The Free Press

We're there for you

'Um, Santa? We've got a problem...'

Detour presents its annual collection of the season's most bizarre and puzzling gift ideas

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Due to a spike in the price of partridges, pear trees and turtle doves, the cost of making your true love happy has surpassed \$100,000 for the first time ever.

The grand total for the 364 items repeated across all the verses of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* -- from the single bird in the tree to the 12 drummers drumming -- would be \$101,119, an increase of 4.4 per cent over last year, according to the annual Christmas price index compiled by PNC Wealth Management

We at Detour think that's an absurd amount to shell out for a bunch of bizarre, mostly impractical gifts -- many of which require feeding and cleaning up after.

Everyone knows that when it comes to gift-giving, it's the thought that counts and those who truly love you will be satisfied with a single bizarre gift.

With that sentiment in mind, we present our annual roundup of headscratching gift suggestions guaranteed to make you think, "Who'da thunk it?"

Happy holidays!

Pass the wind

KNOW someone whose favourite hobby is breathing? They'll love one of these hand-held, portable canisters of 95 per cent "pure recreational, oxygen" with four times the concentration found in ambient air. A few hits of Oxygen Plus (O+) offers a "no calories, no carb, no caffeine, no crash" alternative to energy drinks, caffeine binges and other less airy pick-me-ups. And a pink grapefuit-flavoured one, to boot. Starting at \$5.99 for the purse-size can at www.oxygenplus.com.

