

MEDALLION

VIEW



As the countdown of days until Christmas, Kwanza and Chanukah heads into the single digits, the holiday spirit is all around us. Gifts are being secreted away, calendars are getting filled with gatherings and there's an unmistakable scent of pine boughs and baking in the air. It's almost time to welcome a brand-new year. Before you bid adieu to 2022, take a moment to notice everything that brings you joy. May you find yourself surrounded by all of it in 2023!

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Safety tips to keep the ho-ho-ho in the holidays.

It can be easy to get carried away by the excitement of the festive season. After all, there's all that present-buying and decorating to get done! Here are a couple of reminders of easy ways to stay safe.

AT HOME

- Don't overload plugs or extension cords
- Never leave lit candles unattended —especially near children or pets
- Don't let strangers into the building, ask them to call to be let in

OUT & ABOUT

- Drive and walk carefully, watching for black ice
- Put your phone away and be aware in parking lots
- Use booties to protect your dog's feet from the sting of sidewalk salt
- Tuck valuables and gifts out of sight in your car

3 ways to turn hot chocolate into “haute” chocolate

Hot cocoa and winter just seem to go hand in hand. But who says you can't jazz up an old favourite? These three yummy recipes use ingredients you likely already have in your cupboard.

Mmminty Hot Chocolate

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- pinch of salt
- 1/3 cup hot water
- 3 cups milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp peppermint extract

Mix sugar, cocoa and salt in a pan. Add water and mix until dissolved. Bring to a boil and stir for about 2 minutes. Add milk, vanilla and peppermint, simmer for 1 minute, and then enjoy!

Nutella Hot Chocolate

- 4 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons Nutella
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons sugar

Heat milk in a medium-sized saucepan on medium-high until beginning to steam. Whisk in cocoa powder and sugar until dissolved. Simmer gently for a minute. Before serving, garnish with marshmallows, hazelnuts or drizzle with even more Nutella!

Matcha Hot Chocolate

- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup chopped white chocolate
- 1 tablespoon matcha
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon salt

Bring milk to a simmer over medium-low heat in a saucepan. honey and salt until well combined. Garnish with marshmallows.



Oh, what fun!

Why stay inside when there are all kinds of fun things to do in Ontario this winter? Here are our top three picks.

Santa's Village, Bracebridge

Got little ones? [Santa's Village](#) has 60 acres of fun, nestled along the Muskoka River. SantaFest is on until December 24 with activities like visits in Santa's cottage, story time with Mrs Claus, rides on The Candy Cane Express train, letter writing to Santa, colourful characters, a Christmas market, a dazzling one million light display throughout the village and so much more. Dress warmly and get ready for a magical time!



Arrowhead Skating Trail, Algonquin Park

Glide on a breathtaking [1.3km skating trail](#) through the stunning Muskoka forest, surrounded by snow-covered evergreens. Once the sun sets, Fire & Ice takes over: the trail becomes even more enchanting beneath the light of hundreds of tiki torches. Named among the world's top natural skating rinks by Travel + Leisure, the trail gets busy on weekends, so a midweek skate may be a better option. Be sure to book your vehicle permit in advance.



Winter Festival of Lights, Niagara Falls

Every winter, the region of Niagara Falls transforms into a free, [dazzling outdoor light festival](#), thanks to millions of twinkling lights. Wander through more than 50 larger-than-life displays, a 60-foot light tunnel, an enchanted castle and more – the celebration spans the Niagara Parkway, Dufferin Islands, Fallsview Boulevard, Lundy's Lane and downtown Niagara Falls. The majestic falls stay brightly illuminated between 4:20 pm and 2:00 am. The festival runs until Feb. 20, 2023.



Petiquette, please.

When the weather outside turns frightful, walking your furry friend can turn less-than-delightful. If your walk keeps you close to the building, please remember to stoop and scoop. As much as we love all our residents' pets, we don't want to see reminders of them around our building entrances until spring.



Why you shouldn't store car tires on your balcony.

By now you've likely switched over to winter tires — and hopefully saved on your auto insurance in the process. If you stored your summer tires outdoors, you'll want to re-think that. Instead, use the indoor storage. Even when covered, tires stored outside are exposed to environmental changes that can cause cracking. Instead, use the indoor storage in your building, or see if your garage stores tires for a nominal fee. Another tip: tires on rims should be hung or stacked; tires without rims should be stored standing up.



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