

'Ounce of prevention' can mean safe holiday

Avoid fire hazards around the home at Christmas, advise the home economists, Home Economics Branch, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The natural Christmas tree can become a fire hazard if not selected and set up with care. Select a tree that is moist and flexible not dry and brittle. Store it outdoors until you are ready to bring it inside.

'Chrismon' Trees Tell A Story

Christmas trees have long embodied different kinds of traditions. Many families mark the year of their lives by adding new ornaments to their holiday decorations each year.

Churches also decorate Christmas trees, and many churches have adopted ornaments that tell a story, such as the "Chrismon" tree. The word Chrismon is a combination of "Christ" and "monogram," meaning "monogram of Christ." Colors of the ornaments are restricted to white and gold.

The decorations, which include traditional Nativity scenes, animals and Biblical items like chariots and crosses, are also symbolic—like the white rose which symbolizes the infant.

Once the tree is set up, the cut end should be immersed in water at all times. Be sure that the tree is not blocking access to doors or windows in case of fire. Keep it away from drapes and heat sources such as fireplaces, television sets and radiators.

If you like to decorate with candles, place them where they cannot be knocked down or blown over, never on the tree. Instead, use Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certified light sets whose cords and connections are in good condition.

Other tree decorations should be nonflammable and, if possible, unbreakable. Place your breakable treasures near the top of the tree out of reach of children and pets.

Cotton batting or discarded gift wrapping under the tree is a fire hazard, as are electrical toys which give off sparks.

Are artificial trees the answer? Not necessarily. Some plastic trees are flammable while others, such as those of aluminum, are fireproof. Metallic trees are conductors of electricity so must be illuminated with spotlights, not strings of lights.

Many beautiful effects can be achieved with lighting outside the home. For outdoor safety, use only weather-proofed equipment labelled for outdoors. Sockets must be



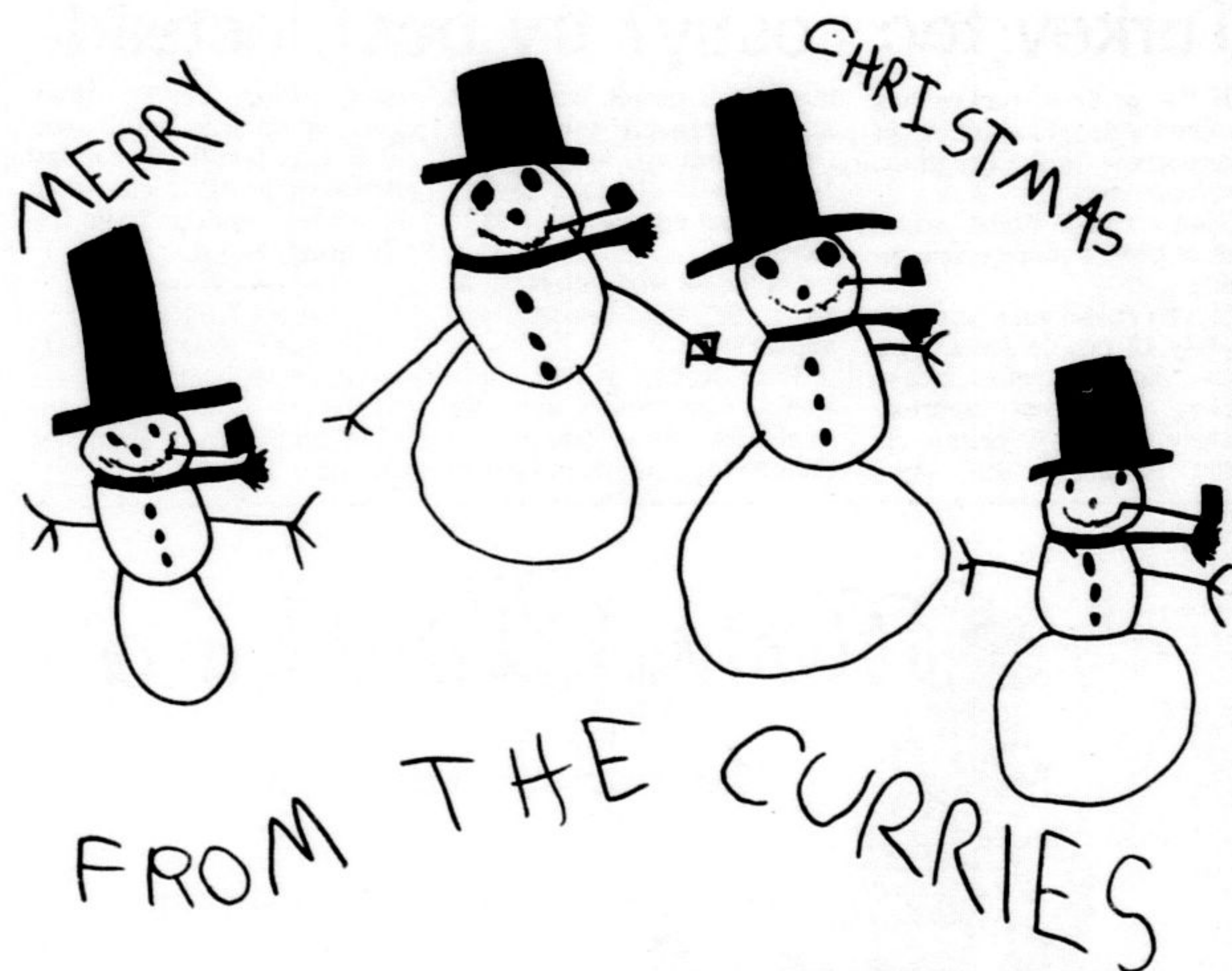
hung with the bulb pointing downward.

Wherever possible, run cords above the ground. Strings can be held in place with insulated staples (not nails, tacks or brads) or run through hooks obtainable from hardware stores. Any connections should be wrapped with plastic electrical tape.

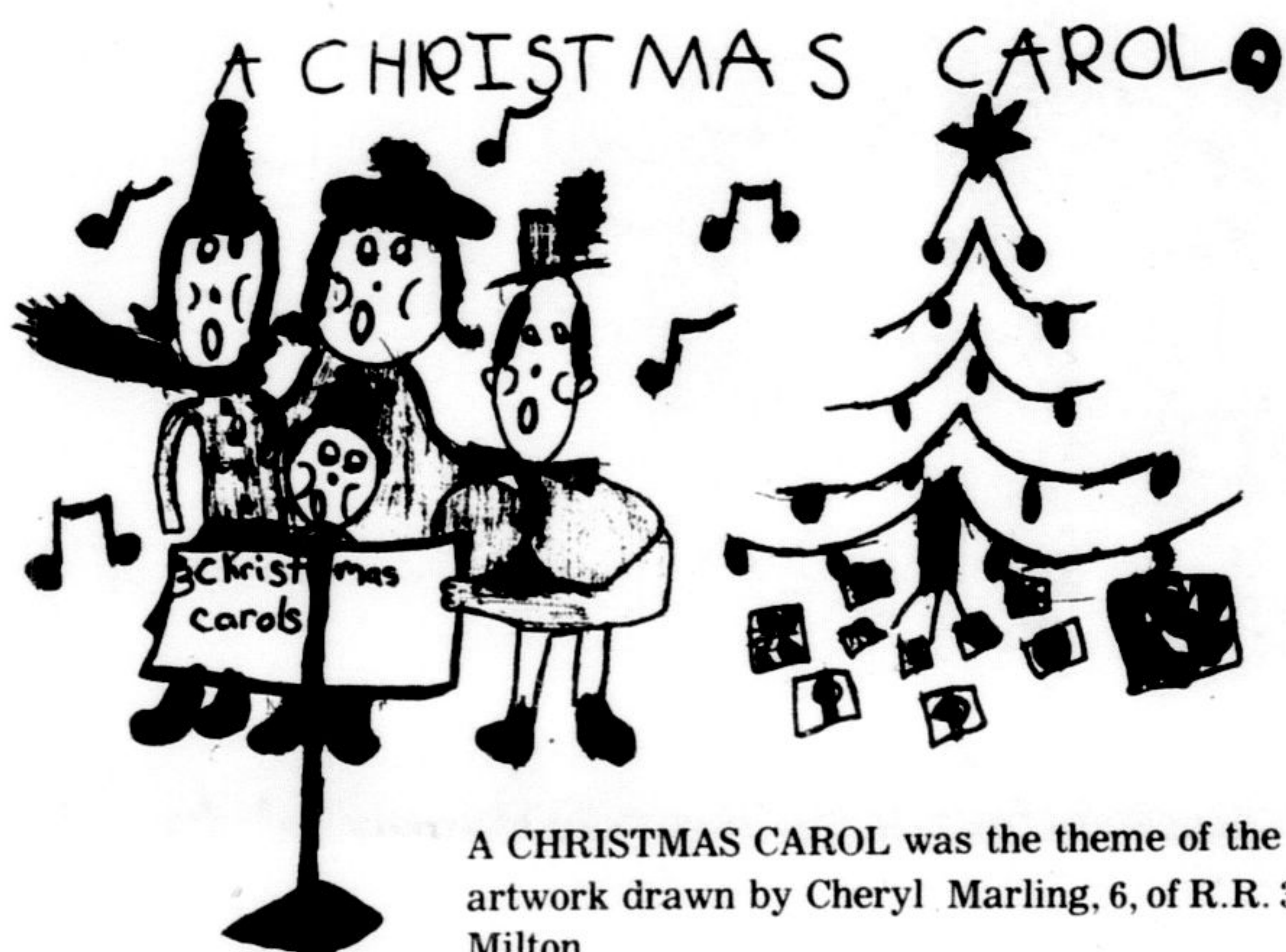
Keep sidewalks, steps and driveways clear of slippery ice or snow for arriving guests.

For that extra "ounce of prevention" have a fire extinguisher on hand.

Exercise special care in all your Christmas preparations and activities. Have a safe and merry Christmas.



THE CURRIES wish you a merry Christmas, complete with four snowmen. Drawn by Heather Currie, 5, of 590 Lord Simcoe Ct.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL was the theme of the artwork drawn by Cheryl Marling, 6, of R.R. 3 Milton.



Good Wishes at Christmas

To all the friends we have had the pleasure of serving — wishes for a warm, old-fashioned, family-filled holiday.

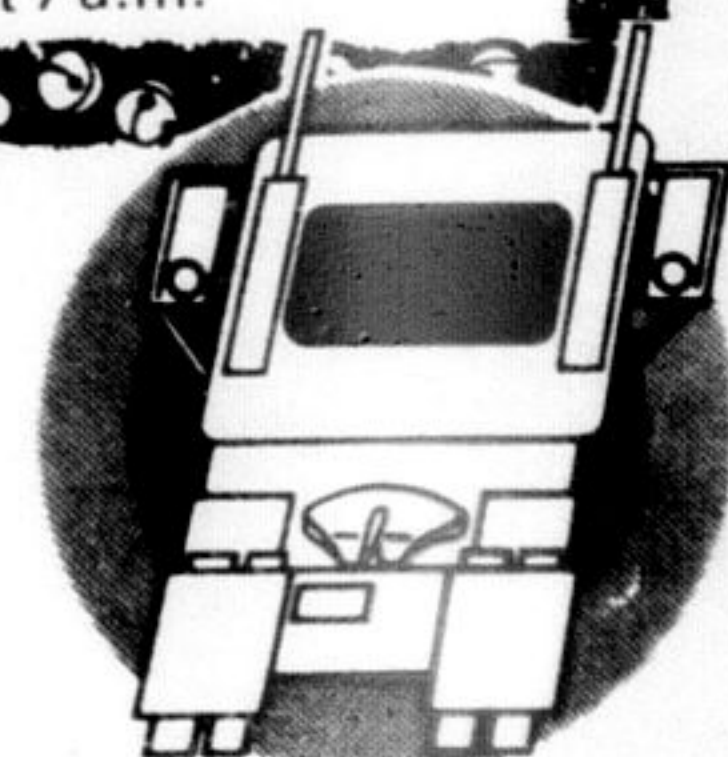
OUR HOLIDAY SEASON HOURS:

RESTAURANT — STORE — MOTEL

Christmas	Closed Sunday Dec. 24 at 8 p.m. Re-open again Tues. Dec. 26 at 7 a.m.
New Year's	Closed Sunday Dec. 31st 8 p.m. Re-open Tuesday Jan. 2 at 7 a.m.

Fuel bar will remain open over the holiday.

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GREETINGS

As hills and valleys echo the wonderful sounds of Christmas, they echo too, our sincere gratitude for your warm and valued friendship.

from Management and Staff

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