

The annual Christmas concert at Trinity United Church saw a full house of delighted townspeople out for an evening of excellent music. The selections, ranging from traditional favourites to pieces new to this audience, fit the concert's title – Spirit of Advent. Harrowsmith's St. Paul's United choir members joined the Trinity choir under the direction of Annabelle Twiddy, and what a sound they created – rich and harmonious in every way. Flutists Anne Archer and Debbie Twiddy opened the evening with intricate arrangements of seasonal music. "This is my first time at this concert," said the woman next to me, "I will definitely be back next year!" We are fortunate indeed to have such a wealth of musical talent in this community and to have a community who supports it with their presence.

And speaking of a wealth of talent, the Land O'Lakes Artisans' Guild displayed an amazing richness of art of all kinds. From delicate miniature pottery pieces to fine silk weaving to whimsical paintings and carvings, their show was a treasure, and the Lions luncheon was a hit with hungry shoppers and vendors alike. Let's hope this becomes a tradition in the village. If you are looking for a special gift at any time of year, check out their website and visit a local artist. <http://www.landolakesartisans.org/> You'll be amazed at the number of remarkable artisans who live nearby.

You can also check out the Farmers Market. This Saturday is your last chance until February or March to head to the Lions Hall for Brenda's rabbit, Joyce's pies, Debbie's chemical free shampoos and washes, Renate's pork or spaetzle, or any of the many other vendors' offerings. After this weekend, the market takes a well-deserved break till late winter, so scoot over there to stock up. Take along some non perishables and/or a new, unwrapped toy for their collection, which will go to Rural VISIONS.

While the market is on break, the Lions will switch into high gear in their huge renovation project. The hall will be closed through December, January and much of February while heating and cooling systems are installed, walls are moved, and kitchens are renovated. Just wait till you see the difference! Much of the project is made possible through large grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

For months now the Verona Lions have been gathering up their used print cartridges to raise money for the Dog Guide programme, which provides dogs for sight and hearing impaired people (as well as for a number of other unusual ailments). You can help the program by passing your own used cartridges to a Lion member – or better yet, join the club and bring them yourself!

Condolences go to Linda Ashley and Mervin Ruttan and their families on the death of their son Steven Ruttan.