



TRIPLE FUN: Acton triplets Kaitlyn (left), Jennifer and Jordyn Gorton-Bevan, 3.5 years, staked out a great spot on Mill Street to watch the parade. — Marie Shadbolt photo

## Put some 'green' in holiday plans

With the holiday season on the horizon, many people's thoughts turn to charitable giving and other altruistic efforts. Amid giving a helping hand to those who need it and donating to worthy charities, individuals can think about giving back to the planet as well.

Many people equate the holiday season with trying to do more or give more. While these efforts are well-intentioned, the "bigger is better" mantra often turns into a season of excess. From thousands of twinkling lights adorning homes to pounds of wrapping paper used on gifts, the toll the holiday season takes on the environment is substantial.

There are several ways

to reduce the impact the holidays have on the environment. Making smart choices could really help.

- Switch holiday lights to LED ones. LEDs use 80 to 90 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs.
- Place lights on a timer so that the light display turns off overnight. If you don't have a timer, simply turn the lights off when going to bed.
- Buy items with less packaging to reduce waste. If you plan to purchase the same items as other friends and family think about buying one bulk package and splitting the contents.
- Trim the tree with handmade items. Stringing popcorn and berries to make a homemade garland

is a much greener option than plastic tinsel.

- For those who want a real Christmas tree this year, buy one with the root ball intact. Then plant the pine tree in the yard after the holidays are over.
- Limit gifts that require batteries. Those batteries routinely end up in landfills and damage the environment when they are carelessly discarded. Select toys and gadgets that use rechargeable batteries or ones that can be easily recycled later on.
- Skip the plastic cups and paper napkins. While it may take a little extra effort to clean up, using china dishes and stainless flatware reduces waste that ends up in the garbage.

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## COMMUNITY ADVENT SERVICE

Sunday, November 27, 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the  
Acton Ministerial Association

Hosted at Knox Presbyterian Church  
(Main St. N., Acton)

### "Lessons & Carols"

Join us for an evening of inspiration and song  
as together we journey to Christmas.




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### Community Remembering & Healing Service

Sunday, December 4, 2:00 pm  
Hosted at St. Joseph, Patron of Canada, Catholic Church



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