



Santa gave his 50th pint of blood Thursday at the blood donor clinic at the Acton Legion. Nurse Marina Benson does the honors. Henry Kroes also gave his 50th pint.

Stocking stuffer idea

Do you need a last minute gift or stocking stuffer idea? Food specialists at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food suggest one that can be used on Christmas Day—a meat thermometer.

This handy little gift will be appreciated and very useful whether the main course meat is Ontario turkey, chicken, pork, beef, lamb, or rabbit. The thermometer takes the guessing out of roasting any meat. On this busy day, think how easy it would be to insert a thermometer into the meat or poultry (or stuffing of the turkey) at the beginning of cooking, and let it indicate when the meat is done.

Certainly, the cook has a general idea of how long to roast the meat. For example, most cookbooks indicate that a 12-lb. whole stuffed turkey, roasted at 160 degrees C (325 degrees F), will take about 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 hours. But that's a 2 1/2 hour difference! A meat thermometer will tell you exactly when it's done without the guesswork.

A meat thermometer is usually labeled with temperatures of doneness. For example, for turkey and chicken, thigh meat should register 85 degrees C (185 degrees F), stuffing 74 degrees C

(165 degrees F), pork should register 80 degrees C (170 degrees F) for a juicy roast, 85 degrees C (185 degrees F) for a drier, more tender roast; beef will register 60 degrees C (140 degrees F) for rare, 65 degrees C (150 degrees F) for medium, and 75 degrees C (170 degrees F) for well-done. By following the recommended guide for internal roasting temperatures, you can have meat cooked exactly the way you want it.

Meat thermometers are handy all year-round. Since meat or poultry are part of many meals, it makes good sense to cook them to perfection with the help of a meat thermometer. You'll probably want to buy two thermometers—one as a gift and one for yourself.

CHRISTMAS THANKS
Here's an idea for a wonderful way for youngsters to say thank-you for Christmas presents—and much easier than persuading them to write thank-you notes!

Get someone to take a picture of the youngster showing him or her holding or using the gift. Then get him to write just a few words of thanks on a piece of paper or the photo itself. Grandma, or Uncle, is sure to be doubly pleased!

Christmas is time, wonder, celebration

This season of the year has long been a time of wonder and celebration for the peoples of the earth. It is the winter solstice, the moment when the sun begins its journey back toward the earth, when the days begin to lengthen.

Throughout the ages people have greeted the winter solstice with rejoicing. The Jews called it Hanukkah and link their celebration with the heroic exploits of Judah the Maccabean. The Druids called it Mother

Night. The Venerable Bede, an English monk and historian, records that the Angli before their conversion to Christianity celebrated Dec. 25 as the first day of the new year. To the ancient Romans, it was Saturnalia. The Scandinavians gave it the name of Yule, and feasted.

From many lands and cultures came the customs we now identify with this holiday season: candles, holly, mistletoe, yule logs, evergreens, carol singing.



A Joyous Christmas

May all the blessings and happiness of this holy season be bestowed on you and your family. Have a Joyous Holiday.

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Study source of star

"There shall come forth a Star"—Numbers 24:17.

In this Old Testament prophecy by Balaam, was a real star meant, or does "Star" refer to a great person?

For centuries, Biblical scholars have considered this question. Many believe that the prophecy led the wise men to watch for and follow the "star in the east", of which St. Matthew wrote in his story of the Nativity.

Miraculous appearance

The star itself is the source of many theories. Perhaps the best of all is that it was a miraculous appearance and as such needs no explanation.

However, astronomers through the ages have sought to connect the star seen by the wise men with other reported celestial objects—a comet, perhaps, or an especially brilliant star that only appears at long intervals.

Still another theory suggests that the star may have been configuration or grouping of planets. In 1604, the German astronomer Johannes Kepler theorized that Jupiter, Saturn and Mars might have occurred in such a configuration at about the time of Christ's birth.

Another question

The fact that the star and the visit of the wise men were described only by St. Matthew has led to still another question. Did only the wise men see the star?

That they were so privileged is sometimes

explained by the legend that the wise men were astrologers whose special interest helped them to notice the unusual brilliance of the three planets grouped together.

Merry Christmas
Wishing you all the blessings of a joyous holiday season. Sincere thanks one and all.
Larry and Heather Porte
of
Larry's House of Buys

MERRY CHRISTMAS
May your Christmas be a bountiful feast of harmony and joy with your loved ones.
Serving you is always a pleasure... thanks.
Cam and Betts CATERING

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Joyous songs of old fill the air with merriment and cheer. We join the chorus with thanks to all!
VAN'S WELDING
R. R. No. 4 Acton
853-1819

Christmas Cheer
Every day's a holiday being with our many friends. Thanks and best wishes for a Merry Christmas!
Pete and Darlene
PETE'S BARBER SHOP
27 Mill St. E. Acton 853-3510

Merry Christmas
We're banking on you to have the happiest holidays ever, and we want you to know it's been a real pleasure to serve you. Thanks
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