## VOX POP

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? Will wet/mild weather put a damper on a happy holiday?





Victoria Glassford, Acton "Fresh snow on the ground is a must for me – that's all part of the Christmas spirit and I will really feel it if there is no snow. I'll pine for snow and get together with family and have a little snow dance."



Ernie Edward, Acton "No snow will absolutely not be a problem because I won't have to shovel it. I live alone and don't like to shovel... I have kids and grandchildren, and some of them may miss it. Not I."



Roseann Huotari, Acton "It doesn't have to snow – it's just nice as it is. The lights are most important, and people's decorations and having fun with your family – that's the best part. It's going to be mice."



Mark James, Acton
"Christmas is all about
having snow and it's not
the same without it. For
me, not being with children—I'm just a single guy
it's depressing without
the snow. It goes hand-inhand with Christmas."

## Carols special part of Christmas

Carols, according to the Gage Canadian dictionary, are songs or hymns of joy and not necessarily associated with Christmas. Most people in Canada, however, would equate Christmas and carols as synonymous.

Christmas music, especially the carols, are a very

special part of the Christmas celebration around the world. Caroling is a Christmas tradition that allows the beauty of music to be shared.

Many ancient carols were composed to commemorate or retell the stores and customs surrounding the Christmas celebration, before books were printed and before most people could read them. Some of them were dance forms, from which the word "carol" derives.

There are two categories of carols – traditional and religious. Examples of the former evolved in England during the medieval period.

Traditional carols were sung in the language of the people, rather than in Latin, and were less religious. They were derived from traditional drinking, feasting or folk songs, straying from the religious themes found in music of the church.

In the early days, carols were sung by "waits," or bands of men and boys singing outdoors, usually for money. By the 14th century these traditional carols, often accompanied with dancing, were firmly entrenched as part of the festivities surrounding Christmas.

Carols, or hymns, are still very much an essential part of the caroling repertoire. Some of this devotional and inspiring music has been composed by world-famous composers such as, Handel ("Joy To The World"), Bach ("How Brightly Beams the Morning Star") and

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Best Wishes for Happiness at Christmas and in the New Year



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