

Holiday entertaining made easy

(NC)—As the holiday season draws near, many Canadians will begin planning a festive get-together for family and friends. The team at Canadian Tire have put together entertaining ideas to add some flare to celebrations this year.

Formal dinner

- The table will be the focal point. Choose a festive colour – red or cranberry is the hot colour this year – then coordinate dinnerware, napkins, tablecloths and glassware for an elegant look.

- Make a festive centerpiece by arranging glass ornaments in a bowl or a tray with holiday candles.

- Personalize it. Place a name card at each setting or a trendy shatter-proof ornament on each plate as a special takeaway at

the end of the evening.

Cocktail party

- Serve finger foods that people can eat easily while holding a drink. Food stations make for a more informal atmosphere.

- Adorn drinks with holiday-themed swizzle sticks and attach wine charms to glass stems to add some flare and help guests identify glasses.

- For a sleek look, Canadian Tire has a line of stainless steel bar accessories complete with bottle openers, utensils and drink shakers.

Cookie Exchange

- Great way to celebrate and round-up tasty treats for holiday entertaining.

- Decide on the number of guests. Ask each person to bring a dozen cookies or squares for each guest. Have guests package treats individually and gather together for a festive celebration to exchange goodies.

- Package up treats in holiday mugs, cookie jars and recipe boxes from Canadian Tire or send guests home with holiday-themed cookie cutters. A full range of festive food storage and baking accessories can be found in-store.

Skating party

- Perfect for those who enjoy the outdoors.

- Choose a local outdoor rink or arena and call ahead to reserve space or find out public skating hours.

- In the spirit of the season, invite guests to bring extra mitts, scarf or hat to donate to a local charity.

- Once the fresh air has worked its magic, invite guests back for warm apple cider, hot chocolate or mulled wine served in festive mugs and accompanied by some fresh, baked goods.

- News Canada



Choose a new theme to decorate your tree

(NC)—Trimming the tree is an activity that captures the holiday spirit and reflects personal style. The decorating team at Canadian Tire suggests these new ways to dress up your holiday tree. Pick an entirely new theme or incorporate fresh touches to complement an existing look.

Top tree decorating trends

When considering a theme to complement your home décor, consider lighting, colour combinations, textures, and the mixing and matching of various materials.

- Modern metals – a contemporary, glowing look that starts with metals such as warm coppers, antique iron, glittery gold, rustic brushed tin or shiny silverplate. Mix with matte or shiny glass balls and metallic stars. Glitzy ribbon garland completes the look.

- Dramatic velvets – Velvet touches in rich red, blue or black can begin with tree decorations and carry through to the tree skirt, stockings and table linens.

- Red is hot – Traditional red looks new this year, when put with silver accents. Start with silver-beaded snowflakes, add aluminum and wire figures and deck with silvery garlands to complement rich red ornaments.

- Exotic ornamentation – Think beading, embroidery, Indian silks and jacquards.

Add touches of elegance with jewel-tone glass ornaments trimmed with gold flourishes, beaded stars and snowflakes, sequined balls and beaded tassels such as those available at Canadian Tire. Instead of tinsel, try using beaded garland.

Tree chic

Tree decorating is fun and easy to do in any size space if you select the right tree:

- Pre-lit trees save you having to string lights on the tree and are available with multi-coloured or clear white lights.

- Fibre-optic lit trees are novel and have a bit of a retro look at the same time.

- Small spaces require a narrow tree. Look for slim-line artificial trees, such as the 7 1/2-foot Greenwich Pine sold at Canadian Tire.

- Tabletop trees are ideal when there is no floor space available.

Buy a tree – help a family!

During the holiday season at Canadian Tire stores across Canada, \$5 from the sale of every full size artificial tree will be donated to the Canadian Tire Foundation for Families to benefit local charities. The Foundation for Families is committed to helping families in times of need to ensure that life's basic needs are met – food, shelter, clothing and essential goods.

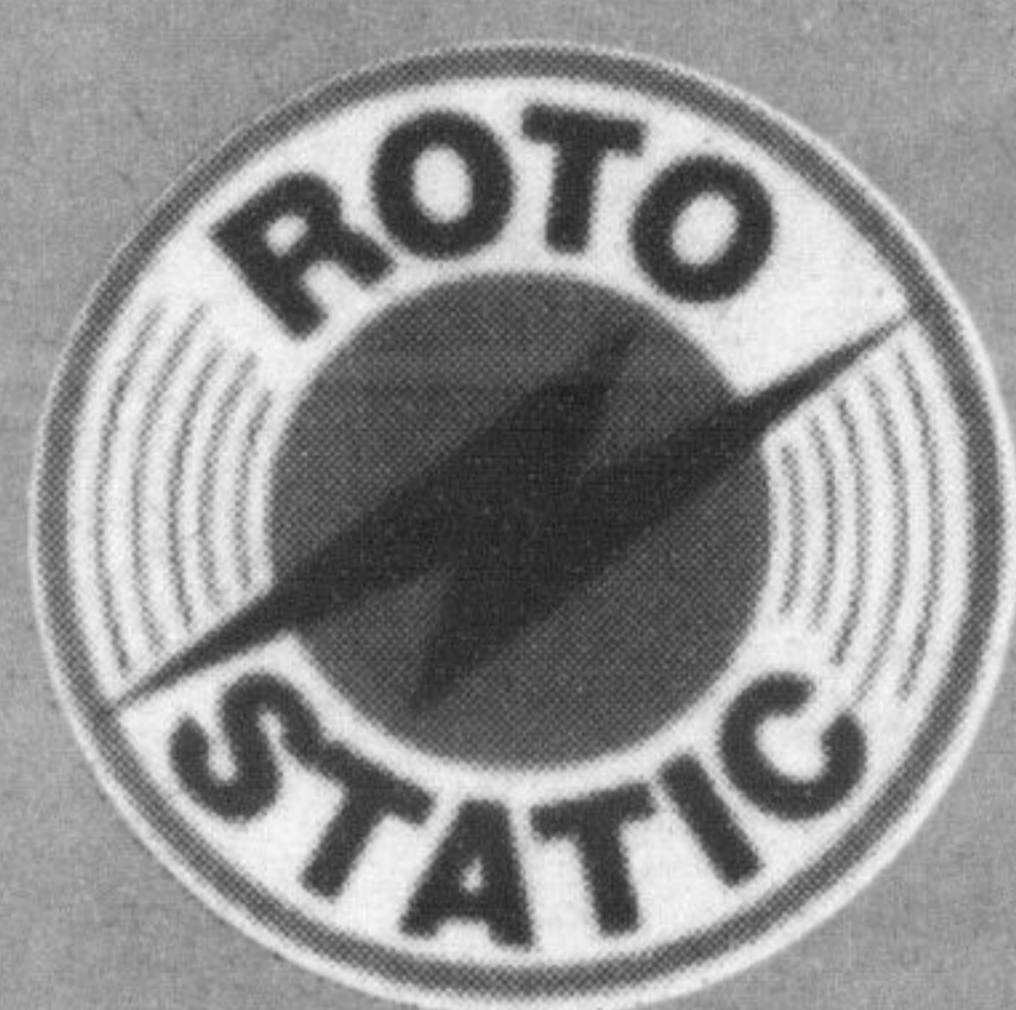
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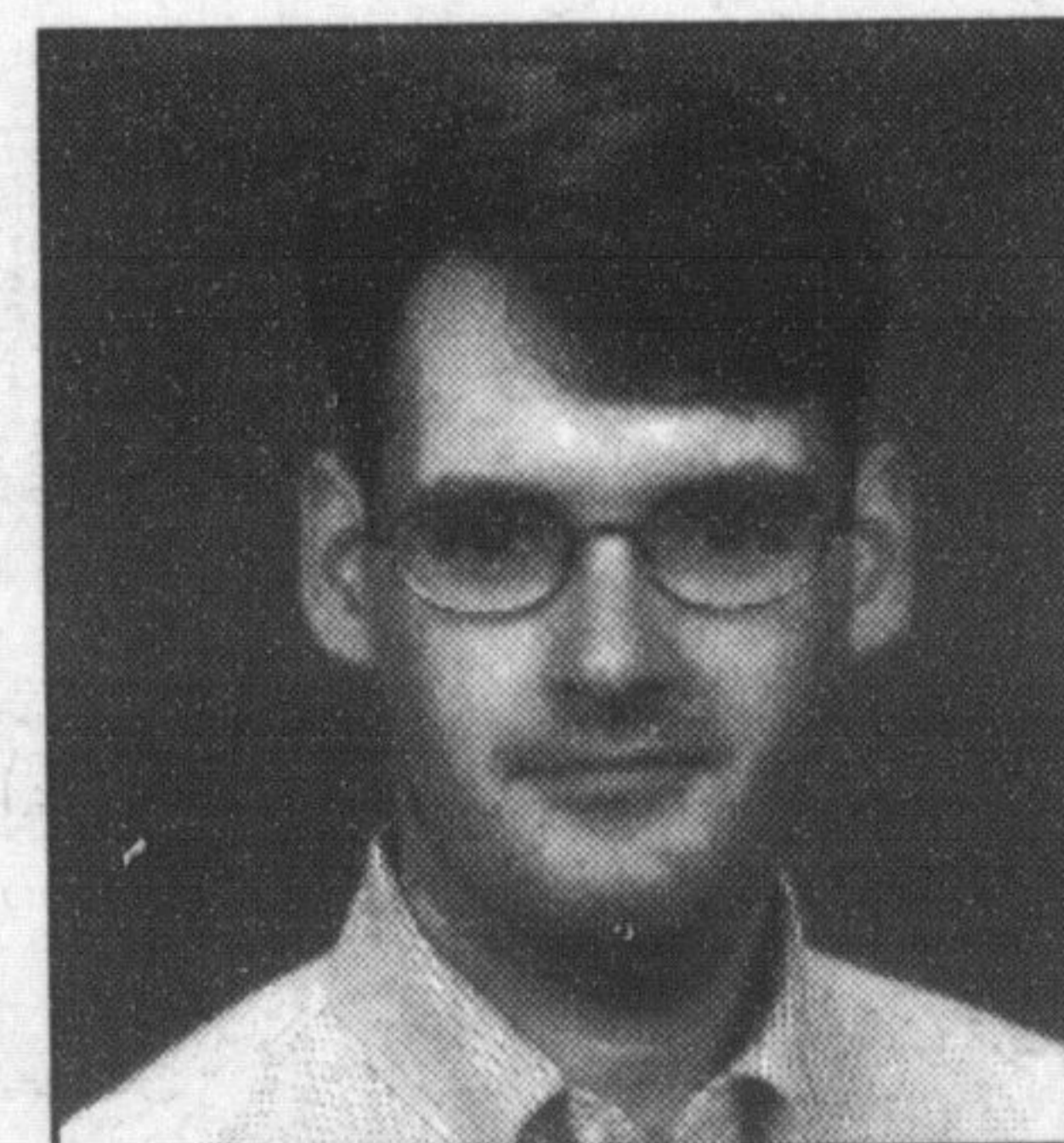
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