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Confused about what to buy? Or still haven't found what you're looking for? Let our savvy shopping experts be your guide through the world of retail. Submit your questions here and come back every Monday for new answers and insight into everything Shopping!

Jane Flanagan, [canada.com](#)

Help finding a Craft Sale Product

Back in October I went to the Bushhorn Craft Sale and saw a rocking horse which was a black bear - I didn't buy it at the time and am now wondering if you could help me find this item. I remember the craftsman was from Bancroft, but that's all. Thanking you in advance for helping.

Lisa in Oshawa, ON



I contacted the organizers of the Harvest Craft Fair in Buckhorn and asked them if they recalled this artisan. They told me his name is Joe Furtak, and his telephone number is 613-332-5299. Hope this helps and you get your hands on it this time - it sounds adorable!

Gift for Family Overseas

I would like to buy a present for my 75 year old father and 50 year old brother. My dad lives in Hamburg and doesn't speak English. My brother lives in Denmark and has never been in Vancouver. I'm meeting both in Hamburg this year. Also, I have to carry the gifts on the plane, through security. Any ideas? Barbara in Burnaby, BC



I too have family in Europe who has not yet visited me in Canada. The first year I was here I tried to bridge the gap by assembling a 'Best of Canada' selection of gifts. I don't mean all the tourist stuff! I mean the stuff that we really associate with Canada. Whether that's maple syrup, West Coast smoked salmon or olive crafts. It gave them some sense of where you are and what your life here is about.

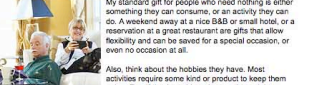
A nice Canadian connection for your Dad might be a bottle of Eiwel or too wine, since it is something common to both Germany and Canada. The other good thing about these kinds of gifts is that they are consumable, so it's not like giving more stuff which will clutter up their homes. Most of our parents have enough of that!

I also gave my parents the [Over Canada DVD](#) one year as a gift and they loved it. It gave them a better sense of the geography and vastness of Canada and definitely made them want to plan a trip to visit.

I hope these ideas help and that you have a lovely trip!

What to buy for Parents

I need help! What to buy for my 60-something parents who really don't need anything and never ask for anything. They like to travel but have been sidelined somewhat since my Mom had a stroke a few years ago. I am at a loss this Christmas and am hoping for any ideas you may have! Thank you!! Amy in Victoria, BC



My standard gift for people who need nothing is either something they can consume, or an activity they can do. A weekend away at a nice B&B or small hotel, or a reservation at a great restaurant are gifts that allow flexibility and can be saved for a special occasion, or even no occasion at all.

Also, think about the hobbies they have. Most activities require some kind of product to keep them going. E.g. if they're avid gardeners, they might appreciate a gift card from their local nursery, preseeded nicely with a basket filled with various seeds and bulbs for planting. Or if they like photography, how about purchasing prepaid prints for them from [iStock](#) or another photo lab?

After a certain age, most people have more or less everything they need and have a certain number of activities and hobbies they regularly partake of. The key to choosing a successful gift is to fight the need to reinvent the wheel every time. Instead, think about what they really spend their time doing and find a way to support and feed that passion. Whatever it is you decide on getting, make a big deal of wrapping it up so they enjoy the big reveal!

Popcorn Machine Stand

I am looking for a popcorn machine on a stand for our rec room. Can you make any suggestions on where to find one? Cheryl in Mundare, AB

Wow - this one was a lot more difficult than I thought. I've seen so many of these featured in home tours shows, that I thought it would be a cinch to find. I found the one pictured here on [Craigslist](#)'s website. It combines today's technology with a charming antique-looking design reminiscent of vendor carts from the 1920s and features a convenient storage cabinet for seasonings, popcorn and other supplies.

A second option comes from [Sears](#), though you'd probably want to put it on some kind of stand yourself! The [Charlestown Old-fashioned Style Kettle Popcorn Maker](#) is also easy to use, with a hinged door for access to popper and the popcorn for serving. It makes up to 4 quarts of popcorn.



Looking for something? Don't know what to buy? Wondering how much to spend? [Send your questions to the shopping experts today!](#)

We endeavour to answer as many questions as possible. New answers appear every Monday.

GET THE LATEST INFO ON THE COOLEST ALBUMS AND TV SHOWS

**BUT DOSE.ca IS MAKING IT EASIER**



**Shopping Weekly Q&A**  
**Jane Flanagan, canada.com**  
**December 2006**

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### **Popcorn Machine Stand**

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**Cheryl in Mundare, AB**

Wow – this one was a lot more difficult than I thought. I've seen so many of these featured in home renovation shows that I thought it would be a cinch to find. I found the one pictured here on Costco's website. It combines today's technology with a charming, antique-looking design reminiscent of vendor carts from the 1900's and features a convenient storage cabinet for seasonings, popcorn and other supplies

A second option comes from Sears, though you'd probably want to put it on some kind of stand yourself. The Charlescraft® Old-fashioned Style Kettle Popcorn Maker is also easy to use, with a hinged door for access to popper and the popcorn for serving. It makes up to 4 quarts of popcorn.