



WEATHER

MATTERED!

By
Betty
Kampen

Yes, what our editor said is true, "Weather can play quite a significant role in our lives." That certainly was the case for us on Oct. 27, 2018, our daughter, Christine's wedding day. Christine, who was part of this church in earlier years, is currently a pastor at Bakerview Church. On Aug. 13, 2017, she had been invited to speak in Emmanuel. A man named Craig was visiting our church that Sunday and wanted to meet her after the service. They did meet briefly and a couple of months later he sent her a letter. When she responded they had a meeting and something clicked. The rest is history.



The wedding was to take place at the Little White Chapel in Greendale. There is such a beautiful backyard there for picture taking, visiting, etc.

The week finally arrived and to our disappointment, it rained ... and rained. And then ... when we woke up and looked out of the window on the wedding day, the sky was clear and the sun was shining! Amazing! How many lovely wedding pictures were taken outdoors in the beautiful fall setting. Thanks be to God!

At about 7:00 that evening, when we were back home, I heard something outside. I went to look out of the window. What did I see? It was pouring, and it rained for the next couple of days. And we didn't care anymore.

WINTER: MANITOBA, JANUARY, 1948.

BY WALDIMAR NEUFELD

When I think of winter in Manitoba it usually brings back memories of a series of bad events, which included severe cold and snow storms with zero visibility.



I attended a one room school house three and a half miles from home. (I say miles because that is what it was at that time.)

There were three of us kids that traveled every school day, by buggy on the non-snow times, and a covered sleigh when winter hit, lasting usually about five months.

We had a variety of horses, that could be another story, some more intelligent than others. I recall one team of horses, Silver and I can't fit the other name in here. They were a faithful duo, ready to tackle any type of weather. During the winter time, we would negotiate an alternative track crossing farmers' fields, usually a lot smoother than on

the side of gravel roads, also shaving off time it took to get to school. The horses would become so accustomed to the track, we could just dangle the reins, and they knew the way to the comfort of a warm barn at the end of the journey.

One day, and I remember it like yesterday, it was cold, minus 35 or so, strong wind and blowing snow. By the time we were to leave the school, it was a serious blizzard, likely near zero visibility and intensifying as the minutes passed. As to the task at hand we were not concerned, since the horses knew the way and would take us safely home, which they did.

It was only the next day we learned of the mishap. We had one kid in school who was a cut above us, at least he thought so. He came to school on cross country ski's (something that all of us could just dream about ... a little bit of jealousy maybe). Anyway in the midst of this storm, our infamous team ran over this skier and apparently he rumbled under the sleigh totally unnoticed by all concerned. We learned about a broken leg the next day and a few scratches.



The moral of the story? Can't think of one, but if you have a choice avoid Manitoba in January.

Flip to page 6 for some more reflections on winter... through poetry!

Mennonite Disaster Service Updates



Submitted by Waldimar Neufeld, EMC Rep for Mennonite Disaster Service

Your Gifts at Work! Volunteers completed work in Grand Forks, BC this month after repairing 13 homes and building a new one in response to a major flood event last year. The basement of Donna Lester, who is legally blind, flooded and water came up into her house through the toilet. "I got out of bed one night, and felt water on the floor," says Lester, who lost her sight in an industrial accident six years ago. Although the upstairs wasn't flooded, the house was unlivable—there was no water or heat. For over a year she lived with family, friends or in a local motel, waiting for the day she could return home. Lester is now back home thanks to Mennonite Disaster Service volunteers. For MDS, Lester's house was what's known as a "filler job," a small project volunteers could do when there were breaks at larger jobs due to waiting on materials or inspections. "It's just a small thing for us, but it's huge for her," said Susan Thiessen, who co-directed the MDS project in Grand Forks with her husband, Peter. "Now she can be home again, feeling safe in familiar surroundings, and get back to her life," said Susan. - *Brad Fair, Development Manager*

Recreational Vehicle Program: The MDS Recreational Vehicle (RV) program is a volunteer opportunity for 55+ adults who want to help cleanup, repair and rebuild after disaster and have fun doing it ... **Continued on next page...**

“HEAR BEE, MAKE NECTAR”

submitted by Bill Klassen

Not only can plants ‘hear’, but they can rapidly respond to certain sounds, new research has shown. When a recording of the sound of a bee buzzing nearby was played back to evening primrose flowers, they began producing sweeter nectar ... Bees can discern [sugar] concentration differences as small as 1–3%, so even allowing for old nectar diluting the newer product, it would still be a significant incentive for bees to more regularly visit flowers of that species—and to stay longer when they do, increasing the chances of pollination ...



The point of all this? As the researchers explain, producing high-grade nectar all the time would use a lot of the plant’s resources, and exposed nectar is subject to degradation by microbes. So “a mechanism for timing the production of enhanced reward [for the bees] to a time when pollinators are likely to be present could be highly beneficial for the plant.” Indeed so—a ‘win-win’ for both species.

This is a snippet of an article written by David Catchpoole, originally published in *Creation Magazine*, volume 41, issue 4. Read the full article here: www.creationmagazine.com/creation/2019_volume_41_issue_4/

CREATION
CORNER

Mennonite Disaster Service Updates *continued...*

You bring your RV and MDS provides an RV site and meaningful projects to work on.

MDS RV projects are often smaller in scale than our traditional projects – they are usually 4-6 RV’s to a project for four weeks or more. RV volunteers serve four, six-hour days and have time to enjoy the area in their off time. The program typically operates annually from the late fall until early spring.

RV Volunteers to serve for a minimum of 4 weeks, serving four days per week, six hours per day. MDS provides the RV parking site with full hookups including a minimum of 30-AMP electrical services, a water hookup and a means of black and gray water disposal – free-of-charge. In addition, volunteers may request a fuel (diesel or gas) reimbursement for travel according to the MDS RV Program guidelines. Where possible, laundry services and telephone hookups are provided.

The RV participants prepare their own meals and need to have kitchen, toilet and shower facilities in their RV. When an RV couple volunteers together, at least one spouse is expected to serve on the job site. The other spouse is encouraged, but not required to work. RV volunteers serve as a team of 4-6 couples or individuals.

Each RV project is organized with a Project Director and an Office Manager to provide leadership to the project. The project accepts work assignments from a local disaster recovery committee. An RV team works on home repairs and has even been able to build a new home in 2-3 months time. Volunteers involved in the RV Program are expected to be Christians and active participants in a church.

We plan to have RV Projects in Coastal Bend (Rockport), Texas and Chipley, Florida in the fall of 2019 (October-December). We expect to have four RV Project locations in the winter of 2020 (January-March).

For more information or to serve contact Kelsey Friesen at 866-261-1274 or email kfriesen@mds.mennonite.net

For our February newsletter, our theme will be:

“FEBRUARY FUNNIES”

In January you have the buzz from Christmas carrying over, as well as the excitement of the new year; in March you have the beautiful beginning of spring. February seems to be that awkward month in the middle, so let’s spice it up with some comedy! Whatever it is—stories, songs, poems, pictures—as long



it’s humorous and appropriate for our whole church community, send it my way! *As always, all newsletter themes function mostly just as prompts to get your brain going, so if you’ve got something to submit that’s not related to the theme, go for it!*

A Note from the Editor:

The Emmanuel Mennonite Newsletter would love to receive submissions from the church community! We are looking for stories, articles, poetry, art, prayers and recipes under 800 words that are encouraging and promote community. Submissions may be edited and will be published depending on space.

The newsletter is published five times per year in the months of **February, April, June, September and November**. Thank you for reading and participating!

If you have something you would like to share please e-mail Joel at office@emmanuelmennonite.com.

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY, JANUARY 20**

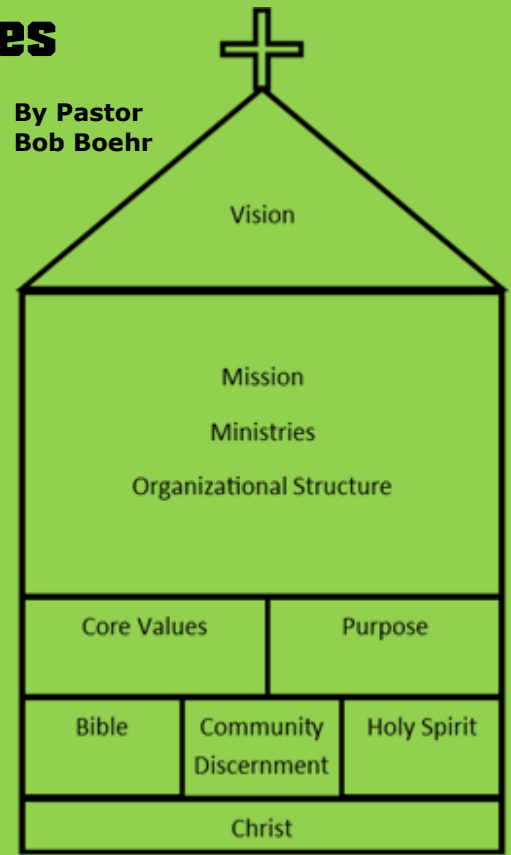
Transition Team Update: Core Values

The transition team has started to meet to help clarify the values, purpose and vision of Emmanuel Mennonite Church as we work toward asking the questions that will help align our mission, ministries and organizational structure and ultimately the fit of the next pastor.

Our first meeting focused on core values. We spent some time defining what core values are and what they are not (using categories from Aubrey Malphur's book on Values-Driven Leadership). Core values are values that do not change with time (although some nuances may be tweaked), they invoke passion and satisfaction, and in a Christian community, they are derived from Biblical principles.

Values help define our identity as a community but can be complicated. Values can be spoken, but others can be assumed. Values can be promoted by individuals, but not by the whole church. Values can be aspirational, but not always actual. Our transition team started by evaluating values statements of other denominations before beginning the discussion around looking at the spoken and unspoken, individual and organizational, actual and aspirational values at Emmanuel. Values like community, creativity, discipleship, diversity, evangelism, justice, mission, peace, prayer, reconciliation, service and stewardship. Emmanuel's current core values include being Anabaptist, living in community and having a global outlook.

Our next step is to get input from the congregation. On Sunday Nov 18 and 25, there will be opportunity during the service to write down values that you see in Emmanuel that help define who we are. The transition team will compile these values, compare them to exercises Emmanuel has participated in the past and use this as our first building block going forward in the calling of our next pastor.



REVIEW:

Two Picture Books by Indigenous Authors in Emmanuel's Library

By Barb Nickel

Several years ago, I had the idea of buying some children's books by Indigenous authors, donating them to the Emmanuel library and reviewing them for the newsletter. I made the purchase, but other writing projects kept taking priority. I shelved the books by my desk, glimpsing them every now and then over the top of my computer as I worked.

They'd probably still be gathering dust if it hadn't been for my involvement as worship leader for Indigenous Sunday on September 29. I felt the presence and perhaps nudging of the Spirit as we listened to Don Klaassen and Bridget Findlay share inspiring stories of connection, and when we came to the reflection time and the question, "What would you like to do going forward?"—I knew I had to take those books off the shelf. I needed to do something, begin a journey—even this small step—or all my words and prayers would somehow just be lip service. Over bannock and jam after the service, I mentioned this to Erna Janzen, who agreed to hold me accountable to the October 21 deadline ("...but spend some time in your garden, too..."), and who suggested splitting the four books over two newsletters. So here are the two picture book reviews; next newsletter, I'll review two chapter books—My Name is Seepetza, as well as Fatty Legs, the same story and author as When I Was Eight (reviewed below) but for an older audience.

Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (text) and Gabrielle Grimard (art). [When I Was Eight](#) (Annick Press, 2013). Paperbound. 32 pp.

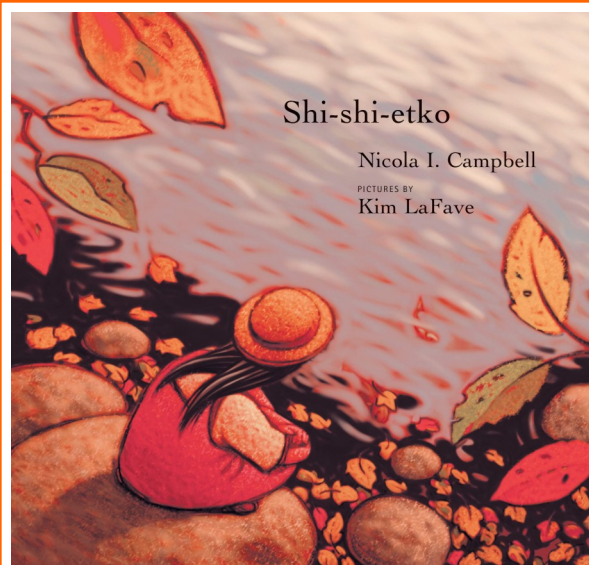
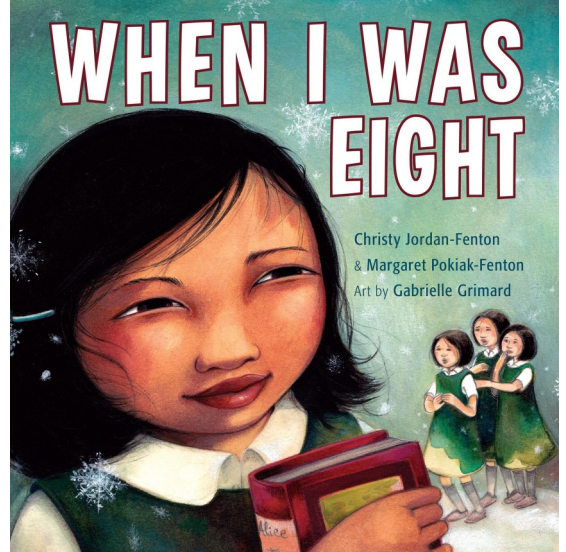
This is the author Margaret Pokiak's remarkable, true residential school story. Two aspects make it unique for me—its Arctic setting, shown with wonderful specifics in the text and vivid, active illustrations, and the circumstance of Margaret's arrival at residential school: it was her own choice.

Continued on page 5...

Right near the start, we learn the compelling reason why: "...I did not know how to read the outsiders' books. It was not enough to hear them from my older sister, Rosie. I longed to read them for myself." All through the winter she begs her father to allow her to attend, and finally, he reluctantly leaves her there. Margaret's great desire to read gives her the determination and perseverance to overcome the heartbreaking cruelty dealt to her at the school. When the nun singles her out for extra chores, Margaret uses them as a chance to learn, studying letters before cleaning the chalkboard and sounding out words on the labels of cleaning supplies.

This in-depth story is amazingly conveyed with the sparse amount of text a picture book needs to engage young readers. The writing is simple but wise, poetic but not fussy. It reads well out loud, like the repetition of "I knew" on the first page ending with the sun personified: "I knew the sun slept in the winter and woke in the summer." There's a tiny slip into clichéd language ("The nun cackled loudly...") and I would have liked to have at least seen an illustration of the "kindly head nun" along with the mean one. But I hope to learn more in the companion chapter book.

Brilliant and crisp as the Arctic air, *When I Was Eight* is an important telling—in both art and words—of one girl's great triumph.



Nicola I. Campbell (text) and Kim LaFave (art), *Shi-shi-etko* (Groundwood Books, 2005). Hardbound, 32 pp.

I have a special connection to *Shi-shi-etko*; many years ago, the author, Nicola Campbell, brought a very early draft of this story into the Writing for Children class I was teaching at UBC. Over the course of two years, her classmates and I offered feedback and editing, helping to shape the manuscript she'd eventually send to publishers for consideration.

It was Nicola's first book. I remember the joyful e-mail she sent, telling me about Groundwood's acceptance, and forwarding the editor's praise and impressions of the story. One comment that's stayed with me is the editor's mention of *Shi-shi-etko*'s story mirroring the biblical creation story; the girl counts off each day on her fingers that lead to the "fall," when a cattle truck comes to take her away to residential school, separating her from the family and the intensely beautiful home that she loves. *Shi-shi-etko* is a book about leave-taking;

the cattle truck departs on the last page, an aching moment, but still shielding *Shi-shi-etko* (and the reader)—in this story, this moment—from the horrors to come.

Imbued with an almost surrealistic orange-red light, the illustrations do portray a kind of Garden of Eden. The water, the leaves, the hills, even the houses, glow with an innocence utterly untouched by modern life. **The art is beautifully matched by the rhythm, details and gentle sound echoes of the gorgeous poetic text:** "She memorized each shiny rock, the sand beneath her feet, crayfish and minnows and tadpoles that squirmed between her toes, all at the bottom of the creek."

Shi-shi-etko spends each of her last days savouring and remembering the landscape with a different beloved family member, which makes the eventual separation all the more painful.

A grade two teacher friend of mine mentioned the "lack of faces" in this book, and it's true, you're mostly given the back or side views of characters, certainly not the full-of-character, vivid and realistic portrayal of Margaret in *When I Was Eight*. *Shi-shi-etko* and her family almost appear as figures in a dream. The future *Shi-shi-etko*—looking back on this time from the vantage point of residential school—might reach into her pocket and touch this dream like a smooth stone to gather the strength she needs to carry on.



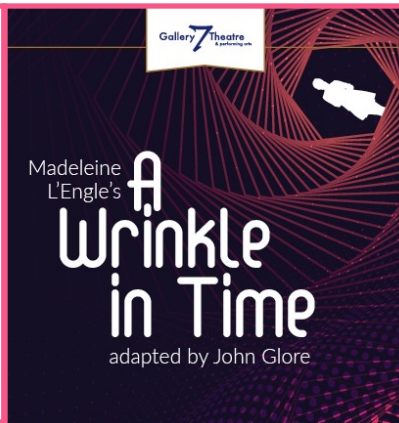
NOV. 22, 6-9PM @ THE RAILWAY DISTRICT. Come shop Abbotsford's finest artisans at our European-style Christmas Market, focusing on hand-made, local products that have been selected to showcase the best of the Fraser Valley. Enjoy mulled red wine, live entertainment, outdoor fire pits and food trucks while discovering your new favorite products and that perfect Christmas gift.

THEATRE CORNER

A WRINKLE IN TIME

Where? Abbotsford Arts Centre
When? Nov. 8-9, 12-16 @7:30pm; 9&16 @2pm

Synopsis: Meg joins forces with the eccentric Mrs. Whatsit, her little brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin O'Keefe, on a dangerous journey through time and space to rescue her long-lost father and save the universe from evil. Along the way, she discovers the true value of friendship and family, and that love triumphs overall.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Where? Pacific Theatre
When? Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Wed-Sat. @ 8pm with 2pm Sat. matinees.
Synopsis: It's Christmas Eve and Ebenezer Scrooge is drifting off to sleep, but he cannot imagine what the night has in store for him. Told with humour and Dickens' own transcendent prose, Ron Reed embodies Scrooge and 43 other characters in the greatest Christmas story ever written. Can a life ill-spent be redeemed?

CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

Where? Pacific Theatre, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium
When? Dec. 15, 17, 22, 23 @ Pacific Theatre; Dec. 21 @MCA
Synopsis: Pacific Theatre's favourite Christmas tradition. With poems and prose that range from the heartfelt to the hilarious, mixed in with songs both old and new, Christmas Presence is an intimate and warm way to usher in the holiday spirit. The un-slickest Christmas show in town!



Poems by Gareth Brandt

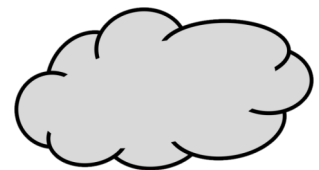
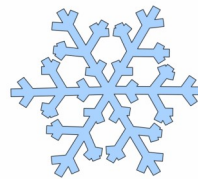
WINTER in WINNIPEG

*It is so frigid
day after day for so long
that all is frozen.*

*Hint of winterbourne
in this arctic burial ground?
Another cold SNAP!*

*The fastest flowing
river has iced up rigid,
stuck, immovable.*

*Wish I could break out
of this chilling, icy hell
to fly south to sun.*



WINTER in WHITE ROCK

*It might as well rain:
mist envelopes me,
clammy compress on my neck,
drizzling inside my head,
rhythms of waves barely audible
with layers of sobbing sea gulls
sounding as gray as sand and sky,
interrupted only by cawing crows
and a car alarm in the distance.*

*I sit alone in the middle of it all
with the tide coming in.
Gray water covering gray sand.
I don't even have a dog to walk.
It might as well rain.*

YOUTH UNLIMITED UPDATE — with Greg Sawatzky



This past year, a regular prayer request that I shared was "Pray for our West Abby team that it would continue to grow." When I started with Youth Unlimited about 5 years ago, my general job description was to lead a group of volunteers in serving and building genuine relationships with Punjabi youth and their families. The first 3 years saw myself, my co-worker Dave, and one or two volunteers, as the main people investing in these youth. It also took a good couple years to establish solid relationships with the schools, families and community of West Abbotsford. Last year we ran our ministry with a team of six volunteers supporting both our in school and out of school activities. This past month, I have been blessed to bring on 9 new volunteers for the upcoming year, which brings our current volunteer team up to 11 people. What a blessing! This truly is an answer to prayer. I am excited to have so many passionate people on our team and to pour into the youth and families we serve together! At the same time, there is a little sadness because as our volunteer team grows my role changes a little. More of my time will be spent equipping, encouraging and empowering volunteers to connect with the youth and less time will be spent directly with youth. This is a good thing but also requires a shift in thinking for me.

We are trying to run a guys night and a girls night twice a month for our middle school youth. Our first girls night had 5 volunteers and no youth show up. This started conversations with the girls around why they didn't come and how we can run things in a way that makes it easier for them and their families. In conversation, we discovered there is still a lack of trust at times sending their youth to someone outside their culture group and that many families are quite strict with the girls and what they are allowed to do. There are also easier reasons to solve like an earlier end time and providing rides, which we will address. We are attempting another girls night this week. Pray for open doors into these families, that parents would be willing to trust us and that the girls would be able to come to these events.



Girls volleyball game at our Wednesday club

Praise God

- for a safe and fun-filled summer of activities with youth.
- for new volunteers who are excited to mentor and invest in these youth.

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the mentoring component of our ministry that we hope to launch this month. We are excited to match up volunteers with different youth and facilitate spaces and times for great conversations to occur.
- Pray for our new volunteers that they would connect well with the youth and that I would have wisdom to know how to best involve them and put them into situations where they can thrive.
- Pray for the Punjabi youth and families that we are connected to, that God's love would become more and more real to them.

Donations to Greg's ministry can be made by:

Mail Youth Unlimited - Greg Sawatzky

2760 Emerson Ave. Abbotsford, BC V2T 3J6

Email (finance@youthunlimited.com)

Online (www.youthunlimited.com/donate or [click here](#))

What's Happening...

AT EMMANUEL

Sunday, November 3, 5-7pm – Table Church in the banquet room. Table church is an alternative worship experience grounded in worship and our interaction with one another. Crafted in the mold of a “world café” model, table church is what it sounds like: there will be a bunch of tables, some pizza, worship music, a short meditation and an opportunity to dialogue with one another. For this particular table church event, we will have conversation about how to do dialogue well. If you have more questions, please talk to Associate Pastor Chris Lenshyn. He will be happy to answer your questions.

Tuesday, November 19, 1:00-7:45pm – Blood Donor Clinic at Emmanuel in the gym! Book now and test your eligibility at www.Blood.ca.

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00pm – Council meeting in the library.

Thursday, November 21, 7:00pm – Deacon meeting in the library.

Saturday, December 7, 7pm: One Starry Night: Emmanuel Christmas Charcuterie and Dessert Evening. \$10/person (children 5 and under free). Our Christmas gathering this year will feature tables of delectable charcuterie, scrumptious desserts, and entertainment focused on the Star of Bethlehem. Tickets available at the Welcome Centre! For more information, contact Angelika Dawson, Roxanne Penner, or Val Redekop.

AROUND TOWN

Sunday, November 3, 3:00pm – ‘Songs of Peace’ by Valley Festival Singers (featuring our own Shim Beack) with the TWU Chamber Choir at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Tickets at House of James, Eventbrite, or from Shim. Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, Students \$5, Children 10 and under are free.

November 15-17 – West Coast Christmas Show & Artisan Marketplace at Tradex in Abbotsford. Discover new gift ideas, original art, crafts, woodwork, ceramics, specialty foods, home decor, clothing, furniture, floral designs, jewellery, candles, soaps, toys, and much more. There are great prizes to be won in the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest, activities for the kids in Santa’s workshop, including meeting Santa & Mrs. Clause! The Festival of Trees is one of the highlights of this unique and highly popular holiday show. Participating charities decorate a Christmas tree and visitors vote on their favourite. The winning charity receives a cash prize for their cause. Don’t miss this fun filled event, and join in the Christmas spirit! Friday 2pm -9pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-5pm. Adults – \$10.00, Seniors (65) \$9.00, Children & Youth FREE (16 & under). FREE re-admission all three days with hand stamp. Parking: FREE

BACK PAGE HUMOUR:

A notice posted by a French church (translated):

“It is possible that on entering this church, you may hear the Call of God. On the other hand, it is not likely that he will contact you by phone. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you would like to talk to God, come in, choose a quiet place, & talk to him. If you would like to see him, send him a text while driving.”

- Submitted by Waldimar Neufeld



The Mennonite Heritage Museum
invites you to celebrate

Christmas at the Museum

Artisan Market
— 2019 —

Monday, Nov 18 to Saturday, Nov 23
Monday & Tuesday: 10am-4pm
Wednesday & Thursday: 10am-8pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am-4pm

Our Christmas Market will feature the amazing work of some of BC's finest & most gifted artists, artisans & crafters, gathered here for your Christmas gift shopping.

mennonite heritage museum
1818 Clearbrook Rd
Abbotsford, BC

Christmas at the Museum is a joint project of The Mennonite Heritage Museum & Judson Lake House Publishers

Admission \$1.00