

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

2008

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Five fav holiday traditions

A police officer, an actor, a butcher,
a shoe designer and a publicist
all share their best festive customs

Doritos, the gift that keeps on giving

How an unusual Hanukkah gift still makes a family laugh

4 Ron White

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Ron White's favourite holiday memory is still a running joke in his family.

The Toronto shoe designer and retailer grew up in Winnipeg and can vividly remember complaining to his parents as an eight-year old over why he and his siblings didn't get Christmas gifts. The family is Jewish and White and his siblings grew up celebrating the eight days of Hanukkah.

White says after his little speech, his parents decided the children would get a present each of the eight days of Hanukkah.

"This was going to be our new routine," he says.

Fast forward to Hanukkah. White's older sister collected elephants, so her first gift was a ceramic elephant. Meanwhile he got a pair of tube socks. His sister's second gift: a crystal elephant. His? Underwear.

And so on it went for eight days, from tube socks to PJs, White recalls. On day four, he got a bag of Doritos. "At eight years old I'm thinking, 'I'm getting totally ripped off here'"

After an eight-year old temper tantrum, White was sat down by his parents, who asked him why they were celebrating Hanukkah and what they

were remembering.

"It made sense," White says of his parent's message. Today the whole family laughs about that moment. "We wonder if we're getting tube socks or Doritos," he says with a laugh. "The big joke now is I carry a lot of socks in my store."

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RON WHITE

Francis Crescia/Town Crier

■ **SOCK IT TO ME:** After complaining to his parents that he never received any presents at Hanukkah, shoe designer Ron White was dismayed when his first gift turned out to be tube socks.