

NEIGHBOURS *of* Stonewall

DECEMBER 2025

# Home for Christmas

A season to celebrate family,  
traditions and the meaning of home

Meet The  
**Stonewall Kinsmen & Kinettes**



**Featuring: “A Year of Home”** – 12 heartfelt reflections from our community + family traditions, recipes, pet tips & more!



# The Stonewall Kinsmen & Kinettes



For generations, the Stonewall Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs have embodied what it truly means to serve your community. Now celebrating 78 years since receiving their charter in 1947, the Clubs stand proudly as pillars of local support, leadership, and hometown spirit. Founded on values of volunteerism, compassion, and pride in where we live, these community service clubs have been quietly shaping Stonewall since the mid-1950s—creating lasting spaces, supporting families in need, and leading projects that continue to bring people together. Their mission is simple yet powerful: “Serving the community’s greatest needs.” But in Stonewall, they’ve done much more than that—they’ve helped build the very places where memories are made.

One of their most visible and enduring contributions came in 1956, when the Stonewall Kinsmen transformed part of the historic quarry into what we now know as Kinsmen Lake. When it officially opened on August 10, 1956, it became a gathering place for families to swim, picnic, and enjoy summer sunsets—a tradition that lives on today. More recently, the Kinsmen and Kinettes gifted the Kinsmen Splash Pad at Quarry Park, creating another space where laughter, community, and childhood joy come to life. Their generosity also extends to essential services, including funding medical equipment for the Stonewall Hospital, supporting the local food bank, and contributing to vital community initiatives.

Their fundraising efforts are not just events—they are traditions. From the annual Christmas Tree Sale, which fuels projects for the following year, to the Smile Cookie Campaign, Feed the Need food drives, and the beloved Breakfast with Santa for children (December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Legion), each initiative reflects the kindness and commitment of volunteers who believe that everyone deserves support, especially during the holidays. Whether it’s helping fill empty plates, providing warmth through winter, or creating safe spaces for children to play, the Kinsmen and Kinettes continue to lead with heart.

This holiday season, as we gather at home and celebrate the meaning of community, we are reminded that Stonewall is made stronger by people who show up for others. To the Kinsmen and Kinettes—thank you for your 78 years of dedication, your decades of service, and for helping make Stonewall not just a town, but a place where everyone truly belongs.

**Interested in being part of a community group that makes a real impact? The Kinsmen & Kinettes are always welcoming new members—reach out if you’d like to get involved:**  
**[info@stonewallkin.com](mailto:info@stonewallkin.com)**



# A Year of Home

## What Home Meant to Us in 2025

### Xmas Eve

#### Note

Every year my family gathers at Mom's to watch old movies and make cookies. We laugh, we cry and we never want it to end.

-Sarah, Stonewall

### January

#### Fresh Starts

Every morning my husband starts the coffee before I even wake up. I walk into the kitchen and it already smells like home.

-Carol, Stonewall

### February

#### The School Bus Stop

I walk my kids down the driveway every morning to catch the bus. I always stop to think - this is what home is.

-Kim, Balmoral

### March

#### Where The Boots Line Up

When my grandkids come over, they kick off their boots and run inside yelling "Gramma" -The floor's wet, the rug is a mess, but it's home.

-Nancy, Stony Mountain

### April

#### Planting Hope

Every spring I plant flowers by the front steps, just like my mom did. It's my way of saying, "We made it through another winter - this is still home."

-Linda, Argyle

### May

#### Sundays

The house is quiet, coffee brewing, and the sun hits the kitchen table just right. That moment before the day begins - that's when I feel most at home.

- David, Grosse Isle

### June

#### Porch Nights

There's magic in sitting on the porch watching the sunset, feeling the day wind down. My kids think I'm just wasting my time, but it's worth it to me.

-Mary, Warren

### July

#### Bonfires

All the kids and grandkids gather around the fire, sticky fingers from roasting marshmallows. The laughter echoes into the trees - this is where our story lives.

- Elaine, Rockwood

### August

#### Holding on to Someday

The windows open, fan humming, the smell of our grass-that's home to me. Nothing fancy, just the comfort in the small things.

-Barry, Stonewall

### September

#### Love Grows

My wife and I planted lilacs when we bought this place 35 years ago. They still bloom every year - a reminder that love, like gardens, grows if you care for it.

-Denise, Woodlands

### October

#### Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving isn't about food, it's about the stories. Every year Grandma tells the same ones, but we pretend it's the first time we've heard them.

-Joel, Stony Mountain

### November

#### Coming Home to Help

When my dad got sick I moved back home for a while. I thought I was there to take care of him, but he ended up taking care of me!

-Morgan, Stonewall

*Shared by our readers - stories that remind us what truly matters this season*

# Community Events and Holiday Cheer

## December Events

-  DEC. 1 – **Stonewall Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
Veteran's Memorial Park
-  DEC. 1 – **Kinsmen Christmas Tree Lot Opens**  
Stonewall Home Hardware
-  DEC. 2 – **Quarry Choristers Christmas Concert**  
7pm - Argyle Community Centre
-  DEC. 5 – **Santa Claus Parade**  
7pm - Main Street, Stonewall
-  DEC. 6 – **Kinsmen Breakfast with Santa**  
8am to Noon - Stonewall Legion
-  DEC. 6 – **A Very Merry Winfield Christmas**  
5:30pm to 8:30pm - 8086 Winfield Road, Stonewall
-  DEC. 6 – **Sonic the Hedgehog 3 - Free Movie Showing**  
3:30pm - The Flicks Cinema, Stonewall
-  DEC. 6 – **Christmas Bazaar**  
9 Main Street, Stony Mountain
-  DEC. 6 – **Brant-Argyle Christmas Market**  
10am to 3pm - Argyle Community Hall
-  DEC. 9 – **Balmoral Christmas Market**  
Balmoral Hall
-  DEC. 10 – **Warren Craft & Bake Sale**  
Warren Memorial Hall
-  DEC. 13 – **Ride for Rob**  
7:00pm - Stony Mountain



# Traditions That Warm the Heart

Every family celebrates the holidays in its own special way — baking cookies with Grandma, stringing lights in the snow, or gathering for one more photo by the tree. These are the moments that turn houses into homes and memories into stories worth keeping.

## The First Ornament

Each year the Bennett family adds one new ornament that tells the story of their year — a tiny camper for summer road trips, a puppy for their newest four-legged addition.

## Midnight Cocoa

For the Robinsons, Christmas Eve isn't complete without cocoa on the porch — blankets, laughter, and the quiet sparkle of snow.

## Grandpa's Train Set

The Larsens still circle the tree with the same electric train Grandpa bought in 1952 — a gentle reminder that the best traditions never grow old.



Merry Christmas





# Where Memories Live On

“Home isn’t a place — it’s the feeling you carry with you.”

Our homes hold more than furniture — they hold the laughter, milestones, and quiet moments that shape our lives. As families grow and move through new chapters, these memories come with us — in every ornament, recipe, and photograph that reminds us where we began.

Whether it’s a well-loved farmhouse or a cozy town bungalow, every home in our community has a story. Thank you for sharing yours with us this year.



**Share your holiday tradition!**

Tag @McKillopTeam or use  
#HomeForChristmas to be  
featured in our January issue.



# A Pet for Christmas?

## The Gift That Lasts a Lifetime



It's tempting to surprise someone special with a pet during the holidays — those wagging tails and wide eyes melt hearts in an instant. But adopting an animal is more than a holiday moment — it's a lifetime commitment.

Before bringing a furry friend home, consider the time, training, and love they'll need long after the wrapping paper is gone. Pets thrive on stability and care, and they quickly become family members who depend on us every single day.

When the excitement fades and routines return, it's those moments of loyalty, companionship, and unconditional love that make the decision worthwhile.

“Pets bring joy, laughter, and loyalty — but they also deserve a lifetime of love.”

---

### ***Before You Adopt:***

- Do you have time every day for walks, play, and care?
- Can you afford food, vet visits, and grooming?
- Are you ready to commit for 10–15 years?
- Is your home environment safe and suitable?

# From Our Kitchen to Yours

## Family Favourites for the Holidays



### Gingerbread Cookies

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup brown sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup molasses
- 1 tbsp ginger, 1 tsp cinnamon,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp cloves
- 1 tsp baking soda

#### Directions

Mix dry ingredients, stir in wet, chill dough for 30 minutes, roll and cut into shapes, bake at 350°F for 8–10 minutes.



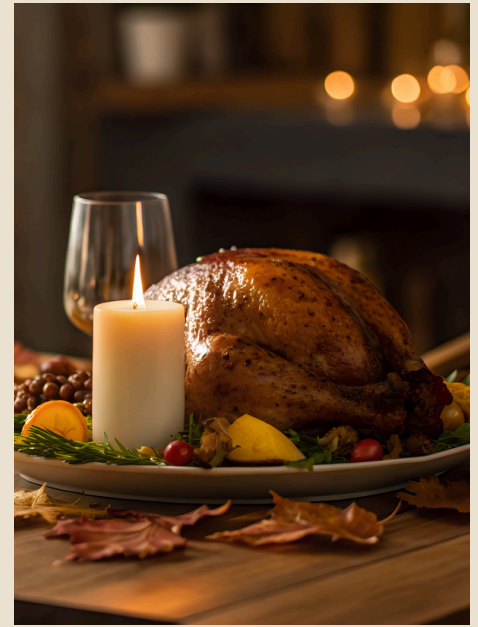
### Mulled Wine

#### Ingredients

- 1 bottle red wine
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup honey or sugar
- 1 orange (sliced)
- 4 cloves, 2 cinnamon sticks, star anise

#### Directions

Combine in a pot, simmer gently for 15–20 minutes (do not boil). Serve warm with orange slices.



### Classic Roast Turkey

#### Ingredients

- 1 whole turkey (10–12 lbs)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter
- Salt, pepper, herbs
- 1 onion + 1 lemon (quartered)

#### Directions

Rub butter under the skin, season generously, stuff cavity, roast at 325°F for 3–4 hours or until internal temp reaches 165°F. Let rest before carving.



# From Our Kitchen to Yours

## Family Favourites for the Holidays



### Shortbread

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- ½ cup icing sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ tsp vanilla extract (optional)

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 325°F (160°C).
2. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
3. Sift in flour and cornstarch; mix until dough forms.
4. Press dough into an ungreased 8x8-inch pan or roll out and cut into shapes.
5. Prick tops with a fork and bake for 20–25 minutes, or until edges are pale golden.
6. Cool slightly before cutting into squares.



### Apple Crisp

#### Ingredients

- 6 cups sliced apples (about 5–6 medium)
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

#### Topping

- ¾ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ⅓ cup butter, melted

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C).
2. Combine filling ingredients in a bowl and pour into a greased 8x8-inch baking dish.
3. Mix topping ingredients and sprinkle evenly over apples.
4. Bake 35–40 minutes until topping is golden and filling is bubbling.
5. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

# Comfort Dishes

## and Breakfast Favourites



### Classic Roast Beef

#### Ingredients

- 1 (4–5 lb) beef roast (sirloin tip or rib roast)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp dried thyme

#### Instructions

1. Let roast sit at room temperature for 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 450°F (230°C).
2. Rub roast with olive oil and season with salt, pepper, garlic, and thyme.
3. Place roast fat-side up on a rack in a roasting pan.
4. Roast 15 minutes at 450°F, then reduce to 325°F and continue cooking 1½–2 hours (until internal temp is 135°F for medium rare).
5. Rest 15 minutes before slicing.



### Breakfast Bake

#### Ingredients

- 6 cups day-old bread cubes
- 1 lb breakfast sausage or cooked ham, chopped
- 1½ cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 cups milk
- 5 eggs
- ½ tsp salt, ¼ tsp pepper
- 2 green onions, sliced

#### Instructions

1. Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish. Layer bread, sausage, and cheese.
2. Whisk milk, eggs, salt, and pepper. Pour evenly over mixture.
3. Sprinkle with green onions.
4. Cover and refrigerate overnight (optional).
5. Bake uncovered at 350°F (175°C) for 40–45 minutes until golden and set in the centre.

**Share Your Recipe!**

Send us your family favourite to feature in our next issue! ✉ [susan@mckillop.ca](mailto:susan@mckillop.ca)





# From Our Family to Yours

## Reflecting on a Full and Grateful Year

As another busy year comes to a close, we've had a chance to look back at everything that's happened — and to feel incredibly thankful.

Real estate kept us on our toes in 2025, with a fast-moving market, wonderful clients, and many homes changing hands across Stonewall and the Interlake. It's been a year of new beginnings for so many families, and we're grateful to have played a small part in their stories.

At the same time, this year brought change within our own office as we said goodbye to a wonderful administrator and friend whose support meant so much to all of us. Adjusting wasn't easy, but it reminded us of how much heart goes into every part of our business.

On a personal note, there were plenty of projects off the clock too — including a house renovation that took more hours (and patience!) than planned, and time spent focusing on health and physio. Somehow, between showings and sawdust, we made it through!

Now, as the holidays approach, Stonewall is sparkling once again with the Festival of Lights — and, as always, Brandt is proudly helping coordinate the Manitoba Hydro Santa Claus Parade, the Selkirk Christmas Parade and Stonewall's Festival of Lights Santa Claus Parade. It's a tradition that reminds us how community spirit truly lights up the season.

To everyone who has supported us, worked with us, and shared their homes and stories this year — thank you. From our family to yours, we wish you a joyful Christmas filled with peace, good health, and the simple warmth of being home. ❤️

-Brandt, Susan,  
Matt & Alycia



A photograph of a sunset over a field of bare trees. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the center of the sky, casting a warm, golden light across the scene. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are several bare trees with intricate branch structures, silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

# Looking Ahead to 2026

## Hope, Heart & Home

As we turn the page on another year, we're reminded that every ending is also a beginning.

The past twelve months have brought lessons, laughter, challenges, and change — both in business and in life. Through it all, the constant has been the incredible people who make our community what it is.

We're proud to call Stonewall and the Interlake home. This is where memories are made, friendships are built, and families find their place. In 2026, our goal is simple: to keep helping people move forward — whether that means buying their first home, finding a little more space, or discovering a simpler way of life.

Here's to good health, new adventures, and a year filled with kindness, connection, and possibility. Together, let's make 2026 a year to remember.

**With heartfelt thanks,**

The McKillop Team

RE/MAX Town & Country

**For All the Things That Move You**