

# Celebrate Christmas in 3D later this month

For a church that normally meets at the movie theatre, it seems only fitting to celebrate Christmas in 3D.

That's exactly what the Village Community Church will do Friday, Dec. 23, with a special field trip to the Milton Centre for the Arts for an evening service. Open to church members and visitors

alike, the free celebration will kick off at 7:30 p.m. and will consist of some traditional holiday proceedings — such as live music and refreshments — plus a few unique media elements in 3D.

Service-goers are invited to sing along with the band as the Village projects animated lyrics onto a big screen, while some

short Christmas-themed video clips will also be featured. Seats are filling up fast, so those interested in attending are asked to reserve their seats as soon as possible at [www.3DChristmas.ca](http://www.3DChristmas.ca).

The Village is a non-denominational Christian church that meets Sundays at 10 a.m. at Milton Galaxy Cinemas.

# Display serves as fundraiser

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as teach our two adopted Chinese daughters about Christmas," she said. "We always figured that, if you have had a good life, you should do something to give back and this is our way of doing that."

Singleton was once the president of Halton Women's Place and she saw first hand how difficult the holiday season can be for those in the shelter, she said. She's happy that the shelter is using the donations in the way that has been intended.

"When I held my position at Halton Women's Place, I had the opportunity to see what it's like not to be in your own home for Christmas. This was a revelation to me. So when we started doing the display, we asked that all donations go to the children's programs at the shelter and they have done a great job doing just that. We have raised well over \$20,000 in the past 15 years and it's been wonderful!" said Singleton.

Singleton estimated that there are more than 800 extension cords and 600-plus feet of speaker wire used in the display to bring it to life.

They do not use any of the donation money toward the additional hydro consumed and she said they have reduced costs considerably since they switched to LED lights in the past few years.

The community response to the project has been overwhelming, she said. Many people have donated items, such as this year's addition of the model Lionel train set that speeds around its mountainous track, and the folk art ferris wheel that was made by a gentleman in the community.

Some people have also volunteered to help with the set-up, which usually starts in August, and the Singletons are happy to have the help.

Each year, about 500 to 700 people stop by to walk through the display, look into the 24 lighted boxes, and listen to the music and stories, she said. Each lighted box holds a different enchanting theme such as the nativity, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas', Santa's workshop, and even a teddy bear's picnic. Some of the boxes have animation, some have music, some have stories, but each is very unique, said Singleton.

"My kids get a kick out of listening to the stories being read in some of the boxes because they were recorded by them years ago," Singleton said. "Each of my kids has had a hand in making this display what it is. One of my daughters helps with the set up, one counts the donations, one of my sons is a robotics engineer so he does all of our animations, and my husband, Bill, does so much of it too. It really is a family project."

Singleton said that their busiest nights tend to be on the weekends and especially if there has been a snowfall because it makes the display seem more magical.

She said she believes visitors' favourite part of the display is the wooden cut-outs where guests can stand and put their faces, turning them into a skier, the Grinch, or even a barrel jumper.

Another favourite for the little ones is the castle where motion-activated Wobblies (musical snowmen) will sing while rotating if the children stomp their feet or jump, she said. She has been told by many people that they are return visitors, having seen the display as a child.

"This year, we have been approached by several people that visited with their families as youngsters and now they are visiting with their boyfriends and girlfriends. It's nice to know that our display is one of their Christmas memories. We even had a gentleman talking about the possibility of proposing to his girlfriend here but we haven't seen that yet," she laughed.

The display will continue until January 1 from 5 to 10 p.m. It's located at 8565 Guelph Line.

For more information, visit the website at [www.thestonehouse.ca/christmas/index.php](http://www.thestonehouse.ca/christmas/index.php) or call (905) 854-0261.



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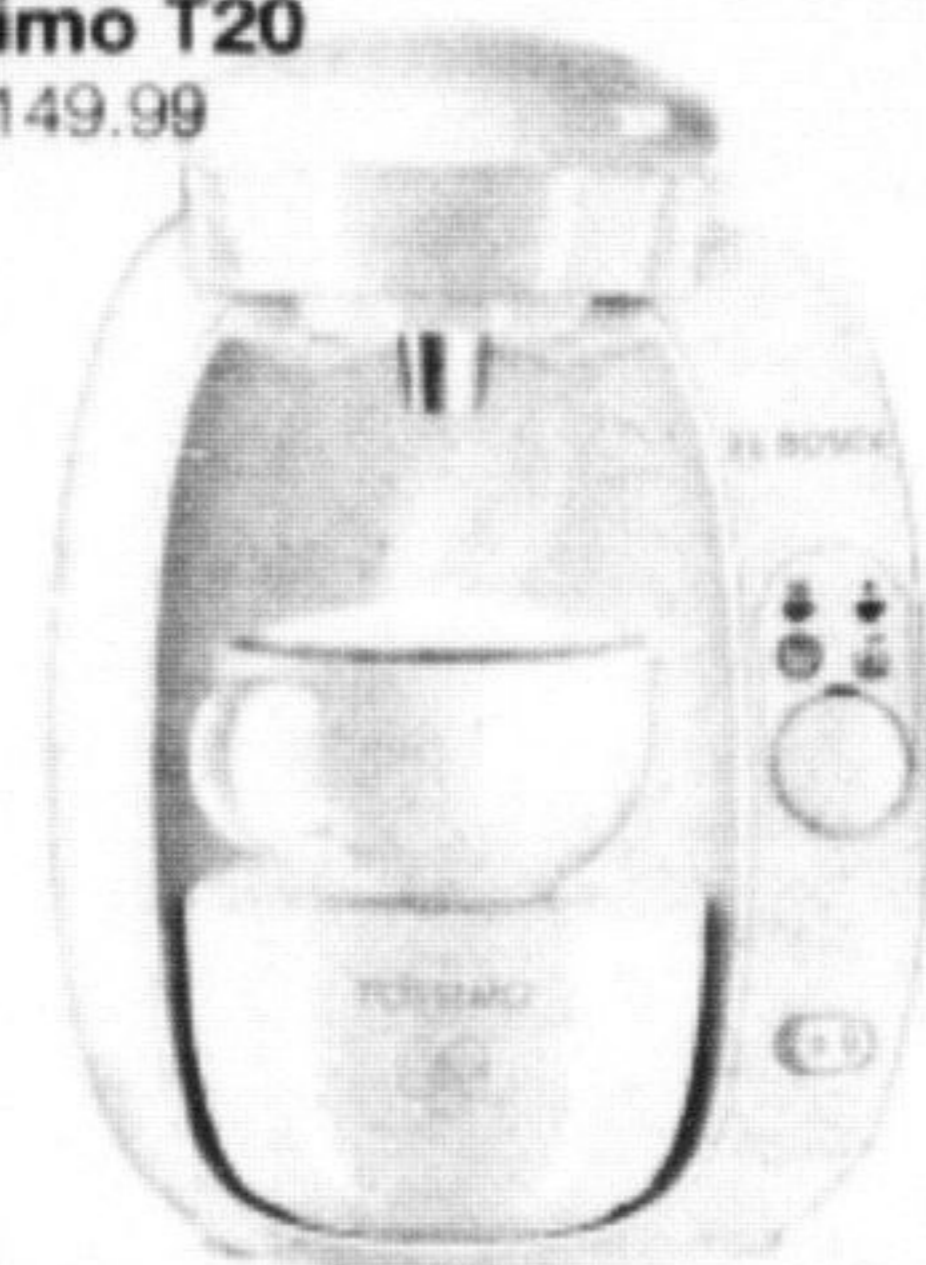
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