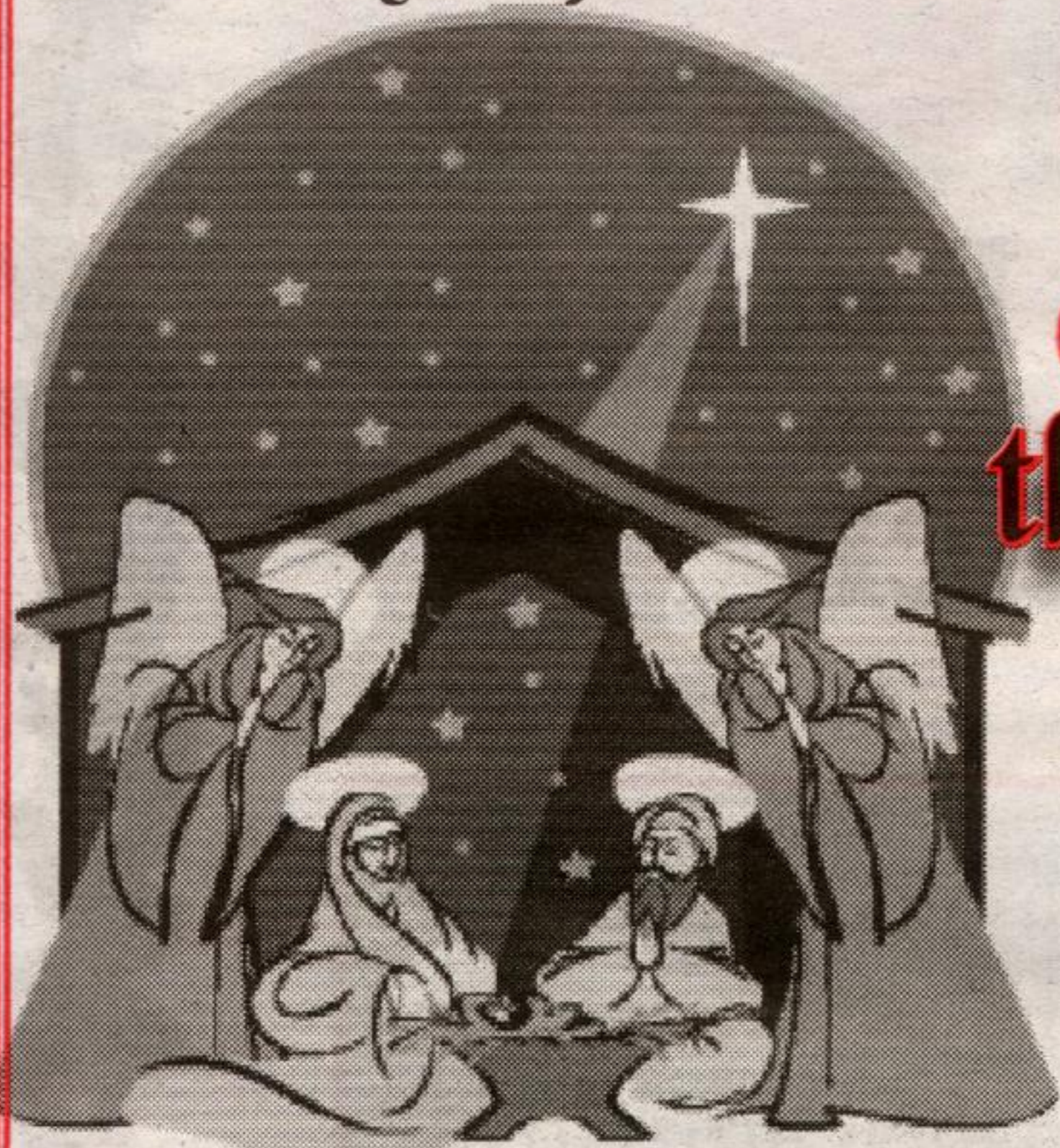


# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Thank you for another successful year



**Jesus is  
the reason  
for the  
season.**

From the staff of

**Reg Marsh & Associates**

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**BILINGUAL MESSAGE:** The McKenzie-Smith Bennett School French Choir sang Les 12 jours de noel (The Twelve Days of Christmas) at the school's holiday concert last Wednesday. - Frances Niblock photo

## Credit Norse for mistletoe kisses

Kissing under the mistletoe is another Yule custom, which provides fun and frolic at Christmas family parties and celebrations, but how did it originate?

Mistletoe was thought to be sacred by ancient Europeans. Druid priests employed it in their sacrifices to the gods, while Celtic people felt it possessed miraculous healing powers. In fact, in the Celtic language mistletoe means "all heal".

It was thought mistletoe not only cured diseases, but could also render poisons harmless, make humans and animals prolific, keep one safe from witchcraft, protect the house from ghosts and even make them speak. It

was also thought to bring good luck to anyone privileged to have it.

Norsemen had a symbolic myth about mistletoe. The story goes that mistletoe was the sacred plant of Frigga, goddess of love and the mother of Balder, the god of the summer sun. Balder had a dream of death, which greatly alarmed his mother, for should he die, all life on earth would end.

It is related the tears she shed for her son turned into the pearly white berries on the mistletoe plant. In her joy Frigga kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew.

The story ends with a decree that who should ever

stand under the humble mistletoe, no harm should befall them, only a kiss a token of love.

Later, the eighteenth-century English credited mistletoe not with healing powers, but with a certain magical appeal called a kissing ball.

At Christmas time a young lady standing under a ball of mistletoe, brightly trimmed with evergreens, ribbons, and ornaments, cannot refuse to be kissed. Such a kiss could mean deep romance or lasting friendship and goodwill.

If the girl remained un-kissed, she couldn't expect to take that trip to the altar the following year.

**Profile** & Silvercreek Spa  
Hair Salon

Would like to wish  
all of our customers and their  
families a



*Merry Christmas*

*and*

*Happy New Year.*

*We look forward to seeing  
you in 2005*

*Have a safe and happy holiday  
and  
please don't drink & drive.*

*Monica, Yvette,  
Joanna, & Denny*

Acton Mews Plaza, 56D Mill St. East, Acton

**519 835 0811**






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*Gisele Tremblay*  
Design Consultant

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