

# Your Holiday Writing Submissions

My office reached out to constituents in Kitchener-Conestoga asking them to write a story about their favourite holiday traditions. Thank you to everyone who contributed their wonderful stories, I loved reading them! Here is a selection of some of the submissions

## My Favorite Holiday Tradition

By: Olivia Battler - St. Teresa Of Avila Elmira Grade: 6

Based on a true story

The story began when my family went to my cousins house for Christmas day and we saw that it snowed really hard the night before. Olivia, Bennett, Christian, Violet and Gage wanted to go out and play in the snow for the afternoon, Olivia's parents warned her that the snow might be wet. Nobody really cared because they wanted to see each other because of Covid 19.

Olivia was the oldest kid there Bennett and Cristian were both 5 years old at the time Violet was 3 and Gage was only a year old. We were going to open presents that night Olivia was more excited about dinner than the food than the gifts and admitted it to. Her aunt gave her a Pandora bracelet with a paw print charm to go with it. Olivia was so grateful for everything she got she also got so much chocolate too, she wanted to try some but was still too full from dinner.

Bennett got some sand toys for his sand box at home he got this dino dig thing but he did not like dinosaurs so he just said thanks and put it back in the bag and moved on to the big box next to him. The kids wanted Olivia and Bennett to stay for a sleepover but their parents said that was not possible because, the next day they had to go back to school but said that they could maybe do a sleepover another time. Everyone was hummed but laughed it out.

The kids put on a play that they made up along the way. The boys were upset because Gage kept ruining their parts. Auntie put him to bed after that because she said it was getting late, like 8:30 or something I think she said. We all said goodnight to Gage and he went to bed. Olivia and Bennett left at 9:00 but protested because they were having too much fun to leave. In the end they said their goodbyes and "see you soon" and left. Olivia and Bennett fell asleep on the ride home and woke up in their beds the next morning.

THE END

## My Favorite Holiday Tradition

By: Lavanya Karthikeyan

Hi, I'm Lavanya. I love Christmas, but my favorite part is decorating and spending time with my family. All the decorations get me really in the mood. It's really relaxing too; no school. It is very fun and some people put in a lot of effort. I don't really get why people say that Jesus' birthday is in July but celebrate it in December! I think the mistletoe is a funny coincidence. I also love the advent calendars. Don't you? I don't like the milk chocolate ones because they don't taste that good. Since I was borned in India my parents weren't really into giving gifts for our first few christmases. Honestly I love everything about christmas. I also love carols!



Saint Teresa of Avila School, Elmira  
Grade 5

## Christmas Tradition

By: Janet Wendell

I have a number of lovely Christmas traditions but one of my favourites has endured through 4 generations. My mother, who would be 97 if still alive, made delicious sugar cookies at Christmas. The recipe she used was passed down to her from her mother. Before she rolled out the dough I would sneak pieces of it and gobble it down. We made stars, bells, trees, candy canes and Santas, all beautifully decorated with coloured sugar, raisins, silver bells and chocolate chips.

Fast forward to when my own son was about 5 years old. He and his best friend would gather round the table after I'd made that same cookie dough and surreptitiously help themselves to some of it. We'd roll out the dough, cut out the shapes and get ready to decorate. My son's friend was quite a little artist at age 5 and would painstakingly made lovely sugar cookie masterpieces. I can't say my son exhibited the same talent! He threw on some decorations and anxiously awaited the baked results. When we were done my son's friend would take half the batch home to share with his family. We shared this tradition every year until they turned 18.

Fast forward again to now. I am a proud grandmother (Nana) of two little girls, aged 5 and 7. They love baking with me anytime, whether it be muffins, cakes or cookies. Their favourite baking time though is making sugar cookies at Christmas with Nana. We have Raffi's Christmas Album playing in the background to help put us in the holiday spirit. They stand on chairs and take turns measuring and adding the ingredients and holding the mixer. They help gather all the sprinkles and other toppings to decorate the cookies and place them carefully in the centre of the kitchen table. They also carefully cut out the festive shapes and help me transfer them to the cookie sheets. And do you know what else they do? Yes, you've guessed it! They sneak spoonfuls of cookie dough and relish that special treat. I hope we will have many more years together to continue this wonderful holiday tradition!

These are the moments that memories are made of.....Happy Holidays!

## My Favorite Holiday Tradition

By Blythe Durrer - Gr. 6 St. Teresa of Avila school

Real Family tradition

The reason why Christmas Eve is the beginning of my favorite holiday tradition is because we start off at some point in December doing Scharlach Christmas at our house because we have one of the biggest houses in the family. So the Durrers would host. We would make a charcuterie board and play some music and mainly just talk.

On Christmas Eve we would all go to Toronto to my cousins' house and her mom has 3 other siblings there so that means I would have 7 cousins there. Once we are all there, all the kids go play in the basement and cause trouble. Soon after we get to open gifts. We open them up one by one so it goes like this: the youngest opens one gift, the second youngest, the third, all the way to the oldest and then we start over and over until we are done unwrapping all the gifts. The adults open theirs if they have some. Soon we have dinner and then play. Maybe some of us play with some of our new gifts if possible.

After a bit the adults start packing up and then we leave to go home. Once we get home we put out milk, carrots and some cookies. Then we go to bed. The next morning me and my brother wait till my parents wake up or they wait till I wake up. After we are all up we wait a few minutes then we go downstairs and then we all get a small little drink then we open up our gifts from Santa and the order of opening up our gifts are Blythe (that's me), then my two older brothers. After Santas gifts we move on to the gift my parents got us. (Normally my nanny and papa come but Australia is a bit far to drive. (They are moving back.) After gifts around noon they usually come over and we hang out and have an amazing dinner and that's the end of my holiday tradition.

# 2022 Year In Review

2022 has been a memorable year. I was honoured to spend time and have meaningful conversations with many of you. I am looking forward to the opportunities 2023 may bring. From backyard barbecues to festivals and community events - thanks for the invites and the great conversations!



To be more accessible in our community, I hosted Township Meet & Greets, setting up mobile offices in Woolwich, Wellesley, and Wilmot



I proudly brought Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to Kitchener and to Woolwich. We sat at families' kitchen tables and discussed housing, the environment, agriculture, and other issues important issues



I enjoyed attending all the rich and vibrant multicultural festivals and events over the past year. I look forward to celebrating many more with you in the new year



Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped plant over 2,000 trees since 2019 for Let's Tree Wilmot. I was proud to join in to do my part and get my hands dirty



I visited many local businesses throughout Kitchener-Conestoga through the Canada Summer Jobs Program



I joined twenty-nine Morningside residents (and one dog) to raise money and awareness for the Terry Fox Run. Half of the team members are cancer survivors. They're all my heroes!



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and I visited a dairy farm in Elmira. We met with the Martins, who invited us to their kitchen table to sit and talk about supporting our hardworking farmers



I invited Agriculture Parliamentary Secretary Francis Drouin to Fertile Ground Farm in Wilmot. We had great conversations about growing food and protecting the environment



It was a pleasure to visit Erb Transport in Wilmot with the Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport. We had meaningful conversations about how Canadians rely on the necessities of our trucking industry

December 2022

# TIM LOUIS

Member of Parliament  
Kitchener-Conestoga

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

Dear Neighbours,

Around this time of year, we reflect on the past 12 months and look forward to the future. Looking back on 2022, I am inspired by the many conversations I had with residents, families, business owners, farmers, and community organizations throughout Kitchener-Conestoga.

In these conversations I've discovered a unique commonality - our resilience and community spirit. Kitchener-Conestoga is a strong, supportive community, and I am proud to represent your voice in Ottawa.

2022 started as a challenging year, and it has never been more critical to support local businesses and communities. We have shared many hardships and struggles over the last two years, and I assure you that our government will continue to work to keep Canadians safe, healthy, and supported.

I enjoyed attending events in our community over the past 12 months that allowed me to meet with many of you. I stood in solidarity with the Ukrainian community and Iranian community at rallies in Kitchener. I brought the Prime Minister in April, and again in September, to sit with local families at their kitchen tables. I visited farms and spoke with hardworking farmers. I celebrated Pride and many multicultural events and attended the fall fairs we welcomed back after two years. These were meaningful moments for me, and I look forward to seeing you in our community in the year ahead.

Our office is here to serve you. To help those with upcoming travel plans, we hosted a Passport Clinic. With the help of Service Canada agents, we assisted over 60 residents with their passports. To be more accessible to everyone in our community, I hosted Township Meet & Greets, setting up mobile offices in Woolwich, Wellesley, and Wilmot. I had many constructive conversations hearing from you. Your ideas are important to me, and I will continue to be your strong voice in Ottawa.

I look forward to future Township Meet and Greets.

Whether I am working for you and casting votes in Ottawa or serving our community in Kitchener-Conestoga, I will continue to represent your voice. I look forward to continuing our dialogue; it motivates me to work hard for everyone. Please contact my office for more information on support and programs for you.

You can reach me at 519-578- 3777 or Tim.Louis@parl.gc.ca.

Happy holidays and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023!

## Contact Information

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## My Office can help with:

- Permanent residency
- Canadian citizenship
- Canada revenue Agency
- Veterans' affairs
- Canada Child Benefit
- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Guaranteed Income Support
- Employment Insurance
- COVID-19 support programs
- Federal government grants

## 2022 Investments In Our Community

### Supporting You and Your Family

- \$11,857,792 in Universal Broadband Fund to keep Kitchener-Conestoga connected
- \$120,000 in Canada Community Revitalization Fund for park space in St. Jacob's
- \$14,072 in New Horizons Funding for Wilmot Family Resource Centre

### Supporting Businesses

- \$1,156,323 to local businesses and organizations for Canada Summer Jobs
- \$120,000 invested in St. Jacob's Farmers' Market

### Investing In Local Infrastructure

- \$8,100,000 in funding for the Region of Waterloo International Airport
- \$300,000 for the reconstruction and improvement of the New Hamburg Waterwheel
- \$200,000 invested into the revitalization of the Nith River Pathway in New Hamburg

### Investing in Arts & Culture

- \$400,000 in Tourism Relief Fund to Three Sister's Cultural Centre in St. Jacob's
- \$49,650 in CSMARI funding for cultural programming in Wilmot
- \$41,550 in funding for Neruda Arts in Woolwich
- \$8,300 in funding for Robin in the Hood Festival in Woolwich

### Investing in The Environment

- \$163,759 in funding from 2 Billion Trees Program for Let's Tree Wilmot

## Citizen Spotlight



Photo courtesy of Scott Dunstall of New Hamburg

As you travelled throughout Wilmot in October and November, chances are you have seen hydro poles and streetlamps donned with banners of war veterans.

Marie Voisin and Bob Neubauer began working together at the Royal Canadian Legion New Hamburg Branch 532 cleaning medals and ribbons that were donated by families of veterans, to be showcased and preserved in a dignified way.

As rewarding as their tasks were, they felt the soldiers' memories deserved to be showcased further.

Thus, the Royal Canadian Legion New Hamburg Branch 532 Banner Program was born. Marie and Bob worked tirelessly to bring the banner program to life in Wilmot.

Each banner displays a veteran's photograph and service record. To date, 75 banners have been created with the goal of adding an additional one hundred next year. Marie and Bob are encouraging businesses to sponsor banners for local soldiers killed in action.

Thank you Marie and Bob for preserving the memories of our local heroes for many years to come.

## Casework

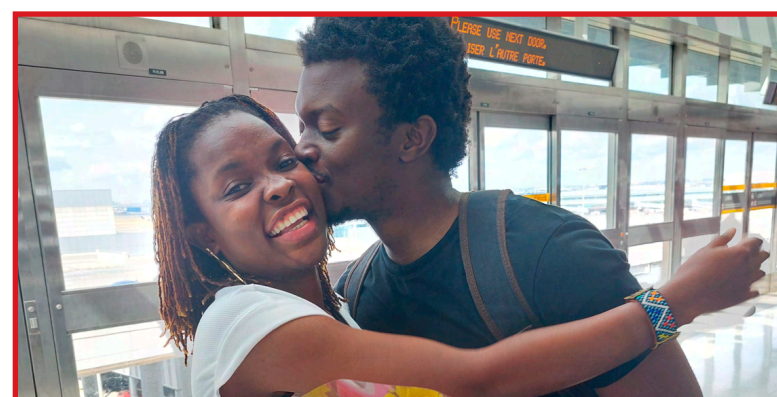
My office has had the pleasure of assisting with various casework inquiries for constituents in Kitchener-Conestoga that have concluded in very rewarding moments.



Brkti arrived in Canada in 2017 as a newcomer. She applied to bring her son, Ararat to Canada in 2021. Although there were a number of hurdles and set-backs due to Covid-19, Ararat arrived at Toronto Pearson Airport in October 2022. He was greeted by Brkti and his new church community. I recently met with Brkti and Ararat to welcome them to Kitchener-Conestoga.



Lenora contacted our office while waiting for her Citizenship Oath Ceremony. Due to a clerical error, she did not receive the notification for her ceremony and missed the appointment. Our office was able to contact Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and she was rescheduled for her Citizenship Oath Ceremony. As a new Canadian, we provided the additional details she needed so she could register for the Provincial and municipal elections this year. As you can see, she is a proud New Canadian!



Notey came to our office seeking assistance with her husband's Permanent Residence application. Due to Covid-19, the application was moving slowly. Our office was able to assist her and her husband, Chibuzor, and his application was approved. He arrived in August to joyously reunite with his wife, Notey.

## Holiday Activity Corner

### Word Search



Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden  $\uparrow$   $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$   $\leftarrow$  and  $\swarrow$ .

BOOTS  
CANDY CANE  
COLD  
DECORATIONS  
HOLIDAYS  
HOT CHOCOLATE  
ICE SKATING

ICICLE  
MITTENS  
PARADE  
SHOVEL  
SKIING  
SNOWBALL  
SNOWFLAKE

SNOWMAN  
TOBOGGAN  
TOQUE  
WINTER

3		8	1		2
2	1		3	6	4
		2	4		
8	9			1	6
	6				5
7	2			4	9
		5	9		
9	4	8		7	5
6		1	7		3

### Spot The Seven Differences



$$13 - \text{snowman} - \text{snowman} = 3$$

$$\text{snowflake} + \text{snowman} \times 2 = 15$$

$$\text{ice skate} - \text{snowman} + \text{snowflake} = 5$$

$$\text{snowman} + \text{snowflake} + \text{ice skate} = ?$$