

tacky” – to decorate the lawn.

“We thought we might as well get as much out of the last months out of 2020 as we can. Since we have nowhere to go and nowhere to be, we might as well stay home and focus on that,” Coleman says, noting everyone’s had a hard year this year.

Coleman, and other Kawartha Lakes residents like her, seem to be putting a little more oomph behind getting into the Christmas spirit this year. She says she usually gets decorating as soon as it’s appropriate, but she’s noticed lots of cheer around this year already.

“I think even driving around Lindsay, even in our neighbourhood, we’ve seen a lot of lights go up and a lot of people putting up decorations,” she says.

“I think there’s more happening this year. I think people are looking at the bigger picture, and seeing things differently. Seeing that it’s important to be at home with your family, and spend more time with your family.”

Taking that time to enjoy the holidays and time with family might be more important than ever this year, according to Jack Veitch, manager of community engagement and education for the Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge.

“Finding the joy in the little things is going to be really important,” Veitch says. “I think it falls back to that sense of purpose, that sense of hope, that sense of normalcy.”

Veitch says residents first saw the value in having a holiday – even if it’s not the same as usual – at Halloween. He says even though kids weren’t trick-or-treating at homes, they still got to dress up in costumes, spend time with their families, have candy and have fun.

“All the important things still got to happen,” he says, noting somehow his kids still ended up with too much candy.

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