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## Scale back, Enjoy Christmas it's about Peace

By *Chris Urquhart*  
Christmas is just on the horizon and often we start worrying about making this year the "Perfect holiday". Perfect holiday? Forget about it! Christmas is supposed to be about peace. Adding extensive preparations, such as shopping, baking and entertaining, to your usual daily demands can take the joy out of the holidays. Instead, consider scaling back.  
Focus on the holiday traditions you enjoy most and skip the rest. Accept imperfections. Mom and Grandma baking special cookies, such as Perishki and in yourself and in others. Embrace the holiday season with peace and good cheer.  
Think back to when you were a child. Christmas was much simpler then. I remember making some hot chocolate for one thermos and coffee for the other and off we'd go in Dad's old mercury to cut down our Christmas tree. We'd wade through deep snow trying to find "just the right one" and usually ended up with one that could be put with "the bad side" against the wall! We'd sit in the car once the tree was tied on and drink our hot drinks and then, singing Christmas carols, head on back home.  
The tree always had to sit for a couple of days to "dry off" and in the meantime we'd dig out the other decorations and start putting them up. Candles on the window sills, garlands hung around the mantle, the village set up with lights in most of the houses and Santa flying overhead.  
Grandma or Dad would play Christmas music on the piano and we'd sing along. Stockings were hung and on Christmas morning we were thrilled to find some candy and maybe a small apple or an orange along with a hand made - I remember one year Mom made my Dad a shirt and me a dress out of the same material. Anything we'd come into the room where she sewed she'd say it was the other's gift.  
Lots of laughter on Christmas morning that year! So this year, take a deep breath and scale down on what you are buying and decorating. Sometimes less really is more, and it sure is "more" fun to have Christmas this year!



The December 2nd Parrsboro Christmas Parade drew a great crowd and many hands put many hours into one of the finest parades in the town's history. Some children might have gotten confused, but this Santa was more real than the one in NS Power's boom bucket. See the boom bucket photo and many more from the parade on page 2. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



**Fundy Geological Museum Community Christmas Sale**  
DECEMBER 2, 2017  
This table was full as the Community Christmas Sale got underway at the Fundy Geological Museum on December 2nd. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



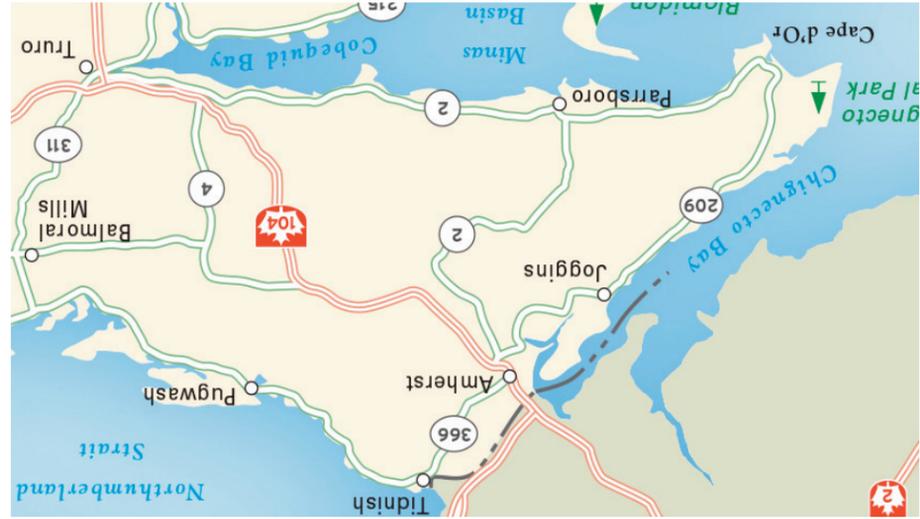
Is there a ring small enough to fit this young shopper. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)



Wearing his traditional smile, landscaper photographer, Lawrence R. Nicoll displays a small sample of his large inventory of local photographs, which are available in a variety of ways. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

## Could Nova Scotia Become an Island?

By *Maurice Rees*  
Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have submitted an application to the Trade Corridor Fund to study the vulnerability of the possible effects of rising sea levels on the Chignecto Isthmus to ensure Nova Scotia does not become an island. Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester has met with Transport Minister Marc Garneau concerning the matter.  
\$50-Million of freight passes over the Isthmus by road and rail on an average day. Along with the Trade Corridor Fund, Transport Canada, has received a joint application from the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for funding to support a \$1M project to study improvements to dikes, engineering new dikes and routing of the Trans Canada Highway. Up to \$350,000 of the cost could be covered by the Fund.  
"The proposal has cleared the first hurdle," says area MP Bill Casey. "We should hear in early 2018 whether the proposal will be funded, but I would say there isn't another trade corridor in the country facing as imminent a threat from climate change as the Chignecto Isthmus is today."  
The Col. J. Layton Kailston Armory in Amherst, NS has been nominated as one of the 2018 "Top 10 Endangered Places." The nomination to Local—the magazine of the National Trust for Canada. The nomination was confirmed by Bill Casey, MP for Cumberland-Colchester. The magazine annually lists examples of heritage structures at risk of continued neglect, deterioration and destruction. 2017's list included a beautiful cathedral in Rimouski, QC, a second World War aerodrome in Edmonton, AB and the streetscape of Young Avenue, Halifax, NS. In 2017, Truro's First



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**TOP 10 Endangered Places**  
By *Maurice Rees*  
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**continued on page 3**