

Humbug, says one; Hurray, another

By Celia Saxon and family
Christmas is a time for miracles - wishes granted dreams come true.
If you could have just one wish at Christmas, any miracle you wanted, what would you wish for?
We asked our three sons to write about their special Christmas wishes. Being three distinct personalities with individual wants and needs we came up with an interesting variation of dreams to fill.
Steve, 10: If I could have anything I wished for, my choice would be a trip to Santa's workshop to watch all the little elves hammering and sawing with tiny little tools. And if I had a second wish it would be that Christmas could be more old-fashioned and not so commercial. Everybody's using fancy phony stuff like plastic and tin foil instead of old wood and china like in the good old days. Of course I wasn't around in those days but it seems so dramatic on television. I think the best things come in plain brown wrappers. In our house Christmas is a mixture of the old and the new. We got a brand new 1974

artificial Christmas tree in an old 1910 wooden washub. We have modern electric Christmas lights and old-fashioned decorations that we made ourselves. And on top sits a mod, mod angel that glows under fluorescent lights.
Our mom uses all this psychology junk on us and on Christmas Eve she psyches us out on hot mulled wine and cinnamon and gives us brand new pyjamas so we will go to bed to sleep earlier. On Christmas morning we find tangerines and individual cereal packs in our stockings. That's a sneaky way of getting us to eat breakfast instead of junk.
My big brother says he doesn't believe in Christmas presents anymore and he's spilling everybody's Christmas. So here's my third wish: I hope the Saints will take him on a trip through time on Christmas Eve so he'll get up on Christmas morning and be so happy and excited and gay like Ebenezer Scrooge.
I get to go downstairs first because I'm the littlest.
The worse part about Christmas is when all the families come to visit and everybody

kisses everybody.
Geoff, 11: I would wish for Christmas in July so we could have a real pioneer Christmas, camping in the woods. We could build all our furniture out of logs, and make each other presents from raw materials. We could catch our own wild bird and cook it over the open fire. We could all sit around the fire and sing carols and roast chestnuts, and make popcorn and string it. We could gather wild berries and make chains and then we could decorate the trees right there and we wouldn't have to cut them down.
Since we don't have a fireplace in our house we roast our chestnuts in the oven because we can't light a fire in the middle of the floor. Around Christmas we have a big family reunion and sleigh ride with our 39 cousins and 28 aunts and uncles.
Jim, 13: Christmas is humbug! My brothers call me Scrooge.
I like Christmas music and carolling and decorating the tree and the house. I even made everybody's present this year at school instead of buying presents. But I think children expect too much of their parents.

One or two presents is alright but when they want five catalogues full it gets a bit ridiculous. Humbug! Nothing but pure humbug!
My wish is that all of Stockport could be moved to Acton. That's where my Nana and Grandad and all my English cousins live. We spent the summer with them. I would love to live there. But I want to live here too. So, if I could have anything I ever wanted, it would be to bring Stockport to Acton.
Celia: My miracle is too far out to ever become reality but I'll say it anyway. I wish that every real life situation was a Hollywood Christmas special with a happy ending. I wish that everyone, everywhere would put aside old grudges, let bygones be bygones, bury the hatchet, forgive and forget. I wish that all wayward friendships could be renewed and all the people in the world would stop hating. Just for one day I would like to see nothing but love everywhere. But that can't happen everywhere, so I'll just wish it can happen to me.



CHRISTMAS is a delightful mixture of the old and the new in the Saxon household. Here Geoff, 11 and Jim 13 give their little brother Steve 10 a boost to affix their mod, mod angel to the top of an artificial tree. The tree stands in an antique 1910 wooden washub and is decorated with commercial and home-made decorations.

The meaning of Christmas by a lowly reporter

By Richard Foster
Christmas means many things to many people. To some it is the long line-up at stores, high prices and tons of Christmas cards that must be mailed.
Christmas is more than that. Sure, it's part of Christmas as we celebrate it now, but the feeling and meaning of Christmas are more than that.
To me, Christmas is a time of remembering of recognition and giving. Christmas has come to be the only season when a cheery "Hello" followed of course by "Merry Christmas" will get an even cheerier response from the passer-by on the street.
People recognize other people as people during the Yuletide season. Driving along the roadways of Georgetown is a completely different experience as other drivers and pedestrians wave you on through traffic and give up their right-of way for you.

The carols and festive decorations add to the mood of the season and nurture the thought of others at this time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's gift to us.
The gifts and cards serve as a remembrance of the people we have come to know and love through the years. Nothing to me is more enjoyable as shopping for a gift that will be used and appreciated during the upcoming year.
The line-ups add little to the holiday spirit and the bills that traditionally follow can be sad remembrances to those who have forgotten the true joys of giving, both gifts and of one's self in selecting, wrapping and delivering the present.
Remember when you opened your first present, you didn't worry about where it came from? If it was from Grandma, her payment would be a huge smile and the biggest hug that two little arms could give.

This is all Grandma wanted and each time the child used that gift the thoughts memories and love still remained on throughout the years.
Santa has given gifts for years yet no one has given the jolly, jovial gent a thank you after he spent the entire night sliding down chimneys, sneaking around dark living rooms, and drinking gallons of milk and eating dozens of chocolate cookies.
The joy experienced by Santa and his many assistants comes early Christmas morning when the familiar cry "Santa's been here" brings the household alive at 4:30 a.m. The morning is spent with instruction manuals and batteries with the kids who insist that daddy can sit under the tree just like little Jimmy, Bobby or whatever you have around your home.
Not to think that Santa is a male-chauvinist, as was proven last week in a

Washington court of law, I'm sure that he would also let daddy make the morning coffee while Mommy "tightens bolt C in from 12-C."
Christmas is singing, loving, remembering understanding and, most of all, Christmas is fun. As much fun as you can make it.
Don't get discouraged when the local catalogue centre promises you the gifts you spent hours deciding on will be on the next truck, or when the cashier asks if it will be cash or charge when she holds your credit card.
Just think of the joy Jimmy will have when his brand new remote control car takes the first chunk out of the coffee table, and Suzzie finds out how to make the Betty-Whistle doll work, on Daddy's lap.
With any luck you'll remember the joy of that morning throughout the year.
Oh, yes, Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa
I only want
a Serenella
doll. Santa
what do you
like to drink?
What do your
reindeer like to
eat,
Lini Lawrie
17 Edith St
Georgetown

Dear Santa:

The Georgetown Post Office has passed along to us a few letters sent to Santa Claus c/o the North Pole. We took the liberty of sending them along ourselves to Santa.
Because of his busy schedule at this time of year, Santa told us that he normally doesn't have time to answer all the children's letters but, for a few children in Halton Hills, he said he would be glad to make time. He also added that Halton Hills children are among his most favorite in the world. With a few exceptions, he said, most have behaved themselves very well this year and should expect some very nice things under their Christmas tree.
Dear Santa:
I would like a pottery set, a charm, pen markers please.
Thank you
Love Diana Collett
25 Market Street.
Dear Diana:
I'm sure you'll get the things you have asked for but if you don't you shouldn't feel disappointed. It is always better to give than to receive, and the greatest gift of all is the joy of giving.
Love Santa
Dear Santa Claus:
I am a good girl. I want a two-wheeler, and some candy please. Thank you.
Please bring Brenty (my brother), who is a good boy, a dolly and a toy for a baby.
I know you have been a good girl and will bring you and your brother the gifts you have asked for. You didn't give me your name but I know you have been a very good girl. Your drawing made Mrs. Claus happy because she wanted a two-wheeler when she was your age.
Dear Santa:
I only want a Serenella doll. Santa what do you like to drink? What do your reindeer like to eat?
Love Lini Lawrie
17 Edith Street
Dear Lini:
I like Mountain Dew or Doctor Pepper to drink but if you only have milk and cookies they will be fine. After you cover so many houses a good drink feels very good. Rudolph likes pretzels but the rest of the reindeers will eat anything.
See you later
Santa
Dear Santa:
I would like a cake mix set for Christmas. I will be good. I will leave a carrot for Rudolf and a piece of cake for you. I go to school.
Love Pamela Henwood
Dear Pamela:
Rudolph will like the carrot very much but if you wait 'til next year you can leave me some cake you made yourself with your cake mix set.
Mrs. Claus said I should go on a diet. What do you think?
Yours truly
Santa
Dear Santa:
My name is Gregory Kerr. I am four years old. I am going to Barbados for Christmas, so please bring my presents there for me.
I would like: an airplane, an helicopter, like Jeffrey's, a car, an stch-a-sketch, a spinning wheel, a wind-up pussy cat, tinkler toys, clothes
I have not been too good, but I will try to be better.
Merry Christmas
Love Greg
34 Danridge Crescent
Dear Greg:
I hope you have a good time in the Barbados. My reindeer enjoy visiting the warmer climates to defeat their antlers.
I have passed your list on to our ordering computer to fill. Computers save time and make the trips on Christmas Eve so easy. I don't know whether our stock is sufficient to fill your order but, since you have been trying to be good, I'm sure we can work out something.
Yours truly
Santa

DEAR SANTA
I WOULD
LIKE A
CAKE MIX
SET FOR
CHRISTMAS
BECAUSE
I WILL
LEAVE
FOR
RODOLPH
AND A PIECE
OF CAKE FOR YOU
I GO TO SCHOOL
LOVE FROM PAMELA
HENWOOD

FROM
DIANA COLLETT
25 MARKET ST.
GEORGETOWN, ONT.
L7G 3B9

To: Santa Claus
North Pole

