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## COMING EVENTS

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It's not filling ourselves to bursting on Christmas day. It's not even the carols we sing and whether we observe the religious import of the season. It's the love we give with our "Merry Christmas". It's the memories we give to those around us that will shine down through the years at this the darkest time of the year. The candles we light in our window are of no purpose if we don't pass that light on to those around us.

So this year like many others, I will put up the tree on Mother's Birthday. I will set up the Creche, high enough to be out of the reach of the kittens and low enough for a child to look at it. On Christmas Eve I will place the Christ Child in the manger and move the shepherds and their sheep close. The gifts will be wrapped and put under the tree. Their cost is not going to boost the economy, but the pleasure we had buying them will boost our spirits. We will laugh and remember. On Twelfth Night the Wise Men will replace the shepherds at the manger and Christmas will be winding down.

This may very well be the very best Christmas ever. The gifts we give from love not duty, the smile we give to the stranger, the present we buy for the child we will never see or know, these will go to make it so. That we carry this light of love for others on into the summer when such a feeble light is easily overshadowed by the sun. The food we give to the food bank, the kindness we do for a child, the tolerance and interest we show for the customs of others different from ourselves, our willingness to help those who are poor or unemployed maintain their dignity and hope and self-worth, all these things will make this the best Christmas ever.

If as some people observe, Christmas is just a gooey, over-sweet time of year that has been commercialized to the absurd, think of it as a sticky bun. If the cinnamon and sugar, the nuts and sweet red cherries of commercialism are but the outer layer of a good life sustaining bread, we will be fine. It is remembering to spread all that sweetness over a good wholesome dough leavened with love. I think this year I shall have to make 'sticky' buns. Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

- Bev Walker

Milford Community Friendship Circle is having their Christmas pot luck supper at Milford Town Hall on Saturday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone bring their dishes and cutlery and a food dish. For exchange of gifts a gent gets one for a gent, a lady for a lady, the cost to be between \$1.00 and \$2.00. Also food items for the food bank for Picton United Church will be collected. There will be a short program and games and cards to follow

South Bay United Church Sunday School are having a Christmas Tea, craft and bake sale at South Bay Church Hall on Saturday, December 7th, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The proceeds will be used to sponsor a Christmas angel through the Children's Aid Society. Any support for this program would be greatly appreciated.

The combined Carol service will be held this year at St. Philip's Anglican Church on Sunday, December 8th, at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve United Church services will be held as follows, Tuesday December 24th, 6:45 p.m. at Black River Memorial Chapel and 8:15 p.m. at Cherry Valley United Church.

## Surprise Get-Together at South Bay Church Hall

On Saturday, November 23rd the congregations of Cherry Valley and South Bay United Churches gathered to show their appreciation to Charles Vincent for his very capable services as lay Minister. A short, entertaining program of music and skits was followed by a presentation to Charles of an aerial photo of Milford Mill Pond. In his usual fluent manner, Charles expressed his appreciation for the honour of belonging to a church family which supports in both good and bad times. Lunch and a social time brought the successful evening to a close.

**Let us know of any upcoming event of your club or organization and we will be glad to let all of our readers know about it. We will do all we can to help make your project successful. Advise us also if you are starting a new enterprise or have any announcements regarding an already established business. Just call 476-3798 and provide us with the details.**