

Acton church hosts community Christmas dinner

A group of friends are busy planning for the fourth annual Community Christmas Dinner, which takes place at Beth-El Christian Reformed Church in Acton at 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.

In past years most of the dinner has been provided by members of our community who shared samples of their excellent cooking skills such as dish of potatoes or vegetables. The dinner was also supported by persons willing to set up, serve or help with clean up. Many of these people also joined in eating the meal with us. All had a good time.

Anyone looking for something to do on Christmas Day is invited to join the festivities.

If you are interested in coming, please RSVP Ann at 519-853-3687 or if you wish to donate a food item for the meal, contact Paulette, 519-853-1047.

...and so is Glen's St. Alban's Church

For those who are alone on Christmas Day at 1 p.m., St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, 537 Main St. in Glen Williams is holding a Christmas Day dinner. It's free of charge. Please call the church office to make a reservation, 905-877-8323. Transportation is available.

Tourtiere is traditional dish that has many variations

Everyone is entitled to their opinion—whether we are talking stuffing ingredients, how to make gravy, whether to roast the bird right side up or upside down or the merits of deep frying the bird. And the ingredients of tourtiere are no exception to the rule.

I've researched several recipes and they do all have some common features. The meat is ground. There is always some kind of combo of sweet and savoury spices, there is always bread crumbs, potato or crackers in the recipe to absorb the fat from the meat and help provide body to the pie and the pie is always encased in some kind of pastry.

However the type of meat varies greatly from recipe to recipe. One recipe even says that a traditional tourtiere is a game pie which originally got its name from the stock dove (tourte). The stock dove resembled the partridge and is now extinct. But at one time, the stock dove was a pest to farmers, as it ate constantly and was a threat to crops. So, farmers killed the birds and ate their bounty. Apparently, once stock doves became extinct, the pie carried on, using a combination of other game meats to replace the birds.

I believe today's recipe comes from my good friend, Ruth Carter. I say I believe it is hers because it has been a very long time since I've been able to eat one of her tourtières and I will never have the chance again, as Ruth is no longer with us. I've had this recipe for years and I never did mark where it came from, but I think she was the source.

I was no stranger to meat pies as my mom (Gerry) is one of the meanest meat-pie makers in the west. However, I was introduced to tourtiere in my teens when I was first invited to spend Christmas Eve with Ruth's family.

Speaking of giving credit for recipes, last week we published the poached pears with cranberry reduction and I completely forgot to mention that

Lori Gysel & Gerry Kentner



the idea for that recipe came from my girlfriend, Jill Farrington. I did remember to phone her and apologize for the slip, but I wanted to make sure you all knew what a great cook Jill is too!

As the festive time is now on our doorstep, Gerry and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas.

Have fun and keep cooking!

Tourtiere

Pastry ingredients

- 2 cups cake and pastry flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup shortening
- 2-3 tbsp cold water

Method (pastry)

Add salt to flour and blend in shortening with a pastry blender or 2 knives. Even blend in with your hands, using a gentle touch. Sprinkle in water slowly and mix only until pastry comes together. You can add another dash of water if necessary. The pastry should not be sticky at all. Do not overwork the pastry. This seems to be a common problem with pastry makers. This causes the pastry to become tough and shrink.

Roll the pastry out on a lightly floured counter. Line bottom of 9" pie dish. Roll and cut a piece appropriate for the top of the pie. Set both aside (cover with a damp tea towel).

Ingredients (filling)

- 2 lbs. lean ground pork

- 1 1/2 cups finely chopped onion
- 1 tsp ginger

- 1/4 tsp cloves
- 1/4 tsp allspice
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup fine bread crumbs
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp cold water



Method

Combine meat and spices. Cook over medium heat, breaking up the meat until the pork loses its raw colour. Add one half cup water and simmer for half an hour. Stir in bread crumbs. Allow to cool. Spoon mixture onto the pastry in the pie dish.

Cover with the other piece of pastry. Cut a couple of slashes in the top of the pie. Mix the egg with the 1 tsp cold water and brush the top of the pie.

Bake at 425 F degrees for 15 minutes. Then continue baking at 350 F degrees for approximately 40 more minutes. Allow to cool for 15 minutes before cutting.

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MID-SIZE CARS																			
G002	2001 Chev	Malibu LS	59,000	Black	3.1L, auto, ABS, pwr. grp., CD, keyless	\$9,499	G370	2005 GMC	Jimmy	59,000	White	4.3L, auto, lock axle, CD, keyless, air, P/L, P/W	\$14,899						
G227	2001 Cad	Catera Deluxe	83,000	Silver	3.0L, auto, deluxe pkg., sunroof, loaded	\$13,299	G389	2006 Chev	Suburban	16,000	Black	5.3L, leather, DVD, roof, XM Sat	\$45,499						
G329	2004 Olds	Alero GX	63,000	Sand	2.2L, 5 spd., CD, spoiler, air, alum. whls	\$11,599	VANS						G215	2003 Pontiac	Montana EXT	95,000	Silver	3.4L, auto, keyless, air, CD, pwr. grp	\$10,999
G352	2005 Chev	Impala LS	38,000	Black	3.4L, keyless, pwr. seat, ABS	\$15,499	TRUCKS						G277	2002 Chev	Avalanche 4WD	78,000	Red	5.3L, auto, keyless, CD, fogs	\$19,399
G376	2005 Chev	Monte Carlo LS	26,000	Silver	3.8L, superchar, auto, leather, roof, spoiler	\$23,699	G332	2004 Chev	Silverado EXT	43,000	Red	4.8L, auto, air, 4WD, off-road	\$21,999						
G349	2006 Chev	Impala LTZ	28,000	Black	3.9L, sunroof, ABS, leather, 5 pass., CDS	\$25,199	G253	2005 Chev	Colorado Crew	41,000	Red	3.5L, auto, 4x4, crew cab, pwr. grp., keyless	\$22,999						
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WHEN THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE!

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SUB-COMPACT																			
G400A	2005 Chevrolet	Cavalier VL	59,684	Blue	2.2L, auto, air, tilt, CD	\$10,999	7P180645A	2003 Chevrolet	Monte Carlo SS	70,560	Black	3.8L, auto, pwr. seats, leather, spt. pkg., ABS, Onstar	\$16,999						
7U139105A	2005 Chevrolet	Aveo LT	13,856	Red	1.6L, auto, air, pwr. grp, keyless, CD	\$13,999	G424	2002 Olds	Alero GX 2 Dr.	67,267	Pewter	2.2L, auto, spoiler, CD, alum whsl, air	\$9,999						
G409	2005 Toyota	Echo	46,620	Red	1.5L, auto, air, CD/MP3	\$14,599	7M141228A	2000 Olds	Alero GL 4 Dr.	47,603	Red	3.4L, auto, keyless, air, ABS, fog, spoiler	\$7,599						
G437	2003 Chevrolet	Cavalier VLX	54,969	Blue	2.2L, auto, keyless, P/W, GMPP total 48/80 ODED	\$10,699	MINI VANS						G48-125	2004 Chevrolet	Venture EXT	26,134	Silver	3.4L, auto, 7 pass., tint, keyless, air, ABS, cruise, CD	\$14,499
G439	2003 Chevrolet	Cavalier VLX	62,049	Silverleaf	2.2L, auto, keyless, P/W, spoiler, CD, tilt, keyless	\$9,999	G399	2005 Chevrolet	Uplander LS EXT	31,925	Blue	3.5L, auto, Onstar, CD, Spt. RR seat	\$16,999						
G424	2002 Chevrolet	Cavalier	53,511	Sandrift	2.2L, auto, keyless, CD, P/L, air, ABS	\$9,999	G406	2006 Chevrolet	Uplander LS EXT	42,085	Red	3.5L, auto, rear, air, keyless, Onstar	\$19,389						
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G445	2006 Buick	Lucerne CX	24,125	White	3.8L, auto, keyless, ABS, Onstar, CD	\$25,999	G443	2006 Chevrolet	HHR LS	22,569	Grey	2.2L, auto, air, keyless	\$20,499						
G407	2006 Chevrolet	Impala LS	24,245	Black	3.5L, auto, pwr. seat, Onstar, 6 pass., mats 4 whl disc.	\$19,999	G449	2004 GMC	Envoy XL SLT	98,563	Red	4.2L, auto, boards, 3rd row, 1SD, 4WD	\$25,499						
G432	2005 Toyota	Malibu Maxx	42,609	Driftwood	3.5L, auto, air, ABS, alum whls., CD	\$16,499	G480	2004 GMC	Envoy SLT	24,698	Blue	4.2L, auto, leather, roof, boards	\$26,999						
6K277960A	2005 Chevrolet	Impala	43,251	Grey	3.4L, keyless, 1SA, bench	\$16,499	G411	2004 Chevrolet	Tahoe Z71	55,368	White	5.3L, auto, leather, roof, pwr. pedals	\$30,599						
7I208647A	2005 Chevrolet	Impala	88,956	Sandstone	3.8L, pwr seat, bench, spoiler, spt. pkg., Onstar	\$17,599	G419	2003 Chevrolet	Blazer LS	51,022	Graphite	4.3L, auto, air, CD, running boards	\$14,259						
G420	2005 Chevrolet	Impala	33,836	White	3.4L, auto, bench, pwr. seat, ABS, keyless	\$16,999	G418	2003 Chevrolet	Trailblazer LTZ	69,894	Gray	4.2L, auto, running boards, leather, Onstar	\$21,899						
G431	2005 Chevrolet	Monte Carlo SL	34,336	Silver	3.4L, auto, sunroof, ABS, Onstar, CD, traction	\$16,999	G428	1995 Chevrolet	Blazer LS	81,080	Teal	4.3L, auto, 4WD, auto start, P/locks/windows, loaded	\$8,999						
G416	2004 Chevrolet	Monte Carlo SS	24,569	Black	3.8L, supercharged, auto, leather, roof, spoiler	\$23,826	TRUCKS						G441	2003 Chevrolet	Silverado EXT	73,582	Silver	4.8L, auto, air, 2WD, locking diff. alum. whls	\$19,999
G459	2004 Chevrolet	Epica LS	24,859	Black	2.5L, auto, pwr. seat, pwr. grp., air	\$23,826	G293	2006 Chevrolet	Silverado EXT	39,256	Blue	5.3L, auto, P/L, P/W, air, off-road, 17", Z71, CD	\$28,999						
G444	2003 Pontiac	Gr. AM SE1	45,365	Red	3.4L, auto, pwr. grp. CD, keyless, spoiler	\$11,999	G405	2004 Chevrolet	Avalanche	89,978	White	5.3L, auto, keyless, pwr. seats, pwr. pedals, fogs, Z71	\$28,999						
G458	2003 Olds	Intrigue GLS	93,587	Sandstone	3.5L, auto, leather, roof, spoiler,	\$9,999													

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