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From our family to yours...

Merry Christmas!



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House tour sparks Christmas spirit

by Naomi Powell

It can be a little strange to have your home transformed, even if it is by professional decorators.

"It looks like Christmas and it's only November," said 12-year-old Andrew Cardin.

Andrew's parents, David and Mary Cardin, opened their home in Rockwood for the annual United Way Christmas House tour, held on Saturday, November 17. The Cardin's 19th century style house was one of seven in the Halton area that were adorned by local interior designers with Christmas trees, fairy lights and other breathtaking finery.

Over 1100 people attended the tour and preliminary figures put the amount earned for the United Way at around \$19,000.

Event chair Christie Babcock and her committee begin scouting houses for the tour in the spring. Decorators donate their time and resources to the tour while homeowners act as hosts to the visitors. But many homeowners do a great deal more than simply open their doors.



Mrs. Cardin spent two weeks working hand-in-hand with local decorator and friend Palma Morrow to prepare the interior and exterior of her home. The process became a little intense at times.

"I had seven 75-foot rows of cedar hanging out of my van at one point," laughed Ms. Morrow. "And I was still fixing a wreath with my glue gun just before the pre-tour started."

Ms. Morrow and Mrs. Cardin started their work at 9:30 every morning and continued until Mrs. Cardin's three children came home from school each day.

"It wasn't too hard on the family until the last couple of days," said Mrs. Cardin. "We saved decorating the table and counter until last so that we could eat."

Beautiful greenery brightened the exterior of the Cardin home while candles and fresh

(Continued on next page)



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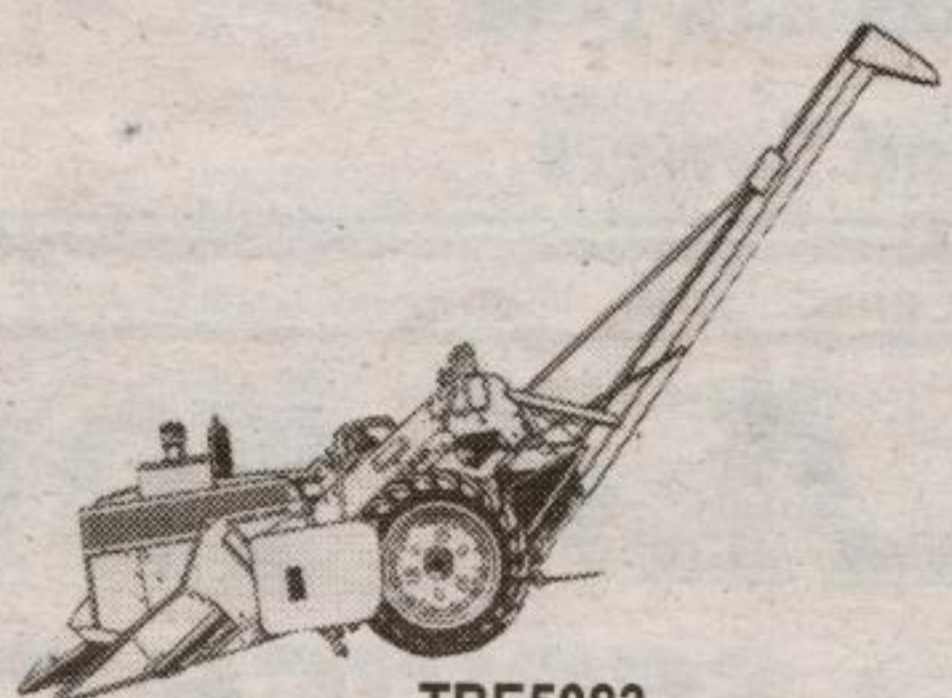
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Amidst the hustle and bustle of your holiday preparations, may you find time to enjoy the simple pleasures of the season - twinkling lights, Christmas carols, colourful cards and wrapping paper, the unexpected courtesy and kindness of strangers and the joy and anticipation on young faces.

Have a safe & happy holiday season!

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