland. Stroll through the greenhouse turned Candy Cane Lane and get yourself in the Christmas Spirit. Don't forget to load up on Christmas décor such as figurines, signs and wreaths on the way out.



**Dunvegan Gardens**  
128 Garden Lane  
780-791-4363  
dunvegangardensfm.com

### Jen's Pick:

Stock up on Christmas ornaments. Dunvegan Gardens offers a large variety of ornaments for all the important people in your life. Instead of buying miscellaneous bulbs, pick out unique, one-of-a-kind baubles for those you love.

## CHOCOLATES AND CANDLELIGHT

Chocolates and Candlelight is locally owned and operated and in the business of helping McMurrayites get their chocolate fix. With a large selection of chocolates, including all fillings you could think of and no sugar added version, as well as various treats and jelly belly jelly beans, it would be impossible to not find something to suit your sugar craving. Come in for the delicious chocolates and browse the beautiful home décor and candles, as well as check out the line of Kameleon Jewelry and Sunglasses. Call ahead and you can create your own basket as a gift for a group or office.

**Chocolates and Candlelight**  
Bay 4 – 122 Millennium Drive  
780-743-3878  
chocolatesandcandlelight.com

### Jen's Pick:

For the teachers, coaches, instructors, mail people and coworkers you need to buy for, choose the Medium 16 piece box of assorted chocolates. You can hand pick your treats or choose a pre-made option.

## Keyano Theatre Company's presentation of A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Running from November 23 through December 2, this production is guaranteed to be fun for the whole family. The Keyano Theatre Company will present its own take on the classic story by Charles Dickens about Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Packed full of local talent, a variety of options are available to attend a show: preview night, opening night, regular showings and a matinee to work into all family schedules.

### Jen's Pick:

Make a night of it and couple a show with dinner. Pre-order beverages with the London Bar so you can enjoy a drink during the intermission.

**Keyano Theatre**  
8115 Franklin Avenue  
780-791-4800  
keyano.ca/StudentLife/TheatreArtsCentre/  
CurrentSeason/4-PlayDramaSeries



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# YOUR MCMURRAY LOCAL *Gift Guide*

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### Vista Ridge

1 Spruce Valley Drive, Sprae Creek, AB  
780-743-8651  
vistaridge.ab.ca



### Jen's Pick:

While you are enjoying your winter recreation, pick up a season pass for the Vista Ridge Aerial Adventure Park open during the Summer season. Zip-lining, climbing, jumping and swinging is what you can expect from the Adventure park. For ages 7 and up.

## BOSTON PIZZA

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### Boston Pizza Timberlea

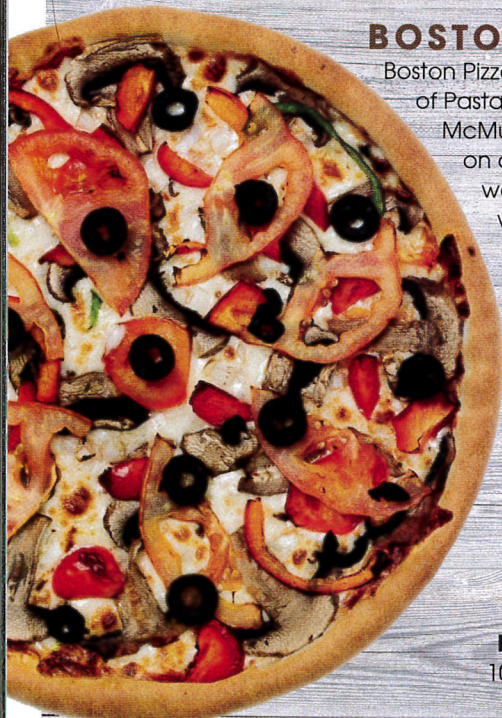
110 Millennium Drive  
780-715-1999

### Boston Pizza Downtown

10202 MacDonald Avenue  
780-743-5056  
bostonpizza.com

### Jen's Pick:

For the family who could use an extra treat or a little break, buy them a \$50 gift card! Purchase between November 14th and December 31st and receive an extra \$10 coupon, just enough for some pizzas AND dessert. The gift that keeps on giving!



## 2018 ALBERTA WINTER GAMES

From February 16 to 19 of 2018 the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo will play host to the 2018 Alberta Winter Games. With a variety of sports such as figure skating, alpine skiing, women and men's hockey, badminton and many, many more, there are options for everyone. Locations and tickets are yet to be announced, please follow the website for further details as they come forward.

[rmwb.ca/living/Events-and-Festivals/Winter-Games.htm](http://rmwb.ca/living/Events-and-Festivals/Winter-Games.htm)



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Monday, December 25

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Tuesday, December 26

Closed

Monday, January 1

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Please visit us at [wbrl.ca](http://wbrl.ca) for more information on holiday programs or hours during the holiday season!

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# YOUR MCMURRAY LOCAL *Gift Guide*

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Absolute Serendipity is a little piece of whimsy in downtown Fort McMurray. A local business who supports other local businesses, Absolute Serendipity for the DIYer or the person who would love to DIY but doesn't have the time, but REALLY wants something that looks like they made it themselves. The storefront offers various paint options, paint accessories, hardware, handmade gifts, educational workshops and even finished restored furniture. Staff are knowledgeable and offer suggestions and advice for those new to the DIY world or seasoned experts.



**Absolute Serendipity**  
206-8706 Franklin Ave.  
(587) 452-7700  
absoluteserendipity.com

### Jen's Pick:

Gift cards are the way to go for this unique store. There are so many choices, it would be so hard to decide! If you would like a more personal touch, create a DIY starter pack with brushes and accessories with a gift certificate to choose their own paint colour.



## COOL BLONDES SALON

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### Jen's Pick:

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Happy Holidays from all the staff and volunteers at BBBSWB

## Spicy Gingerbread Cookies



- ½ cup margarine
- ½ tspn. baking powder
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tspn. baking soda
- ½ cup molasses
- ½ tspn. ground cinnamon
- 1 egg yolk
- ½ tspn. ground nutmeg
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 tspn. ginger
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tspn. ground cloves

1. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and sugar until smooth. Stir in molasses and egg yolk. Combine the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, and nutmeg; blend into the molasses mixture until smooth. Cover, and chill for at least one hour.

2. Preheat the oven to 350° F (175° C). On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to ¼" thickness. Cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters. Place cookies 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheets

3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven until firm. Remove from cookie sheets to cool on wire racks. Frost or decorate when cool.



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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE TEAM AT

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## CELEBRATING Five Years OF YOUR MCMURRAY MAGAZINE!



“2017 has been an amazing year working with all of you. We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season filled with laughter, time with family, and wonderful memories, and we look forward to continuing to share your stories in 2018!”

— Krista Balsom, Editor-in-Chief/Publisher & Kerri Leland, Managing Editor



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A NEW HOLIDAY TRADITION

## *A Christmas Carol*

BY HANNA FRIDHED  
PHOTOS BY GREG HALINDA PHOTOGRAPHY



This holiday season, Keyano Theatre is bringing a Christmas classic back to the main stage

Few things are as steeped in tradition and merriment as the Christmas holidays, a time that is hopefully spent with family and loved ones. In 2014 Keyano Theatre Company presented *A Christmas Carol* to the great joy of many families and holiday lovers in the community. This year, KTC is bringing the tale of Scrooge, the Cratchit family and the visiting spirits back to the main stage to build a new holiday tradition in town. “We had a great response to *A Christmas Carol* when we did it three years ago” says Alan Roberts, Artistic Director with KTC. “I received many requests to do it more frequently and create our own theatrical tradition with it. It’s a holiday classic for the entire family and a great way to start the Christmas season.”

Director Karen Johnson-Diamond, who directed the KTC production of *Footloose the Musical* last season, is returning to Fort McMurray to put her personal touch

on this Christmas classic. She is a big lover of the story, and now she wants to share the magic with the members of our community. “I am a Christmas person. I love it. I’d leave my decorations up all year if my husband would let me. It fills me with joy to watch *A Christmas Carol*, to read it, and now I’m excited direct it. It can become a beautiful Christmas tradition with your family!” Karen says. “Each time I work at Keyano Theatre I meet more and more amazing members of this community. I’d love for you to know them too.”

The large cast is a colorful mix of community members from all walks of life, some making their theatre debut while others have several productions under their belts. “I hope our volunteer actors have a great experience, enjoy the challenge and have fun!” exclaims Alan. “I hope our audience enjoys the story being told onstage and perhaps realize that they too could be on stage next time to be a part

of the action. Come see what your friends, family and neighbours have been working so hard on!”

When asked what she is looking forward to the most, Karen says that she is tremendously excited to “hear what first time ‘Carolers’ think of the story! I honestly don’t remember a time in my life when I didn’t know the story of *A Christmas Carol*. I wish I could remember what I said about it to my parents after seeing it for the first time. So, if anyone comes to see the show with a person unfamiliar with the story, please write the theatre and tell me what they said!”

*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, adapted by Michael Shamata and directed by Karen Johnson-Diamond opens at Keyano Theatre on November 24, 2017 and runs November 25-30 and December 1-2, with a matinee on December 2. Tickets can be purchased through the Keyano Theatre Box Office or by visiting [keyano.ca/theatre](http://keyano.ca/theatre).



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# Religion

## AND THE GOOD OF WOOD BUFFALO

BY RICK KIRSCHNER

**E**id Mubarak, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah. There's no doubt that sometime in the fall or early winter many people have heard one or all of the well-known religious greetings during the regular course of their daily routines. Or have seen these words typed boldly on a Facebook post or a piece of colourful literature. These are common religious phrases used by members of our community, or friends of those religious communities to express greetings, fellowship, or blessing to all who will hear. These are words of hope, love, and goodwill. They are words which bring a sense of connection, of community and words that make people feel "at home".

A quick search of the internet reveals a basic definition of these common religious phrases.

Eid Mubarak or Blessed Eid (Arabic: عيد مبارك) is a traditional Muslim greeting reserved for use on the festivals of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. ... However, it is only used during the celebration of the two Muslim holidays. It is a holy time of sacrifice and generosity to friends, family and the needy.

Merry Christmas is a common phrase used by Christians and non-Christians around the annual Christmas season celebrating Christ's birth, held on December 25 in the Western world. It is a holy time of generosity, peace, and goodwill to all people.

Happy Hanukkah is a traditional Jewish term used at the lesser Jewish Hanukkah festival, which lasts for eight days from the 25th day of Kislev (in December). This festival commemorates the rededication of the Temple in 165 BC.

While these groups all have clearly different deities and worship styles, they do have at least one thing in common, and that's what I wanted to highlight today.

What do these major world religions all have in common?

In the Social Cities August report titled Religion and the Good of the City, Milt Friesen, the Program Director at an Ontario think tank called Cardus, indicates that Religious Institutions are impactful parts of what Cardus calls the "Social Architecture" of a city - the complex network of relationships between people, institutions, and culture.

What these groups have in common: they have all led the way in developing better communities in one way or another. Although many groups are less known for their religious advancement they are all very

significant in their impact on the social constructs of communities. Historically religious groups have been the major deliverers of social services, education, and healthcare. Even currently on the local scene, one need not look very far to see the impact of religious organizations on the community of Wood Buffalo.

For example, the Centre of Hope and the Soup Kitchen were created in response of the members of the Fellowship Baptist Church to meet the growing needs of the street population. The Salvation Army has several programs responding to the real needs of everyday citizens and newcomers to the community as well. The Family Christian Centre responded to the counselling needs of the community with the Legacy Counselling centre. And even The Red Cross was started by a religious organization in an expression of worship and to meet the increasing humanitarian globally.

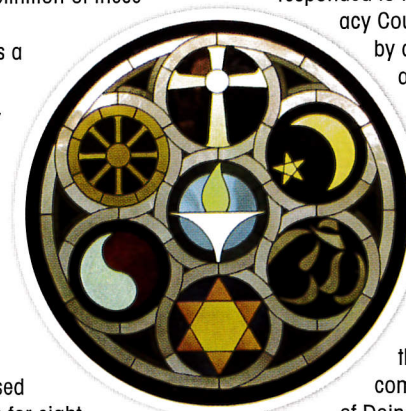
Information received at the time of writing this article indicates there are approximately 93 religious organizations in this community. All have congregants and participants from all walks of life. These groups, who are often unnoticed by the hurried citizen, have been contributing to the region for decades. They meet spiritual needs as well as a number of regional social needs too.

They have been here a long time; in fact, some of the first institutions to be formally established in this community were religious groups. John Gilpin the author of Doing what's Right for Kids-1912-2012, A History of Fort

McMurray Public Schools said, "When the public school established the first school here, there was only one small coffee shop, a bus stop, and a church."

We live in a time where it is often fashionable to treat religious groups as superstitious, socially irrelevant or even fading institutions but I believe Wood Buffalo is an open community where we don't extinguish but celebrate the expression of religious groups and the great work they do to build community.

This year, when greeted with one of those familiar phrases lets purpose to return the greeting, receive the blessing and commit to building a friendlier community we can all call home. [www.yourmcmurraymagazine.com](http://www.yourmcmurraymagazine.com)





# Christmas Abroad

A PLAYLIST  
BY MIKE JONES

Last year we focused on the importance of being home for the holidays. But sometimes the definition of home doesn't necessarily mean a physical space. It's wherever the family and good cheer are. For years my family and I would gather at our home in Edmonton- or in more recent years my brother and I would make the trek to Kelowna. Breaking the trend, after one too many White Christmases we decided this would be the year to spend the holidays in Cuba. So whether you are traveling to Cuba, Mexico, Hawaii or anywhere warmer...or are staying home in Fort McMurray and want to take your mind off the cold this playlist should really heat things up for you!

## All I Want For Christmas Is A Real Good Tan

By Kenny Chesney

It's almost unfathomable for me to think about sunscreen in December, but safe to say it won't be a very Merry Christmas if I don't put on some SPF-30 in Cuba. Other friends have also recommended getting a good base tan before travelling abroad in the winter.

## Christmas In Dixie

By Alabama

Dixie may not be quite as far south as Mexico or Cuba, but it certainly would make for a warmer Christmas than Canada. Wikipedia defines Dixie as the eleven Southern states that seceded in late 1860 and early 1861 to form the new Confederate States of America which of course is your usual contenders like Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama but also includes the likes of Florida. So even if you're heading to Disney World for the holidays, you're having Christmas in Dixie. And on that note....

## It Feels Like Christmas

By The Muppets

More people than Wal-Mart on the Saturday before Christmas. More screaming children than a photo op with Santa at Peter Pond Mall... yet there's something magical about a Disney Christmas. Whether it's watching classic Disney movies on Christmas Eve all snuggled up

around the fire, or actually making the trek down to one of the many parks, you just can't beat the warm feeling of nostalgia as red and green fireworks light up the sky. The Muppet Christmas Carol is always a staple around our house with the ever talented Michael Caine being one of the best Hollywood Scrooge's in recent memory. There's a solid chance you WON'T be hearing this song at Keyano Theatre Company's presentation of A Christmas Carol.

## Mele Kalikimaka

By Bing Crosby

...Is the thing to say on a bright Hawaiian Christmas day. Even if you aren't wearing a t-shirt, lei, and shorts, this song is bound to warm your family's hearts. If you start seeing palm trees though, you might have drunk too much Hawaiian punch!

## Feliz Navidad

By Boney M

Slightly easier to pronounce than the last song, this is the one you want to use in a Spanish speaking country. Quite frankly before this song came across my Spotify I thought the only Spanish words I knew were "Dos Cerveza, Por Favor". Turns out I was wrong!

## Christmas Down In Mexico

By Craig Moritz

Speaking of Mexico- Fort McMurray knows a

thing or two about migrating south for the winter. So much so that beloved local Craig Moritz cut this song back in 2009. With lyrics like "Let's hit the swim-up bar with balls of holly" and "Leave some Cuervo out for Santa," it's hard not to get into the Christmas spirit.

## Fairytale Of New York

By The Pogues

Best known for their hit "Dirty Old Town" London's The Pogues recorded this song in 1987 with Kirsty MacColl. This song became one of the better known Christmas songs about New York....until the next year that is.

## Christmas In Hollis

By Run DMC

Set in Hollis, Queens, this song might find you "chillin' and coolin' like a snowman". Afterall, New York might not be a tropical destination around Christmas but you should probably expect at least a few degrees warmer than Fort McMurray. You might even see some snow. If you really want snow though....

## The Mummer's Song

By Simani

Okay let's not get nitpicky, I didn't say it was going to be a WARM Christmas, I just said Christmas abroad, and you can't drive to Newfoundland....Well, you could but that's an awfully long drive to make in subzero temperatures. Anyways, the tradition of Mumming dates back to England and Ireland in the 1800's but is still somewhat prevalent in parts of Newfoundland today! Nothing against the Screech but let's get back to the heat before we start losing appendages to frostbite!

## Christmas In The Caribbean

By Jimmy Buffett

Released on Jimmy Buffett's twenty-first studio

album (and first Christmas one) in 1996 "Christmas Island" this song remains a hit on holiday-themed cruises to this day. The album itself was relatively panned by critics as they felt few of the new songs were remarkable and the re-arrangements of classic carols were relatively forced. But some good old-fashioned Jamaican rum will let you enjoy it regardless.

## Tropical Christmas

By The Bellamy Brothers

You had to know the guys responsible for the massive 90's Country hit Redneck Girl probably weren't going to be singing about mangos and sleigh bells. But they do give a nice shoutout to Baby Jesus for this tropical silent night!

## Boogie Woogie

Santa Claus

By Mabel Scott

A typical representation of Santa Claus has him living in the North Pole (which surely means Fort McMurray is one his first stops) but not in the Boogie Woogie Santa Claus tradition. Nope. This Santa lives up in a mountain like a hermit in the cave and apparently isn't a fan of barber shops either. This one will have the whole family zipping and bopping the night away from the comfort of your own living room.

## Surfer's Christmas List

By The Surfaris

I've got to admit, nothing cracks

me up more than the thought of Santa (beer gut and all) rocking out on a surfboard. Nothing says surfing quite like Surf rock- and nobody says Surf rock like the Surfaris. Over the years there have been many things requested of Santa on one's Christmas list (my two front teeth, a Hippopotamus, etc) but in this case, a new surfboard (the old got swept away in last week's tide) seems pretty darn reasonable to me!

## Green Christmas

By The Barenaked Ladies

The final song on our list comes from this year's Keyano Gala headliners: The Barenaked Ladies. It's often something we take for granted in Fort McMurray but there are lots of places around the world that just don't see the kind of snowfall that we do. And then there's some that have to shovel a human-sized tunnel from their front door to the car if they run out of booze or food, so let's be grateful we're somewhere in the middle. I personally just find it a lot easier to get into the Christmas spirit when I'm celebrating a white Christmas. I'll take the Winter Maintenance Zones, I'll take the brushing your car off and getting the snow all over your clothes. Heck, I'll even take that brief moment of panic coming down Beacon Hill and hoping today isn't the day your brakes decide to go on strike. A white Christmas is just right for me! [YMM](#)



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# Happy Hanukkah!

...or Chanukah. After all, why wouldn't you spell the same holiday two different ways?

BY BRADLEY KARP

It's that time of year again when the rest of the world gets ready to celebrate Christmas on December 25, and Jews are scrambling to the Jewish calendar to find out where Hanukkah (or Chanukah) falls this year. Yes, we have a different calendar. Also, it's year 5778, not 2017 (but hey who's counting).

This year the Festival of Lights (Hanukkah or Chanukah) will be celebrated from Tuesday, December 12 through Wednesday, December 20. In its most basic terms, it's Jewish Christmas, but not like Christmas at all, other than receiving gifts.

There's no Santa, although Saturday Night Live did create the Hanukkah Harry character to fill a large void in the upbringing of every North American Jewish child's life. That part was played by my uncle for one year only when I was in my early teens.

He rode his cart (not a sleigh) pulled by his three trusty mules (not reindeer) named Moishe, Herschel, and Schlo-mo. He hobbled into the house (he has bad knees of course, he always complains about them) with all the gifts for all the children in a burlap sack, not a fancy red velvet bag. No fancy bells that jingle and jive either; Hanukkah

Harry had a kazoo and cowbell. That was a wacky and memorable year. Of course, he only shows up for one of the eight nights; eight would be quite the commitment.

The story of Chanukah begins when Alexander the Great's rule over Syria, Egypt and Palestine came to an end, when he was succeeded by Antiochus IV. Alexander allowed those living in the lands under his control to continue observing their own religions, that came to an end when Antiochus took over.

He began to oppress the Jews severely, placing Greek priests in the Jewish Temple, and massacring Jews, forbidding the practicing of the religion and desecrating the Temple by sacrificing pigs (a non-kosher animal) on the altar.

A small group of Jewish warriors led by Judah Maccabee, although their numbers were smaller than the Greek opposition they managed to defeat their enemies. In the battle the Temple was nearly ruined. Every Temple has a six-armed menorah that is supposed to burn through the night every night, in those days they used pure olive oil as fuel.

When rebuilding the Temple, the Jews found that there was only


enough oil to light the menorah for one day, yet it burned for eight, and that's the miracle of Chanukah and why we celebrate by lighting an eight-armed menorah!

To celebrate the family will get together around the menorah with eight-arms and one extra candle in the middle called the shamus (the candle you use to light all the others), say a prayer and light the candles. On the first night one candle is placed on the far right, the second night the first two candles from the right are lit, and it continues that way for all eight days.

The exchange of gifts isn't a traditional part of Chanukah, but was added later to deal with the jealousy of Jews towards the wicked awesome gift giving holiday that is Christmas (seriously Christmas is awesome), that's the truth!

There's only one traditional food to eat at Chanukkah, that's potato latkes or potato pancakes, it's best served with applesauce or sour cream.

We also play dreidel, a gambling game played using a spinning top with four sides. Most families bet with pennies, because why let a good stereotype go to waste?

Happy (C)hanukkah! 

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For more information please visit [fortmcmurraychamber.ca](http://fortmcmurraychamber.ca) or call us at 780-743-3100