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Library Notes

Acton Branch Halton Hills Public Library



By Vicki Firth

It's that time of year. Santa and Mrs. Claus have passed through Acton in their horse-drawn carriage, as the grand finale to the ever-popular Santa Claus parade. The church and seniors' bazaars are in full swing. Sunny weekends (so far) have had neighbourhoods bustling with folks busy decking the halls with lights and garlands before Jack Frost comes to nip at fingertips. Seasonal baking has begun.

Christmas publications are set to be delighted again this year. Macomber, for example, welcomes back her heavenly trio of characters Shirley, Goodness and Mercy in *Angels at the Table*. Anne Perry has a 19th century mystery set in colonial India at Christmas time, titled *A Christmas Garland*. James Patterson wishes *Merry Christmas, Alex Cross* to his popular detective character.

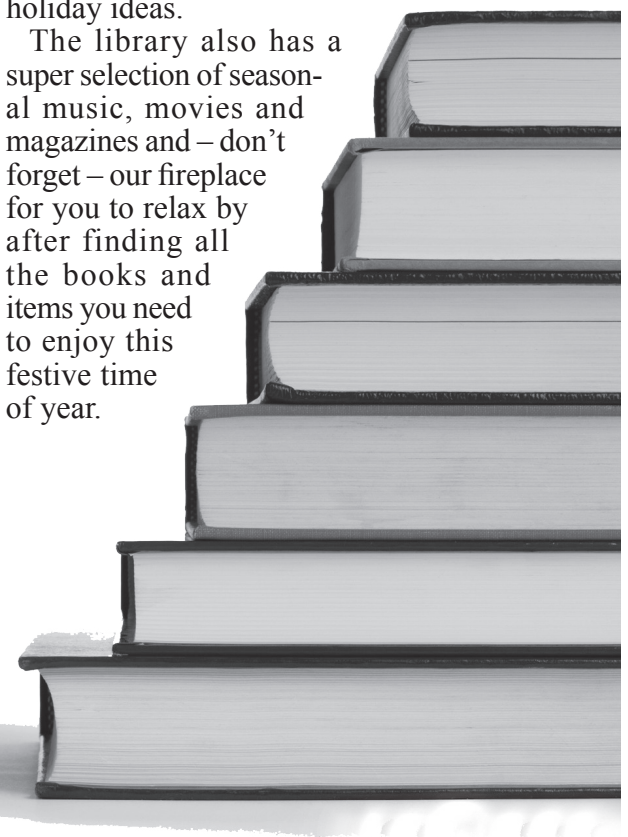
When you're out and about taking care of all the Christmas shopping, add a trip to the library to your list of things-to-do. We have a great collection of Christmas and holidays titles to help with the planning and parties, as well as many seasonal reads to indulge in during those sometimes few, but cherished, moments of relaxation during this busy time of the year.

While many of us will be hoping for a white Christmas, we won't forget those intent on trying to keep Christmas "green." Handmade Christmas gifts and cards, natural decorating and traditional cooking are featured in *A Greener Christmas*. *A Homemade Christmas* by Tina Barseghian is full of earth-friendly holiday ideas.

Are you having friends over for an open house, picking out a potluck dish or hosting the big family celebration this year? Solutions for "what to make?" can be found in titles such as *The Complete Christmas Book* published by *Canadian Living* magazine, which offers menu ideas for different types of gatherings, plus craft and decorating ideas. *Homemade Holidays* by *FamilyFun* magazine has recipes and suggestions that will delight the children (young and old). British culinary personality Nigella Lawson has a vast array of easy-to-follow but festive selections in her book *Nigella Christmas*. Author Debbie Macomber, who has penned perennial Christmas fiction favourites, has broadened her repertoire to recipe collections, including *Debbie Macomber's Christmas Cookbook* (available in eBook format).

The library also has a super selection of seasonal music, movies and magazines and – don't forget – our fireplace for you to relax by after finding all the books and items you need to enjoy this festive time of year.

Fans of fiction writers with annual



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