



It's the most wonderful time to visit historic Castle Kilbride

Baden, Ontario – November 26, 2020- For so many of us, this holiday season will feel and look a bit different as we navigate through COVID-19. To bring comfort and joy to our returning and new visitors, the stately home will be stunningly decorated for the holiday season. Castle Kilbride embraces tradition and this year, the jewel of Wilmot Township just might shine a little brighter for everyone during the festive season.

Welcome to Wilmot Township's National Historic Site, where you'll feel as if you're stepping back into a lavish Victorian Christmas with the Livingston family of Baden. From now until January 3, 2021, the 1877 mansion of James Livingston, "Canada's Flax Mill King," is fully decorated in Victorian Christmas splendour. Each room throughout the home sparkles with themed trees and festive decorating. The Castle showcases traditional decorating based on German, Scottish and Victorian influences. Did you know when decorating the Christmas tree, it was a tradition for the parents to hide a pickle amongst the branches? The first child to find the Christmas pickle ornament would receive an extra gift. This German custom is just one of many traditions to be re-discovered at Castle Kilbride.

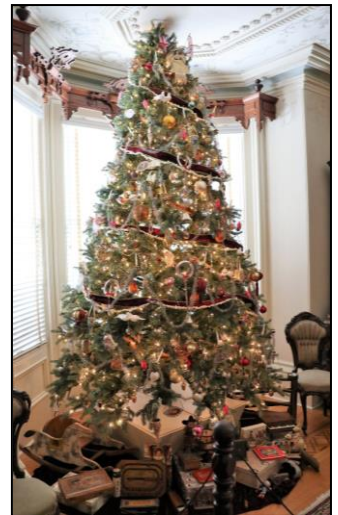


The Victorians were also famous for their holiday décor as well as their bountiful Christmas feasts. The dining room at Castle Kilbride is always a favourite for visitors where you can almost smell the perfectly roasted turkey, ham, potatoes and all the traditional sides that would accompany the meal. Some food may seem unusual today to see as part of a Christmas dinner, but according to the



Ladies' Home Journal of 1897, the table on Christmas day would include such dishes as: oysters on the half shell, clear soup, custard and spinach blocks, deviled spaghetti, roasted turkey, chestnut stuffing, cranberry jelly, sweet potato croquettes, peas served in turnip cups, ginger sherbet, lettuce salad, cheese balls, toasted crackers, plum pudding with hard sauce, bonbons and almonds. In addition to this, a Christmas dinner table would not be complete without the plum pudding, along with an array of sweets and a towering centrepiece of apples, oranges and lemons as a special treat for families and friends.

When we celebrate Christmas with family and friends, we have the Victorians to thank for many of its joyful festivities and delightful customs. Castle Kilbride embodies Christmas magic with the sights, sounds, sparkle and colour of the Christmas season – all the wondrous ways the Livingston family would have welcomed their visitors. Be *our* guest and visit historic Castle Kilbride. Join us for a personal tour of Wilmot Township’s National Historic Site.



Holiday Hours and Admission:

Regular Touring Hours – [Booking online required](#)

Fully guided 35-minute tours of the decorated Castle

- Saturday & Sunday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Admission: Adults \$9, Seniors/Students \$8; Children \$5

Special Evening Tours – [Booking online required](#)

For two nights only see the Castle a glow. Fully guided 30-minute tours. Book early!

- November 26 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- December 3 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- Admission: Adults/Seniors/Students \$15, Children \$10

Pre-visit and COVID Protocol at Castle Kilbride

Visitors to the museum will be asked to follow safety procedures including sanitizing hands, completing COVID screening, maintaining physical distancing and wearing a mask, if able while on tour. Tickets (groups of 5 or less) *must* be booked in advance [online](#). We encourage our guests to watch our [introductory video](#) suitable for families before visiting us. Visit our [website](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#) for up to date COVID-19 information.

About Castle Kilbride:

Built in 1877, Castle Kilbride is a restored and furnished grand Italianate home of James Livingston, Canada’s “Flax Mill King.” The Livingston family resided at the Castle from 1877 to 1988. In 1993, the Township of Wilmot purchased Castle Kilbride and an extensive restoration project began to bring back the home to its former glory. The home features nationally designated three-dimensional wall and ceiling murals known as, *Trompe l’oeil*, a French term that translates into “fools your eye” or “trickery of the eye.” These magnificent murals reflect the Victorian love of extravagance and variety while providing an interesting illusion of depth. The rare murals are deemed one of the best examples in Canada.



For information, contact:

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www.castlekilbride.ca [@CastleKilbride](#)