

Magical Christmas memories shared by Spec's staff and volunteers



Diane Skinner
Writer, journalist and proofreader

Special Christmas Memory:

The memories of my childhood Christmases remain vibrant. A particular annual ritual was the acquiring of our real Christmas tree. My family often bought our tree from a local Boy Scout group who braved the cold each year in a small but cheery area of the local church parking lot. Cheery because they always put up a lonely string of colourful lights. My dad would always declare the tree "the best tree we have ever had!" And you know, he was always right about that.

Christmas Greeting:

Dear Spec Readers: May the closeness of friends, the warmth of home and the love of family fill your heart this Christmas.

Special Christmas Memory:

Christmas was always an exciting time of the year for us. The first thing we did was get a "real" fir tree and it was always decorated on Christmas Eve, never before.

My brothers saw that the wood was available so that mom and my sisters and I could do some baking. I can still smell the gingerbread cookies, that recipe is one of my families favourites to this day.

The boys always wished for trucks and new sleds, they used the new dog sleigh so that our dog could take them to go out to Hopetown School to light the stove and get the place warmed up for the other students when they arrived.

My sisters and I just loved the little dolls we used to get from Santa, the dresses were nice but we looked forward to getting the dolls more. This was a once a year thing.

One time we wanted new skates, we had to wait for Christmas to get our new skates. This made it more special.

Christmas Greeting:

To all those folks that receive Spec, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season. I certainly enjoy putting the labels on the newspaper, and it is so much fun being able to work with the other volunteers and staff members. I feel I am making a contribution in my own little way. Merry Christmas!

Special Christmas Memory:

When asked what is one of my favourite Christmas memories, the first memory to always pop up is the Christmas I received my skis.

That year just before Christmas my whole world changed, new cousins - Linda and Mary (Hayes) Allen arrived from Edmonton, Alberta. These cousins came with skis!

On occasion those cousins would let me try their skis and the feeling of gliding across the snow, was almost too much for my little heart.

How I prayed for skis that Christmas. On Christmas morning my prayers were answered. I can still remember the long brown cardboard box from Eatons, that my skis came in.

That year Christmas holidays were spent skiing across the fields in Hope. There are no hills in Hope, but to us when we did find a big snowbank, we pretended we were skiing in the Rocky Mountains.

Christmas Greeting:

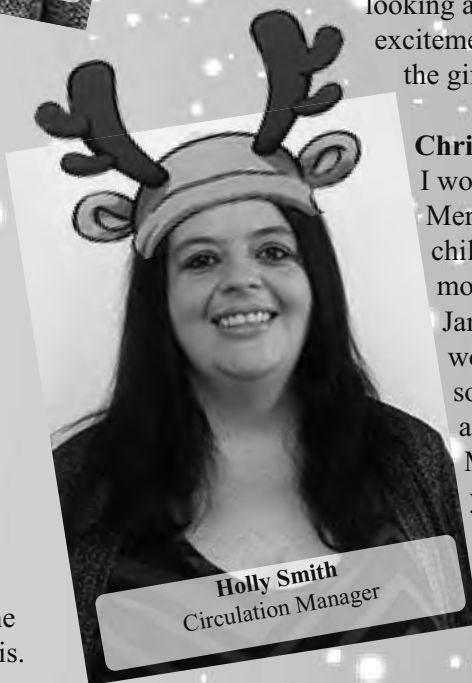
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Spec readers. In 2019 may your lives be filled with good health, much love and may you always hold the Spec newspaper close to your heart.



Ann Hall
Volunteer, labels



Lee Leggo
Volunteer, labels



Holly Smith
Circulation Manager



Mary Beth Astles
Volunteer, labels

Special Christmas Memory:

When I was "young" I always wanted a pair of white skates with fur around the top. I had three older brothers so my skates were brown or black. I wrote a letter to Santa.

Come Christmas morning my white skates were there. I was so proud of them. Later on during the spring I was helping my Mom clean the cupboards and all her salt and pepper shakers. In behind them, I found my letter to Santa. Oh, was I surprised? I confronted Mom with the letter. Her answer was, "How smart is that man! He didn't get your letter but he delivered the skates anyway." I was so grateful I accepted that answer too.

Special Christmas Memory: To all the readers of Spec have a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2019!

Special Christmas Memory:

Every year on Christmas growing up we would have Christmas dinner together. My mom and dad would invite all their children over and we would have dinner and exchange gifts. Now that I have children of my own, my special memories always seem to be about them; the excitement of watching them get the gift they asked for, driving around at night looking at all the houses beautifully decorated and the excitement on their faces when they get up and see all the gifts under the tree.

Christmas Greeting:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish a very Merry Christmas to my husband Michael, my five children: Brad, Ethan, Luke, Lucy and Leah my mom Hazel, sisters: Wanda and Lisa, brother Jamie, all my extended family and to you, our wonderful Spec readers. May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Special Christmas Memory:

Performing our own concert was one of my favourite memories of the Christmas season a few years ago. All the family, mainly the grandchildren, took part in planning and preparing the program, playing the piano and trumpet, singing, telling stories and jokes, and filming the event. *All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth* was very appropriate for that year. We all look forward to our next Christmas together.



Jewell Roy
Proofreader

Christmas Greeting:

May you have a Christmas season filled with warmth and happiness.



Joan Imhoff
Office Manager

Special Christmas Memory:

When first asked to provide a holiday memory, I was stumped as to what I was going to write, but then I thought of one Christmas that taught me a valuable lesson. I was about 10 or 11 and being curious, (my husband would say nosy), I took it upon myself to unwrap all my Christmas presents while my parents were gone shopping. I made sure everything was rewrapped perfectly so no one would know I had peeked. Needless to say Christmas morning was quite boring, I never ever peeked again.

Christmas Greeting:

Happy holidays to all our Spec readers. Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas season!

Special Christmas Memory:

I was born and raised in Matane. When I was three, in 1963, my family moved to Fraser Street, which at the time was located alongside the railway. So I discovered trains at that time. I was impressed by their size, even Matane was of relatively small importance, railway-wise. The trains were not that long, rarely exceeding 20 cars, but the train station was located near our house so the train would shunt there for a couple of hours. It was a mixed train, ending with a passenger car.

I was a little scared by the train's whistle at an early age, especially considering that the locomotive engineer would activate it as it was passing by the house, located near a grade crossing. The train was coming six times a week. Sunday was a day off and I hated that day.

As I grew a little older, I started to wonder if the train would come on the day of Christmas. For many years, it did, quite early in the morning, despite it being a day off for almost everyone. The train was short, with a locomotive, an express car, for the parcel service of the time, and the passenger car.

In most francophone families, the night between December 24 and December 25 is the big party time, with the gifts being given and an exquisite meal to cap it all off, sometimes at 3 a.m. It was the only night of the year where kids like me could basically go sleepless until dawn. So when, in addition to not sleeping until daylight, I could see a train shortly after going to bed at 7 a.m. It was like being in paradise.

Christmas Greeting:

I wish our readers a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a lot of success in their endeavors.

Special Christmas Memory:

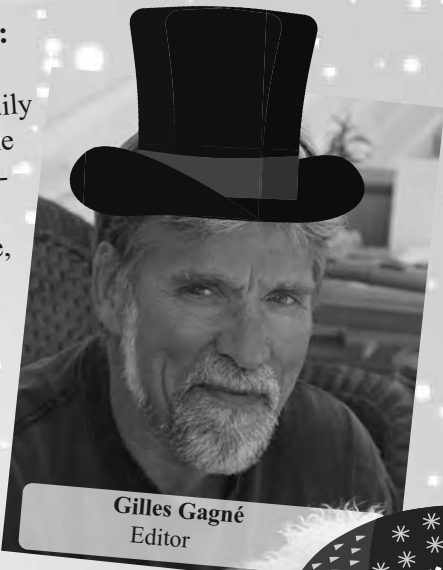
One of our special memories is an annual Christmas tree hunt. This tradition originated after Louise and I were married and continued as soon as each child became old enough, the number of trees increased as each wanted a tree in their bedroom as well. Wonderful memories for us all. The tradition continues.



Daryl and Louise Beebe
Paper Delivery

Christmas Greeting:

We would like to wish everyone a special Christmas with those you love and a Healthy and Happy New Year!



Gilles Gagné
Editor

Special Christmas Memory:

One of my favourite Christmas memories happened a few years ago when I was visiting my brother in Paris for the holidays. We were leaving the city later in the day, so we decided to spend our remaining time at a traditional Christmas market that was happening near the Eiffel Tower. The first table we stopped at was selling macarons and being the impulsive, irrational people we are, we ordered two dozen. It didn't take us long to realize that no normal human being can eat that many macarons in one sitting and the boxes were becoming bothersome to carry. The vendor refused to take them back and we couldn't take them with us, so we resorted to harassing innocent market-goers to take them instead. Unsurprisingly, people were fairly suspicious as to why two random strangers were offering them mysteriously free food and the more we insisted they take them, the more suspicious it seemed. We finally found someone to take them after begging for what seemed like hours. All the while, my parents had spent their time actually enjoying the market. It's funny to look back on now and it certainly taught us a valuable lesson about impulsive buying.

Special Christmas Memory: I wish all our readers an amazing Christmas that will leave you with plenty of fond memories. I hope 2019 treats you well, with good health and happiness in store.



Jessie Legrand
Marketing Intern

Special Christmas Memory:

When I was a young child we didn't have any neighbours, but then one winter a family moved in next door with two children. My life changed that day. I found a kindred spirit in the girl next door, even though we didn't speak the same language. Well, I learned French in record time and that year was the first of many great Christmases. It was like every Christmas after that came twice; I'd spend the réveillon celebrating with my friend's family and she'd spend Christmas Day with ours. That friendship was undoubtedly the best gift I've ever received.

Christmas Greeting:

May your home be filled with joy and love this Christmas season and throughout the new year.



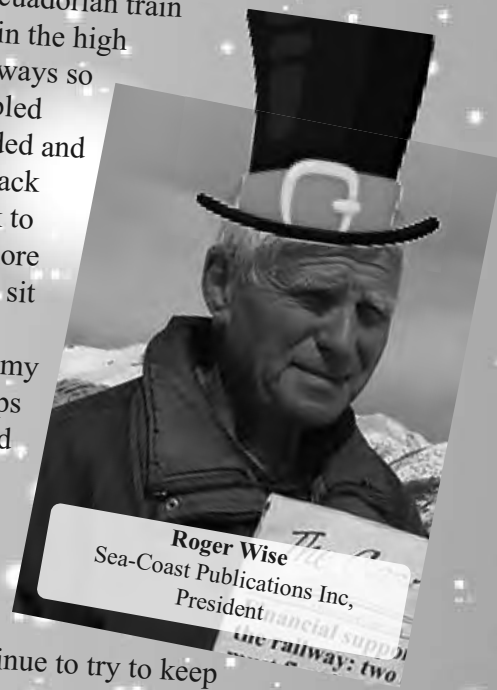
Penny MacWhirter
Publisher

Special Christmas Memory:

I have two Christmas memories. The first is when I commanded a troop of centurion tanks in the wastes of Northern Germany at the height of the Cold War. This was in the 1960s. We had no television, no telephone, no library, just a bunch of young officers on readiness alert sitting around with no outside contact, trying to amuse ourselves. The second is more cheerful. Enid, my wife, gave me as a Christmas present - a surprise trip on an Ecuadorian train out of a town called Riobamba in the high Andes. I have always loved railways so this was special. This train rumbled through village squares, descended and then climbed back up a switch back called the Devil's Nose and back to Riobamba. What made it even more special was that I was allowed to sit on the roof of a cattle car for the whole journey and at times I had my legs dangling into space over drops of hundreds of feet. The views and whole experience were breathtaking. Get real Via Rail!

Christmas Greeting:

Thank you for your continued loyalty to our paper and we shall continue to try to keep you informed of local news and events as best we can in the coming year. Merry Christmas.



Roger Wise
Sea-Coast Publications Inc,
President

Announcements...

In Memory



CARRIER: Leona

A poem I wrote in memory of my mom, Leona Carrier, who passed away August 24, 2018.

My Mother's Daughter

*I miss your smile
I miss your voice
I miss your hands that held me close.
I miss your heart, your soul, your grace
The love that you inspired
And the greatest gift you gave to me
Was to be my mother's daughter.*

*If only I could stop this hurt
And live within the moments
Of joy, and song, and laughter
When all I ever had to be
Was my mother's daughter.*

*My heart is broken, it's hard to cope
I feel so lost and all alone
I wish I could escape this world
And rest within my thoughts of home
When all I ever longed to be
Was my mother's daughter.*

*They say that time will heal this wound
On this I disagree
I wish somehow that they could see
How much of you resides in me
And just how much I need to be
My Mother's Daughter.*

~Linda Mallaley

thegaspespec.com

GALLON: Arthur

In loving memory of a dear father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away December 18, 2000. *His smiling ways and pleasant face
Are a pleasure to recall;
He had a kindly word for each
And died beloved by all.
Some day we hope to meet him,
Some day we know not when,
To clasp his hand in the better land,
Never to part again.*

Always remembered by John, Maria, Amy and Katie. xoxo.



SMITH: Charles William (Chick) 1936-2012

*Six years has past,
And remembering you is easy,
We do it every day.
But missing you is a heartache,
That never goes away.*

Your forever loving wife Yvette, son Robert (Sylvie-Anne), daughters; Cindy (Rejean), Audra (Bryan) and your beautiful granddaughters; Rachel, Stephanie, Taylor, and Ashley.

WHITE: Leo

In loving memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away December 21, 2013.

*Five years has passed since that sad day,
When the one we loved was called away.
God took him home it was his will,
Within our hearts, he liveth still.*

*God saw the road was getting rough,
And the hills were hard to climb.*

*So he closed your eyelids
And whispered "peace be thine."*

*There is someone who misses you sadly,
And finds the time so long since you went,
There is someone who thinks of you always,
And tries to be brave and content.*

*The flowers we place upon your grave,
May wither and decay,
But love for you who sleeps beneath,
Will never fade away.*

Always loved forever missed wife Lorna, daughters Donna, Sandra, Valerie and families.

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\$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines.

In Memoriam: \$30 (\$35 with picture) up to 20 lines
\$40 (\$45 with picture) for more than 20 lines

Obituary or Wedding: \$40 (\$45 with picture) (Max. 300 words)

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COAST ROUND-UP

POINTE-NAVARRÉ:

Shrine of Pointe-Navarre
January 8: Mass of St Peregrine, patron saint of the sick suffering from cancer and long-term diseases, will be celebrated on at 7 p.m. at the Shrine of Pointe-Navarre.

DOUGLASTOWN:

Douglas Community Centre
December 21: Annual Solstice supper \$12 per adult (12+), \$6 per child (5 to 11), \$3 for ages 4 and under. All are welcome!
December 31: New Year's Eve breakfast. Traditional menu, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \$8 per adult (12+), \$4 per child (5 to 11), free under 4 years old. Everyone is welcome!

December 31: New Year's Eve breakfast. Traditional menu, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. \$8 per adult (12+), \$4 per child (5 to 11), free under 4 years old. Everyone is welcome!

BARACHOIS:

Legion Branch 261
Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion.

SHIGAWAKE:

Community Center
December 31: New Year's Eve dance beginning at 8 p.m. \$12 per person.

HOPE TOWN:

Hope Baptist Church
Hope Baptist Church welcomes you. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and Corporate Worship at 11 a.m. on Sundays. Prayer Meeting and Bible Study at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Young Peoples for grades 7-11 at 7 p.m. on Fridays. 305 Route 132 West, Hope Town, 418-752-5838.

NEW CARLISLE:

Bible Chapel Services
Sunday: Breaking of Bread for Believers - 9:30 a.m.; Sunday night service - 7 p.m.;

Wednesday: Bible Study and Prayer - 7 p.m. "You Must Be Born Again."

NEW RICHMOND:

Full Gospel Church
December 23: Christmas Celebration beginning at 4 p.m. Christmas songs, appropriate messages, supper, group games and surprises. For more information call 418-392-5161.

NEW RICHMOND:

Flea Market
New clothing has arrived, \$1 each. Good, hot meal at noon. Free. Donations accepted. We also give away hundreds of items every week. To donate or obtain furniture, please call 418-392-5161. Open on **Fridays** and **Saturdays** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 248 Perron Blvd, New Richmond.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

River Museum
January 6: King and Queen winter tea and cake party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Prizes awarded to the crowned King and Queen. For further information call 418-392-5079.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172
The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 172, meets monthly every third **Saturday** at the Legion located at 55 Gallagher St.

December 31: Royal Canadian Legion Br. 172 and St. Jules Parish will be hosting a New Year's Eve dance from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$20 per couple or \$12 a person.



Music by DJ, bar service available with light lunch. Nez Rouge service available. Limited tickets. Call Michel at 418-759-3234 or Linda at 418-392-4989.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

Book Room
Please be advised that the book room will be closed **December 19** until **January 9**.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES:

50+ Club
Every Thursday: Dame de Pique at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.
Every Tuesday: Bingo beginning at 7 p.m. Welcome to all.
January 11 and 25: Jam Session for all musicians and spectators. Doors open at 7 p.m. Music begins at 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Canteen service on site.

GESGAPEGIAG:

N.A. Meetings
N.A. Meetings held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Mawiomi Treatment Centre, located at 85 School Street in Gesgapegiag. Everyone welcome! For more information call 418-759-3522.



UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 23
2 p.m. Hope Town
Sunday, January 6
2 p.m. Hope Town

NEW RICHMOND
United Church Events
December 24: Christmas Eve service with Communion beginning at 7 p.m.
December 30: Carol Service beginning at 10 a.m.

ROTARY CLUB WINNERS

The winners for the week of November 18 are: France Bujold, Bertin Briere, Francine Cyr, Bradley Dow, Richard Litalien, Martin J. Landry and Anne-Marie Martin.

The winners for the week of November 25 are: Guy-laine Bujold, Donald Cyr, Richard Cormier, Pierette Cyr, Laval Cyr, Bernard Audet and Lise Poirier.

The winners for the week of December 2 are: Lina Landry, Ricky Barter, Catherine Gauthier, Stéphane Gagné, Dennis Dow, Rejean Babin and Sylvie Robinson.

The winners for the week of December 9 are: John

Gedeon, Virginie Turcotte, Eurovia Québec, Hammond McCormick, Sylvain Loubert, Etienne E. Babin and Robert Renouf.

The winners for the week of December 16 are: Jacqueline Godin, Denise Cyr, Nathalie Barriault, Brian Smith, Kenneth Sexton, Charles Gauthier and David Boudreau.

The winners for the week of December 23 are: Francois Pineault, Ghislain Cyr, Pauline Babin-Bélanger, Louise Bélanger, Isabelle Cormier, Michel Poirier and Daniel Leblanc.

The winners for December 30 and 31 are: Yvon Arsenault and Dorothée Garrett.



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, December 23

New Carlisle
9 a.m. Morning Prayer
New Richmond
3 p.m. Holy Eucharist/Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

New Carlisle
9 p.m. Christmas Eve
Hope Town
4 p.m. Christmas Eve
Shigawake
9 p.m. Christmas Eve
Port Daniel
7 p.m. Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25

New Carlisle
7 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sunday, December 30

No Service

Sunday, January 6

New Carlisle
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Shigawake
11 a.m. Holy Baptism

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, December 23

St. Paul's - Gaspé
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 24

St. Andrews - York
7 p.m. Christmas Eve
St. Paul's - Gaspé
3 p.m. Crib Service

Sunday, December 30

St. Paul's - Gaspé
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist



ALL SAINTS BY THE SEA

Sunday, December 23

No Service

Monday, December 24

St. Peter's - Malbay
9 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

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For your support and goodwill.*

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christmas

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