

Yule trees provide jobs

At Christmas, most Canadians still prefer to decorate their homes with the traditional, natural tree. Today, however, with increasing concern about conservation of our forest resources, many people believe they are depleting our forests by buying natural young conifers at Christmas.

The fact is that most Christmas trees sold by dealers are not grown in productive forests, but on special plantations using land that might otherwise be unproductive. Others are cut from natural forests, but are obtained by thinning dense stands, thereby allowing better growth for commercial species.

Christmas tree cutting creates jobs and extra income for farmers and other rural people in winter, and the plantations often provide scenic green belts, prevent land erosion, give sanctuary to wildlife and help reduce air pollution.

Fire safety hints

By using care and common sense, a natural tree can be as safe as any other. Here are some important points to remember when buying and installing your tree:

- Buy a tree that is fresh, since it will contain more moisture. The twigs should be flexible, and the needles should not fall off when the butt is knocked on the ground.

- Before you bring it indoors, the tree can be safely stored outdoors, sheltered as much as possible from wind and sun.

- When you are ready to bring your tree indoors, saw about an inch off the butt to increase water absorption. Put the tree in a stand with a good water container, and make sure it is kept filled. Plain water is best, and the use of any additives claimed to be "fire retardant" should be avoided. These could actually reduce water absorption by the tree. Fire-retardant sprays should also be avoided.

- Depending on the species, and on temperature and humidity of the room, trees will consume

varying amounts of water indoors. A tree about 2m high could absorb up to a litre in 24 hours.

- Keep your Christmas tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other sources of heat, and be sure it doesn't block an exit from the room.

- Never use wax candles on or near the tree. Before using electric tree lights, check them carefully for frayed cords or other defects. Be sure to turn off the lights before going to bed or leaving the house.

Yule is time of 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.

Carolling, mass are tradition

In the mountain regions of Western Australia, entire villages join in carol singing on Christmas Eve. Beginning with the family living farthest from the village church, torch-bearing carollers form a procession. At each house along the

way greetings of "Froehliche Weihnachten" are exchanged, and the inhabitants fall in line. Eventually, the whole population is part of the parade as it arrives at the church steps in time for Midnight Mass.

singing and Midnight Mass are also a part of the British holiday tradition. The custom of hanging up mistletoe dates back to the Druids, who used the plant in religious rites. Burning the Yule log is another custom borrowed by the British from the Vikings.

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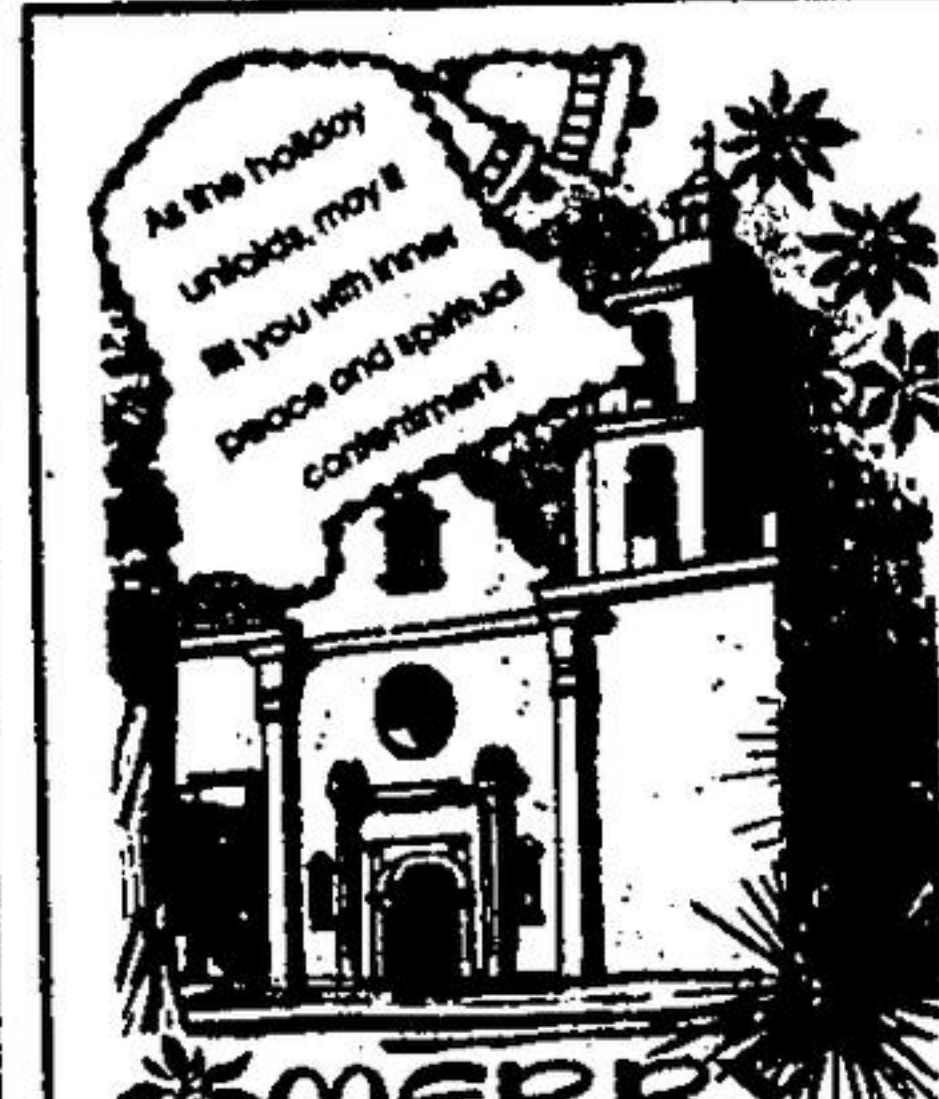
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Potted trees stop waste-nurseryman

Sixth Line nursery operator Art Bouwman sells potted Christmas trees to friends and relatives and would like to expand his idea to others so trees could be conserved and used year after year.

The trees are in pots, roots and all, and they last for years when they are replanted in the spring.

Replantable trees stop the waste, Bouwman says. If all the nurserymen in Canada refused to sell cut trees and produced potted ones for replanting instead it would change the face of the country in a hurry, he says.

He noted it takes only a few seconds with a chain saw or axe to cut down a tree which probably took from four to 10 years to grow. If everyone adopted his idea it would stop the tremendous waste in the Christmas season, he says.

Friends who have used his potted trees say they last for years although the price—from \$35 to \$65—is higher than most people would pay initially for a Yule tree.

Mr. Bouwman has about 2,000 Colorado spruce on his property and says he has never sold a cut-down tree. However, he notes that he may be the only one selling trees in pots.

Selling Christmas trees in pots may be a good idea but it isn't for everyone, says Bill Gourley, supervisor of private and forestry for the Ministry of Natural Resources. The 750,000 Christmas trees cut down every year in this Province are grown specifically for a market and would not provide good timber even if they were allowed to mature.

Merry Christmas...

May your holidays be adorned with the welcome sights and sounds of a better than ever Christmas!

Our sincere gratitude to all.

from all of us at
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Festive Tidings

Deck the halls, trim the tree! Fill this time with bright cheer and smiles... let the days ring out with laughter. It's Christmas!... enjoy it in every way. Thanks to you!

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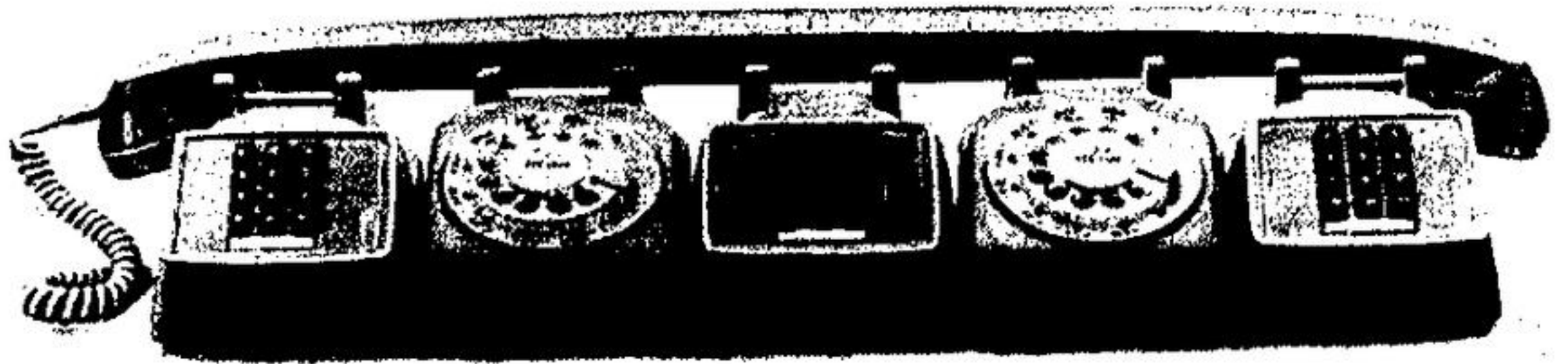
Joy and PEACE

May the true spirit of the season remain in our hearts. Best wishes!

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Introducing the dial-it-yourself person-to-person, overseas, collect, long distance card, third number billing telephone call.



Long distance calling has improved again and it's worth reading about.

For years you've been dialing only station-to-station calls that don't require an operator ("1" + the number).

Now you can dial the rest of your long distance calls too, with reduced operator assistance.*

To place these calls, you'll dial the number yourself. Then the operator will come on the line to make sure the call goes through the way you want.

Since you do the dialing, it will no

longer be necessary to give the number and wait while the operator records it and dials for you. All you have to do is tell the operator the type of call you're placing and how you want it completed.

This chart explains how it's done. There is no change in rates for any of these calls.

Station-to-station with no operator assistance ("1" + the number) is still the fastest and cheapest way to call long distance. Operator-assisted rates apply to all other types of calls.

This added service is now available to customers in the Kitchener and Guelph areas. You will receive a notice with your telephone bill as a handy reminder about the service.

A reminder about overseas calls during the holiday season.

When you dial overseas calls yourself the lowest rates apply. See the introductory pages of your phone book for details.

NEW	FAST	EASY
TYPES OF OPERATOR ASSISTED CALLS	HOW TO DIAL	WHAT HAPPENS NEXT
Person to person Collect Billed to a third number Long Distance Card	"0" + Area Code (if it's not 519) + the number	After dialing the operator will come on the line briefly to find out the type of call and complete it for you
Overseas	Dialing instructions vary according to the type of call and country you are calling. You'll find detailed instructions in the introductory pages of your telephone directory.	
Coin Telephones	You'll find dialing instructions in the telephone booth.	
Hotels/Motels	You'll find dialing instructions in the hotel room.	

*Excluding marine, mobile, conference calls and calls to certain overseas locations.

See a notice in the Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph and Cambridge areas.

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