# The night before Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas, and all across town

Not a creature was stirring; the snow drifted down. Stockings were hung by chimneys with little care And no thought to a fire ever happening there. Our family was nestled all snug in each bed, With nothing to fill our minds with dread Until, out on the street there arose such a clatter, We sprang from our beds to see what was the matter.

Away to the window we flew like a flash. Tore open the drapes, and threw up the sash. The moon shining down on the new-fallen snow Gave a lustre of midday to objects below. When, what to our wondering eyes should appear, But a Halton Hills fire truck, and six men in full gear.

With sirens wailing, and red lights flashing, We caught only a glimpse of them in passing, To the corner they sped, to the right made a turn, And there before them was a house starting to burn. The driver braked, the officer jumped out, Looked over the situation, to his men gave a shout. Having dressed quite quickly, to the fire we came, In time to hear orders given each man by name "Greig, to the hydrant. Tom, grab a line, Mike, get a Scott-Pak, don't wast any time, Bob, get a ladder, and a pike pole, Gord, we need help, radio Control. Tell him to call both Truck 2 and Truck 4, When Two comes in, have them lay a line." With a nod to the hydrant man, he turned around, And away to the building he ran with a bound. We stood on the sidewalk with fear in our eyes For from inside came several frightened young cries.

Straight into the house Firefighter Mike went And never came out until his air tank was spent, Clutched in each arm was a small child, The people outside, with happiness, went wild. The firefighters worked hard in the flaming light, It looked like it might be a long fight. The other trucks arrived with men, ladders, and hose; And soon from the building all that arose Were wisps of smoke, and an occasional flame This lucky family would celebrate Christmas again. All the children's toys were lost in the blaze, Dolls, guns, cars, and thiny new sleighs.

Mother and father had lost presents too. But one important thing both of them knew Was that Christmas without presents, turkey and chives

Was better than Christmas with children's lost lives.

All this was caused by one little wire One worn light wire had caused this fire. The firefighters cleaned up, to their trucks gave a lean

This time they were glad, for no one would weep. The officer said, "Let's take 'em home, boys, ---We want some time for our own Christmas joys." But I heard them exclaim ere they drove out of sight,

"HAVE A FIRE-SAFE CHRISTMAS AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!" Author Unknown

conditions

Deputy Fire Chief Bob

### Festive season brings threats

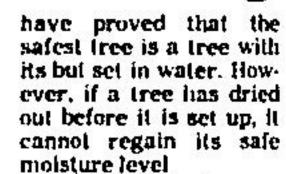
"Christmas temptations of many parents, while visiting with neighbors or completing last minute shopping, to leave small children unattended for short period," says Fire Chief Mick Holmes.

"At the same time. decorations, trees and wrapping paper bring an increased threat of fire danger unless constant care is exercised."

The Fire Chief urges all parents to recognize the fire danger of this season, and not to leave small children alone in the home even for a moment. He points out that the criminal code of Canada forbids such action which endangers the life or health of any child under the age of ten years.

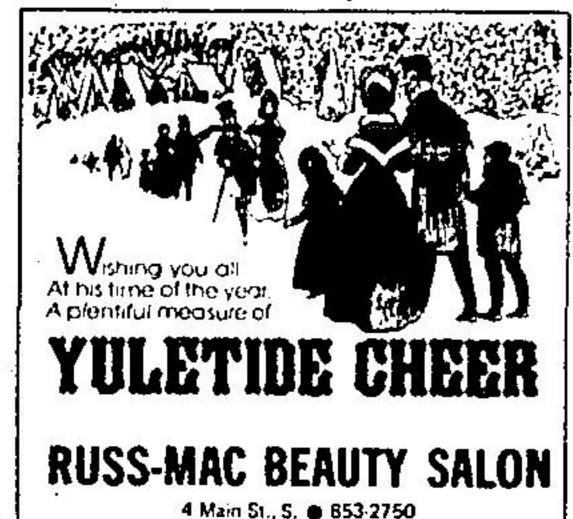
Parents are further reminded that under certain Christmas tree can be ignited by a single match to burn furiously to charred wood in a few seconds. Care must be taken to keep butts of natural trees immersed in water and to ensure that the tree itself does not obstruct access to door or window. Families are also urged to review their home-escape plans for quick exit in an emergency.

Hyde points out that tests



Even artifical trees can be serious fire hazards. Metallic trees

are conductors of electricity, and should not be decorated with strings of lights, but illuminated with floodlights. Some plastic trees, made from styrene materials, are flammable, unlike those made from poly. vinylchloride.





Queen St. East, Acton

853-1201



Colning Santa in our wishes for a holiday full of gay spirits and hoppy surprises! Thanks.

> Jack Ridley Cartage Ltd. and Staff

## Christmas fire safety

Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas . . . But keep it safe from the fire danger season . . . Keep the tree fresh and green by standing it in water throughout its stay indoors. Keep clgarettes and matches at a safe distance. Switch the tree lights off at bedtlme and leaving before home .

#### **DIVERT ATTENTION**

The Hamilton Automobile Club is urging party-givers to be "First A Friend-Then A Host" this holiday season. The H.A.C. says that means assuring your driving guests a safe arrival home after the party by de-emphasizing liquor during the evening.

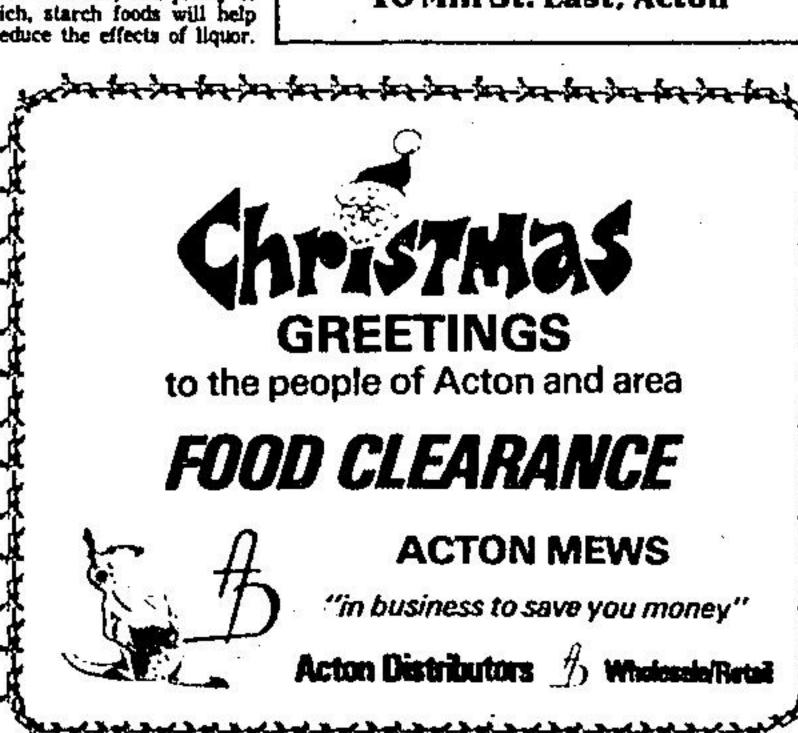
Dancing, games and other activities will divert attention from the bar, and plenty of rich, starch foods will help reduce the effects of liquor.



Remembering friends, old and new, with warmth and appreciation and hoping the hom of plenty brings its bounty to your door!

Royal Cafe

10 Mill St. East, Acton





Cangills Motor Homes & Gas Bar

Queen St. East

653-0330

