

PORT PERRY PLACE



Celebrating February

Time Management Month

Black History Month

Pancake Week

February 17–23

Groundhog Day

February 2

Black History Celebration with Deidre

February 6

Entertainment with Bill

February 8

Galentine's Day

February 13

Valentine's Day/ Entertainment with Yvette

February 14

Fashion Show with Adele

February 20

Cheers with Terry

February 27



Goody Goody Gumdrops!

February is a sweet month for candy lovers, with both Bubble Gum Day and Gumdrops Day celebrated within weeks of each other. Bubble Gum Day falls on the first Friday of February, while Gumdrops Day is February 15. Both holidays highlight the history and fun behind these popular treats.

Bubble gum has a surprisingly long history, dating back to ancient peoples who chewed natural substances like tree resin. Modern bubble gum, however, was invented in 1928 by Walter Diemer, a young accountant at the Fleece Corporation. Diemer accidentally created a formula for gum that wasn't too sticky and could stretch—perfect for blowing bubbles. It was famously pink because that was the only dye available at the time. Bubble gum became an instant hit, and today, Americans chew an average of 100 pieces each year.

Gumdrops, on the other hand, have been around since at least the 19th century. These chewy, colorful candies are often used to decorate cakes and gingerbread houses. While their exact origin is debated, the gumdrop's sugary coating and fruity flavors have made them a long-standing favorite. The candy was so beloved that a NASA spacecraft was even named *Gumdrop* in the 1960s.

Both gum and gumdrops have made their mark in popular culture and candy aisles for decades. Bubble gum is often linked with childhood, and gumdrops remain part of festive traditions. Furthermore, gumdrops paved the way for other popular gummy candies like gummy bears and gummy worms. Interestingly, while we celebrate these sugary delights, February is also Gum Disease Awareness Month, a reminder to enjoy sweets in moderation and prioritize dental care.

These candy-themed holidays offer a chance to indulge, reminisce, and enjoy the playful nature of bubble gum and gumdrops. Whether you prefer blowing bubbles or savoring a sugary gumdrop, February is full of reasons to celebrate these nostalgic treats.

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Who is Cupid?

When we think of Valentine's Day, visions of pink hearts, red roses, and one arrow-firing, diaper-clad chubby cherub instantly come to mind. But who is Cupid and how did he become the matchmaker mascot of February 14? Well, his roots are actually in mythology!

In Greek mythology, Cupid is the Greek god of love named Eros. As for his origins, just like with many gods, those accounts vary. In some early stories, Eros is believed to be the son of Chaos or Nyx. Later versions of the mythology claim he is the son of Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty—by either Hermes, Ares, or Zeus. According to [History.com](https://www.history.com), Eros was a handsome winged immortal who played with the emotions of gods and men by using golden arrows to ignite love and leaden arrows to incite aversion. Sound familiar?

Later, as the Romans reinterpreted Greek myths, Eros was renamed Cupid, which stems from the word for “desire.” He was known to them as the child of Venus and Mars, the goddess of love and the god of war. By the Hellenistic period, Roman art increasingly portrayed Cupid as a playful and mischievous putto—child-angels who are nude, usually winged, and representative of pure love. That sounds more like the Cupid we know!

Due to this association with love, those 19th-century Victorians began depicting the cherubic version of Cupid on



Please join us the first Wednesday every Month for the Resident's Council meeting.

President- Peter J.
Vice President – Joanne S.

The Many Faces of Valentine



While February 14 is widely celebrated as Valentine's Day, there is some confusion as to which Saint Valentine this day refers to. According to the Roman Catholic Church, 14 different saints are named Valentine. Some believe Valentine honors the bishop of Terni, in central Italy, who was condemned by Roman Emperor Claudius. Others believe Valentine was a Roman priest who secretly married Christian couples until he was discovered by the Roman authorities and sentenced to death. Perhaps the real identity of Saint Valentine is unnecessary since what is truly important is his enduring legacy of love.

Curtains Up on Opera

With an explosion of media outlets available on the internet, some think the days of opera as an art form are numbered. Operas have been entertaining audiences for 400 years, so why not give one a chance on Opera Day, February 8?



In its heyday, opera was the most exciting and dramatic form of entertainment imaginable. The greatest composers, musicians, and singers performed in elaborate music halls. No expense was spared on the grand sets and fine costumes. The perfect marriage of music and

theater, opera was a thrill, even in America. During the 1920s, throngs of young fans would stop traffic in New York City just to catch a glimpse of their favorite soprano. The kids screamed, threw flowers and ribbons, waved American flags, and acted in a manner typically associated with fans of the Beatles. Yes, 100 years ago, opera was like rock 'n' roll.

So which opera should one see, or hear, to feel this exuberance of yesteryear? Many believe that the greatest opera is Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, a masterpiece that is serious, frightening, and funny all at the same time. Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* are two parts of the same story. Rossini's opera, a prequel to Mozart's, gives more detail to the life of the wily comedic hero Figaro. Verdi's *La Traviata*, one of the most performed operas in the world today, has come a long way from when it was first condemned as scandalous in 1853. Then there is always Bugs Bunny's *What's Opera, Doc?* Elmer Fudd is hunting wabbits again, but this time he is in full Viking gear in a parody of Wagner's *The Ring of the Nibelungen*.

If the human voice is indeed "God's most beautiful instrument," then there may be no better way to enjoy it than listening to the opera.

Poetry Corner

February is the month of romance and caring.
Caring for others and making them feel
important can make you feel good to.
Feeling love is a wonderful thing.
It makes you feel happy enough to sing.
Flowers and hearts are so fine
Going out on the town and out to dine.
But what about some others, friends and
mothers.
It's a chance to show you care, give out hugs
to people with joy.
Smile and Say Happy Valentines Day to every
girl and boy.
Bring happiness to others, love and goodwill.
Have a super day and sing a song.
Sunshine and rainbows in your heart all day
long.
Celebrate this romantic month every day.

Dawna T.

Family Council

Port Perry Place is inviting all family members to join us and be a part of the family council. Interested parties, please contact Family Council Head Chair.

Gerrylantomasi@gmail.com

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Illuminating the New Year



The Chinese Lantern Festival, also known as Yuan Xiao Jie, will be celebrated on February 12, 2025, marking the end of the Lunar New Year festivities. With a history that spans over

2,000 years, this festival has its origins in the Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 220), when emperor Han Mingdi promoted the lighting of lanterns to honor Buddha. Over time, the tradition evolved into a broader celebration of family, community, and hope for the future.

At the heart of the festival are the colorful lantern displays, which light up streets, parks, and homes. In ancient times, these lanterns were simple paper creations illuminated by candles, but today's festivals feature intricate designs, often shaped like animals or iconic symbols. Lanterns are believed to symbolize letting go of the past and embracing good fortune for the coming year. A unique aspect of the festival is the tradition of solving riddles attached to the lanterns. Dating back to the Song Dynasty (960–1279), these riddles provide a fun, intellectual challenge for festival-goers, with puzzles that range from playful to deeply philosophical.

Tangyuan, sweet glutinous rice dumplings, are a key part of the festival's culinary traditions. Their round shape represents family unity and harmony, and they're often filled with sweet sesame paste, peanuts, or red beans. The festivities also include lively performances, such as lion and dragon dances, along with dazzling fireworks displays that heighten the joyful atmosphere. Historically, the festival was one of the few occasions when young women could venture out in public, adding a romantic element for couples strolling beneath the lantern-lit sky.

The Lantern Festival remains a cherished cultural event in China, blending ancient traditions with modern celebrations and offering a moment to reflect on the past while welcoming the future with hope and light.

February Birthdays

If you were born between February 1–18, you are Aquarius, the Water Bearer. Witty, clever, and honest, Water Bearers desire independence above all and are not afraid to deviate from the crowd to pursue their own interests. Those born between February 19–28 are Pisces, the Fish. Selfless, spiritual, and intuitive, Pisces swim on an inner journey. They are emotional, compassionate people who are always willing to help others.

Joan T. February 9

Linda T. February 13

Dorothy H. February 16

Bea M. February 19

Barb H February 25

Mike K February 26

A Nose for Lies



On February 23, 1940, Walt Disney released *Pinocchio*. In honor of the wooden boy who could not tell a lie without his nose growing, enjoy the quiz below. Do you know which statements are true and which are false?

1. Pinocchio was created by Geppetto.
2. Jiminy Cricket serves as Pinocchio's conscience.
3. The Red Fairy helps Pinocchio learn right from wrong.
4. Moby is the name of the whale in the film.
5. Pinocchio is turned into a real boy at the end of the movie.

ANSWERS: 1. True: Geppetto is the kindhearted woodcarver who creates Pinocchio. 2. True: Jiminy Cricket guides Pinocchio as his conscience throughout the story. 3. False: The Blue Fairy plays a significant role in teaching Pinocchio important life lessons. 4. False: Monstro is the giant whale that Pinocchio and Geppetto encounter. 5. True: Pinocchio becomes a real boy after proving his bravery and honesty.