

# The Empty Christmas Box

  
GRIME TEAM  
REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

the  
**HOME FRONT**

december 2022 edition

**Christmas is for love.** It is for joy, for giving and sharing, for laughter, for faith, and for reuniting with family and friends. But mostly Christmas is for love. I had not believed this until a small elfin like pupil with wide innocent eyes and soft rosy cheeks gave me a wondrous gift one Christmas.

Matthew was a 10-year-old orphan who lived with his aunt, a bitter, middle-aged woman greatly annoyed with the burden of caring for her dead sister's son. She never failed to remind young Matthew, if it hadn't been for her generosity, he would be a vagrant, homeless stray. Still, with all the scolding and chilliness at home, he was a sweet and gentle child.

I had not noticed Matthew particularly until he began staying after class each day [at the risk of arousing his aunt's anger so I learned later] to help me straighten up the room. We did this quietly and comfortably, not speaking much, but enjoying the solitude of that hour of the day. When we did talk, Matthew spoke mostly of his mother. Though he was quite young when she died, he remembered a kind, gentle, loving woman who always spent time with him.

As Christmas drew near however, Matthew failed to stay after school each day. I looked forward to his coming, and when the days passed and he continued to scamper hurriedly from the room after class, I stopped him one afternoon and asked him why he no longer helped me in the

room. I told him how I had missed him, and his large brown eyes lit up eagerly as he replied, "Did you really miss me?"

I explained how he had been my best helper, "I was making you a surprise," he whispered confidentially. "It's for Christmas." With that, he became embarrassed and dashed from the room. He didn't stay after school any more after that.

Finally came the last school day before Christmas. Matthew crept slowly into the room late that afternoon with his hands concealing something behind his back. "I have your present," he said timidly when I looked up. I hope you like it." He held out his hands, and there lying in his small palms was a tiny wooden box.

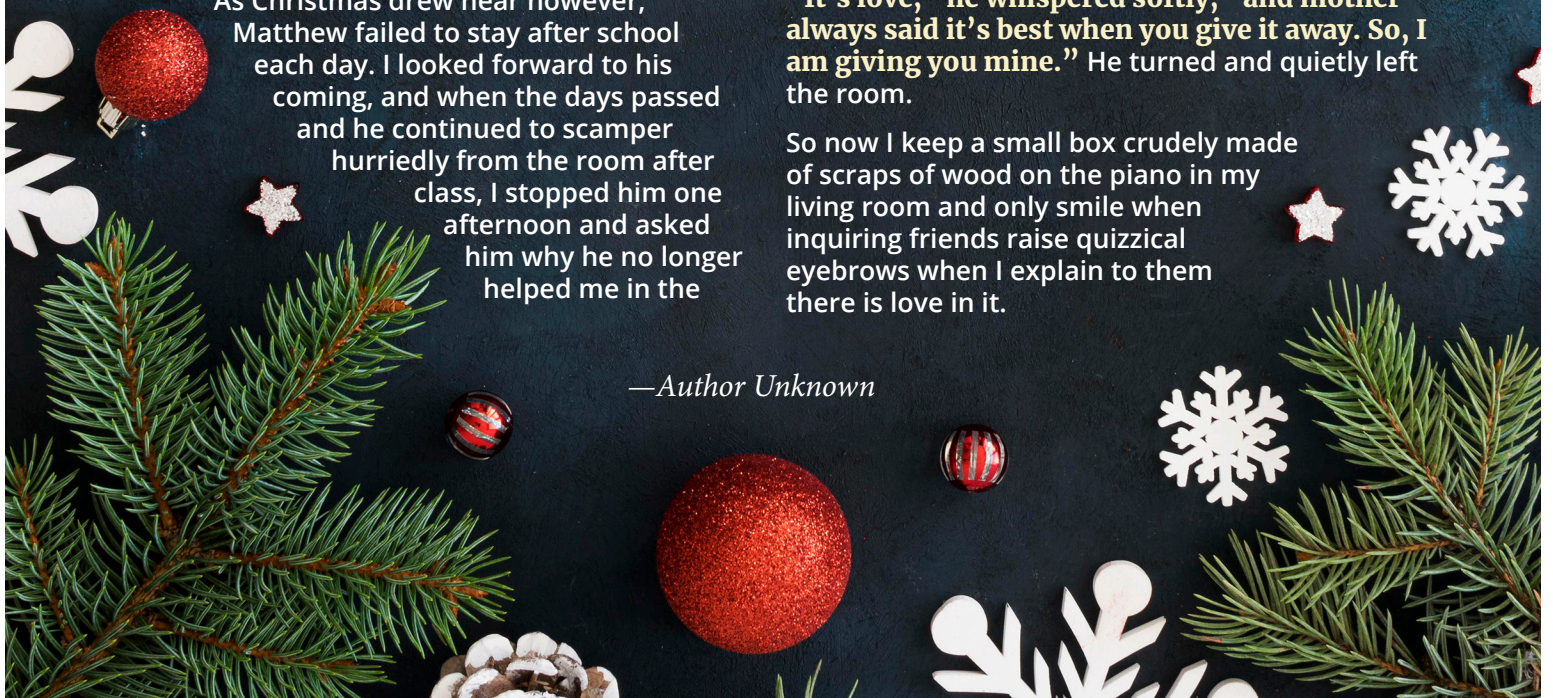
"It's beautiful, Matthew. Is there something in it?" I asked opening the top to look inside. "Oh, you can't see what's in it," he replied, "and you can't touch it, or taste it or feel it, but mother always said it makes you feel good all the time, warm on cold nights and safe when you're all alone."

I gazed into the empty box. "What is it, Matthew" I asked gently, "that will make me feel so good?"

**"It's love," he whispered softly, "and mother always said it's best when you give it away. So, I am giving you mine."** He turned and quietly left the room.

So now I keep a small box crudely made of scraps of wood on the piano in my living room and only smile when inquiring friends raise quizzical eyebrows when I explain to them there is love in it.

—Author Unknown







**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

From our home to yours,  
wishing you a Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year from all of us  
at The Grime Team!

Starting from left: Cindy Morgan, Rose Hilliard,  
Bill Marlatt, Margorie Grime and Dave Grime.

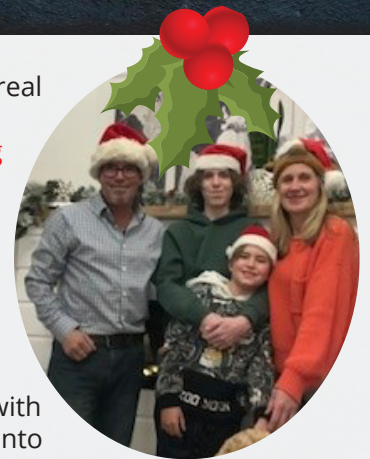
*Absent from photo:*  
Cathy Szabolcs, Stephen Kelk,  
RaDeana Montgomery &  
Shannon Quinton (pictured above)



**Well... another year has come and gone.** A year of change. Not only in the real estate market, but with our team, our lives, and the world in general. **This Christmas, I'm grateful for all our clients who have trusted our team in buying and selling this year.** I'm grateful for all our past clients, our amazing team, and all the colleagues who have helped us along the way. I'm grateful for living in Canada, the best country in the world. I have to thank our team navigating through a haphazard market since the pandemic; Cindy (my rock) who manages all aspects of the Grime Team (couldn't live without her!), Rose who diligently works while bringing a smile to everyone's face, Bill who is one of the hardest workers I know, Steve who has been a great addition to our team, Cathy who is always there 100% for her clients, RaDeana who puts up with my antics shooting videos, Shannon who can transform a home by staging it into something magical, our professional photographer Gord, May and Nancy who handle our bookkeeping, Eric & Jeremoy on tech support, and Densmore and Duffin who help us at the drop of Santa's hat. **And I cannot forget my legendary mom and mentor who shaped the landscape of real estate in the Headwaters area for decades... Margorie who is celebrating her 75th birthday.** And last but not least, my family. My wonderful wife Mel who puts up with me and my crazy hours. Ben who started high school this year, as well as his first job. And smiling Sam who can brighten up anyone's day.

We're back to a somewhat normal real estate market as we enter 2023, and our team is here to help in any which way we can. I want to wish everyone the happiest holiday season this year. **Hug your family and friends, wave at your neighbours, be there for anyone going through a difficult time, and spread the love and joy of the Christmas season.** Merry Christmas everyone from my family... to yours.

- Dave





With the holiday season fast approaching, I'd like to thank all my past and present clients for their loyalty. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to help them find their perfect home and continue to service their real estate needs. As 2022 comes to an end, I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and prosperous 2023.



Cheers, - Bill

Wishing all my amazing Clients, Colleagues, Family and Friends all the best in 2023. It's been another challenging year for many of us in many ways and I'm hopeful the year ahead will bring you and yours Health and Happiness. Remember to take the time to Embrace the upcoming Holiday Season spending time with loved ones... carry on and build traditions, create new memories and reminisce on the past.. always cherishing and recalling loved ones who are now Angels ♡

"Christmas can't be bought from the store, maybe Christmas means a bit more"... Dr. Seuss

- Cathy



Christmas is here, time to gather with family and friends, something that has been difficult to do over the past few years.



This year has been a beautiful year for my family. In June, my eldest daughter Cailey finally married Frank after a postponed wedding in 2020. We are excited to finally have a "son" and watch our little family grow. And if that wasn't already exciting enough, we will be welcoming 'baby peanut' into our lives in May 2023, making me a Glama and Brian Grandpa Buzz. We are so excited!

Next year is also going to be a busy one, with the birth of a grandchild but also the wedding of our youngest daughter Brianna, who will marry Jamie in October 2023. So an exciting year ahead.

Christmas can be a happy time but also can be sad for those who miss someone they love. Hold tight to your memories and don't forget to take lots of pictures and videos to commemorate these joyous times.

On behalf of my 'growing' family, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- RaDeana

From My Family To Yours, We Wish You All A Very Merry Christmas & Praying 2023 Is A Blessed Year For You All.

(Left to Right - David & Halie, Jeff, Cindy, Ryan, Sarah

- Cindy



2022 was another busy year for us staging and decorating homes.

We had the pleasure of doing design work on several renovation projects and new homes as well.



It was nice to have the option this year to take a vacation and travel as well again for some much needed rest. Our family life also remained busy with Roy continuing to oversee new home builds for Sunvale homes and Nolan graduating as an Aviation Mechanics Engineer in June. He started work at Novajet in Toronto shortly after and is loving it. Cole has officially entered his last year of highschool and has made the decision to race a Pro Late Model next year while he looks at his options for post secondary. This year has given us much to be thankful for and as we enter this holiday season it's our hope that this season you will be surrounded with love and joy that will continue throughout the next year.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas.

Roy, Shannon, Nolan, Cole and Ryker 🐾 Quinton

- Shannon





What a great year!

Thank you to all my clients for their trust, it is always great to work with wonderful people.

From my family to yours I would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and 2023.

- Stephen



This year has proven that life is not just an existence, but a wonderful miracle. It has reminded me to live every moment with joy and gratitude. I am extremely grateful for my beautiful family, friends, and the awesome team that I am a part of.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family.

- Rose

Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most. - R.C.Stapleton

Wow another year. So thankful 2022. Great year in real estate despite the changing market - with our amazing loyal clients, friends and families and our special team who support us unconditionally. Spent last winter in Fernie - returning to our now Blue Mountains townhome. Bruce is doing his carpentry magic on (coffered ceiling, trim...). He is loving 'living on the water' - the reason we moved. Thankful it is only an hour commute to Orangeville and Krissi, James and Cedar are 12 min away. Feels so good to gather and travel again with family and friends. Bike trip from Prague to Vienna with beautiful ladies in May. Duathlon (swim/bike - not run due to knee) in June (worst one ever - was

exhausted after first minute... but did it and will do it again - better in 2023). Arthroscopic knee surgery end of September - 93.5% back to normal. Celebrated my 75th birthday at Lochaven Inn with family and friends - Dave, Krissi and surprise visit from Mike. Felt complete with all my children. Looking forward to another exciting year in 2023. Hopefully we will touch base in the New Year. Enjoy this season of gatherings and spread your LIGHT of LOVE to those you know and some you don't know... acts of kindness. The very best to you now and in the New Year. Hugs



- Margorie



DECEMBER 2022

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