

The Centennial Herald

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Promoting the rich history of Penetanguishene



Festive Season



Victorian Christmas Traditions

Many of our favorite holiday traditions—decorating trees, exchanging cards, and festive feasting—have their roots in the Victorian era (1837-1901). During the 19th century, Christmas evolved into the joyful, family-centered celebration we know today, thanks to a blend of royal influence, literature, and cultural revival. Here's a look at the timeless customs that shaped the season.

The Christmas Tree: A Royal Trend

One of the most iconic Victorian contributions was the Christmas tree. While evergreen trees had long been used in winter festivals, it was Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's German-born husband, who popularized the tradition in Britain. A widely circulated 1848 illustration of the royal family gathered around a decorated tree at Windsor Castle inspired households across the UK and beyond to adopt the custom.

Christmas Cards and Crackers

The Victorians also introduced Christmas cards, with the first commercial card printed in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. These cards became a fashionable way to send holiday greetings, especially as the postal system expanded. Around the same time, Christmas crackers—

festive paper tubes filled with trinkets and jokes—were invented by London confectioner Tom Smith, adding a playful pop to holiday dinners.

Feasting and Festivities

Victorian Christmas dinners were lavish affairs. Roast goose or turkey, plum pudding, and mince pies were staples of the holiday table. The meal was often followed by parlour games, music, and storytelling. The emphasis on family gatherings and shared meals helped solidify Christmas as a domestic celebration.

Decorations and Carols

Homes were adorned with holly, ivy, and mistletoe, while handmade ornaments and candles added warmth and charm. Caroling also saw a revival, with Victorians embracing both traditional hymns and newly composed songs like "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

A Legacy That Lasts

The Victorian era didn't just invent new traditions—it reimagined Christmas as a season of joy, reflection, and community. Its influence endures in nearly every aspect of how we celebrate today, from the twinkle of tree lights to the sentiment behind a handwritten card.

The Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives

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FROM THE CURATORIAL ASSISTANT



Fun with Santa Saturday, December 13th 9:30AM to 12:00PM

Christmas is just around the corner so be sure to mark your calendars for Fun with Santa on December 13th! A visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be the highlight of a morning full of holiday cheer. Share your Christmas wishes with Santa and receive a festive goodie bag from Mrs. Claus. Don't forget to take a photo or two to commemorate the occasion!

Unleash your children's creativity at two different activity stations! Decorate a sugar cookie with different icings and toppings to create a masterpiece that is both unique and delicious. There will also be an opportunity to decorate a miniature stocking which will be the perfect memento from this special day. Be sure to complete the scavenger hunt which is always a favourite! Search for images hidden around the festively decorated museum and receive a special prize.

Registration is required to ensure that every child gets to enjoy the activities. Be sure to sign up early as spaces are limited and tend to fill up quickly. The event is \$6.00 per child, which includes all activities and materials. Timeslots are available from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm through Rec-Desk.

We can't wait to celebrate this holiday tradition with you!



PA Day Fun: Future Olympians

January 30th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Admission by donation
Go for gold at the museum! Make your own Olympic torch, do a sporty scavenger hunt and complete some Olympic themed challenges!



Museum Tots

Museum Tots will be back in the new year! Join us every other Wednesday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am for a new adventure full of crafts, games, sensory play and more. This hour-long program is designed for children aged 2-4. Each session is \$5 per child, and registration is required.

January 14th - Winter Wonderland

It's all about snow! Make a sweet snowman to take home, play in a wintry themed sensory tray and other frosty fun.

January 28th – Supertots!

Be a superhero for the day! Create a mask, practice your powers in a heroic game and more super surprises.

February 11th – Valentine's Day Fun!

Happy Valentine's Day! Make a sweet Valentine's Day craft, spot all the hearts in a museum scavenger hunt and more!

February 25th – Jungle Explorers

Join us for a jungle adventure! Do your best animal impression in a silly game, create a jungle-themed door hanger and more wild fun!

March 4th – Colour Explosion!

Meet ROY. G. BIV! Explore colour mixing with a cool science experiment, make a rainbow craft and more colourful fun.

March 25th – Planes, Trains and Automobiles

We're going on a trip! Make a train conductor hat, play a transportation matching game and more.

March Break Fun

March 16th-20th, 9:30 am -12:00 pm
\$5.00 per child. Registration is required.
Join us every morning for a different themed craft and scavenger hunt all week long!

Under the Sea Slime Workshop

March 17th 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
\$15.00 per child. Registration is required.
Dive into creativity with Tiny Fun Parties Under the Sea Slime Workshop! Kids will mix, stretch, and swirl their very own ocean-inspired slime—complete with shimmering glitter, seashell charms, and sea creature add-ins. It's hands-on, sensory fun that lets every little maker take home their own magical ocean in a jar! All supplies included.

Hat Decorating Workshop

March 19th, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
\$17.00. Registration is required.
Get ready to show off your style with Tiny Fun Parties! In this creative workshop, participants will design and decorate their own hats using fabric markers, patches, and more. Plus, they'll make a trendy hat chain to complete their custom look. Everyone leaves with a totally unique hat that's so them! All supplies included.

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

On Monday, June 16th, the Friends of the Museum celebrated Nicole Jackson, who has been curator of the Penetanguishene Museum for over 20 years. She protects and treats the Museum as though it were her own. Nicole has a deep sense of commitment to the volunteers, the Friends, and all of the visitors that pass through the doors.

One of her responsibilities includes protecting and preserving the Museum's Collection of artifacts which date back to the late 1800's. During these past 20 years, Nicole has helped develop multiple strategic plans, has had great vision for the Museum's programs, and has enhanced its role as a genealogical research centre.

The Friends of the Museum and the Town of Penetanguishene are extremely fortunate to have

Nicole Jackson as the curator, and as a staff member of this town. The Town celebrated Nicole as well, after our small presentation, with a plaque ceremony at the Yvon Gagne park.

Thank you, Nicole, for all that you do!



Canada Day 2025 was one of our best attended days in recent history. It is estimated that approximately 1700 people passed through the Museum's gates throughout the day. The sun shone through just in time for the musical groups that included Ariko, Passport, and Hy 5 Country. The food was plentiful, and once again, 600 cupcakes were served at 2 p.m. which followed the roaring of the cannon by the Penetang's own Ship's Company. A great time was had by all that attended, and we look forward to doing it all again in 2026.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Nancy Campling
Beth & Peter Desrochers
Carol Ann McConnell
Michael & Gail Tinney
Sharon Anne Garroway
Freda Nicholson
Judith & Steve Holland
Kelly Beck & family
Anita Dubeau

Pat & Brian Houlton
Dora Szabo
Denis J. Desroches
L. Waxy Gregoire
William Norris
Garry Vangelderren
Jeanne T.M. Hanna
Mary Louise Flagg
Steven Antal & family

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives

WINTER



Events

Fun with Santa

December 13th

Timeslots from 9:30 am - 11:30 am

\$6.00 per child (Adults are free)

Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, decorate a cookie, make a festive craft, complete a scavenger hunt and more!



PA Day Drop-in: Future Olympians

January 30th

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Admission by Donation

Go for gold at the museum! Stop by anytime between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm for an Olympic themed craft, scavenger hunt and other activities.

Museum Tots

10:30 am - 11:30 am

\$5.00 per child (aged 2-4)

Come on a different themed adventure every session with crafts, games, sensory play and more fun!

January 14th - Winter Wonderland

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February 11th - Valentine's Day Fun

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March Break Fun

March 16th - 20th

Timeslots from 9:30 am - 11:30 am

\$5.00 per child

Join us for a different themed craft and scavenger hunt every morning for March Break!

Under the Sea Slime Workshop

March 17th 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

\$15.00 per child.

Dive into creativity with Tiny Fun Parties! Kids will mix, stretch, and swirl their very own ocean-inspired slime. All supplies included.

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**Reminder that
registration is required
for all programs unless
otherwise stated**

www.pencenmuseum.com

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