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## IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

November 4	Daylight Savings Ends	<b>Clocks get turned back one hour. We all get 1 more hour of sleep!</b>
November 11	Remembrance Day	<b>Wear a poppy</b> • <b>Take a moment to remember and honour our war veterans.</b>
December 24	Christmas Eve	<b>Santa will visit homes and bring presents to good boys and girls.</b>
December 25	Christmas Day	<b>Open gifts, spend time with family, share a special dinner.</b>
December 26	Boxing Day	<b>Visit friends, or go shopping for amazing deals as stores sell off their inventories.</b>
December 31	New Year's Eve	<b>Gather with friends and family to say good bye to 2018. Stay up until midnight to welcome 2019! See Page 2 for family activities...</b>



## Things To Do



**TORONTO  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

Thursday November 15 - Sunday December 23, 2018  
at the Distillery Historic District

Click the logo to go to their website!



**25 YEARS  
1992-2017**

### Ride the Train with Santa!

Saturday November 24  
Sunday November 25  
Saturday December 1  
Sunday December 2  
Saturday December 8  
Saturday December 9  
Saturday December 15  
Sunday December 16  
Four departures each day at  
10:00, 11:30, 13:00 & 14:30

Book your spot in  
advance.  
Make reservations  
starting November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Spend a weekend in the land  
of illuminated dreams! **Niagara Falls!**



### Attend a Santa Claus Parade!

Click the links below  
to learn more:

**Toronto** – Sunday November 18  
**Richmond Hill** – Saturday November 17  
**Newmarket** – Saturday November 17



**Ontario Ski  
Resorts**  
Click for info and  
snow reports



Elgin Theatre  
November 30 – January 5

## ♪ ♪ ♪ Santa Claus is Coming to Town ♪ ♪ ♪

For Christians in many countries, Christmas also means Santa Claus is coming. The legend of Santa dates back hundreds of years, and his story varies from country to country. In North America, children believe Santa will visit their home on Christmas Eve. He brings good boys and girls gifts, and places them under their Christmas tree. He also fills their Christmas stockings.



How do children tell Santa what they would like for Christmas?

Children can visit Santa at the mall. He will be at shopping malls starting in November. Children line up for a chance to sit on Santa's knee, have a brief conversation and maybe have their picture taken with Santa.

Children can write a letter to Santa. They can tell Santa about their year, about their family, what they like to do and what they would like for Christmas. A parent can check the letter for spelling. ; ) Letters are mailed to:

The letters do not require a stamp. If the letter is mailed by December 14, Santa will send an answer back to your child, so it is important to include a return address!



**Please be reminded that lessons  
will be suspended**

**December 24 – January 4**

**This coincides with the school Christmas Break**



As we start 2019,  
it's time to think about  
**March Break** activities for your kids.  
Keep checking your town's website  
for more information!

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Beginner



The story of Santa Claus began with a real man. He was kind and gave gifts to poor people.

### Intermediate

Bishop Nicholas lived in Turkey in 330 A.D. He knew a poor family with 3 girls. Their father had no dowry money for them. So, one night, Nicholas threw gold coins down the chimney. They landed in the girls' stockings, drying by the fire.

### Advanced

After his death on Dec. 6th, Bishop Nicholas was renowned as a kindly guardian of children and provider of gifts. Europeans persisted in the reenacting of this saint's legacy of gift-giving on Dec 6. After about 1500, Protestant religions no longer venerated saints. But St. Nick remained popular, particularly in the Netherlands. Today's Santa is an evolution of this Dutch tradition.

## More Things To Do

**Snowland Winter Holiday**  
 you won't forget!  
**GREAT WOLF LODGE**  
 Click the logo!  
 Special Christmas Magic including  
 Dinner in a Ginger Bread House!

Get outside and have fun!  
**Go Ice-Skating**   
 on an outdoor rink!  
 In general, rinks are open from  
 late November to March!  
 Click to learn more:  
**Newmarket Richmond Hill**  
**Toronto Markham**

**Magical Christmas Forest at Kortright**  
   
 Advance tickets required.  
**Friendly elves, Christmas characters & Santa's workshop**  
 Play games and make Christmas crafts.  
 Enjoy carols and treats by the fire.  
 Tell Santa your wishes!

**AURORA**  
 WINTER FESTIVAL  
**November 29-December 30**  
 This Winter, escape to a hidden village by the North Pole filled with captivating light displays, magical characters, market huts, food gardens, amusement rides, live entertainment, and so much more!  
 Ontario Place East Island  
 955 Lake Shore Blvd W., Toronto

## Go Back In Time...



There is so much to know about the Christmas season in Canada, but not enough room in our newsletter 😞. So, to learn more, try these usefully links to past newsletters:

- [Christmas Wreaths – Page 2 of the November/December 2017 Newsletter.](#)
- [Recipe for Pumpkin Pie – Page 2 of the November/December 2016 Newsletter.](#)
- [A Typical December Calendar – Page 2 of the November/December 2015 Newsletter.](#)
- [Symbols of Christmas – Page 2 of the November/December 2014 Newsletter.](#)

## "Don't be such a Scrooge!"

"Scrooge" is a Christmas idiom. It describes a person who is selfish with something, perhaps his time, money, or kindness.

It comes from the very famous story

### A Christmas Carol

The story was written by Charles Dickens in 1843.

Mr. Scrooge is a grumpy man who runs his business without a heart. His fiancée leaves him, his employees fear him and his family cannot persuade him to enjoy himself or his wealth.

One Christmas Eve he receives visits from 3 ghosts: Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas future. He is shown how he has changed from being a happy loved person to being miserable, and that his future is worse.

He awakes Christmas morning just in time to demonstrate remorse for his past actions. He proves that he is a changed man with true compassion and social responsibility.

Many movies have been made of this story. Try and see one on TV this Christmas season!



'Bah, Humbug!'

## City of the Future!!!

In June 2017, *Waterfront Toronto* and *Sidewalk Labs*, (a division of Alphabet Inc.), announced a partnership. The plan is to build a new kind of community on Toronto's waterfront. This community will show the world how new technologies can make cities more affordable, easier to travel in and more environmentally friendly.

This community will be built around information technology. It will use data about traffic, noise, air quality and the performance of systems, including trash bins and the electrical grid, to guide its operation. The access to these systems and the use of data, will raise many new and unexplored questions for governments about privacy and regulations.

The partnership is called Sidewalk Toronto. It will include at least 3.3 million square feet of residential, office and commercial space, and a new headquarters for Google Canada.

Sidewalk Toronto has published a public document (220 pages), with its initial ideas. These ideas represent significant innovation in architecture, construction and urban design. For example, private cars would be banned in the community. Instead, people would be served by autonomous vehicles and freight robots moving in underground tunnels.

To learn more, click the picture. You can even attend a public information meeting.



**First Night** is an engaging North American celebration. It is a family friendly community party to attend on December 31<sup>st</sup>, (New Year's Eve). The activities are fun and exciting and it usually ends with magnificent fireworks. Here are some links:

**In Richmond Hill – December 31, 6:00 - 9:00 at Richmond Green Sports Centre & Tom Graham Arena. Free admission with small fees for some activities. Fireworks are at 9:00 p.m.**

**In Newmarket – December 31, 5:00 - 9:00 at the Magna Centre.**  
 A fun-filled evening bursting with activities including free skating and swimming, an LED Dance Party, inflatables, face painting, balloon twisting, Tim Hortons Express Train rides and more!

**In Toronto – December 31, at Nathan Phillips Square.**



Public libraries have more than just books. They also offer many activities and programs for kids, teens and adults. Some of them are free!

Use the following links to find out what is going on at your local library.

- [North York Public Library, 5120 Yonge Street \(Click on "Programs"\).](#)
- [Newmarket Public Library, 438 Park Avenue, \(Click on "Programs and Activities"\).](#)
- [Richmond Hill Public Libraries, \(Click on "Programs"\).](#)
- [Toronto Public Libraries \(Click on "Locations" the map to select a location and find Out their address and featured programs.](#)



**Watch for the Ikea Christmas Tree Deal!!**  
 Buy a tree and receive a store coupon.

