



Dear Sisters and Brothers

Think back to when you were a child. Did you look forward to the holiday season with all the lights and treats that our Christmas in Canada is? What was your favourite Christmas song? What did you like to participate in with your family? Going to get the perfect tree? I have a favourite Christmas question that my nine-year-old granddaughter finally understood this year. The question is, can you name Santa's 10 reindeer? Can you?

As adults we have lost much of the magic of Christmas unless we have little children to make the effort for. As well each family situation and tradition are different. Christmas changes with births and deaths, moving across the country, marriages and divorces and other life changing events such as illness. I know you all adapt to changes well and you will make this the best Christmas you can given circumstances. As much as I did not want to mention COVID-19 we all know it will possibly change this years Christmas with fewer, smaller gatherings.

So perhaps this is a good year to scale back and remember the reason we celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ. Maybe the perfect gift this year is time. Time taken to call family, friends, and neighbours to let them know you are thinking of them and what they mean to you. Decorate the outside of your home to share in the season. Go for drives to see the lights in your neighbourhood. Enjoy the snowfall. Enjoy the glow of a candle. Enjoy the carols. Enjoy a hot chocolate. As the Grinch found out maybe "Christmas didn't come from a store" "Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."

Be kind to each other. Try to be a positive influence in everything you do. Always look to the Star in the East. Oh yes, Santa's 10 reindeer.... Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, Rudolph, and Olive.... Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names. My granddaughter still loves me after that groaner.

Wishing you all the best for this holiday season. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

Merry Christmas,

*Susan MacArthur*

Worthy Grand Matron



*Hector van Vierssen Trip*

Worthy Grand Patron