

Santa Claus came to Canada 130 years ago

Our plump, cheerful, bearded Santa Claus was known by a few Canadian settlers to make his midnight rounds in the 1850s, but this modern-day philanthropist was first popularized by the drawings of an American-Thomas Nast, in the 1860s.

However, Santa's generosity was somewhat limited, back then, to stuffing Christmas stockings. Christmas presents didn't play such a decisive role in the celebrations as they do now, for only a few gifts were exchanged between relatives and close friends but, unlike today, also on New Year's. Unless the presents were specifically intended to be a surprise, they were handed over without gift wrapping.

Books were especially popular back then as

presents. From advertisements, the best sellers' list carried the Family Bible, Poets of the Nineteenth Century, Fleetwood's Life of Christ, and The Arabian Nights.

The custom of decorating a Christmas tree was imported into Canada by Germans and Pennsylvania Germans. Their decorated tree in the 1850s could display oranges, fruit drops in the shape of the respective fruit, cookies, toys and strings of popcorn.

The Christmas tree became fashionable in England only after the London Illustrated News published in 1848 a picture of Queen Victoria and her family viewing their Christmas tree at Windsor Palace. This tradition then became popular with British settlers in Canada.



**Bandage One
on the job**

Not everyone will be home this Christmas with family and friends. Some will be on duty and others will be on call including pilot and crew members of Bandage One, Ministry of Health's helicopter ambulance which made a quick visit to Midland last week to pick up a patient for a race against time back to a Toronto hospital.



**Keating revisited
at the Garrison**

Merry Christmas
The season's all aglow with warmth and contentment. Here's hoping that you will enjoy it to the fullest.

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From our house to yours go all the best wishes of the Christmas season. Peace, Love, Merriment.

Tom & Goldie Crowe and family
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*** ORMOND BEACH 10 DAYS (DAYTONA BEACH)** DEPART MAR. 20/81
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