



Preserving, promoting and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

Our Cultural Moment for December celebrates the Mount Forest Greenhouses

On the other side of the whimsical green door at the far east end of Durham Street in Mount Forest, lies one of Wellington North's cultural treasures. Around the same time as the arrival of the first snow of the season, the Mount Forest Greenhouse is transformed into a stunning Christmas wonderland.

For the past eight years, owner Richard Quartel has been sharing his artistic talents with the community in the creation of this winter oasis. He is very quick to credit his team of three helpers, who together spend over 600 hours setting up the display. Their skill is showcased in how each of the 25 large trees, and many smaller ones, are decorated in different and equally stunning themes, from rustic woodland to elegant sparkles.



The display is set against a backdrop of antique furniture pieces, a vintage fireplace and a classic blue truck, along with numerous window frames and wooden doors. The tree ornaments, along with fresh holiday plants, flowers, wreaths, garlands, ribbons and other home decorations are for sale, but visitors clearly take joy in wandering through the rich atmosphere filled with seasonal music and imagining the possibilities. Many are loyal year after year.

Mount Forest Greenhouse has been a local family business since it was purchased by Harry Quartel in 1962. It was Richard's mother, Mary, who encouraged him several years ago to develop an opportunity for the Christmas market. She ran it for two years, often bringing in groups to enjoy the setting for afternoon tea. The display continues to grow and what Richard and his team have created is an inspiring cultural gem of which his family and our whole community can be proud.

Step out of the snow and indulge your own creative senses before it closes on Christmas Eve. Here's the Facebook link to a beautiful video to put you in the holiday spirit.

<https://www.facebook.com/mountforestgreenhouse/videos/482388375586531/?q=mount%20forest%20greenhouses>