

Christmas Magic and Love

Diane Skinner

It's December and the kind of night where darkness sticks to everything. For those who miss the light do not despair because soon the daylight hours will slowly begin to increase. The tilt of the earth will be in our favour and our faces can turn to the light, like sunflowers searching for warmth, light and Vitamin D.

This time of year, is also a time for reminiscing. As the season is upon us, we cannot help but think of Christmas past. Christmas is a time for secrets and surprises. Christmas is a magical, loving time. We reflect on our childhood Christmases and how we have celebrated the season through our lives. Some things are similar and much has changed profoundly.

We still celebrate with music, good food and gifts. However, even these aspects have changed. Music in past Christmases was most often religious such as O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, Angels We Have Heard on High and Away in a Manger.

Nativity pageants in churches were, and are, a sweet and moving event. Newer music is less about religion and more about the celebration. These include White Christmas, Winter Wonderland, Jingle Bells, Santa Baby and I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus. Christmas carols are generally religious in na-

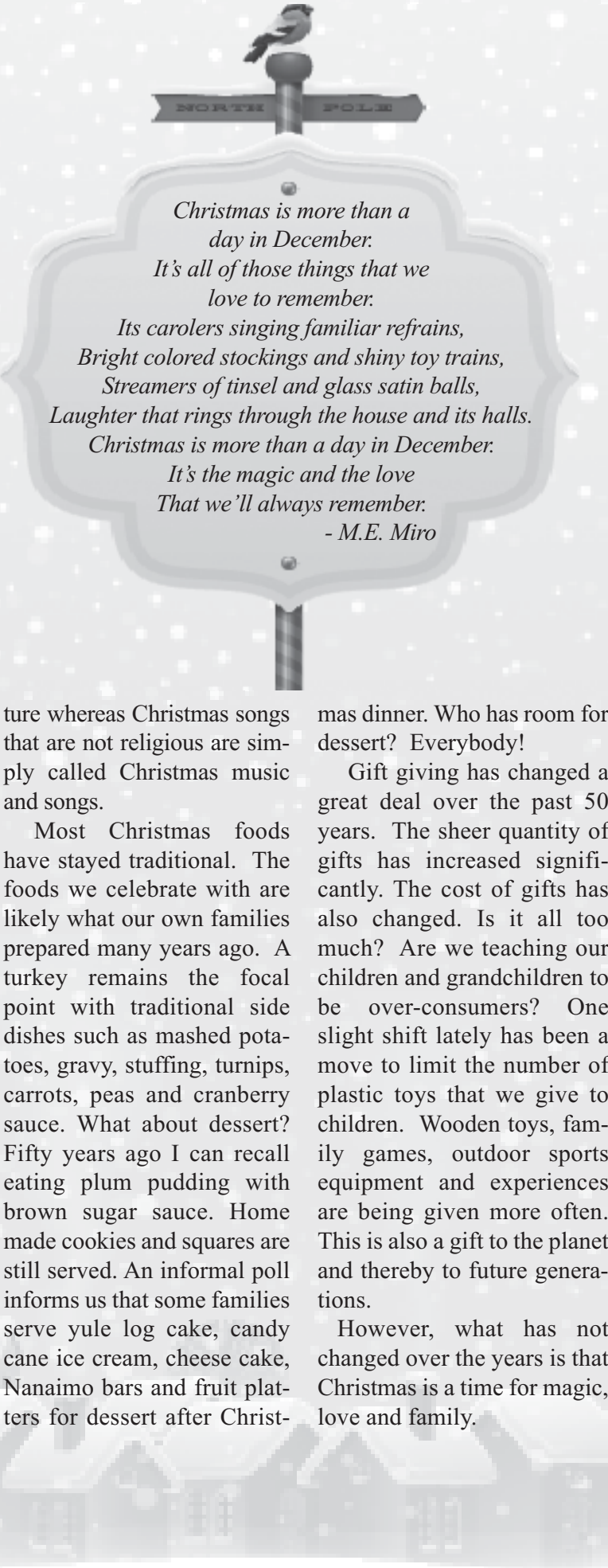
ture whereas Christmas songs that are not religious are simply called Christmas music and songs.

Most Christmas foods have stayed traditional. The foods we celebrate with are likely what our own families prepared many years ago. A turkey remains the focal point with traditional side dishes such as mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, turnips, carrots, peas and cranberry sauce. What about dessert? Fifty years ago I can recall eating plum pudding with brown sugar sauce. Home made cookies and squares are still served. An informal poll informs us that some families serve yule log cake, candy cane ice cream, cheese cake, Nanaimo bars and fruit platters for dessert after Christ-

mas dinner. Who has room for dessert? Everybody!

Gift giving has changed a great deal over the past 50 years. The sheer quantity of gifts has increased significantly. The cost of gifts has also changed. Is it all too much? Are we teaching our children and grandchildren to be over-consumers? One slight shift lately has been a move to limit the number of plastic toys that we give to children. Wooden toys, family games, outdoor sports equipment and experiences are being given more often. This is also a gift to the planet and thereby to future generations.

However, what has not changed over the years is that Christmas is a time for magic, love and family.



*Christmas is more than a day in December.
It's all of those things that we love to remember.*

*Its carolers singing familiar refrains,
Bright colored stockings and shiny toy trains,
Streamers of tinsel and glass satin balls,
Laughter that rings through the house and its halls.
Christmas is more than a day in December.
It's the magic and the love
That we'll always remember.
- M.E. Miro*

Fun Fact

The ninth reindeer, **Rudolph**, first appeared in 1939 when Robert L. May, a copywriter at the Montgomery Ward department store, told his story to help generate holiday traffic for the store.



Thanks!

For Your Support

to the following people
for their generous
donations to:

The Gaspé Spec

Wilson Dow,
Roseneath, Ontario
Howard Clark,
Thorold, Ontario

Wayne Dier,
Carleton Place, Ontario
Bertha Hayes,
Shigawake, Quebec
Linda MacWhirter,
Hope Town, Quebec

Elsie Willett,
Cascapedia-St-Jules, Quebec
Donna Bisson,
New Richmond, Quebec

Barbara Malone,
Lachine, Quebec
Carl Garrett,
Port Daniel, Quebec

Jean E. Walker Doyle,
Pointe Claire, Quebec
Macartney A. Patterson,
Edmonton, Alberta

Myra Arsenault,
New Carlisle, Quebec
Nora Wand,
Pincourt, Quebec

Barb Hall,
Port Perry, Ontario
Sean P. Greene,
Dieppe, New Brunswick

Raymond Astles,
New Carlisle, Quebec
Sheila & Brian Baird,
Fredericton,
New Brunswick

Gerald MacWhirter,
Niagara Falls, Ontario
Ted Sullivan
Milton, Ontario

Bernard Babin,
Levis, Quebec
Francis Moran,
New Carlisle, Quebec

Ivan McKoy,
St-George Malbay, Quebec
Alanna Dow,
Montreal, Quebec

Joan Coffin,
Mississauga, Ontario
Peggy Sclater,
St. Hubert, Quebec

Kenneth Legrand,
St. Bruno, Quebec
Lorna Devouge
Brantford, Ontario

Eileen Joyce Ross Cyr,
New Carlisle, Quebec
Sherman McRae,
Hamilton, Ontario

Jill Dumaresq
Morrisburg, Ontario
Marilyn Flowers,
Scarborough, Ontario



Fun Fact

100 Feet
The size of the
tallest tree
displayed at
Rockefeller
Center in
1999.

Merry Christmas to all....

Thanks to our loyal customers for your friendship and support.

TOYOTA
BAIE DES CHALEURS
20 boul. Perron ouest
Caplan G0C 1H0
418 388-5544
toyotabaiedeschaleurs.com

Merry
Christmas and
Happy
New Year!



Thank you for your valued
patronage throughout 2019!



HYUNDAI
GASPESIE AUTO

339 Avenue de Port-Royal
Bonaventure G0C 1E0
418 534-2191
gaspesiehyundai.com

Announcements...



In Memory

CLARK: Ralph

CLARK: Della

CLARK: Morris

*The years may wipe out many things,
But this they'll wipe out never.*

The memory of those happy days

When we were all together,

We think of you in silence,

Your name we oft recall,

But there's nothing left to answer

But your picture on the wall.

Just when your life was brightest,

Just when your hopes were best.

God called you from among us

To a home of eternal rest.

Love you, miss you, the Clark family.

Happy 88th Birthday Mom!



Rowena Gallichan with Eric Roberts

Hope you have the best day!
We love you. xoxo



Classic Memorials

Four Generations
of Monument Craftsmen

HIGHEST QUALITY - BEST PRICES

MONUMENTS, MARKERS, CEMETERY LETTERING,
LASER DESIGNS AND PORTRAITS

SALES REPS:

Albert Burton - New Richmond **418-391-6526**

Steven Imhoff - New Carlisle **418-752-6041**

Alexis Normandeau - St. Jules **418-759-3270**

Card of Thanks, Birth Announcement, Prayer, Engagement, Birthday, Anniversary, Memorial Service announcement:
\$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)

**SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS PAGE MUST BE IN OUR OFFICE
BY THURSDAY AT 4 P.M.**

MONUMENTS P. FOURNIER



GUARANTEED QUALITY

Tel: 418-892-5312

Cell: 418-355-4799

pfmonuments@gmail.com

641 Forillon Blvd, Gaspé, Que.

**WE ALSO REPLACE
FOUNDATIONS, AND
PROVIDE CLEANING
AND REPAINTING.**



Grenier & Grenier LAWYERS



Réal Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

Jules Grenier, b.a.ll.l.

96 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd, P.O. Box 519

New Carlisle (Quebec) G0C 1Z0

Tel.: (418) 752-3308 • Fax (418) 752-6935

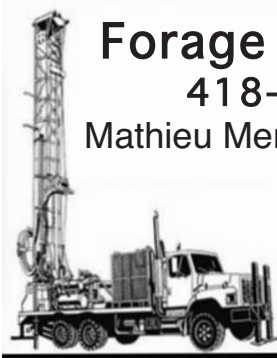


Tremblay & Barriault, notaires inc
Notaries & legal counsel

Gilles Tremblay, notary
Serge Barriault, notary
Gaël Tremblay, notary

119B Perron Blvd West, New Richmond, Que.
Tel.: (418) 392-5282 • Fax: (418) 392-6155
E-mail: gaeltremblay@notarius.net

**FULLY
BILINGUAL
SERVICE**



foragemoreaumercier@gmail.com

Forage Moreau Inc.

418-392-9501

Mathieu Mercier - Driller/Owner

- Artesian Well Drilling
- Budgetary Price
- Bilingual Service
- RBQ: 5672-1467-01



By Appointment

Richard Ste Croix

Denturologist

Construction and repair of dentures.

We also make dentures on implants.

9 Adams Street, Gaspé
Quebec G4X 1E5

Tel.: (418) 368-1525
Fax: (418) 368-1542



The Ohmega Group Inc.

Going beyond and reliable since 1982



Electricity - Plumbing
Automation
Industrial computing
Counter sales

3 Rue Cerisiers
Gaspé, Québec G4X 2M1

Tel. (418) 368-5425

Fax (418) 368-7290

www.groupeohmega.com

Distributors of petroleum products: diesel, furnace oil, stove oil, gas and motor oil



**Les
Pétroles**

C. Poirier inc.

Proud to serve you!

HEAD OFFICE:

Bonaventure

125 Route 132

Bonaventure, QC G0C 1E0

Tel.: (418) 534-2777

Fax: (418) 534-4210

csc@petrolescipoirier.com

Chandler

125 Route Leblanc

Pabos, QC G0C 1K0

Tel: (418) 689-2595

Gaspé

216D Montée Sandy Beach

Gaspé, QC G4X 2B3

Tel.: (418) 368-8777



IN BUSINESS FOR 35 YEARS



Dr. Pascal Cyr
Optometrist



Dr. Stacey Starrak
Optometrist

CLINIQUE D'OPTOMÉTRIE



L'ÉMERILLON

LENSES CRAFTED ON THE PREMISES

PASPÉBIAC: 104 Gérard D. Levesque Blvd West • 418-752-5553

CHANDLER: 260 René Lévesque Blvd East • 418-689-5553

MARIA: 435 Perron Blvd West • 418-759-5553

**BILINGUAL
SERVICE**

**MEMBER
OF**



Canada's Largest Network of Optometrists

CLASSIFIEDS



LAND FOR SALE: Completely serviced lot in New Carlisle, Quebec, located on Church Street, south of Route 132. Lot number 6041558. Asking \$28,000. For more information please contact Richard at 905-299-3695.

COAST ROUND-UP

DOUGLASTOWN: Community Centre

Tuesdays: Zumba from 7-8 p.m. \$10/class. Classes will resume January 7, 2020.

December 20: The traditional solstice supper will start at 5:30 p.m. Vegetarian option available. \$15 adult and \$8 children. Tickets available in advance.

December 31: Come and join us for a community breakfast starting at 8 a.m. Voluntary contribution of \$8 adult and \$4 children (5-11 years old). **Please be advised that our offices will be closed from December 21 to January 5.**

BARACHOIS: Legion Branch 261

Every Monday: The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 261, will be having a money bingo at 7 p.m. at the Legion. 18+ only.

Every Thursday: Cards and games from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Free. For more information, contact Lloyd Roussel at 418-645-3700 or 418-645-2786.

PORT DANIEL: Three Star Golden Age Club

Every Wednesday: Pétanque from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost \$3. Come and join the fun and learn a new game!

SHIGAWAKE: Community Centre New Year's Ball

December 31: New Year's Ball beginning at 8 p.m. \$12 per person. Light lunch served, 18+, DJ (Mark Dea).

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

NEW CARLISLE: Curling League

Interested in curling this year? Register by **January 7**. Curling league is held on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Contact David at 418-752-0965 for more information.

NEW RICHMOND: St. Andrew's United Church

December 20: Bring your family and friends at 7 p.m. to enjoy all your favourite traditional Christmas Carols. (Alternate storm date, December 21). Please contact Gail Martin Harrison at 418-392-2725 or

email 256martinh@gmail.com if you would like to register a performance for the evening.

NEW RICHMOND: Help Us Celebrate Joan

December 23: Joan Bisson Dow will be celebrating her 90th birthday in January. The family is taking advantage of their Christmas gathering to celebrate with her. We'd love to see you at the tea in her honour from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the United Church Hall in New Richmond. Best wishes only, please! Hope you can join us!

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.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Book Room

Every Wednesday: The book room is now closed until January 8. For more information, call Kathleen at 418-392-4896.

CASCAPEDIA-ST-JULES: Fifty Plus

Every Tuesday: Grocery Bingo at 7 p.m.

Every Thursday: Dame de Piques at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Thank you for your support.

GESGAPEGIAG: Important Meeting

This is to inform the community members of Gesgapegiag and

the surrounding area that Gesgapegiag Healing Lodge (NNADAP) hosts AA meetings and is open to everyone. If you are interested in a lifestyle free of alcohol and substance abuse and have the desire to change, you are invited to attend meetings every **Monday** at 7 p.m.

GESGAPEGIAG: N.A. Meetings

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



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Sunday, December 22

New Richmond

4 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Joint Service

Tuesday, December 24

New Carlisle

9 p.m. Christmas Eve

Hope Town

4 p.m. Christmas Eve

Shigawake

7 p.m. Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 29

No Services

Sunday, January 5

New Carlisle

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Hope Town

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Shigawake

10 a.m. Morning Prayer

PARISH OF GASPÉ

Sunday, December 22

St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 24

St. Andrews - York

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist

St. Paul's - Gaspé

3 p.m. Crib Service

Sunday, December 29

St. Paul's - Gaspé

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist



UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 22

10:30a.m. Hope Town

Sunday, December 29

No Service

Sunday, January 5

2 p.m. Hope Town

Merry Christmas & Many Thanks

We take this opportunity to say thank you to all our loyal supporters, subscribers, advertisers, volunteers and contributors. We wish each and everyone of you a peaceful holiday season. We thank you for your support and look forward to a new year of publishing news on the Coast.

This is the last issue of The Gaspé Spec for 2019.

The office will be closed on Friday, December 20, 2019 and will reopen on Friday, January 3, 2020.

Because of the printing schedule, please take note that our first issue of The Gaspé Spec in the new year will be **January 9, 2020.**

On the lighter side...



SCHOOL DAYS

We urge all teachers on the Coast to please send or email their old class pictures to share with our readers.



**New Carlisle High School
Kindergarten - 1992-93**

Back Row: Laura Doherty, Jenny Eaton, Jennifer Buttle, Tracy Buttle, Sam Gallon, Amy Gallon and Laticia Carter. Front Row: Cody Hayes, Mandy Flowers, Tracy-Lee Pelletier and Kenny Smith.

Go ahead...play with your food



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING IDEAS



HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Take some time to think a response through before saying the first thing that comes to mind, Aries. It's not easy to take the words back once they're out there.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, even though it can be difficult to cede control, sometimes you have to hand the reins over to someone else. You can still be involved from a distance.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, sometimes it can be chal-

lenging to figure out what other people are thinking. Focus on yourself instead of trying to get into the heads of those around you.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

A focus on finances takes priority this week, Cancer. Holiday spending may force you to reevaluate your budget. It could be time to scale back.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Put all of your energy into one line of thought or project, Leo. This way you're fully behind the idea. You're a force to be reckoned with when you are motivated.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Time is running out to get an important job done, Virgo. This is not a week to

procrastinate, but to bear down and finish your tasks. You'll breathe easier afterward.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Big changes are on the horizon, Libra. You may have wanted a certain outcome, but another arrived instead. It could take some time getting used to a new situation.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Sometimes you have to table the things you want to say in the interest of consensus, Scorpio. Focus your energy on positive things this week.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, be patient with yourself this week, as you have many different balls in the air at once. Even the most organ-

ized person may stumble here or there.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you may need to delegate when demands at home start to feel a little overwhelming. Any free time you can muster will be put to good use.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Some situations are beyond your control, Aquarius. Fixating on the things you cannot change will not prove productive. Surround yourself with friends.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Enjoy the moments that you have with family members in the weeks to come, Pisces. These are the most reliable people in your life.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 8

Ann Coulter, Journalist (58)

DECEMBER 9

Judi Dench, Actress (85)

DECEMBER 10

Bobby Flay, Chef (55)

DECEMBER 11

Mos Def, Rapper (46)

DECEMBER 12

Jennifer Connelly, Actress (49)

DECEMBER 13

Steve Buscemi, Actor (61)

DECEMBER 14

Samantha Peszek, Athlete (28)

Percé's Polar Dip for Opération Enfant-Soleil raises \$38,885.70 to support sick children

Gilles Gagné

PERCÉ – The 8th annual Polar Dip, officially called “*Saucette au profit d’Opération Enfant-soleil*” was held on Saturday, December 14, in Percé and 94 courageous participants, supported by many friends and family members, ran, dove and /or swam in salt water characterized by a 1 degree temperature and vigorous gusts of wind. The air temperature was relatively mild, above zero degree. “The total of money is still temporary because other donations are coming in from activities organized over recent days, notably an auction. We know that it will surpass \$40,000. In eight Polar Dips, we have raised \$225,579.70. That money is handed over to *Opération Enfant-soleil* at the national level. Hundreds of fundraising activities are held to support the organization. The money is used for research and for the acquisition of specialized equipment improving the care and increasing the comfort for sick kids. The money is mostly going to the four main pediatrics centres. This spring *Opération Enfant-soleil* will come back to the region and give back some money for our pediatrics departments. It is normal that more money goes to the main pediatrics centres in cities than staying here in the region. We are talking about specialized centre,” explains Marie-Ève Trudel-Vibert, spokesperson and co-founder of Percé’s Polar Dip. Vicky O’Grady, a representative of *Opération Enfant-soleil*, came to Percé over the weekend to support the participants.



Photos: William de Merchant



We wish to thank you for your valued patronage!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

December 24:	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
December 25:	12 noon to 5 p.m.
December 26:	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
December 31:	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
January 1:	12 noon to 5 p.m.

We have two locations to serve you:



145 Chemin Cyr, New Richmond
418-392-4451

PJC Clinic,
37 Perron East, Caplan
418-388-2345





SEASON'S GREETINGS
Trimmed With Best Wishes

Wishing you a merry Christmas decorated with love and friendship, and a New Year filled with peace, joy, good health and good fortune.



GROUPE CORMIER

MARIA
NEW RICHMOND
BONAVENTURE

CASA BOARD OF
DIRECTORS AND STAFF

wish
you a
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!



TONY CONOLEY

DOUGLAS HUNT

CARL GARRETT

SHARON RENOUF

CATHY BROWN

JENNIFER WILLETT

KIM HARRISON

DAVE DOUESNARD

BRUCE WAFER

CARISSA DEMPSEY

ASHLEY RENOUF

BECKY RENOUF

LISA JADE LEBLANC

STELLA KENNEDY

JOHNNY LEGRAND

KRYSTAL DUGUAY

AMANDA CROZIER

MARY ROBERTSON

FAY GALLON

FRED KIRCH

NICHOLAS CAISSY

KATHY GALLON

TREVOR BUTTLE

MADELYN HAYES

JOLENE STARNES

TOM EDEN

SHANNON MARSH

SHANNON DAY

SALLY WALKER

