



Farm News from December

Christmas has come and gone but the season lives on here in Goodfare. The social calendar was filled. Many of the WWOOFers who spent Christmas with us are away from home for the first time so we wanted to make sure it would be a memorable Christmas for them.

Our community choir had been practicing our 2 Christmas songs for the past 3 months and had a chance to perform them at several events. The finale was in Grande Prairie where several spectacular choirs performed. The good evening of live Christmas music was the start of the season.



Next our local Demmitt Hall celebrated the season with a family party which included a visit from Santa (who looked a lot like someone I know).

Then there was the Christmas Tree Hunt. Held out in the forest

with only a picnic table dedicated to the yearly event, neighbours gathered to roast sausages over the campfire bringing lots of Christmas cookies, treats and stories.

The selection of the Christmas tree was made: a swamp spruce, 10 feet tall. But before the cutting there was another tradition; we had to sing "O Christmas Tree" 3 times while walking clockwise, through the snow around the tree.

Decorating the house was left up to the WWOOFers. We had boxes of ornaments (another story) and soon there were decorations everywhere, even the turtle tank. The spruce boughs wrapped around the log over the kitchen table added a special touch.

The needles started falling off into the hair and food of anyone who sat below the log. "No, it's not a garnish" we had to tell our guests.



There was the Ski Party to celebrate the solstice. Cross country ski tracks were set through trails in the forest. The stars, moon and headlamps lit the way.

The turkey catch is a party on its own (but not for the turkeys). They had a chance to travel to Pigeon Lake Poultry Processing where they were elevated to a higher state of consciousness. At least they all had warm places to go on Christmas Day.



Turkey dinner on the 24th for the WWOOFers and neighbours. That night the tap on the beer keg even had a visit from Santa. Christmas day was a celebration with family in Grande Prairie. That evening I played accordion and told stories to a around 20 people at the Senior Home in Hythe. (no, there wasn't 50 to begin with, ha, ha).



Even the pigs had special treats for Christmas. Organic bananas and apples were added to their food with an extra helping on Christmas Day.

The month was full but we still managed to slip in birthday parties, ice fishing and a visit to the Dinosaur Museum, no time to miss home. Our presents were the good times we shared together and the memories made. Jerry