# THE BRIDGETOWN

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**FREE** 

**VOL. 17** 

Issue 50



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### **Bridgetown Library at 200**

2026 will mark the 200th anniversary of the Bridgetown Library. According to Elizabeth Ruggles Coward in Bridgetown Nova Scotia, Its History to 1900 (1955) the founding went like this-

"In 1826 a meeting was held at Ezra Foster's Inn on the corner at the head of Queen Street for the purpose of establishing a Library in the village of Bridgetown. The fees were one guinea each and nearly fifty people had already subscribed. It was called the Bridgetown Reading Society, and the following officers were elected: "President, Rev. William Elder; Secretary, Mr. Alexander H. Troop; Librarian, Stephen Bromley, Esq.; Treasurer, Mr. Benjamin Reed. Committee: Rev. Thomas Ansley, Mr. Robert Bath, Thomas James, Esq., Mr. Benjamin Reed, Mr. Thomas Spurr, Jr., Mr. Angus Gidney." It was the seventh library to be formed in the Province...

"In an article on the Early Public Libraries in Nova Scotia.

written by Dr. D. C. Harvey, the names of the first seven towns to form libraries are given as Newport (1821), Amherst (1821), Yarmouth (1822), Pictou (1822), Halifax (1823), Lunenburg (1824), and Bridgetown (1826)." The Bridgetown & Area Library at 38 Queen Street, is part of the Annapolis Valley Region Library (AVRL) system which has been serving West Hants, Kings and Annapolis Counties with free public library service since 1949. However, libraries across the province are being threatened by funding shortfalls. According to AVRL, "Inflation has increased 43% since 2009, but the Library's sustainable funding has only increased 10%. The Province provided emergency funding this year which has helped us in the short term and for this, we are grateful. Unfortunately, this is not enough to prevent service changes.

Without budgetary help the libraries face reduced service hours, fewer new books and resources, and program and service reductions. Contact your local MLA and municipality to share your library story and let them know why the library matters to you. If you have questions, please talk to staff at your local branch.



Much Joy to All and a **Great Big Thank You From** The Bridgetown Reader. See You in the New Year!

### **Reflecting On Our Libraries**

When I was a child I have fond memories of the Bookmobile pulling into the school yard where I eagerly awaited going onboard with my mother and selecting books to read. A well-read neighbour would recommend books to my mother and I would seek out the children's selection which was on the lowest shelf.

I am now a senior and frequently go to the local library but I am noticing changes. I was always able to check out a selection of magazines, both local and international. I was told recently that as these subscriptions expired they would not be renewed. This is a disappointment to me as well as other readers.

My spouse is a voracious reader and as he became visually challenged he missed reading. We chatted with a very kind and knowledgeable librarian who interviewed him regarding his likes and dislikes of subject matter and he now receives a package of audio books in our mailbox each week. This has made a great difference to his quality of

Our libraries and staff were vital during the Covid pandemic providing support and reading material during this scary time. Libraries and their wonderful staff provide valuable services to the communities. In the case of some individuals, they are the only human communication they receive.

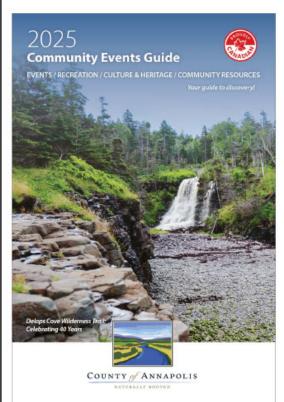
I strongly believe that governments should take a very hard look before any other cutbacks are made.

In summing up, there should be no taxes on books and children should be encouraged to read. Books provide inspiration, knowledge, entertainment and pure escapism.

Thank you. Ellen Bent-Ruggles

The Bridgetown Reader is published weekly on Friday (except for 2 weeks at year end) by TAR Publishing. The deadline for submissions to our next issue is noon Monday January 5, 2026. Our next issue will be published January 9, 2026. Please continue to send us your news, event notices and advertising inquiries and enjoy your holidays.

### ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS NOW! 2026 Annapolis County Community Events Guide



Don't miss the chance to promote your 2026 community event or festival absolutely FREE .

> Submit your event online at AnnapolisCounty.ca

Deadline: February 11, 2026, 4:30 p.m.

Visit **AnnapolisCounty.ca** to submit your event online.

Please direct all inquiries to:

Rachael Browne

Administrative Assistant—Community Development

(902) 955-0771

rbrowne@annapoliscounty.ca

You can also visit AnnapolisCounty.ca for more information.



### **Community Calendar**

Fri. Dec. 19, 10:00am Weekly Tai Chi classes at the Centrelea Community Hall, 3495 Highway 201. Bring indoor slippers or shoes. Drop ins welcome. Good for balance, posture and relieving stress. Instructor Jamie Edwards of Empty Hand Martial Arts. \$75 for 10 week pass that does not expire. More info @ 902-448-2483 \*

**Fri. Dec. 19, 7:00pm Jam Session** every Friday Evening at the Youngs Cove Community Hall, 5407 Shore Rd. \*

**Fri. Dec. 19, 7-9:00pm or later! Weekly Music** – The Annapolis Royal Legion,
Branch #21 will host **The Basement.** Join us for some great music weekly with no cover charge! Don't forget that we have Happy Hour each Friday from 5:30-7:00pm and cocktail specials each Friday and Saturday!

The Chase the Ace Draw on behalf of the Annapolis Royal Community Centre will be held each week at 8pm. Please check the Annapolis Royal Legion Facebook site for updated. All members and guests are welcome

**Sat. Dec. 19, 9am-1:00pm** Annapolis **Royal Winter Farmers Market** indoors at St. Luke's Parish Hall (340 St. George St, Annapolis Royal, accessible from both St George St and Victoria St)!

**Sat. Dec. 20, 12:00pm Panel Discussion: CTRL ART DEL**. Join us on the closing day of this group exhibition, as the participating artists gather to sit among their works and discuss how they position themselves in relation to artificial intelligence (AI). Free to participate. Everyone welcome. Wheelchair accessible. ARTSPLACE Main Gallery, 396 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal / www.arcac.ca

Sat. Dec. 20, 12:30pm T & D Kitchen

Jam Saturdays, 1407 Inglisville Road,
Lawrencetown at the Community Hall. All
are welcome! Doors open 12:30, music
from 1:30-4:30. \$2 for entry. Snacks, tea
/coffee are included in the price. \*

**Sat. Dec. 20, 1-3:00pm Closing Day** A Mull-titude of Thanks to Our Community and Volunteers. ARTSPLACE is so grateful to everyone for your participation and support this year. Drop by for a cup of hot, mulled cider and seasonal treats, as we celebrate the final day of another year together. Everyone is welcome, whether it's your first visit or you've been with the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council for each of our 43 years! ARTSPLACE Gallery, 396 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal / www.arcac.ca

Sat. Dec. 20, 1-4:00pm Christmas at the Station Open House at the Middleton Railway Museum. Tour the Station and view the displays and model railway layout. There will be model trains and accessories for sale also. Plus, we also have a huge Victorian Christmas display this year. 61 School St., Middleton.

Sat. Dec. 20, 3:00pm Raffle Draw for a 4 person 72-hr Emergency Kit @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Our 72-hour emergency kit raffle is a chance to take one step toward peace of mind. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and are on sale now. You can grab them at all our upcoming events, The Red Onion Market, Weasy's Hair Salon, and we will be at several Holiday Markets around the area. We will announce those on our Facebook page as details get finalised. The draw will take place on December 20th at 3 PM (you do not need to be present to win). Don't miss your chance to be ready for anything! Questions? Email LowerGranvilleHall@gmail.com

**Sat. Dec. 20, 3:00pm Yuletide Carol Concert,** A Musique Royale Concert at St. Luke's Church, 340 St George Street, Annapolis Royal. For tickets, please log in to https://tinyurl.com/3fa5t7j8 for \$25 tickets. At the door, tickets are \$30. Youth are free.

Sat. Dec. 20, 7-9:00pm Music Bingo – The Annapolis Royal Legion will host Belinda Atwell for a fun evening of Christmas Themed Music Bingo. Prizes for 1 line, 4 corners, corner stamp, around the free, around outside and full card. Bingo cards are \$2 each and you can purchase as many as you like. Everyone is welcome to play, members and guests!

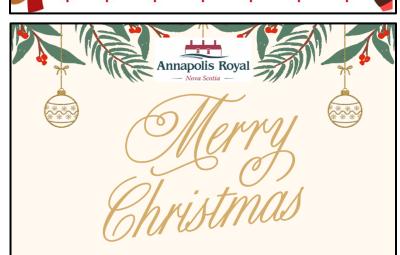
Sat. Dec. 20, 8:00pm Reeny's Family
Christmas at Evergreen Theatre
Experience reimagined classics, stirring originals, and the kind of festive energy that only Reeny can deliver. With elements of gospel, R&B, roots, folk, and jazz, the Smith family will deliver soul-stirring and room-silencing renditions of seasonal favourites and will share their joy of the Christmas season. Tickets: Adults \$35, Members \$25, Military \$30, and Students \$20, available at

www.evergreentheatre.ca 1941 Stronach Mtn Rd., Margaretsville.

**Sun. Dec. 21, 11:00am Bridgetown Baptist** continues to worship weekly. Join us on Sundays at the Royal Canadian Legion, 20 Jeffery St., for a joyful time of worship. 902-665-2506. 10:30 for prayer and 11am for worship!

 $\underline{bridgetownbaptist@gmail.com}.$ 





The Mayor, Council and staff of the Town of Annapolis Royal would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

Town Hall will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2025 to Thursday January 1, 2026 (inclusive)

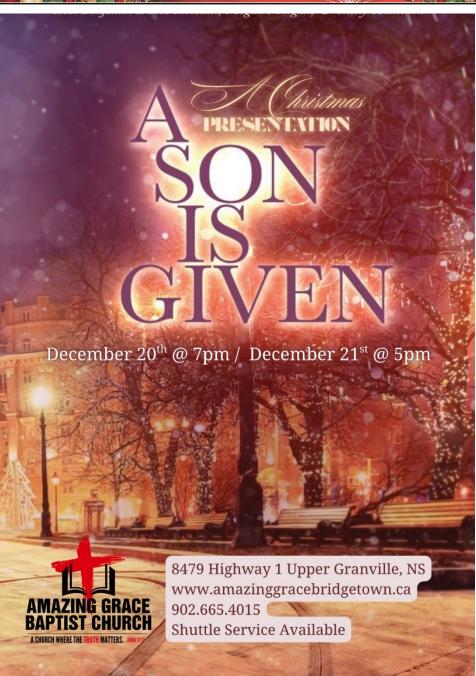
<u>Contact Information</u>:
Police Dispatch 902-532-2427
Ken Knox 902-526-2429
Sandi Millett-Campbell 902-526-3395

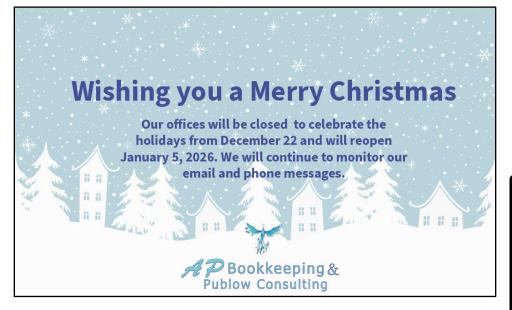
**Sun. Dec. 21, 11:00 am Worship Service.** Celebrate God's presence with us at St. George & St. Andrew United Church, 393 St. George St. Annapolis Royal 902-532-7954. Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds. \*

**Sun. Dec. 21, 11am-2:00pm Farmers and Crafters Market**, every Sunday at the Lions Club at 948 Hwy 1, Deep Brook. Local vendors and farmers. New vendors always welcome.









"There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by applesauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs. Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last!"

— Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

### Page 3

**Sun. Dec 21, 11:00am Christmas Concert**. Hillsburn United Baptist Church, 3686 Shore Road West, Hillsburn. There will be a Potluck dinner after, and all are welcome to join us.

**Sun. Dec. 21, 1-4:00pm** Christmas at the Station Open House at the Middleton Railway Museum. Tour the Station and view the displays and model railway layout. There will be model trains and accessories for sale also. Plus, we also have a huge Victorian Christmas display this year. 61 School St., Middleton.

Sun. Dec. 21, 2:00pm Weekly Service at Centrelea
United Baptist Church, 3495 Highway 201. Services will be led by the Reverend Dr. Elizabeth Legassie on a weekly basis. All are welcome.

Mon. Dec. 22, 10–11:00am Indoor Fitness Walking @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Drop in every Monday and/or Thursday for an indoor walk. These basic low-impact cardio walking videos exercise the whole body (We usually walk 2-3 miles which is 30 or 45 minutes). \$2 Donation Suggested. \*

### The Anglican Church of Canada Parish of Wilmot

**Christmas Services:** 

4:00 pm Holy Trinity; 8:30 pm All Saints,

Joint Epiphany Service & Potluck 10:00 am, Jan. 4th-Holy Trinity All Saints - 521 Pleasant St., Kingston, NS Sun. 9:30am Holy Trinity - 45 Main St., Middleton, NS Sun. 11:00am

> Website: https://parishofwilmot.ca ALL ARE WELCOME

Mon. Dec. 22, 10am-12:00pm

Memoir Writing Group meets
every Monday morning in the
music room at the Annapolis
Library to share chapters of their
memoirs for friendly discussion.
No workshops. Everyone welcome.
No class held on Dec 29.

Mon. Dec. 22, 7:00pm Young
Adult Bible Study, weekly, at
Salvation Army Church,
Bridgetown. Are you a young adult
(age 18-40ish) interested in
meeting other young adults in the
area and studying God's word
together? This is the group for
you! Light refreshments will be
provided. All are welcome! Bring a
friend! Please email Carrie at
bridgetownbaptistyoungadults@g
mail.com with any questions. \*

Mon. Dec. 22, 7:00pm Valley
Lions Radio Bingo (VLRB) is a
Media Bingo broadcast on
Annapolis Valley Radio, AVR
97.7FM and other AVR stations
from Digby to Windsor, every
Monday night from 7- 8pm. Bingo
Cards are sold through valley
retail locations. Info at
www.vlrb.ca \*

Current and recent issues of The Reader are available night and day, 7 days a week at www.bridgetownreader.news



340 St. George St. Annapolis Royal

Wednesday, December 24 Choral Eucharist, 7:00 PM (BAS) Choral Eucharist, 11:00 PM (BCP)

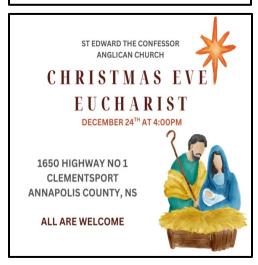
Thursday, December 25 Choral Eucharist, 11AM (BCP)

Sunday, December 28 Choral Eucharist, 11AM (BAS)

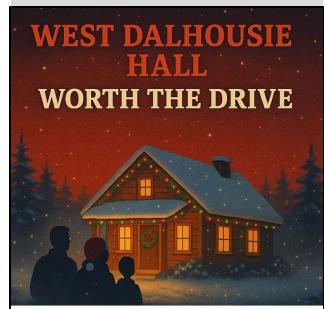
> Celebrant & Preacher Father Jordan Draper

All are welcomed at our affirming Church.

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Parish of Annapolis 902-532-0913 annapolis.parish@eastlink.ca







We continue to collect donations for our community this holiday season. We are a registered charity, therefore capable of issuing income tax receipts. You can send an e-transfer to westdalhall@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. We appreciate your support.

Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Now EVERY Monday night! Calling all Fibre artists. Join us at the Hall for a Stitch'n'Bi\*ch. All skill levels welcome. Knit, crochet, embroider, felt, mend, sew, quilt, spin, weave, needlepoint, rug hooking... We will put the kettle on. Bring your project and \$2 Hall donation. \*

Tues. Dec. 23 Yoga 3 ways! @ Lower Granville Hall, Tuesdays, 10am-1pm, (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Drop in for \$15 to check it out and that fee will be applied if you decide to sign up for the package deal. Please bring water and a yoga mat (dress in comfortable layers for the cooling-down Savasana conclusion), as well as any other creature comforts you desire. Floor Flow Yoga (10am) Want to build strength and flexibility without ever getting off the floor? This flowing practice will help you do just that, all while staying on your mat. Chair **Yoga (11am)** Looking for the endless benefits of Yoga while staying seated? This is your class! **Standing Hatha Yoga (12noon)** Want to strengthen and stretch your body from head to toe? This Yoga practice guides you through the more traditional asanas (poses), with vinyasas, breathing techniques, and balancing poses. \*

Tues. Dec. 23, 1-3:00pm The Annapolis East Seniors Card Group, meet at NSCC Middleton campus every Tuesday.





### Christmas Tree U-Pick

Handcrafted Christmas Wreaths **Garlands & Greenery** 

391 Delusion Rd. **Annapolis County** 

You Cut or We Cut | Bow Saws Available 902-825-2371



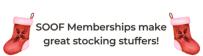
### **Voting Members!**



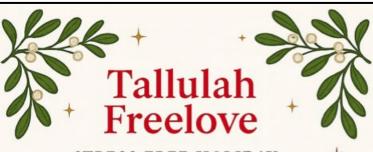
Don't forget that your annual membership will be expiring on December 31! You will have until March 31, 2026 to renew your Voting Membership with Save Our Old Forests Association.

But why wait? Get this off your "to-do list" now so you don't have to worry about it!

PAY WHAT YOU CAN Suggested pricing: \$20 Adults \$10 Students & Seniors saveouroldforests.ca/get-involved







STRESS-FREE HOLIDAY SHOPPING STARTS HERE

Skip the crowds, skip the chaos - enjoy warm personal service and thoughtful gifts right here in Bridgetown.

Drop by and enter our Christmas Gift Certificate Contest!

Two - \$100 Gift Certificates First draw: December 13th

Second draw: December 20

### COUNTY of ANNAPOLIS NATURALLY ROOTED

### RESIDENTS OF ANNAPOLIS COUNTY-WIDE PLANNING AREA NOTICE OF APPROVAL - Dated December 11, 2025

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipality of the County of Annapolis on September 09, 2025, adopted amendments to the Map and Text of the Annapolis County-Wide Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and concurrently adopted map and text amendments to the Annapolis County-Wide Land Use By-law (LUB). Take note these amendments come into effect on December 11, 2025.

The amended Annapolis County-Wide Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law may be inspected by visiting the Municipality's website at www.annapoliscounty.ca or by contacting Linda Bent at the phone number below or by visiting the Municipal Building, 752 St. George St, Annapolis Royal weekdays, except public holidays, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

For further information, please contact: Linda Bent, Director of Planning & Inspection Services Phone: (902)-840-0579

Email: Ibent@annapoliscounty.ca

www.AnnapolisCounty.ca

"In short, I should have liked to have had the lightest license of a child, and yet be man enough to know its value" — Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol



### St. John's United Church Middleton 202 Main Street

Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m. Gentle celebration of the Christmas Mystery with Carols, Candlelight and Readings

Dec. 28, 11:00 a.m. Informal Carol Sing and story telling. Both led by the Rev. Elisabeth **Bachem Jennings** 

All welcome! We are a 2SLGBTQ+ positive space and wheelchair/walker accessible.

Tues. Dec. 23, 1:30-4pm Jam **Session** at Parker Hall, Victoria Vale, across from the church, every 2nd Tuesday. Doors open at 1:00. Come out for an afternoon of music, fun and refreshment and support the Hall. Next Jam Jan. 6 \*

Tues. Dec. 23, 7:15-10:15pm **Middleton Legion Bingo** Tuesdays at 205 Marshall Street, Middleton. \*

Wed. Dec. 24, 9:00am Yoga at the Clarence Hall, 3337 Clarence Road, every Wednesday. Come out and do some stretching and make your body feel better while you are helping to support the community pantry. Open to everyone with instruction for every level of yoga. Bring your mat or chairs are available on site. Free will offer goes toward supporting the Annapolis Valley Folk School Community Pantry. Questions call Maureen at 902-309-0224. \*

Wed. Dec. 24, 10:00am NS Walks **Annapolis Royal** Wednesdays at 10am. Are you interested in getting some exercise, at your pace, with friendly people, and in picturesque surroundings? Join our Walk Group! We meet every Wednesday at 10:00am at the Annapolis Royal Farmers' Market parking lot. Walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome. For further information, call (902) 250-0429.

Wed. Dec. 24, 10:00am NS WALKS **BRIDGETOWN** a walking group for all levels and abilities If you are looking for motivation to get out for a bit of exercise and to socialize come join us. Walkers meet at the Library every Wednesday at 10:00 am. All are welcome Registration is not required. For more information check our Facebook Group NS WALKS **BRIDGETOWN** 

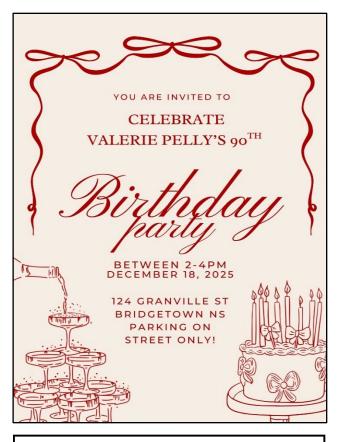
Wed. Dec. 24, 2:00pm Christmas **Eve Service** at Inglisville Baptist Church with the musical group TWO PLUS ONE - Jackie, Daniel, Brian and Mike.

Wed. Dec. 24, 6:00pm Christmas Eve **Service** at the St. Croix Cove Baptist Church, 9087 Shore Road East. Candlelight service with Andrew and

Wed. Dec. 24, 7:00pm Brickton **Community Hall Jam Sessions** Every Wednesday @ 7. Free will offering. All welcome. \*

Beth Cranston. Everyone welcome.

Wed. Dec. 24, 8:00pm Al-anon **Meeting**, for relatives and friends of alcoholics, at the First United Baptist Church at 762 George Street, Annapolis Royal, every Wednesdays at 8pm. Please enter through the front



### BRIDGETOWN AUTO SERVICE

(Formerly Everett & Smith)



61 Church Street PO Box 278 Bridgetown, NS BOS1CO

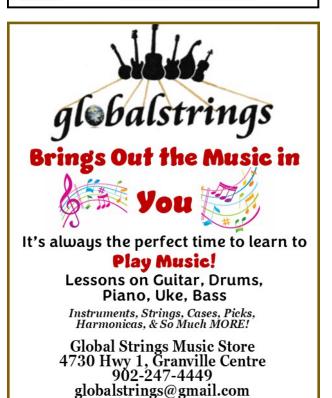
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Phone 902-665-2686



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- ear training
- ♪ sight-singing

Cabot Lyford, BMus artofvoicetraining.com

902-974-1157

#### Thur. Dec. 25, 10-11:00am Indoor Fitness

Walking @ Lower Granville Hall (3551 Granville Rd., Port Royal). Drop in every Monday and/or Thursday for an indoor walk. These basic lowimpact cardio walking videos exercise the whole body (We usually walk 2-3 miles which is 30 or 45 minutes). These videos incorporate walking in place, knee raises, kicks, side and back steps, arm movements and so much more. \$2 Donation Suggested. \*

Thur. Dec. 25, 1:00pm Free Christmas Day **<u>Dinner at the Bridgetown Fire Hall</u>** Come join us for a great home cooked meal, some carolling and perhaps a surprise guest. To put your name on our guest list please call Maureen and Jerry Publow at 902-840-3559 before Dec 22. If you would like to volunteer for either Christmas Eve at 11am for vegetable preparation or Christmas Day to help serve or put the firehall back together we would love to see you.

Thur. Dec. 25, 6:30-8:30pm Craft & Chat at the **Paradise Community Hall**. Join us for a cozy and creative gathering held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each at the Paradise Community Hall (10300 Hwy #1, Paradise). Whether you're into knitting, painting, diamond art, scrapbooking, or any other craft - bring your project along and we'll put the kettle on! \$5 per person with all proceeds to help support the hall.

Fri. Dec. 26, 9:30-11:30am Veteran's Lodge **Buddy Check coffee.** This event is open to all Annapolis Valley Veterans and serving members. This is a FREE event for Veterans. Register by emailing theveteranslodge@gmail.com. At the 7Arts Centre 619 Central Ave, Greenwood. \*

Sat. Dec. 27, 3-5:00pm Legion Kitchen Party -Theresa Porter will host some of her musical friends every 2 weeks at the Annapolis Royal Legion from 3-5pm. Join us for some great live music and remember that the Legion Members' "Toonie" Draw is held at 5pm each Saturday. You never know who will show up to play! Something new each week! Attendance is FREE!

Sat, Dec. 29, 6:00pm Sixth Annual Annapolis **Valley Folk School's In Between Time Potluck** at

1963 Clarence Road, Clarence. Come for an evening of food and fun! Bring your favorite foods to share with everyone, as well as a favorite memory or two for sharing, and if any of you loves to make music do bring your instrument to share as well! You can get your tickets here: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sixth-annual-inbetween-potluck-tickets-1975251102219 Please bring some food for the community pantry, it has been in very high demand as of late and anything is appreciated to help keep the shelves stocked! If you have any questions, please reach out to avfolkschool@gmail.com or call 902 309 0224.

Wed. Dec. 31, 1-3:00pm New Year's Eve **Courtyard Bonfire** Gather 'round the Courtyard Bonfire (if conditions permit) at the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens on Wednesday afternoon to celebrate New Year's Eve with us. 441 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal.

Thur. Jan. 1, 12-4:00pm New Year's Levee Join us at the Annapolis Royal for our Annual New Year's Levee, hosted in conjunction with the Town of Annapolis Royal. Ring in the New Year with friends both new and old, and enjoy some great buffet, prepared by our awesome Legion volunteers! Everyone is welcome.

Sat. Jan. 3, 8-10:00am Bridgetown Lions Big **Breakfast** at the Legion, 20 Jeffery Street, Bridgetown. Come join us to welcome in the New Year. Free will offering as always.

**Sun. Jan. 4, 7-9:00pm Fun Darts**, every Sunday evening at the Bridgetown Legion, 20 Jeffery Street. \$3 entry returned in prizes.

Run your business card in this space for \$6.50 per week and reach thousands of Annapolis County residents.

Email us at readerpublishing@outlook.com or call us at 902-824-0412.

The Reader is posted, complete, each week to our website, www.bridgetownreader.news and our Facebook page (Bridgetown Reader).

### Page 5



### Double Gift Set for Holidays

Six Friends and Crossing Thames by Peter Wyman





Two Uniquely bound Chapbooks-from Port Royal to Merry Olde England

Cardigan, Little & Crow Publishing - Annapolis Royal \$50 includes 2 Autographed Books, Tax & Mailing Order by email wymanpe@gmail.com



Looking for the perfect Stocking Stuffer?

Seek no further!

Give the gift of a visit to the **Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens** 

> **Holiday Special \$17.50** (no expiry)

even better... why not get an Annual Membership?

Available in The Gardens Shop - Open daily 9am-5pm



**Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens** 441 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal 902-532-7018 www.historicgardens.com

### Wools on the Corner

Knitting & Rug-Hooking Supplies 23 Queen Street, Bridgetown, NS 902-665-5142

Hours: Tues-Fri 10-4 Sat. 10-3 Closed Sun. & Mon.

### Tues. Jan. 6, 1:30-4pm Jam Session at

Parker Hall, Victoria Vale, across from the church, every 2nd Tuesday. Doors open at 1:00. Come out for an afternoon of music, fun and refreshment and support the Hall. Next Jam Jan. 20 \*

**Thur. Jan. 8, 7:00pm The Clarence 4-H Club** meets at the Clarence Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. New members and leaders are always welcome! For more information call Shanda at 902-824-2835.

**Sat. Jan. 10, 5:00pm Monthly Potluck** at the Round Hill Hall, second Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend

**Wed. Jan. 14, 1-3:00pm Senior's Day** at the Bear River & Area Community Health Clinic, 1112 River Rd. This recurring monthly event falls on the second Wednesday of each month and is intended as a time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones! Enjoy light refreshments and rotating activities through the year. Free will donation at the door. \*

**Wed. Jan. 14, 2-4:00pm Genealogy Coffee Club** Join us for an afternoon of socializing and storytelling at the O'Dell House Museum & Genealogy Centre! Explore the Annapolis Heritage Society genealogical resource library and learn about our offerings. Engage with other genealogy enthusiasts and family historians in the community. Ask your burning questions or share research roadblocks you've encountered. Tell us about your favourite family history discoveries Light refreshments will be provided. We hope you drop by and join the conversation! 136 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal.

**Sat. Jan. 17, 1-1:45pm Monthly Death Cafe** in the Dugua Room at the Annapolis Royal Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Come to One or Come to All. \*

**Sat. Jan. 17, 1-3:30pm West Dalhousie Art Group** Free, all ages, with Art Therapists Jaime Lee Lightle and Nika Peters, at the West Dalhousie Hall. Discover the transformative power of art while finding meaning and purpose through life's seasons. The workshop takes place over 4 Saturdays: Jan 17th, 31st, Feb 14th, 28th. To register email: nika@fireflyarttherapy.com

**Sun Jan 18 SOOF Soup Sunday** Join Save Our Old Forests at the Centrelea Community Hall (3495 Highway 201) for our first SOOF Soup Sunday of 2026! SOOF will be dishing out a free lunch of homemade soup and bread, with tasty treats and coffee and tea. Lunch is served starting at 12pm with a presentation/talk to follow starting around 1pm. Guest Speaker & Topic - to be announced. If you missed the pottery before Christmas, we'll have more of Ray Mackie's "Seconds" available for Pay What You Can (proceeds to SOOF). Free lunch. All Welcome. Donations to the Hall appreciated.

saveouroldforests.ca/event/20260118-soupsunday/

Mon. Jan. 19, 10:00am The Bridgetown and Area Community Fund members will hold their annual meeting in the Britespan Atlantic building at 441 Granville St., #1, Bridgetown. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn about their local Community Fund.



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Wishing a Very Merry Christmas to you and yours this Holiday Season and All the Best in the New Year.

Thank You for your Support in 2025... looking forward to seeing everyone in 2026.

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Plus, we're open Christmas Eve until 2pm to help you finish shopping with a little less stress.

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### Mon. Jan. 19, 1:30-3pm Care Givers

**Support Group** (for people who care for loved ones with dementia) The group meets the 3rd Monday of the month, except July and August, from 1:30 – 3:00pm, at St George & St Andrew United Church, 393 St George St, Annapolis Royal, (at the lights), Office Door, side entry. Contacts: Art Jones 902-532-0784; Lou Fletcher 902-532-2377.

### Thur. Jan. 29, 4:30-6:00pm

Lawrencetown and District Lions Club

Community Spaghetti Dinner at COGS, 50

Elliott Rd. Spaghetti dinner with meat sauce, garlic bread, tea, coffee, juice for kids and a cookie. Gluten free option available.

Take out available \$10 adults, \$8 kids under 12. Free for kids under 5.

Sun Feb 15 SOOF Soup Sunday Join Save Our Old Forests at the Centrelea Community Hall (3495 Highway 201) for our February SOOF Soup Sunday! We will be offering a delicious free lunch of homemade soup and bread, with tasty treats and coffee and tea. Lunch is served starting at 12pm with a presentation/talk to follow starting around 1pm. Guest Speaker & Topic - to be announced. You can also pick up a belated Valentine for the pottery lover in your life; Ray Mackie's "Second" will be available for Pay What You Can (proceeds to SOOF). Free lunch. All Welcome. Donations to the Hall appreciated.

saveouroldforests.ca/event/20260215-soupsunday/



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### "Getting to Know"...You!

You are invited to send us a short piece about your business or organization. The Bridgetown Reader welcomes articles of up to 500 or so words that would introduce you to the community; we call these stories "Getting to Know..." and they are free for one-time inclusion. Whether your business or group is large or small, we want to help spread the word about what you do, where you are, and how people can get in touch with you. Let us hear from you. Reach us through the contact form at www.bridgetownreader.news,

through Facebook/ Bridgetown Reader, or email readerpublishing@outlook.com

#### A Heartfelt Thank You!

In the wake of the West Dalhousie wildfire, our community witnessed extraordinary compassion, and resilience. During some of the most difficult days our region has faced, so many stepped forward without hesitation, offering help, expertise, and strength when it was needed most.

To the firefighters, both local and from away, who worked tirelessly and bravely to protect lives, homes, and forests, thank you. Your commitment and skill were nothing short of remarkable.

To neighbouring municipalities across Nova Scotia who reached out, offered resources, shared expertise, and stood with us throughout the response, your support reminded us that we were part of a larger community that cares deeply. We never felt alone.

To the countless volunteers, community organizations, neighbours, and businesses who delivered meals, opened their doors, shared equipment, provided care, and checked in on one another, your generosity showed the true heart of Annapolis County. Every act of kindness made a difference.

To provincial and federal partners, emergency responders, law enforcement, media, and all those who supported the response on the ground and behind the scenes, your coordination and dedication brought stability during uncertainty.

To county councillors, staff, and our residents, your patience, cooperation, and commitment to one another were a source of strength. Even in the face of loss and disruption, your unity carried us forward.

Through this devastation, there was also good. New relationships were formed, and existing partnerships were strengthened across all levels of government, community agencies, other municipalities, and within our own community. These connections will continue to support us as we recover and as we prepare for the challenges of the future.

We especially acknowledge those who lost their homes. Your grief is shared by all of us, and our commitment to supporting you, today and in the months ahead, remains unwavering.

We are profoundly grateful for every effort, large and small. The support shown throughout this incident reflects the resilience and unity of our communities, and we will carry that spirit with us in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Diane Le Blanc Diane Le Blanc

Warden

Dustin Enslow Deputy Warden







### Youth Campaign on Gender-Based Violence

A new awareness campaign will help Nova Scotia youth recognize the warning signs of gender-based violence in relationships.

"This campaign brings awareness to the red flags like manipulation, jealousy and control. When the harm isn't physical, we may not recognize it as abuse - but gender-based violence takes many forms," said Leah Martin, Minister responsible for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. "We want young people to be able to name these behaviours for what they are, trust their instincts and know that they deserve healthy, respectful relationships."

Aimed at youth aged 12 to 20, the campaign launched December 15. It includes a website dedicated to identifying the warning signs in unhealthy relationships and the resources and supports available:

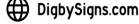
### https://www.stopgbv.ca/

The campaign will feature digital advertising on social media, gaming apps and streaming platforms such as Spotify. Signs and posters will also be placed in public places such as schools and libraries.



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### **Fund Supports Community**

On December 10, 2025, Wendy Tupper of the Bridgetown and Area Community Fund presented a cheque for \$1000 to Jonathan Gillis of the West Dalhousie Community Hall Association for Wildfire Relief.

The BACF are local volunteers who receive and distribute local funds to support local projects.



### Volunteer Firefighters Needed

The Bear River Fire Department serves many areas, including Deep Brook, Waldeck, Cornwallis Park, Clementsport and Clementsvale. To improve community safety we're exploring the possibility of opening a substation in Cornwallis Park, but to make it happen we need you!

In addition to structure and wildfires our volunteers respond to medical emergencies and motor vehicle accidents. We also provide vital community support including a monthly community breakfast, the annual Cherry Carnival and other events.

Not every role means running into a burning building. Volunteers also help with:

- Equipment checks and maintenance
- Logistics and support (hydration, rehab, safety)
- Administration and communication
- And yes-even keeping the coffee hot for the team.

Experience is an asset, but no prior experience is requiredtraining is provided. We're looking for people who are:

- Good communicators
- Team-oriented and dependable
- Flexible and willing to learn
- Respectful and cooperative with others

### Why Volunteer?

- Make a meaningful contribution to your community
- Use your skills, gain valuable training, and grow personally
- Be part of a strong supportive team
- Improve career opportunities and future pathways
- Fulfill a dream of becoming a firefighter

Apply online at BRFD.ca, call us at 902-467-3633 or drop by the Bear River Fire Hall any Tuesday evening after 6:30pm.

### **More Affordable Housing Units Preserved** in Annapolis Valley

Students now have more options for affordable housing in the Annapolis Valley. Student Housing Nova Scotia has purchased four multi-unit buildings in Lawrencetown and three in Kingston with the help of \$6.9 million in loans from the Province's Community Housing Acquisition Program.

The 22 units in Lawrencetown are near Nova Scotia Community College's Centre of Geographic Sciences campus, while the 34 units in Kingston are within a short drive to the Kingstec campus in Kentville and the Annapolis Valley campus in Middleton.

The projects also received \$530,000 through the Community Housing Capital Fund, managed by the Community Housing Transformation Centre.

While students will be given priority when units become available, enrollment at a post-secondary institution is not a requirement; current residents will not be displaced by students.

### So you Know

Repayable loans at fixed rates from the Community Housing Acquisition Program are available for up to 95% of the property cost.

Loans are available for up to 30 years, to a maximum of \$10 million per project.

Student Housing Nova Scotia is a non-profit organization that develops, provides and advocates for housing that meets the needs of post-secondary students in Nova Scotia.

**Community Calendar and Bulletin Board items,** News, Business Notes, & Rentals, are all FREE.

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### Lower Granville Hall



### 72-hr Emergency Kit Draw

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 3 pm

### Thank you!

With sincere appreciation, we thank all who supported the Lower Granville Hall in 2025, and we look forward to another year filled with community in 2026.

**Craft Club** Mondays, 7-9 pm **Indoor Fitness Walking** Mon/Thur 10-11 am

**Book Club** 

**Community Coffee** 

3rd Monday, 7 pm

Fridays, 10-11:30 am

Yoga Tuesdays New session starts in January!

### New Events in the New Year!

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### **Felker Hall Community Center Regular Weekly Activities**

734 Broadway Ave, Cornwallis Park. Email address: cornwallispark@outlook.com

### <u>Sunday -</u>

**Darts** - 2:00-4:00 Jim 902-638-3175 or Marty 902-638-3164

### Monday -

**Keep Fit and Healthy Classes** 8:45 - 9:45am

Carole 902-376-2055

**Line Dancing Intermediate** 10:00 - 11:00am To preregister, please contact Durline at 902-532-3035 or email dance.canada@ explorerguide.ca

### **Hatha Yoga**

11:30am - 12:45pm Sridhara 250-228-3848

### <u>Tuesday –</u>

**Library** open 1-3pm Jackie 902-340-0007

**Zumba** 6:30 – 7:30pm \$7 per session Wendy 902-532-7736

### Wednesday -

**Keep Fit and Healthy Classes** 8:45-9:45am

Carole 902-376-2055

### <u>Thursday – </u>

**TOPS** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 8am weigh in and 8:30 meeting. Contact Maritza 902-247-1473

**Cribbage** 1pm-3:00 Pete 902-376-2007

### Friday -

**Keep Fit and Healthy Classes** 8:45-9:45am

Carole 902-376-2055

**<u>Line Dancing Intermediate</u>** 10:00-11:00am To preregister, please contact Durline at 902-532-3035 or email dance.canada @explorerguide.ca

### **Chair Yoga**

11:30am - 12:45pm Sridhara 250-228-3848 Meat Bingo - 7pm, Doors open @ 6pm Gina 902-526-2694 or ontheshore4@outlook.com For information on CORAH presentations and sessions please contact Gail gailrogw@gmail.com For Hall Rental contact Marty @ 902-638-3164

### WEST DALHOUSIE ART GROUP

ungan aari Discover the transformative power of art while antaran finding meaning and purpose through life's seasons.

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Saturday January 17, 1PM-3:30PM

Summer - "we are here" Resourcing ourselves, finding strength in our community

Saturday January 31, 1PM-3:30PM

Fall - "being with" Making room to be with the challenging emotions surrounding the fire

Saturday February 14, 1PM-3:30PM

Winter - "release" Letting go of what is asking for release, allowing the earth to hold it all

Saturday February 28, 1PM-3:30 PM

Spring - "sewing seeds" Integrating experiences, looking forward

**Facilitators** 

Nika Peters (they/them) is an Art

herapist who works with people of all ages. They work virtually and inperson, their practice is located just outside Bridgetown. In addition to their art therapy degree (d.Wheat) they are trained in the use of Sandplay therapy and informed by the Internal Family Systems model. Their practice is Queer and neurodiversity affirming, trauma-informed, and collaborative Nika draws a lot of inspiration from this earth and dreams of a world with social justice for all. For more visit: www.fireflyarttherapy.com

Jaime Lee Lightle BA, DTATI, RCT-C

graduated from Carleton University with a BA in Canadian Studies in 2003 and later earned a Graduate Level Diploma in Art Therapy from the Toronto Art Therapy Institute in 2022. Her practice focuses on trauma recovery using holistic, evidence-based methods that aim to address the root causes of trauma. She is deeply committed to fostering community collaboration, with a special focus on engaging rural communities in the Annapolis area. Learn more: www.annapolisarttherapy.org

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### **Holiday Hours**

December 23 7:30am - 5:30pm December 24 7:30am - 4:00pm December 25 + 26 Closed December 27 8:00am - 5:00pm December 31 7:30am - 4:00pm Closed January 1

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### Protect Your Mental Health this Holiday Season

Holiday magic. Although it's real for some, the magic can also be a thin veneer, hiding challenging emotions that can come along with the celebrations — in fact, 52% of Canadians report feelings of anxiety, depression and isolation during the holiday season.

The "most wonderful time of the year" can be fraught with challenges and situations that affect our mental health. Be prepared. If you're dreading the holidays, don't let them just happen to you. Get out in front of them. And take good care.

Here are five ways that the holidays can be just too much, adding stress and putting strain on our mental health. Do you see yourself in these? If so, here are some tips to help preserve your peace of mind.

#### 1. (Too) great expectations

The image of the "perfect holiday" permeates mainstream culture. We know exactly how it's supposed to go. We compare ourselves to it. Are we happy enough? Are we doing it right? The pressure for perfection may be even greater after last year's restrictions on gathering caused conflict, disappointment and forced isolation. Are we hoping and expecting "wow" this year?

Maybe the holidays aren't part of your cultural tradition, but you feel pressure to celebrate them. Or you feel excluded if you don't. Or maybe they're part of a tradition you reject.

Ignore judgments of "bah humbug" – you are not obliged to celebrate the holidays.

Recognize if you feel oppressed by your own traditions. If you do, it's time to take the space and time to reinvent. Maybe that means saying no ("I can't come this year"), or setting other boundaries ("I'm coming for dinner but I can't stay the night").

Don't be ruled by what's gone on in the past. They're your holidays and you can take them back.

Ask yourself what you love about the holidays. What do you dislike, or even hate? Now choose to do what you love! Don't let your-or anybody else'straditions dictate how and if you celebrate.

#### 2. Merriment to the max

Over-eating. Over-drinking. Overspending. General overindulgence. It seems the holidays go hand and hand with them. This compulsory consumerism and mandatory merriment can have a damaging effect on your mental health, especially if you struggle with your finances. Consumption comes at a price that not everyone can afford.

Know that you don't have to buy things to show others that you care. There are gift exchange ideas that cut down on consumerism, without skimping on generosity or giving.

Stay on top of what you're spending by budgeting. A budget template can help you do that. Here is one, but there are many on the Internet. Remind yourself of pitfalls or triggers when it comes to overindulging. It might feel good in the moment, or help you deal with holiday stress, but may not have positive effects on your mental health the next morning or the next month when bills are due.

Don't lose sight of your needs for exercise and sleep.

### 3. Your plate overfloweth

You may be hosting a gathering this year for the first (or fiftieth) time. Maybe you feel responsible for other people's entertainment and enjoyment. And maybe, you feel like it's your job to please everyone and make sure others are having enough fun and enjoying their holidays, too.

That's a lot of pressure. If so:

**Delegate**: if you feel it's your job alone to make things perfect, you can ask others to help out. It's their holiday too!

Take a break from hosting or retire altogether. Ask someone else to host

**Put safety first.** Not everyone will share the same opinions on vaccines, and this could cause conflict this year, which is stressful to manage. Remember that if it's your home or your event, you get to set the ground

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**Head conflict off at the pass.** If you know there are certain topics that will set people off, be kind and clear about boundaries and expectations. For instance, put your expectations about vaccine status or mask requirements in your invitation email, or specify a time to talk things through in advance.

#### 4. Too much togetherness

Sometimes our holiday traditions are intensely social. Parties, gettogethers and family dinners can create relationship dynamics that are rife with discomfort, and even conflict. Tensions can run high. Because our holiday traditions can date back to childhood, we may be called on to play roles we aren't comfortable playing any longer.

If so:

- Remember that only you can choose what makes you happy.
- If you accept the invitation but find that you're feeling overwhelmed while you're there, plan to take time out by finding a quiet place to take a break, calling a friend or taking a
- If you don't want to stay, you're allowed to leave. Hint: arrange your own transportation so you can come and go at will.
- If you don't want to go, you don't have to. Give yourself permission to do what's best for you.

#### 5. Feeling left out in the cold

More than 1 in 10 Canadians aged 15 and older often or always feel lonely. And, in those who experience loneliness, half have poorer mental health overall. Your connection to others and your community are key protective factors for everyone's mental health, so loneliness is something to pay attention to. The holidays can be especially hard if you feel lonely.

There are many reasons you might be alone during the holidays. Sometimes it's your choice, and sometimes it just isn't. Like if you've lost someone, moved away or grown apart. If you are already feeling isolated socially, or have a social or other anxiety disorder, being alone during the holidays can make things worse.

#### If so:

**Do something special for yourself**: Cook yourself your favourite foods, go to a movie (the cinemas don't close but keep your mask on), do a holiday project.

**Volunteer:** By helping others, you also boost your own mental health and have a chance to connect with other people. You can help out at a foodbank, serve holiday dinner at a community meal or offer to get groceries or spend some time with someone who's alone and doesn't want to be,

Reach out to others who are also looking for connection: there are whole groups of people-in person and online-who are also looking for community.

**Go "old school"** and write letters and holiday cards with invitations to connect by phone.

If you are struggling, know that there is help and there is hope. If, despite your best efforts, you feel overwhelmed with feelings of anxiety or sadness, negative feelings are persistent or get in the way of your daily life, you should reach out for mental health support: https://novascotia.cmha.ca/find-help/

(Article courtesy CMHA Nova Scotia)

## BRIDGETOWN ARENA

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### Date

Kinder Pre-Skate **Public Skate** 

**Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm **Adult Skate** 3:00 - 4:00 pm **Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Time

9:00 - 10:00 am

10:00 - 11:00 am

3:00 - 4:00 pm

CLOSED

**Kinder Pre-Skate** Tuesday Dec. 23rd **Public Skate** 

4:00 - 5:00 pm Wednesday Dec. 24th **Kinder Pre-Skate** 3:00 - 4:00 pm **Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Thursday Dec. 25th

Saturday Dec. 20th

Sunday Dec. 21st

Monday Dec. 22nd

Friday Dec. 26th

**Christmas Day** 

Saturday Dec. 27th

Sunday Dec. 28th

Monday Dec. 29th

Wednesday Dec. 31st

Tuesday Dec. 30th

Thursday Jan. 1st Friday Jan. 2nd

Saturday Jan. 3rd

**Boxing Day** 3:00 - 4:00 pm **Adult Skate Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Kinder Pre-Skate** 9:00 - 10:00 am **Public Skate** 10:00 - 11:00 am **Adult Skate** 11:15 - 12:15 pm

**Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm **Adult Skate** 3:00 - 4:00 pm **Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm **Kinder Pre-Skate** 3:00 - 4:00 pm **Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm

**Kinder Pre-Skate** 3:00 - 4:00 pm **Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm

**New Years Day** CLOSED **Public Skate** 4:00 - 5:00 pm **Kinder Pre-Skate** 9:00 - 10:00 am

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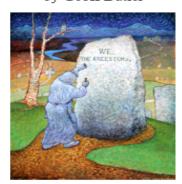


10:00 - 11:00 am



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Looking for something? Buying, selling, giving away, renting? Listings are free. Email readerpublishing@outlook.com call or text 902-824-0412 or use the contact forms at www.bridgetownreader.news

**Looking to Buy**: Mandolin case. F shape. Must be in good condition. Contact 902-584-3370.

For Sale: 1 MainStays brand white window blind purchased at Walmart, venetian style with slats size 36" wide and 48" long, never used. Purchased too short length, needed 60" length. Box, instructions and hardware included. Original price \$29.79 before taxes, asking \$25 - no tax. Phone: 902-665-4372

**Wanted:** Used KitchenAid stand mixer in good/excellent condition with working attachments and, if possible, a grain mill. Call or text 902-532-0604 and please leave a message.

For Sale: Yamaha PSR 299 full keyboard with stand. Great condition. Paid \$800, asking \$500 or best offer. Three pairs men's cowboy boots, size 7. 902-825-4523

For Sale: Utility trailer. 4'2" x 8' New tires wheels, and bearings. Also has a loading ramp and is in good condition. Asking \$1400 obo. Call 902-526-

**For Sale**: Stuffed animals, 6 to 8 inches high, great stocking stuffers. New with original tags. Squirrel, two dinosaurs, three pandas, lion, owl, mammoth, snow leopard, bear, elephant, one elephant laying down about a foot long. Mostly WWF collection, a few Gund. \$5.00 each or \$50.00 for all. Call 955-0535.

For Sale: Ink cartridges, new 2 black and 1 colour will fit HP Deskjet printers. These are large capacity cartridges, 65XL colour and 65XL black. Cost \$158.00. First \$20.00 OBO. Call 955-0535.

Seeking Estates & Quality Items for Our Spring Antique Auction: We are now accepting estates, partial estates, and individual quality items for our upcoming Spring Auction at the Annapolis Royal Firehall. If you have antiques or collectibles, you're considering selling, we can help.

We handle everything – professional photography, cataloguing, advertising, and a full auction service – ensuring your items reach motivated buyers. We are currently looking for: Fine furniture; Artwork, Paintings and prints; Decorative items; Clocks, glassware, china & unique curiosities; Collections of all kinds.

No obligation consultations. No reserves — everything will sell to the highest bidder. To discuss consigning your items or estate, please contact: Russell - 709-689-2794, russell@maregold.com

**Trudi Inglis Home Knitting.** Call 902-665-2376

**For Sale**: Deer Apples \$10 per bag or 5 bags for \$45. Text 902-824-1849.

**Wanted**: We are buying scrap gold, silver, old coins and collections. Top dollar paid. Over 40 years' experience and professional testing equipment. Please call to set up an appointment at our shop or always happy to do house calls. Call Stephen or Jacqueline at 902-308-0594

**Wanted**: We are accepting quality consignments for our upcoming antique and collectible auctions. We do house calls or accept drop offs at our shop. Please call Stephen at 902-308-0594 or check our website at harrisandsonsauctions.com

**For Sale:** Deer hunting scope, IOR Bucuresty. 2.5 x10-42 mm with 30mm tube. European style focus on eye piece & fixed parallax at 100 yds. Reticule ,7A & adj, MOA. \$450. Target scope, Leupold Vari-x3. 6.5 x 20 -40 mm, one inch tube. Forward parallax adjustment & Target Knobs with plex cross hair. \$450. If interested contact, hloegler@outlook.com or Ph. 902 825-1545.

### FITNESS CLASSES

4 WEEK TERM Starting Monday January 5th Granville Ferry Hall (Please use the back door)

### MONDAY:

BODYBLAST 6:00pm-6:45pm

PILATES WITH PROPS 7:00pm-8:00pm (Pilates is to help strengthen and lengthen your muscles without adding bulk to the muscles, lots of stretching, deep breathing and strengthening the core all levels welcome)

### **TUESDAY:**

BODYBLAST EXPRESS 11:30am-12:00pm (Aerobics with light hand weights)

PILATES WITH PROPS 12:10pm-1:10pm

### WEDNESDAY

PARTY MIX 10:00am-10:45am (Combination of some Zumba styles, Drum Fit and Good Old Fashion Aerobics) CHAIR PILATES 11:00am-12:00Noon (Great for those who don't or can't get down on a mat or for those that just want a change)

### **THURSDAY**

BODYBLAST 10:00am-10:45am (Aerobics and light hand weights)

PILATES WITH PROPS 11:00am-12:00pm

### PRICE LIST... 4 Week Term

Pilates with props \$52.00 BodyBlast \$32.00 BodyBlast Express \$24.00 Party Mix \$32.00 Chair Pilates \$52.00

\*Do 2-4 classes get an additional \$4.00 off.

\*Do 5 or more classes get an additional \$8.00 off.

\*Classes must be made up within

\*All equipment is supplied, so just bring your water bottle and indoor shoes. Pilates is done barefoot.

\*Drop-In Rates Also Available!

If interested please send me an email to...

Susanthefitnessroom@gmail.com

Let's Have Fun & Get Fit Together! **U** 

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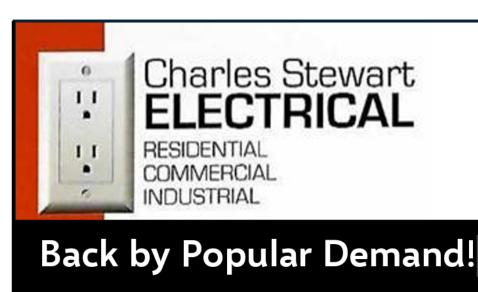
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**Wanted**: Small (appr. 9" x 5") DVD player which opens up to a screen and DVD placement. You might have one in a closet? Call Sarah Pavia at 902-532-0370 in Annapolis Royal & hope it won't be too difficult to get to where you are.

**Sports Cards and Collectibles For Sale**: All sports cards, signed collectibles, figurines, magazines, jerseys and tons more. Located in Port Wade- ten mins up Granville Road from Annapolis Royal. Contact John/Rebekka at 604-809-2201. Call or text anytime to arrange to come



Office: 902.532.2424 Cell: 902.526.2237

charlesstewartelectrical@gmail.com







John H. Armstrong, B.A., LL.B. Jordan D. Armstrong, B.Sc.(Hons), B.A., J.D. Nick Knutson, B.Sc., J.D., M.Sc.

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For Sale: Moss. 500 20ga., good shape. \$350. Text 902-824-1849.

For Sale: Savage 24 series "S", 22LR/20ga. \$750. Text 902-824-1849.

**Lost**: Pair of prescription sunglasses in a hard, orange Joe Fresh case. Annapolis Royal, Granville Ferry area. If found, please call 902-532-2485 or 902-955-

**Looking to Buy**: Mobile home in good condition that can be moved. Larger the better. 902-309-1299.

**For Sale**: 4 Firestone mud & snow winter tires, 245/70 17. \$500. VG condition. 902-532-2044.

**Wanted**: House-sitting position for the winter months in the Annapolis Valley area, Kingston to Annapolis Royal. Experienced in looking after animals. References available. Call 902-665-2321 and leave message.

**Contractor Available**: New builds, renos, roofing, siding, etc. Call 902-532-5228 or 902-526-0888.

Free Piano! Classic Upright Kingston Wormwith Piano (built circa 1907-1919) Piano needs tuning. In private home in Annapolis Royal. Must come to pick up. Please call 902-340-1849.

**Services Offered**: Will do grocery shopping and/or pick up services as well as house cleaning-laundry, dishes, sweeping, mopping, cleaning kitchens, bathrooms etc. Willing to travel to Greenwood, Bridgetown, Annapolis Royal and up Granville road. \$ Charge will depend on distance and services needed. Contact Rebekka Sabean, 604-809-2201, text or call.

#### **Community of Clarence Bottle Drive:**

The Community of Clarence continues to ask people to donate their refundable bottles behind the Meeting House, 2659 Clarence Road or in front of the barn across from 2847 Clarence Road. All proceeds go towards continued restoration of community buildings and community activities For inquiries please email -

inquiries.clarencecommunity@gmail.com or call 902-824-3181.

**For Sale**: 4 winter tires mounted on rims with low mileage. Includes the sensors. They fit a Ford Ecosport car. I would like \$500 for them. (902) 824-0089.

**For Sale**: Antique spool oak stand. Antique ribbon mahogany pedestal drum table. 902-825-4606.

**Senior gentleman** looking for lady companion, 65-75, non-smoker with a sense of humor. 902-385-2727.

**Looking to Buy:** Used golf carts -Yamaha, Club Car, EZ-Go. 902-245-2475

For Sale: ATV SNOWTRACKS Commoplast T4S System. 3 mounting kits for various ATV's included. Rarely used, no visible wear. \$2500. No tax. Contact 902-638-3376 or email..marilynruth52@gmail.com

### Page 13

For Rent: 1 bedroom in private home in Bridgetown. Short term. No pets, no smoking. Prefer mature woman. Will need references. \$500. 902-309-1428

**For Rent**: Storage lockers available in Annapolis Royal. Secure. Easy access. Call 902-521-4986.

**Apartment for Rent**: Clarence East, 1-2bedroom apartment, dining room, living room, 11/2 bath, kitchen and pantry. Upstairs bathroom, closet and storage room. Spacious front deck. The house is split between 2 households. Non-working fireplace, hardwood floors, fridge, stove, washer and dryer included. Some furniture included. Heat by an oil furnace and an airtight wood stove in kitchen. Oil tank is full when you arrive and must be filled if you decide to leave. 3 cords of wood in woodshed for \$500. 2 parking spaces available. No outdoor dogs. Must have references, please. \$1000, available immediately. 902-584-3081

Condo Available for Rental: 2-bedroom, 2 bath condo at the Academy in Annapolis Royal, large deck, 6 appliances. Available Dec. 1st, \$1,600 per month plus power. Phone 902-532-8337.

For Rent: Annapolis Royal, large 2-bedroom + dining room (or office, den) apartment; bright and cheery with windows on 3 sides, built-in bookshelves, non-working but handsome fireplace & mantel, real wood floors, wide centre hall; off-street parking, free laundry facilities, LED pot lights on dimmers; heat & hot water included, 2nd floor. Spacious living room and bedrooms. On bus line, handy to downtown stores. Must have employment and rental references. \$1700, available Oct 1st. 902-531-2662

**Active Senior Lady** looking for retired, kind, professional gentleman, 65-75. Must be nonsmoker. Call 902-542-1654.



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### **King's Shorts Call For Scripts**

The 17th King's Shorts Festival of Ten-Minute Plays will be hosted by King's Theatre in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, Canada on June 19, 20 & 21, 2026. Scripts will be accepted until January 12, 2026. A \$20 CAD submission fee must accompany each script submitted. Scripts should be emailed in PDF format to kingsshortsscripts@gmail.com For assistance, call the King's Theatre Box Office at 902-532-7704.

Entries for the Festival may also be sent by mail. They must be postmarked no later than January 12, 2026, with a non-refundable \$20 entry fee per script. Participants are encouraged to use electronic submission, keeping in mind that delays with Canada Post may occur: King's Theatre, PO Box 161, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, BoS 1Ao, Canada. The Festival is open to all writers and playwrights, worldwide, even if you have never written a play before. To be eligible, scripts must not have been previously produced in any form. Plays may not exceed 10 minutes total stage time. Playwrights may submit a maximum of two plays, using a different pseudonym per script.

Requested format is 12-point Courier font (handwritten plays will not be accepted). All pages must be numbered. The first page of the play should contain the play's title and a pseudonym for the playwright. The playwright's actual name and contact information should be in the submission email, not on the script document. If sending by mail, playwright's actual name and contact information should be in a sealed envelope, not on the script document. This will ensure anonymity during the judging process.

Scripts can be of any genre (comedy, tragedy etc.) and should have a limited number of characters (1-6). Playwrights should avoid wording that might offend a general audience. Because of the nature of the Festival, the sets must be kept simple and be capable of being changed quickly.

The King's Shorts Reading Committee will choose eight plays, by eight different playwrights, to be staged at King's Theatre with local directors and actors. Of those eight, one will be chosen by Theatre Nova Scotia as the best written script and receive a prize of \$400. A second place best written script, also chosen by Theatre Nova Scotia, will receive a prize of \$200. All attending audiences will be asked to vote for the People's Choice Award, announced at the Sunday matinee on Sunday June 21, 2026. Applicants will be informed by March 13, 2026 if their play is to be included in the Festival. Scripts will not be returned. For further information, contact King's Shorts Committee Volunteer Verilea Ellis at 902-245-2309

### Theatre Workshops for Youth

Are you a young person wanting to explore the magical world of theatre? The Nextgen Theatre Workshops are here!!! These are a series of free workshops for youth aged 8-17 who are interested in learning all about Theatre — both on stage and backstage.

The workshops will take place every Tuesday 5:30-7:30pm, January 13 to June 2, on the King's Theatre stage. While participation in all workshops is not mandatory, it is highly recommended as they will all be interconnected. Space is limited.

Participants will learn theatre skills, selfconfidence, and how to work together in ensemble. Each workshop will focus on a different area of theatre. Topics to be covered include Acting, Story Telling, Improvisation, Directing, Movement, Voice, Production, Stage Tech, and so much more!

The workshop series will conclude with a showcase performance at King's Theatre on June 13. Register at www.kingstheatre.ca

### THANK YOU FROM WEASY'S HAIR SALON

# 4730 Hwy 1, Granville Ferry 902-532-2273

Get your name entered in a draw when purchasing Gift Certificates.

Holiday Hours are Mon Dec 22nd 9 - 8pm for all your last-minute shopping, Probably a discount on purchases cause I'd rather sell it than count it for inventory early Jan. Tues Dec 23rd 9 - 6 pm. Wed Dec 24th 9 - 1:00. Closed for that big vacation y'all feel I need, Back open on Mon Dec 29th 9 - 5, Tues Dec 30 9 -5, Wed Dec 31st 9 - 1, open Fri, Jan 2nd, 2026, if you're bored...I'll be doing inventory in between clients.

This is the final 2025 issue of the Bridgetown Reader. We'll be taking a short break and returning in Jan 2026. A HUGE shout-out to Lewis, the creator of the Bridgetown Reader. Hope you enjoy your break, Lewis.

Anna/Royal- Fort Anne Cafe will be closed from Dec 21st - Jan 5th.

Anna/Royal- Memorial Angel Tree at the Annapolis Community Health Centre is in support of furniture in the palliative care family room. You can get an 'Angel' for your donation at the front desk at Anna. Com. Health Centre (ACHC) until Christmas.

Anna/Royal - Christmas Music Bingo at the Legion Sat, Dec 20th @ 7 pm. \$2 a card

Anna/Royal - Hutchins Pharmacy is open Dec 24th until 4 pm.

Anna/Royal - New Charlies Place, Please order ahead of time for holidays 902-532-2111.

Dec 24th 12 pm - 7 pm, Closed Dec 25 & 26, Open Tues Dec 30th 12 - 7 pm. Wed Dec 31st 12 - 7 pm & New Years Day 12 - 7 pm.

Anna/Royal- for those that are interested, Maritime Motion Gym is open on Jan 1st Anna/Royal - King's Theatre has a Gallery FULL of paintings for sale until Dec 30th.

Anna/Royal- You're invited on January 1st, 2026 to the Annapolis Royal Legion, Branch #21 & The Town

of Annapolis Royal, cordially invite you to our annual New Years Day Levee from 12 pm - 4 pm. AVRCE- First day back for students in January is Mon Jan 5th, 2026

Bridgetown- at the time of printing, Christmas trees were still available at 97 Morse Rd 902-824-4181. Bridgetown- Pharmasave Holiday Hours, please be advised that the cut off for deliveries on Dec 24th & Dec 31st is 12 pm. We will be pausing delivery between Dec 25th - 28th, Dec 24 9 - 4 pm, Dec 25th closed, Dec 26th 12 pm - 5 pm, Dec 31st 9 - 4 pm. Jan 1st closed.

Bridgetown- FREE Sit-down Christmas Dinner- at the Br'town Firehall, 31 Bay Rd, Thurs. Dec 25th, Dinner served at 1:00 SHARP! Call to be added to the guest list by Dec 22 at 902-840-3559. Turkey & all trimmings To VOLUNTEER to help with either vegetable preparation on Dec 24th in the morning OR in any capacity on Christmas Day, Call Maureen at 902-840-3559. Come and enjoy- Everyone Welcome. Granville Ferry- Double D Convenience will be closed on Dec 25th, the deadlines are posted on the front door to avoid being disappointed... call today to get your goodies ordered in time.

Granville Ferry-The Wooden Spool Fabric Shop Christmas Hours: Closing at 5:00 pm December 20th, and Re-opening January 5th, 2026

Know Before You Go-Check out the roads 511.novascotia.ca. Ice & Snow take it Slow.

Lequille - Pizza Shop notice, they are closing early on Dec 24 at 7 pm. Closed Dec 25th,26th and 29th. Open 30th & 31st. New year, open Fri, Sat and Sun 11 - 7 pm (or 8 depending on business) We will return to the 6-day week schedule on April 1st. Special orders can be made with a week's notice. Valley Waste over the holidays- Dec 24 sites/offices are open, closed Dec 25 & 26,

Sat Dec 27 is alternate collection day for Christmas Day. Dec 29 alternate collection day for Boxing Day. (Lawrencetown site is closed 29th). Wed Dec 31 sites/offices are open. Closed on Jan 1st, Sat Jan 3rd is the alternate collection for New years <u>day. Follow them at www.vwrm.com</u> for any storm changes. Most Christmas wrapping paper is garbage because of glitter, foil, and plastic, fabric or velvet, bows, ribbon and tape. The hot line is 1-902-6791325 for recorded updates.

The Valley Eye Photography guy has 3 brand new civic number signs # 654, # 4782, and # 4567 that were unfortunately misprinted during the recent West Dalhousie property civic signs project. Please reach out to him at...thevalleyeye.2021@gmail.com or by messaging him on FB.

Christmas isn't joyful for everyone. For many, it's a time of endurance—of facing illness, loss, or grief. May those who are struggling know they're not alone. If all you receive this Christmas is time with the people you love, that gift is greater than it may seem.

STAY SAFE, clean those pipes and chimneys, change those smoke detectors batteries, when walking at night wear reflective clothing. No drinking and driving - call if you need a ride. THANK YOU TO ALL FOLLOWERS, GLAD TO HEAR IT BRINGS JOY TO YOUR DAY. WATCH FOR THE

Albums

Comics

**Puzzles** 

Models

G.I. Joe

He-man

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Pokémon Cards

Magic Cards

**Hockey Cards** 



FIRST ISSUE OF 2026 ON THURSDAY JAN 8TH.

### **Decades Past Collectables**

Buy and Sell Vintage and Collectables

### **New Items Arriving Daily!**

We have something for everyone...why pay more?

Clothes, Jewellery, Glassware and Christmas Décor!

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Sat: 10-4

25% Off Christmas Décor!





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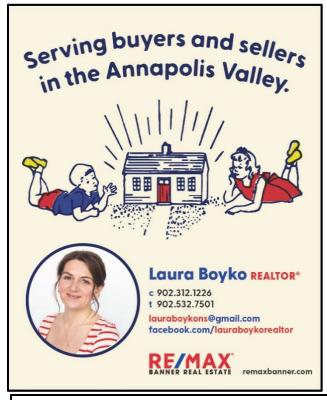
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### **Snow Plowing**

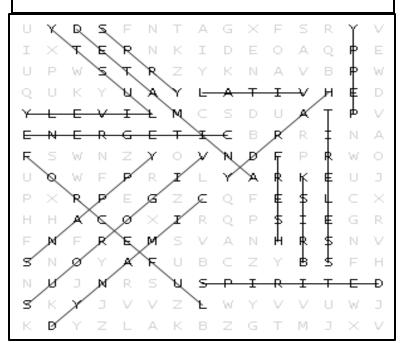
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#### "What If I'm Not Tired?" Word Search Answer



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The Dickens You Say!

### Page 15

**Cribbage Tournament** – The Annapolis Royal Legion will hold a Doubles Cribbage Tournament Sunday December 28th. Sign in at 11:30am with play starting at 12:30pm. The cost is just \$20 / team with a maximum of 24 teams. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place depending on participation. Please register by calling the Legion at 902-532-5196. Everyone welcome!

#### **Soldiers Memorial Hospital emergency**

**department** will be open each Saturday in December 2025, from 7:30am to 1:30pm. The emergency department is regularly open Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 1:30pm. Virtual Urgent Care is open every day. Mon-Sat 8am-7pm and Sunday from 8am-3:30pm.

Christmas Bird Count 2025 Volunteers Needed. If you live anywhere from Aylesford to Middleton and like to watch birds at your bird feeders, please help us count birds on December 30! Your help would be greatly appreciated. For more information contact: Sheila Hulford (902) 765-4023 or at hulfords@eastlink.ca

#### **Paradise Community Hall Online Auction**

(January 5-19, 2026) – Donations Welcome! We're hosting a Facebook auction fundraiser to help cover operating expenses, and we'd love your support. To donate items or services, please send photos to paradisecommunityhall@gmail.com by January 16, 2026. Bidding begins on January 5th in the 'Paradise Community Hall Online Auction' Facebook group. Please join the group to stay connected with key information, place your bids, and support the hall's future.

What to Make of This? Rearrange the letters of DORMITORY to form a common two-word phrase that may describe a dormitory.

### "Joy of Movement" Cryptoquote Answer:

The most important reason for going from one place to another is to see what's in between, and they took great pleasure in doing just that.

Norton Juster from The Phantom Tollbooth

### Anagrams Answers Puzzle 49

Rearrange all the letters of each word to form another common English word.

Cutlery - Cruelty
Damsel -Medals
Dumpier -Umpired
Grieved - Diverge
Lenses - Lessen

Manticore - Cremation Minutely - Untimely

Postman - Tampons

Proselyte - Polyester Reposts - Posters Words from A
Christmas Carol
Word Search Puzzle
Apparition Avarice

Chaise Cordially Gladsome Humbug **Jovial** Mirth Penitence Phantom Remorse Resolution Reveler Shroud Specter Vigor Find the word or phrase in the puzzle. Words can share *letters* as they cross over each other. Answer next week.

EZIOTVTEHNBUUGXM WIGKSOUUWK ROIGUMDIMEMXSRJP RMMTATOYBTS M R N W A U J H P L T H U X V C ELFJLVICLESNKGIT RFPOHSAAVZSHATAE DZSNTLIQACCRRHLR ZEVNVDXRYJQRIOPG RETIRECNETINEPUN WEPOKQPUVDLHZUPD MCCREVELERDSELRH NBSMNTNOITIRAPPA ZRPMOGJOZXJDJRNU G L A D S O M E J X E Q V Y P Q WGGMLRQECTMPFJFZ

### **Anagrams Puzzle 50**

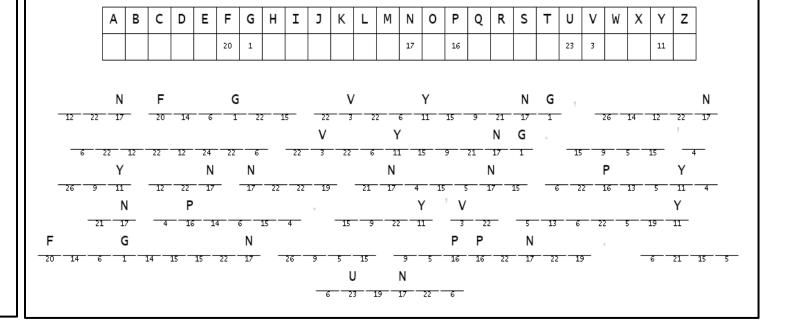
Rearrange all the letters of each word to form another common English word.
Answers next week.

| Conduits  |
|-----------|
| Debug     |
| Discover  |
| Initiated |
| Lumber    |
| Misreport |
| Skeptic   |
| Slider    |

Trussed -

Untidy - \_\_\_\_\_

"What was I Saying?" Cryptoquote: Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter. Answer next week.



### **Coming to King's Theatre**

902-532-7704 209 St. George Street, Annapolis Royal www.kingstheatre.ca

Fri. Dec. 19, 7:00pm Now You See Me: Now You Don't (film, PG) The Four Horsemen return along with a new generation of illusionists performing mind-melding twists, turns, surprises, and magic unlike anything ever captured on film. Tickets \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth.

Sat. Dec. 20, 7:30pm Ashley MacIsaac Celtic Christmas Ceilidh (live performance) Join Ashley MacIsaac and friends for a wonderful evening of tunes that are bound to get you in the holiday spirit! Tickets: Adults \$50, Supported \$30, Youth \$15.

Sun. Dec. 21, 2:00pm The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker, a Stage to Screen presentation. Peter Wright's much-loved production for The Royal Ballet, with gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing. It is the perfect Christmas treat for all the family. Tickets: Adult \$16.95, Youth \$7.95.

**Sat. Dec. 27, 12:00pm Zootopia 2** (film) Detectives Judy Hopps (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin) and Nick Wilde (voiced by Jason Bateman) find themselves on the twisting trail of a mysterious reptile who arrives in Zootopia and turns the mammal metropolis upside down. To crack the case, Judy and Nick must go undercover to unexpected new parts of town, where their growing partnership is tested like never before. Tickets \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth.

Tues. Dec. 30, 2:00pm Dufflebag Theatre's **Cinderella** (live performance) Poor Cinderella. All she wants to do is go to the Royal Ball to meet Prince Charming. But her mean stepmother and stepsisters won't let her go, so they ruin her dress and leave without her. With the help of her Fairy Godmother, Cinderella gets to go to the castle after all and make the grand entrance she's always dreamed about. The only catch is that Cinderella must be back by midnight when the spell is broken! The comedic timing is bang on as curfews, lost footwear, and giant pumpkins abound in this fun-filled version of the classic fairy tale from DuffleBag Theatre, especially when members of the audience are invited to star in the show! Suitable for all ages. Tickets: Adults \$20, Youth: \$10.

Tues. Dec. 30, 5:00pm Rental Family (film, PG) Set in modern-day Tokyo, Rental Family follows an American actor (Brendan Fraser) who struggles to find purpose until he lands an unusual gig: working for a Japanese "rental family" agency, playing standin roles for strangers. As he immerses himself in his clients' worlds, he begins to form genuine bonds that blur the lines between performance and reality. Confronting the moral complexities of his work, he rediscovers purpose, belonging, and the quiet beauty of human connection. Tickets \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth.

**Sat. Dec. 27, 3:00pm Eternity** (film, PG) In an afterlife where souls have one week to decide where to spend eternity, Joan is faced with the impossible choice between the man she spent her life with and her first love, who died young and has waited decades for her to arrive. Starring Miles Teller, Elizabeth Olsen, Callum Turner with Director David Freyne. Tickets \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth.

**Sat. Jan. 3, 7:00pm & Sun. Jan. 4, 2:00pm** Wicked: For Good (film, PG) Directed once again by awardwinning director Jon M. Chu and starring the spectacular returning cast, led by Academy Award®nominated superstars Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, the final chapter of the untold story of the witches of Oz begins with Elphaba and Glinda estranged and living with the consequences of their

Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo), now demonized as The Wicked Witch of the West, lives in exile, hidden within the Ozian forest while continuing her fight for the freedom of Oz's silenced Animals and desperately trying to expose the truth she knows about The Wizard (Jeff Goldblum).

Glinda, meanwhile, has become the glamorous symbol of Goodness for all of Oz, living at the palace in Emerald City and reveling in the perks of fame and popularity. Under the instruction of Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh), Glinda is deployed to serve as an effervescent comfort to Oz, reassuring the masses that all is well under the rule of The Wizard. Tickets \$11.95 Adult, \$7.95 Youth.

# KINGS THEATRE

### **SECOMING EVENTS**



NOW YOU SEE ME: NOW YOU DON'T
The Four Horsemen return. Jesse Eisenberg,
Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco, Isla Fisher
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM



**ZOOTOPIA 2** 

Judy and Nick go undercover to new parts of town, where their partnership is tested SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 PM



All-ages fun where members of the audience is invited to star in the show!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 PM



WICKED: FOR GOOD

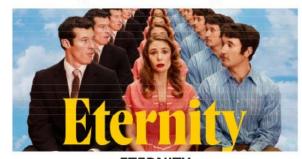
The epic sequel

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 7:00 PM

SUNDAY JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 PM



THE ROYAL BALLET: THE NUTCRACKER
2025 STAGE TO SCREEN
The perfect Christmas show for the entire family
SUNDAY. DECEMBER 21st @ 2:00 PM



In the afterlife, Joan is faced with the impossible choice of her two husbands SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th @ 3:00 PM



RENTAL FAMILY
Phillip (Brendan Fraser) rediscovers purpose, belonging and the beauty of human connection
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM



NEXT GEN THEATRE WORKSHOPS
FREE 19-week workshop series for ages 8-17.
Acting, storytelling, directing, voice and more!
TUESDAYS, STARTING JAN 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 PM





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