

Out at the Ranch

with Bill Ellis

CHRISTMAS

" 'Tis the season to be jolly" and "Ho Ho Ho!" and "Merry Christmas" and "Season's Greetings". It is time for all the greetings and festive get-togethers that highlight that most special time of the year - Christmas.

Like many, I am a sentimentalist over Christmas. You know - the lump in the throat every

time you hear a favorite carol. And though we get the same bombardment every year about the commercialism of Christmas, and the greed of Christmas, it still shines through as the finest commemoration festival of which we are capable.

Like most families, our Christmas celebration is one steeped in the traditions of our own founding families, and it is



great to see the traditions carried on by our children with some new wrinkles from the in-laws. Our Christmas celebration is a liberal mix of the religious, the Christmas myths and yes, some of the-commercialism.

And though Christmas present purchasing can happen at any time during the year, the obvious things start to happen about December 15th. First, the outside lights go up. We seem to alternate between a cut tree on the front porch or loading our shrubs or a lawn tree with lights. The first family get-together of

Christmas is when the indoor tree goes up. Everybody is involved with lights, ornaments and tinsel with the Christmas songs and carols in the background. Without fail, someone will say that this Christmas tree is just about the nicest one we have ever had, regardless of a slight list to the left or right. All the indoor decorations are set out and hung at the same time, leaving no doubt that the season has indeed arrived.

Our Christmas Eve tradition calls for the official Christmas dinner on the Eve, and everyone gathers to open the gifts right after dinner. The dinner is roast turkey, of course, but notable side dishes are red cabbage, containing apples and cinnamon, hot green bean salad and daughter Becky always makes the most decadent chocolate mousse ever tasted! The table centre piece is made up in the afternoon and contains red candles plus fresh holly, ivy, pine and spruce boughs.

On Christmas morning,

everybody returns so Kelly can check on what Santa left for her at Gram's house and everyone else gets a stocking full of goodies from 'ole Jolly. All assemble again on Christmas afternoon for a festive drink. A glass of wine or champagne or for the hardy - a Purple Flash! This drink is only mixed on Christmas afternoon and was originally devised by my father-in-law, bless him. The major components are scotch whiskey and blackberry brandy (recipe available on request). Then the BBQ is fired up for a Christmas dinner of baked potatoes, steak and salad. Stuffed again!

Boxing Day is drop in or drop around day, and then a few days rest before we hit the parties, parades and football of New Years. It's tough work - but somebody has to do it!

Merry Christmas!

Bill Ellis is an Associate Broker with Coldwell Banker/Canada Trust Realty in Georgetown.



Just monkeying around

Georgetown District High School principal Bryn Davies (right) and faculty presented a humorous presentation of "Aladdin" for students last Friday before they broke for the holidays. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

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The Rotary Club of Georgetown



presents the **2nd Annual**



A benefit performance for
The Ralph Ursel Foundation

Saturday, January 22/94

at the John Elliott Theatre
9 Church St., Georgetown

Curtain 7:30 p.m. (non-reserved seating)

Tickets \$20 (includes reception after the show)

For ticket information call Neville Worsnop 853-1030,
Barry Timleck 877-6198, John Winsor (CIBC) 877-2231

Pick up and pay for tickets at CIBC Georgetown Downtown;
Video Plus, 134 Guelph St.; NRS Real Estate, Mountainview;
Hallmark Cards, Georgetown Mall; Halton Hills This Week, Mountainview.

Benefit Show

On Saturday, January 22, 1994, the Rotary Club of Georgetown will present "Showtime" - a music hall revue featuring the "Showtime" singers and guest artists. The show is a benefit performance to raise funds for the Ralph Ursel Foundation, which has been formed in memory of Ralph Ursel, a past president and active member of Rotary for over 20 years.

Ralph Ursel was a teacher at Georgetown High School. He loved theatre and music, and left his mark on the community through the many musical shows with which he was involved. Ralph founded Georgetown Globe Productions, directed musicals at the high school and in Brampton, and worked on a number of Christmas pantomimes with Georgetown Little Theatre. Ralph Ursel's talent, enthusiasm and dedication to excellence helped build a love of theatre in this community, which in turn led to the building of the John Elliott Theatre.

The Foundation needs funds to complete the project which it is hoped, will yield a student scholarship of about \$450 annually.



So don't miss the opportunity to hear the exciting "Showtime" singers, and enjoy a fun-filled evening with their guests.