

# Colborne Chronicle

## Festival of Trees a gift that keeps on giving

MANDY MARTIN  
FOR NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

COLBORNE — It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas.

The first alert is the aroma of real Christmas trees wafting down the entryways. Then, as you step into the hall filled with 27 sparkling, decorated trees, the magic happens.

For the seventh year, teacher Chad Morford and wife Lorraine have coordinated the Festival of Trees in Colborne. There's no admission fee to view the spectacle the last Friday and Saturday of November. Proceeds are realized from the sale of raffle tickets on the trees plus a silent auction of donated items.

The event funds the entire music program at the Colborne Public School. That's notable in and of itself but it's not the big story. This tiny school has consistently produced championship drum lines, a cadre of precision marching and drumming kids who blow their competition (including private, well-funded schools, large urban schools, etc.). Provincial and national titles for the Colborne kids stem from this challenge championed by Mr. Morford.

"We have graduates, about 20, who continue to take instruction Thursday nights at East Northumberland Secondary School," he notes with considerable pride. "They pay \$200 a year. I'm director and write the music for marching and Michael Beauclerc from Peterborough, a Yamaha artist, provides instruction."

Each of the past seven years, the Festival of Trees has grown in reputation. It's now a Yuletide tradition in the community to visit the display. The Colborne Legion hosts the event. Businesses, groups and organizations pay to sponsor and decorate trees. Some are up for silent



Proud father and grandfather Denny Robertson, left, of Colborne, came to see the Colborne Public School Parent Committee Christmas Tree at the seventh annual Festival of Trees in Colborne last weekend. Daughter Sherry, centre, is on the parent committee and grandson Logan, 10, is a Grade 5 student.

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auction, others available from selecting deposited purchased ballots.

The annual Colborne/Cramahe Santa Claus Parade, held the Saturday evening, dovetails with the exhibit, welcoming parade participants and attendees to drop in before and after.



Chad Morford, left, head of the music program at Colborne Public School, and wife Lorraine, right, had a reunion with former Colborne student Elissa Indewey, centre, at the seventh annual Festival of Trees last weekend.

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William Dart, 3, of Colborne knew exactly which of the 27 decorated Christmas trees he wanted to win at the seventh annual Festival of Trees Nov. 25 and 26. He spotted a toy truck under the Lion's Club entry.