



Meeting the information needs of Consumer/Survivors in the Toronto Area



BULLETIN



522 December 1 – 31, 2014

Consumer/Survivor Information Resource Centre of Toronto, 1001 Queen St. West, Toronto M6J 1H4
Phone Hours: M-F from 9-5 / Drop-in Hours: M-F from 9-4
Tel: 416 595-2882 csinfo@camh.ca <http://www.csinfo.ca/>

The C/S Info Centre Presents
a double issue for this holiday season filled with:

Holiday Outings Around The City!



Your Guide to Fun!





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Things To Do This Holiday Season...

Free and Low-Cost Events around Toronto

For TTC information call 416-393-4636 (INFO) or visit the TTC website

50+ Holiday Events



Friday, December 19th from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. **50+ Holiday Karaoke**

Party Drop-in. Join the party and improve your health through singing. There is no need to be a good singer. You can choose to sing solo or with the rest of the group. We sing along to everything from 50's/60's to show tunes and more. For more info contact Sherri Bulmer by email: olderadults@centraleglinton.com, visit the website: <http://www.centreleglinton.com> or phone: 416 392-0511. Central Eglinton Community Centre, 160 Eglinton Avenue East, 2nd Floor Movie Room. Adults 50+. \$2

Art, Bake & Craft Sales



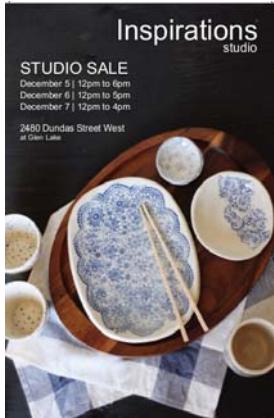
Saturday, November 29th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. **Toronto's only 100% handmade Native Arts & Crafts Christmas Sale!** Local artisans. Items including moccasins, beadwork, dream catchers, and more! Indian tacos, refreshments, raffles and a 50/50 draw. For more info visit: <http://ncct.on.ca/> or call: 416 964-9087. Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, 16 Spadina Road. **Free Admission**

Wednesday, December 3rd through to Saturday, December 6th (see below for opening hours).

The Toronto Antique Glass Holiday Show and Sale! This Special Event in Toronto offers an entire inventory of pressed glass and Depression glass made between 1860's through 1950's. It includes many recently acquired pieces. You will see over 600 goblets, hundreds of pieces of tableware, Victorian coloured glass, Depression glass in clear and coloured, Flint and Early Blown Glass, Manhattan, Candlewick, Heisey and Jadite Glass, oil lamps, miniatures and a large selection of vintage glass, including Jadite, Pyrex, kitchenware etc. Show and Sale hours are: Wednesday - Friday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Free parking. For more info please contact Sean George by email: sgpressedglass@sympatico.ca or by phone: 416 294-3005. Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Avenue. All Ages. **Free Admission**

Thursday, December 4th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. **North York General's 9th Annual Art and Craft Show and Sale "Embracing Hope"** is back! Each year, the Mental Health Program and Participants' Council co-host the annual Mental Health Art and Craft Show and Sale. The event celebrates the resilience, passion and creative spirit of people living with and recovering from mental illness and/or addiction. Participation in the art show and sale is for individuals who identify as a current or former patient/client in the mental health program at North York General. For more info visit: <http://www.nygh.on.ca/Default.aspx?cid=3201&lang=1> or call Theresa at: 416 633-9420. When you hear the tape recorded greeting, press 1 and then extension 6967. North York General, 4001 Leslie Street in the Jack Hurlbut Auditorium. **Free Admission**

Thursday, December 11th from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. **VanDuzer Holiday Art Show & Sale.** It's that time of year...warm up the holiday season by participating in the VanDuzer Holiday Art Show & Sale. Snacks, drinks and live music. For more info contact Tamara Wilen by phone: 647 280-4931. VanDuzer Art Studio, 196 Beverley Street. All Ages. **Free Admission**



Friday, December 5th from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Saturday, December 6th from 12:00pm - 5:00 pm & Sunday, December 7th from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

Inspirations Studio Sale. Biannual Studio Sale of stoneware pottery made by the members of Inspirations Studio. Inspirations Studio is a pottery based social enterprise for low-income women who have been impacted by poverty, homelessness, trauma and mental health issues. Members attend Inspirations to develop pottery for sale to generate additional income. Participation facilitates the recovery of self-esteem, self-confidence, respect and dignity as well as creating a community of women with entrepreneurial spirit. Inspirations Studio is a project of Sistering. For more info email: inspirations@sistering.org or call: 416 367-2728. 2480 Dundas Street West at Glen Lake. **Free Admission**

Friday, December 5th from 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th from 10:00 am - 8:00 pm. **Toronto Potters Winter 2014 Show and Sale.**

Toronto Potters will hold its annual Winter Show and Sale at ARTA Gallery in the Historic Distillery District. Toronto Potters will be exhibiting one of a kind, functional pottery and sculptural works. Choose the perfect holiday gift or a piece for yourself created by hand by these talented local artists. Many of the participating potters will be present throughout the sale to meet and converse about their work and techniques. A portion of the proceeds from this sale will be donated to Red Door; a family shelter in Toronto that assists families, refugees and women who are fleeing from violence. For more info visit: www.torontopotters.com or email: torontopotters@gmail.com. Arta Gallery, 14 Distillery Lane. **Free Admission**



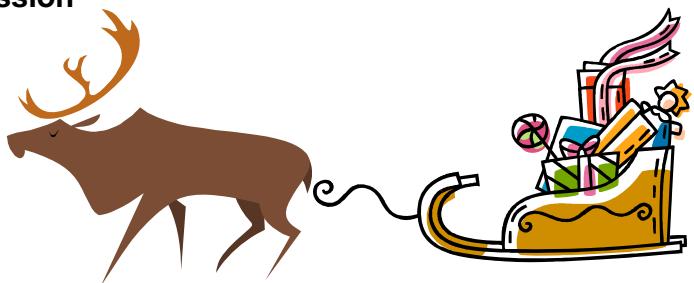
Winter 2014 Show and Sale

ARTA GALLERY
in the Distillery Historic District

Friday, Dec 5, 3 - 9 pm
Saturday, Dec 6, 10 am - 8 pm
Sunday, Dec 7, 10 am - 8 pm

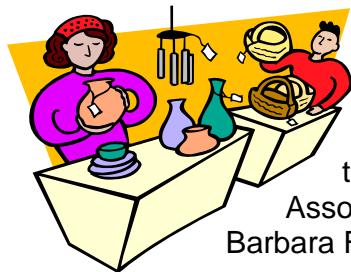


Saturday, December 6th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. **Christmas Bake & Crafter's Sale.** Let us do your Christmas baking for you! Need that last minute gift? Visit our vendor booths. Enjoy some refreshments at our café. For more info contact Barb Wallace by email: blwallac@live.ca. Mimico Presbyterian Church, 119 Mimico Avenue. All Ages. **Free Admission**



Saturday, December 6th from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. **Winter Craft Event.** Over 30 vendors, crafters and artisans will offer their unique gift items for sale – just in time for holiday shopping! There will be plenty to choose from – jewelry, knitting, seasonal goodies. For more info contact Sandra Connery by email: lansancon@bell.net or 416 354-2883. Royal York Road United Church, 851 Royal York Road. All Ages.

Free Admission



Thursday, December 11th from 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. **The 20th Annual CBC Employees Charity Craft Sale.** The CBC Charity Craft Sale features over 60 local artists selling hand crafted goods. Vendors include jewelers, stained glass artists, artisan soap makers, home décor items, culinary treats, textile artists, & much more. Proceeds are going to the Ontario Association of Food Banks. For more info visit: www.cbccharitycraftsale.ca. CBC Barbara Frum Atrium, 250 Front Street West. **Free Admission**

Thursday, December 11th from 4:00 pm - 10:00 pm. **Small is Beautiful Craft Event.** Organically inspired jewelry with beads and silk; hand made ceramics to decorate your table and home; screened greeting cards and prints; vintage linen and cotton tea towels; recycled woolen scarves and ponchos; textile art and design; and infinity scarves for all seasons and ages. Wychwood Barns Community Gallery, 601 Christie Street. **Free Admission.**



Friday, December 12th from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. **Artists of the Woodlawn Pottery Studio Annual Show and Sale 2014.** *New Venue* The Woodlawn Studio is a women's co-operative which began as an adult education program of the YWCA. Unique ceramics ideal for gifting and home décor. For more info visit: www.woodlawnpottery.ca. Artscape YoungPlace, 180 Shaw Street, (Between Dundas and Queen). **Free Admission**

Now until December 24th, Monday - Saturday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

The 21st Annual Festival of Smalls. If you're looking to give fine art (or to buy something for yourself) but don't have a huge budget, why not try The Festival of Smalls. Artwork in a variety of styles and mediums is up for sale. You can browse all available works in their preview here: <http://www.artinteriors.ca/festivalofsmalls>. For more info email: info@artinteriors.ca or call: 416 488-3157. Art Interiors, 446 Spadina Road. **Free Admission**

Bazaars, Fairs & Markets

Thursday, December 4th, from 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. **2014 "Very Merry" Christmas Bazaar.** All are welcome! Bishop Allen Academy, 721 Royal York Road. All ages. **Free**



~ One kind word can warm three winter months. ~

~ Japanese Proverb ~



Thursday, December 4th from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm. **Lanor Junior Middle**

School Jingle Jangle. Celebrate the holiday season at the school's second annual Jingle Jangle event. Fun for all ages. Craft workshops, vendor tables, bake sale, cookie decorating, silent auction, a visit from Santa and more. To become a vendor, donate to the silent auction, or for more info, contact Erin Sullivan by email at: erinsullivan81@gmail.com. Lanor Junior Middle School, 450 Lanor Avenue.

All Ages. **Free Admission**

Friday, December 5th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. **Holiday Gift Fair** at Yonge & Eglinton. Think Globally, Shop Locally at our Holiday Gift Fair. The original pop up shop! Fabulous gift items, unique crafts, snowflake cafe, holiday treasures, silent auction, door prizes, bake table and more. For more info, contact Nancy Lyon by email: info@centraleglinton.com, visit the website: <http://www.centraleglinton.com> or phone: 416 392-0511. Central Eglinton Community Centre, 160 Eglinton Avenue East. All Ages. **Free admission**



Friday, December 5th from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. **Christmas Craft and Bake Sale.** Do some early Christmas shopping of hand-made crafts and baked goods. Proceeds to recreation room upgrades. For info contact: Janet Keenan at: 416 691-7407 or email: jkeenan@neighbourhoodlink.org. Cecelia Murphy Building, 11 Coatsworth Crescent. All Ages. **Free Admission**

Friday, December 5th from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm, Saturday, December 6th from 11:00 - 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 7th from 11:00 - 5:00 pm. **Novella Magazine Pop-Up Bazaar.** Art and fashion collide at Novella Magazine's pop-up shop. Come check out the Stan Olthuis exhibit and shop from various food and clothing vendors specially curated for this event. Abbozzo Gallery, 401 Richmond Street West, Suite 108. **Free Admission**

Saturday, December 6th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. **12th Annual Xmas Gifts and Crafts Fair.** Our sale features: a silent auction and 45 vendors with lots of new or handcrafted items suitable as gifts or for your holiday decorating or entertaining needs... crochet, knit and sewn goods, Scentsy, chocolate sleighs, gingerbread houses, epicure spice blends, Tupperware, baked goods, jams, Sunset Gourmet, Steeped Tea, pet supplies, Yonique, South Hill Designs, Avon, Jamberry Nails, hand made crafts and lots more treasures! Unique, one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted items for the person who has everything! Enjoy lunch at our snack bar and a few more surprises! Parking available on site. For more info email: legionbr31@yahoo.com, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/mountdennislegion> or call: 416 767-0231. Mount Dennis Legion, 1050 Weston Road. All Ages. **Free Admission**

Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. **Craft Bake Sale &**

Tea. Aunty Pat's chocolates, unique Christmas decorations, home-made preserves and hand knitted items. Enjoy a cup of tea with your neighbours. Proceeds support the Curran Hall Community Association. For info contact Kathy Thomas at: 416 431-4170 or email: krthomas@rogers.com. Curran Hall Community Centre, 277 Orton Park. All Ages. **Free admission**



Saturday, December 6th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. **Christmas Goodies Sale.** Kimbourne Park United Church Annual Christmas Goodies Sale. Homemade jams, jellies and preserves. Fresh Baked Christmas treats, Christmas treasures table, and a tea room. For more info call Nicole Bourassa-Burke at: 416 471-7200 or email: office@kpuc.org. Kimbourne Park United Church, 200 Wolverleigh Boulevard. All Ages. **Free, Lunch is \$5**



Saturday, December 6th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. **Candy Cane Tea and Bazaar.** Join us for Christmas shopping, crafts, trinkets and hand crafted items. Put the final touches on your holiday shopping and then enjoy a traditional Christmas tea with fancy sandwiches, tea, coffee and desserts - all homemade. Don't miss this wonderful family annual event! For more info contact the office administrator by email: presteignwoodbineunitedchu@bellnet.ca, call: 416 755-8352 or visit: <http://www.presteignwoodbineuc.com>. Presteign-Woodbine United Church, 2538 St. Clair Avenue East. All Ages. **Free Admission**

Saturday, December 6th and Sunday December 7th from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. **Mondo Bazaar** is pleased to present a 2-day holiday craft market for your shopping pleasure! Mondo Bazaar features over 60 booths of locally-crafted and fair-trade arts, crafts and one-of-a-kind curiosities from Toronto-based artisans and entrepreneurs. Our vendors have something for everyone, including clothing, body-care, children's items, jewellery, paper goods and more! There will be gift draws all weekend long. For more info visit: <http://mondobazaar.wordpress.com/>. The Gladstone Hotel in the Ballroom (1st floor).

Free Admission

Sunday, December 7th starting at 11:00 am. The Junction BIA is delighted to invite you to our annual **Santa and Winter Market in the Junction.** Please join us in the Junction neighbourhood for a full day of Christmas themed activities and shopping. Santa and his elves will be at the Junction Train Platform. Mrs. Claus will be reading Christmas stories. There will be performances by Creative Children's Dance Centre, a Reindeer Scavenger Hunt, live holiday music and workshops that include everything from holiday crafts to furniture demonstrations. For more info visit: www.thejunctionbia.ca. Dundas Street West between Quebec and Indian Grove. **Free**



Now through Sunday, December 21st. Tuesday through Friday from 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am - 9:00 pm. **Toronto Christmas Market at the Distillery District.** This holiday season Toronto will once again celebrate the romance and magic of a traditional Christmas at the Toronto Christmas Market. Inspired by the Old World and influenced by the New, this free annual event captures all of the tradition, heritage and charm of a European Christmas Market, while showcasing hundreds of unique and local handcrafted products. Family friendly entertainment includes musicians, carolers and children's choirs. For more info email: info@torontochristmasmarket.com, or visit: <http://torontochristmasmarket.com/>, or call: 416 364-1177. The Distillery District, 55 Mill Street. All Ages. **Free Admission**

CAMH Events

Thursday, December 4th at 2:00 pm. **Client and Staff Memorial.** Join the CAMH Community as we remember and celebrate the lives of the clients and staff we lost in 2014. For more info call Shawn Lucas, Manager of Spiritual Services: 416 535-8501 x 32175. Sacred Space, CAMH Queen Street Site, Bell Gateway Building, 100 Stokes Street. **Free**



Tuesday, December 16th at 2:00 pm. **Christmas Candlelight Service.** For more info call Shawn Lucas, Manager of Spiritual Services: 416 535-8501 x 32175. Sacred Space, CAMH Queen Street Site, Bell Gateway Building, 100 Stokes Street. Refreshments to follow. **Free**

Wednesday, December 17th at 10:30 am. **Hanukah Service.** For more info call Shawn Lucas, Manager of Spiritual Services 416 535-8501 x 32175. Sacred Space, CAMH Queen Street Site, Bell Gateway Building, 100 Stokes Street. **Free**

Carolling & Singing

Friday, December 12th at 10:30 am. **Jingle Bell Time.** Sing your way into the festive season with music, bells, dance and bubbles. A sing-a-long for the whole family featuring jolly holiday favourites and other action-filled tunes. 416 396-8939. Taylor Memorial Library, 1440 Kingston Road. **Free**

Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 am. **Christmas Carolling and Puppet Show.** Sing holiday classics and watch The Gingerbread Man puppet show. 416 396-8916. Cliffcrest Branch, Cliffcrest Plaza, 3017 Kingston Road. **Free**



Tuesday, December 23rd at 10:30 am. **Family Carolling.** Carol singing and holiday rhymes for all ages. Free tickets available 15 minutes before the program. 416 393-7727. Pape Danforth Branch, 701 Pape Avenue. **Free**



“When there's snow on the ground, I like to pretend I'm walking on clouds.”
~ Takayuki Ikkaku, Arisa Hosaka and Toshihiro Kawabata ~

Christmas Movies

Saturdays, December 6th, 13th, and 20th at 11:00 am. **Christmas Movies at Cineplex Odeon**

Cinemas. Saturday mornings participating theatres across the city will show Christmas flicks.

December 6th will be A Christmas Story, December 13th The Polar Express (3D) and December 20th will show Fred Claus. Here is the list of participating theatres:

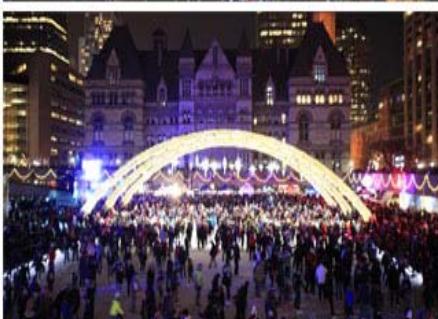


- SilverCity Fairview Mall - 1800 Sheppard Avenue East, Unit Y007, Toronto
- SilverCity Yorkdale Cinemas - Yorkdale Shopping Centre, 3401 Dufferin Street, Toronto
- Cineplex Odeon Eglinton Town Centre -
- 22 Lebovic Avenue, Scarborough
- Coliseum Scarborough - Scarborough Town Centre, 300 Borough Drive, Unit 765, Scarborough
- Cineplex Odeon Morningside Cinemas -
- 785 Milner Avenue, Scarborough
- Cineplex Odeon Queensway - 1025 The Queensway, Etobicoke

For more details visit: www.cineplex.com/Events/familyfavourites/ParticipatingTheatres.aspx.

\$2.50 including tax, per person

Concerts, Musicals & Performances



Saturday, November 29th at 7:00 pm.

Cavalcade of Lights presented by Great Gulf.

The official start to the holiday season in Toronto with the celebration of the 48th annual Cavalcade of Lights presented by Great Gulf. Featuring the illumination of Toronto's official Christmas tree, performances by top Canadian talent, a brilliant fireworks presentation and a DJ skating party at Nathan Phillips Square, the free event is a holiday tradition in Toronto. Food trucks will be available on Bay St. at this year's event. Skating at the Nathan Phillips Square ice rink continues all season long. Skate rentals are available on site. For more info visit: www.toronto.ca/cavalcade. Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West and Bay Street. **Free**

Monday, December 1st from 7:45 pm - 9:00 pm. **Resa's Pieces Holiday Concert.** Come celebrate the season! Join in a fun evening with music performed by all 3 of our ensembles: strings, concert band and singers. For more info email: info@resapieces.org. Collegiate Institute, 490 York Mills Road (between Bayview and Leslie), All Ages. **\$5 at the door**



Tuesday, December 2nd at 12:00 pm. **Canadian Opera Company's Dance Series: Ballet 360.** Classical and contemporary ballet. Highlights from Cinderella, Nutcracker, A Canadian Tradition and Desrosier's Bouffonia. Ballet Jörgen. Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen Street West. For more info call: 416 363-8231. **Free**

Tuesday, December 2nd at 12:10 pm. **Performance Class for Singers: Songs of the Season!** University of Toronto Faculty of Music. Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park. For more info call: 416 408-0208. Public welcome. **Free**

December 6 at 4:30 pm. **Jazz and Reflection: Jazzy Christmas.** Bill MacLean, vocals; Brian Stevens, piano. Beach United Church. 140 Wineva Avenue. For more info call: 416 691-8082. **Freewill offering**

Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 pm. **Organ Music for Advent.** Andrew Adair, organ. Church of St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Avenue. For more info call: 416 531-7955. **Free**

Sunday, December 7th at 4:30 pm. **Christmas Vespers.** Barlow Brass and Drums. Christ Church Deer Park, 1570 Yonge Street. For more info call: 416 920-5211 x 22. **Freewill offering**

Crafts



Christmas Cheer – Crafts at the Library

Create some lovely holiday crafts. All supplies are provided. **Free**
Saturday, November 29th at 2:00 pm. 416 396-8920, at Eglinton Square Branch, 1 Eglinton Square Unit 126.

Monday, December 1st at 4:00 pm. 416 396-3820 at Dawes Road Branch, 416 Dawes Road.

Friday, December 5th at 2:00 pm. 416 393-7727 at Pape/Danforth Branch, 701 Pape Avenue.

Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 pm. 416 396-8890 at Albert Campbell Branch, 496 Birchmount Road.

Friday, December 5th at 4:00 pm. **Get Inspired: Duct Tape Ball Ornaments.** Make ball ornaments out of duct tape. All supplies are provided. Call or visit the branch to register: 416 396-3975. S. Walter Stewart Branch, 170 Memorial Park Avenue. **Free**



Health & Exercise

Tuesday, December 2nd, 9th and 16th from 9:00 am - 11:00 am **Walking for Mental Health (WFMH)** WFMH is a support group for adults and youth experiencing stress, anxiety and/or depression. Mental illness is often accompanied by a difficulty to manage symptoms. You will learn some tools you can use that may help you manage your health on a daily basis. Come join in for a walk and break the isolation of mental illness. Meeting spot: west parking lot of West Deane Park. For more info phone: 416-236-7234. West Deane Park, Martingrove and Rathburn Road.
All Ages. **Free**



Holiday Support



All year from 8:00 pm - 12:00 am. **Progress Place now has a warm line that you can text.** Are you feeling lonely? Distressed? Isolated? Did you have a bad day and need someone to talk to? Reach a WarmLine Peer Support Worker. Text: 647 557-5882 or call: 416 960-WARM (9276), or visit www.warmline.ca. WarmLine is a confidential and anonymous service for adults (18+) operated by Progress Place. **Free**

Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm. **Holidays and Hope Candlelight Service.** Christmas is a time of happiness and excitement but it is also a time to remember loved ones who have passed away. Ridley Funeral Home invites you to a free memorial service in honour of those who cannot be with us this holiday season. For more info visit: www.ridleyfuneralhome.com or call: 416 259-3705. The Assembly Hall, 1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive. **Free**



Saturday, December 6th, 11:30 am - 1:00pm You are invited to join us for a special **Pet Loss Support Group meeting.** This session will be an informative and interactive experience exploring the impacts of pet loss during the holiday season. Facing the holidays after the loss of an animal companion can be a challenging experience. Special occasions can remind us of fond memories that we now grieve, causing us to feel alone and sometimes isolated in our feelings.

During the session we will talk about why grief can feel particularly painful during the holiday season and ways to cope that will allow you to remember and celebrate your beloved animal companion. You are

welcome to come, talk or just listen. The session is open to those who have lost an animal companion, are anticipating the loss of their companion or want to learn how to support others through their loss. This will be a safe and supportive environment where everyone's grief is considered valid and unique. The session will be facilitated by: Jennifer Chiasson-Henriques, Angie Arora and Nadine Seon. Please RSVP to: pawswaypetlossgroup@gmail.com. Purina PawsWay, 245 Queens Quay West. **Free, but registration is required**

Kids' Events

Saturday, December 13th from 3:30 - 5:00 pm, Sunday, December 14th from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm, Saturday, December 20th from 11:00 am - noon and Sunday, December 21st from 2:30 - 4:00 pm.

Frozen Ice Queen and Ice Princess Show and Meet & Greet during Winterfest on Toronto's Waterfront. Have you been enchanted by the smash hit musical Frozen? Now is your chance to meet and sing along with your favourite princesses and their best friend, Kristof, in this exciting and interactive show. You can also have your picture taken with both the Ice Queen and the Ice Princess. Note, Sunday, December 14th is a Meet and Greet only – there will be no show. Call: 416 203-3269 for more info. Queen's Quay Terminal, 207 Queen's Quay West. **Free**

Friday, December 5th from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. **Jingle Bells.** Join us at the library to celebrate the holidays with a musical concert! For children of all ages. For more info call: 416 394-5120. Richview Library, 1806 Islington Avenue. **Free**



Letters to Santa

For many years Canadians have turned to Canada Post as the trusted partner for delivering all their holiday mail, creating millions of cherished memories every year. But there is one area of holiday mail where they depend on Canada Post employees even more – as the middle man in ensuring their children's wish lists are delivered to Santa.

For over 32 years, Canada Post employees and retirees have helped Santa answer over 21.8 million letters. In response to a call for help that comes every year around mid-November, some 9,000 postal elves are dispatched to help Santa answer the thousands of letters he receives every day. Santa's postal elves will spend over 226,000 hours to help Santa answer more than 1 million letters in 30 different languages. To protect Santa's mail, only current and retired Canada Post employees can be postal elves.



Write to Santa and he'll write back!

Sacks of letters are arriving at the North Pole. Postal elves are busy helping Santa reply to each and every letter that has a return address. Whether you're a parent or teacher, we have tips to help with successful letter writing and replies from Santa.

Now through to December 16th. **Write A Letter To Santa.** You can

write to Santa in any language, including Braille, and he'll write back in the same language! Write a letter to Santa at the address below.

Make sure to include your return address so that Santa can write back!



Santa Claus
North Pole H0H 0H0
Canada

Letters to Santa do not require postage (Santa would NEVER refuse a letter because it didn't have a stamp on it) and the response from Santa is also delivered for free. We're honoured to help Santa respond to his mail and proud to help teach children valuable literacy skills. More than 21.8 million letters have been received at Santa's North Pole Post Office since 1982! According to Santa's CPE (Chief Postal Elf), Holly T. Elf, there are three golden rules in sending a letter to Santa: Make sure you include your return address! While Santa knows where you live, his postal elves need your address to deliver Santa's letter to your home. Letters must be mailed by December 16th to allow enough time for travel to the North Pole and back! The Santa Letter-writing Program is an employee-led volunteer initiative with current and retired employees donating more than 226,000 hours of time. The program, a classroom tradition with teachers, encourages children to read, write letters, and learn about the mail system. For more information visit: <https://www.canadapost.ca/santa>. **Free**

New Year's Eve

Wednesday, December 31st at 8:00 pm. **New Year's Eve at Nathan Phillips Square.** Join the celebration and ring in the New Year on December 31st, 2014 with residents and visitors alike at Nathan Phillips Square. Skate on Toronto's famous ice rink to the sounds of a local DJ, enjoy live musical performances from top Toronto talent throughout the evening, and a spectacular fireworks presentation at midnight. Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West. For more info visit: <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=065545f426269410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnextchannel=750b7cc3b5e91410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>. **Free**



December 31 at 11:30 am. **New Year's at Noon.** Can't stay up till midnight to celebrate the beginning of the New Year? Celebrate at noon instead. Join us for the party where we'll celebrate like it's already 2015! 416 393-6240. Toronto Public Library, Fort York Branch, 190 Fort York Boulevard. **Free**

PARC and Parkdale Events

Saturday, December 6th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm **Parkdale Festive Season Celebration**

Come and join the Parkdale community members to celebrate the holiday season at the Festive Season Celebration held at the Parkdale Library. Light refreshments and performances will be available. This event is a collaborative project brought together by the Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services (KCCMS), Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA), Parkdale Community Information Centre (PCIC) and Parkdale Library. Please call: 416-393-7686 if you have any questions. Parkdale Public Library, 1303 Queen Street West. All Ages. **Free**

Friday, December 19th from 8:00 am - 9:00 pm or 10:00 pm. **Winter Solstice.** Come celebrate the shortest day and the longest night of the year with friends and community at PARC drop-in. Food, live music, gifts and more. PARC, 1499 Queen Street West. **Free**

Parties & Open Houses

Thursday, December 4th from 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm. **Holiday Open House at the Toronto**

Botanical Garden. Visit the TBG's annual Holiday Open House, presented in partnership with the Garden Club of Toronto, Milne House Garden Club and other tenants. The building will be decked out with holiday cheer and well-stocked with unique items to fulfill your holiday shopping needs. For more info contact Jenny Rhodenizer by email: communication@torontobotanicalgarden.ca or by phone: 416 397-1341. 777 Lawrence Avenue East (at Leslie). All Ages. **Free Admission**

Wednesday, December 24th at 1:00 pm, the centre will be open from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm. **Krasman**

Centre Holiday Luncheon. Krasman Centre, 10121 Yonge Street in Richmond Hill. For more info call: 905 780-0491. **Free**

Thursday, December 25th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. **Gerstein Centre Christmas Open**

House. We will have a turkey dinner and Christmas gifts. Everyone is welcome. 100 Charles Street East. **Free**

Thursday, December 25th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. **2014 Winter Season Open House.** The

Winter Season Open House is an annual Alcoholics Anonymous tradition in Toronto, where hundreds gather to enjoy a holiday meal, hot drinks, entertainment, and fellowship with AA and Al-Anon meetings throughout the day. All are welcome! AA members, friends and family are welcome to attend the event as guests and helpers if they wish. There is no time requirement to contribute or attend. Turkey, ham, sweets and coffee are offered in a communal setting for all to enjoy together starting at 11:00 am. Volunteers are needed December 24th and 25th. To volunteer or for more info contact Simon W or Laura K by email: winter@aatoronto.org or call: 647 678-9743. Emmanuel Howard Park United Church, 214 Wright Avenue, Northwest corner of Roncesvalles and Wright Avenue. **Free**



Skating

City of Toronto Skating Rinks. **The City of Toronto has 50+ outdoor skating rinks!** So lace up those skates, pull out the woolies and grab the hot cocoa. Grab your skates, hit the ice and spend some time with your family and friends. It's a great time of year to enjoy the great outdoors at one of the City's many outdoor skating rinks. There are 52 City of Toronto outdoor rinks, with 51 open for this year's season. General hours of operation for the City's outdoor rinks are 9:00 am - 10:00 pm, seven days a week. Hours vary at each location so to help plan for your skating visit, visit the website: <http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=fe20dada600f0410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD> or call 311. Wondering if your rink is closed after a big storm? Following a storm, it may take time to remove the snow and resurface the ice. Call 311 and ask for the status information for your local rink. **Free**



The Natrel Rink is now open. **Natrel Rink opens for Winter 2014.** Tucked away behind the Bill Boyle Arptop and set against the beautiful shoreline of Lake Ontario, the city's most scenic rink awaits. The Natrel Rink has been an unparalleled skating destination in Toronto for 30 years. It has a heated indoor change room with lockers and washrooms. Regular rink hours are Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 11:00 pm, Sunday to Thursday 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. For more info call: 416 973-4000 or visit: www.harbourfrontcentre.com/venues/natrelrink/. 235 Queens Quay West. All Ages. **Free**

Every Tuesday in December starting with December 2nd from 9:00 am - 11:30 am. **Adult Skating.** Adults are invited to come out every Tuesday morning for pleasure skating. Must have your own skates. There will be music. Meet new friends and get some exercise. For more info phone: 416 241-0502. Weston Recreation Arena, 2125 Lawrence Avenue West. Adults. **Free**



Saturday, December 20th from 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm. **1 Love T.O. Holiday Skating Party.** An annual tradition, the 1LoveTO Holiday Skating Party always brings the brightest smiles to the faces of our skaters. DJs Dlux and Lissa Monet bring their fresh sounds to the rink as the 1LoveTO crew hosts their very popular holiday skate party. Celebrate knowledge, culture, identity, love and life at the with DJ Dlux and Lissa Monet at Harbourfront Centre's Natrel Rink during Winterfest on Toronto's Waterfront presented by the Toronto Port Authority. 1 Love T.O. is a movement that bridges the gaps between cultures, neighbourhoods, interests and generations. For more information visit: www.harbourfrontcentre.com. Harbourfront Centre - Natrel Rink, 235 Queens Quay West. **Free**

Wednesday, December 24th from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. **Skate with Santa this Christmas Eve at Shops at Don Mills.** What better way to spend Christmas Eve than a brisk skate with Santa around the outdoor rink with Santa at Shops at Don Mills! Visit www.shopsatdonmills.ca for updates on when the rink will be open. For additional info, please visit: www.shopsatdonmills.ca or call: 416 447-6087 ext. 244. Shops at Don Mills, 1090 Don Mills Road. All Ages. **Free**

Tree Lighting Ceremonies and Community Lights



Saturday, December 6th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. **Old Town Toronto**

Cavalcade of Lights. Join us in Berczy Park for the lighting of our snowflake tree and then head over to St. James Park for the lighting of the gazebo from 6:45 -7:30 pm. Our 1812 carolers will be back again to entertain the crowds at each park and we will also be giving away free hot chocolate and hot apple cider while supplies last. 35 Wellington Street East. **Free**

Monday, December 1st from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. **Tree Lighting Ceremony.**

Join us for our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The tree will be lit, and then we will come indoors and enjoy some fantastic entertainment and refreshments sponsored by the Thistletown Lions Club. For more info contact: Kerrie McAlister by email: kmcalist@toronto.ca or by phone: 416 394-8717. Thistletown Community Centre, 925 Albion Road. All Ages. **Free**

Saturday, November 29th at 7:00 pm. **Celebration of the 48th annual Cavalcade of Lights.** Featuring the

illumination of Toronto's official Christmas tree, performances by top Canadian talent, a brilliant fireworks presentation and a DJ skating party at Nathan Phillips Square, the free event is a holiday tradition in Toronto. Food trucks will be available on Bay St. at this year's event. For more info visit:

http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnnextoid=750b7cc3b5e91410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&WT.mc_id=COL-2014-11-web-TorontoDOTcom. Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen Street West. **Free**



Friday, December 5th from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. **The Lincoln: West End Lights.** One night a year when ordinary people do something quite extraordinary. Join us December 5, 2014 for evening illuminations throughout the city where community members will light up their homes & businesses with lanterns, turn windows into cinema screens & set our neighbourhoods aglow. Delight & amaze unsuspecting passersby this holiday season. Engage your friends, families, neighbours & children in helping to create a unique gift to share with your community. No strings attached. No Experience Necessary. Let's Glow! Melissa Fawcett Phone: 6479260947 Website: <http://www.thelincoln.ca> Email: westendlights@thelincoln.ca. Placebo Space, 2877 Lakeshore Blvd West. All Ages. **Free**

Workshops

Thursday, December 4th from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm. **Winter Preparedness.** Beat ole' man winter this season by being prepared! Join Susie Cho, from Toronto Hydro's Home Assistance Program, in this workshop on power outages, energy conservation and winter emergency preparedness. Learn about the free Home Assistance Program and how to lower your energy bills. To register please call: 416 394-1006. For more info contact James Murchison by email: jmurchison@torontopubliclibrary.ca or by phone: 416 394-1057. Evelyn Gregory Library, 120 Trowell Avenue. Adults. **Free**



Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th, Saturday, December 20th and Sunday, December 21st, from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. **Meet a Real Dog Sledding Team.**

Sledding Team. This is your chance to meet and have your picture taken with a real dog sledding team during Winterfest on Toronto's Waterfront! Visitors will be able to have a quick 'pat and chat' with Tanya Hawley and her authentic sled dogs and see various items used in dog sledding! Visit: www.pawsway.ca for more details. Purina Pawsway, 245 Queens Quay West, Outdoor Front Patio. **Free**





The C/S Info Centre would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

To subscribe to The Bulletin call the Consumer/Survivor Information Resource Centre of Toronto at: 416 595-2882 or email us at: csinfo@camh.ca.

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Your Bulletin Team, **Helen, Cassandra and Arlene**.