

# CHRISTMAS HERALD

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1. It is always very difficult not to make some comment about politics in Alberta. The governing party assures that with its many decisions.

Gone are the days of tabulator ballot counting during municipal elections, resulting in millions of dollars of additional costs to cities and towns. The latest is the insult to the famous beef industry in Alberta. The province has decided to further limit the use of the "cash cow" as photo radar is known here. As a taxpayer, I love the milk of this cow.

2. Mary and Ed's winter getaway in 2024 was a trip to California and a 3 week stay at the Marriott Newport Coast Villas in Newport Beach, just south of Los Angeles. They were very pleased to have Ed's sister, Carol, accompany them. They made the trip by car, spending 4 days in Las Vegas, on the strip located Jockey Club. Mary's knee was bothering her, so she got in some gambling, while Carol and Ed did the touristy things, including a visit to the Hover Dam. Our accommodations at Newport Beach were super. Traffic on the other hand was generally horrific. Among our trips around the area were visits to San Juan Capistrano and Temecula. The resort had several swimming pools and a well-equipped gym. Many relaxing days were spent at the pools. Card games and on-line Mexican Train filled many evenings.

Kelly and Jeff continue to enjoy their vacation trailer near Lake Koocanusa, BC. and boating on the Lake. Mary, Ed, Jenn and Barb were able to rent a fantastic cabin in the area for 5 days enjoying visits with Jeff, Kelly, Noelle and Caleb and accompanying them on

their boat. In late September, early October, they made a wonderful trip to Italy. They flew to Paris and then motored to Italy where they visited many sites in the northern part of the country.

Greg and Julie kept close to home tending the needs of their dear Emily.

3. We all managed to keep relatively healthy in 2024. Mary continues to have back and knee issues. She is scheduled for right knee surgery on January 16. Ed continues to have monthly bladder treatments to keep any cancer at bay. He did get hearing aids early in January. The jury is still out on their effectiveness. However, one thing can be said for them – they have become very expensive Bluetooth ear buds. Jennifer continues to suffer migraines. Parenthood for Greg and Julie has been challenging. Emily began play school in September and has brought home a variety of bugs which were passed onto Greg and Julie. On top of these illnesses Greg had to have his appendix removed.

4. The educational highlight of the year was the Noelle's convocation with a Bachelor of Music degree with distinction. She had the honour of leading the singing of O Canada at her own convocation and every other spring convocation at the University of Lethbridge. She is now enrolled there in a 2-year Master of Music program. Caleb is enrolled in a Journalism program at Mount Royal University, here in Calgary. Emily is enrolled at Landgon's Tiny Petal Academy in their Reggio Program. She is very happy going there.



5. There have been few changes in employment situations in 2024. The only exception was Greg. After about 11 years at Rev Engineering, he was head hunted by a

competitor, Sable. He welcomed the opportunity to switch employers because he was not happy with the direction his former employer was taking. A significant bump in salary and enhanced benefits, also contributed to making the switch easier.

Julie has returned to her IT job with Alberta Health Services, after an extended maternity leave. Jenn and Barb didn't change jobs but are now officially working in a newly formed Alberta Government Department known as Mental Health and Addiction, following the splitting up of Alberta Health Services into four separate organizations. Kelly is back at her Blood Services Clinic, after successfully leading and introducing an organizational work standardization project.

6. Mary continues her role as Treasurer of the Holy Spirit Charitable Society. It held a successful Casino in June and raised over \$80,000, to distribute to 17 charitable organization. Again, this year, Mary and Ed were hard at work all summer and early fall making preserves and some 310 pounds of Christmas Cake to sell at the CWL Christmas Craft Sale and through her maryspreserves website and give away. Ed is still a member of the Holy Spirit Funeral Choir. He continues his involvement with the parish hamper program. Mary and Ed's 2024 garden did reasonably well, with a wonderful crop of raspberries and a good crop of Evans cherries. Mary continues to knit baby hats. She enjoyed a good golf season in 2024. Ed got new toys this year, a fancier new 3d printer and a new semi commercial CNC router. Jenn remains a serious gardener. Her green house again yielded a good supply of vegetables, tomatoes, yellow and green beans, and more summer and winter squash.

From the Kuntz family, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025.

7. [www.chickeringregistry.ca](http://www.chickeringregistry.ca)  
[www.phiapiaaria.ca](http://www.phiapiaaria.ca)  
[www.kuntzfamily.ca](http://www.kuntzfamily.ca)  
[maryspreserves.kuntzfamily.ca](http://maryspreserves.kuntzfamily.ca)  
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