

Carols always special part of Christmas

Most people in Canada find the singing of carols part of the Christmas season but according to the Canadian Gage dictionary carols are songs or hymns of joy and don't necessarily have an association with Christmas.

Christmas music, especially the carols, is still a very special part

of Christmas celebrations 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 Mendelssohn ("Hark!

The Herald Angels Sing").

Their lyrics generally focus on the birth of Christ as told in the Gospels of St. Luke and St. Matthew. Martin Luther wrote the words to "Away in a Manger."

What is probably the most authentic Canadian Christmas carol was originally called "Jesus Ahatonia" composed by Jean Brebeuf, Jesuit missionary to Huronia, in the 1640s, with Huron words and a French tune. It has since been translated into French as, Jesus est Nee, and in English as, The Huron Carol.

No matter where they

originated or how many times they are played or sung, Christmas carols never seem to lose their appeal, even though shopping malls and plazas play them well before the Christmas season.

During World War I, German and British troops faced each other over terrain terraced and destroyed by trenches and shell holes, soldiers on both sides are said to have taken up the carol Silent Night started by one lone German soldier, his heart no doubt back in his native Bavaria. The war was forgotten and there were dreams of heavenly peace.



Christmas movies and specials never lose their wide appeal

What would the Christmas season be without the endless stream of movies and specials on television?

Some of the movies never seem to lose their appeal even after dec-

ades of viewing.

Favourites include:

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) - Those zany Griswolds are up to their antics again! Led by an all-star cast including Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo, the Griswold family Christmas should be merry, but naturally turns into a hilarious disaster. Look for appearances by Julia Louis-Dreyfus (formerly

of "Seinfeld") and Doris Roberts (of "Everybody Loves Raymond").

"A Christmas Story" (1983) - You won't want to miss this classic of the 1940s Americana which was partly filmed in Toronto. Young Ralphie has his heart set on a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas, but it seems like Mom, teacher and Santa are certain he'll "shoot his eye out" with such a gift. Will Ralphie find his

heart's desire under the tree? Watch to find out.

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) - Many versions of this movie have been made throughout the years, but the original outshines them all. When distraught George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) meets a compassionate angel, he learns what life would have been like if he'd never existed. Holiday magic wins out in the end.

"Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) - Another classic that can't be missed! When a man claiming to be Santa Claus is deemed insane, a young lawyer and a headstrong young girl come to his rescue.

"A Christmas Carol" (1951) - Yet another movie that has spawned a series of more recent remakes. This one stars Alastair Sim as Mr. Scrooge, a bitter, miserly man who doesn't give a bah humbug about the holiday season. But will a haunting by three ghosts change his mind and ill will?

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965) - Charlie Brown is depressed and can't find the Christmas spirit. When he is put in charge of the school's holiday pageant and comes in with a meager Christmas tree, the school kids ultimately learn about the true meaning of Christmas.

*To our Customers & Friends
we extend our sincerest best wishes
for a Happy Holiday Season
& a prosperous New Year*

Denny's Insurance
Service since 1958

15 MILL STREET WEST, ACTON
ONTARIO L7J 1G3
Tel: (519) 853-0150
Toll Free: 1-800-294-6886
Fax: (519) 853-0176

*Season's
Greetings
& A Happy
New Year*

To all our valued Customers

M McNABB GRAPHICS

56 MILL STREET EAST, ACTON, ONTARIO L7J 1H3
Professional Design and Printing Services
PHONE: 519-853-5615 FAX: 519-853-5731