

HAVE YOURSELF AN EASY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

IF YOU'RE MAKING a list, checking it twice and realizing there's no way you're going to get it all done, take a breath, relax and outsource. We've compiled a list of capable professionals to ease the pressure by taking care of some of those critical Christmas tasks for you.

BY JAELYN MOLYNEUX



DECK MY HALLS

The professional organizing and design team from **Somebody Else's Time** will trim your tree and accent your home using your existing decorations or by sourcing new ones. When the season's over, they'll come back to take it all down and organize it for storage. They book one to two weeks

in advance and charge \$100 per hour for a team of two or three to come in and work their festive magic. (403-475-0875, somebodyelsestime.com)



HIRE-A-SANTA

If this year's Santa underwhelms, check out Victor Nevada's **Santa School** for next year. Nevada wrote a 535-page manual on how to be the jolly guy. His roster of Santas for hire all meet his high standards and book up to a year in advance. Offering parents a reprieve from mall lineups,

Nevada also makes personal phone calls from Santa to your kids. Call ahead and give all the juicy details on your children, including what they want for Christmas and their naughty or nice status, and he'll call them back with "Santa Claus" appearing on your caller ID. Appearances start at \$200; phone calls start at \$20. (403-209-3108, santaschool.com)



A CATERED AFFAIR

A Splendid Affair's holiday meal is a feast big enough to feed 12 and comes with turkey, all the trimmings and dessert (\$275; additional guests are pro-rated). The meals can be picked up Christmas Eve; delivery on Christmas Day is also

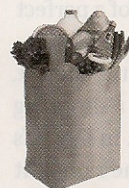
available for a limited number of orders at an additional charge of \$30. (7, 2331 50 Ave. S.E., 403-228-6280, asplendidaffair.com)



SQUEAKY CLEAN

The professionals at **A Maid for A Day** will get your house extra squeaky clean for impending in-laws and other visitors. In addition to regular cleaning, they offer a one-time cleaning service that includes dusting, scrubbing, vacuuming

and generally wiping your house down from top to bottom. A two-person team costs \$90 per hour. (403-283-2500, amaidforaday.ca)



SUPERMARKET SUPPLIES

Skip the grocery store and have the goods needed to sustain your family over the holiday season delivered right to your door by **Spud!** The socially conscious company favours locally produced, organic and fair-trade products with minimal packaging. Orders

must be placed at least 48 hours before your community's delivery date. The staff takes Christmas Day off, but will deliver Christmas Eve and Boxing Day. Shipping is free for orders over \$35. (403-270-7408, spud.ca)





SECRET SHOPPERS

Time is Money personal concierge service will liberate you from the pressures of finding that perfect gift. Its staff brainstorms personalized gift ideas and purchases, wraps and coordinates delivery of the goods. Their goal is to make you look good

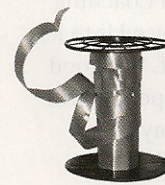
by avoiding gifts that even hint at being generic. Prices start at \$49 per hour. (403-612-2993, timeismoney.ca)



LIGHT IT UP

The **Light Kings** will scale your roof and lace your trees in lights for you. Draw them a picture or take a photo of an illuminated house you love and they'll recreate the look down to the tiniest detail using their cache of LED,

traditional and icicle lights. They book up to Christmas Eve and charge by strand with a minimum fee of \$350. (403-217-2823, lightkings.com)



THAT'S A WRAP

Southcentre Mall has hired a fleet of elves to custom-wrap your gifts for you. It has upped the ante on mall wrapping by splurging on foil paper and being generous with ribbon. And, helping to ratchet you up Santa's "nice" list, some of

the proceeds go to Inn from the Cold. Prices vary by gift size, but range between \$5 and \$7. (100 Anderson Rd. S.E., 403-271-7670) 