A Christmas tradition...choosing spruce

An old fashioned Christmas starts with old fashioned Christmas tree. Throughout Ontario trees of Scotch Pine, Spruce and Balsam Fir are central to the family Christmas celebration.

- Full green foliage, fragrant fresh scent, and the charm of nature's impact on the Christmas symbol all combine to create magic memories for children and stir reflections of other days for adults. Most trees chosen for Ontario homes are two to three metres tall and predominantly Scotch Pine in the tradition begun by the Anglo Saxon founders of the province. Spruce and Balsam Fir are climbing in popularity as the stately. The fir on the European and Maritime other hand is a closer traditions of these growth, a tighter, more

through parents to second and third generations.

According to Keith Horton, Stouffville, president of the Christmas Tree Growers Association, Maritimers remember the Spruce and the Balsam Fir, as do Europeans whose family trees always came from the forests of their native country. We see the gradual shift to these trees and our plantings are reflecting the change.

There is really no difference in choosing and handling the different trees in the home. But each tree has a character of its own. The long silken needles of the pine give grace and form to the trees and they are full and residents are passed compact tree with a

fresh forest. The spruce from the water you put seems to bridge the characteristics of the keeps the needles soft, other two. Not as tightly fresh, green and pliable. shaped as the fir, not quite as stately as the were sold from Ontario pine. But with graceful curving branches, most from city tree mas decorations, he Scouts troops, charity

Ontario Christmas tree growers have good advice about choosing and using a tree. "Look for fragrance and good colour, bend the needles to check for freshness and shake or bounce the tree a bit to test good, healthy needles," says Horton.

And when you get the tree home, cut off about an inch of the stem before you stand the tree in its base. When you make sure the base is kept filled with water, you know your tree is fire safe. It won't burn as long as you keep it

wonderful scent of the watered. It feeds itself in the base and that

Last year 352,000 trees Christmas tree farms, beautiful with Christ- stands run by Boy

Lack of interest cancels show

by BONNIE ORR Students of Elmvale District High School mourn the loss of interest in their annual Variety Night. Variety Night was cancelled due to the lack of interested

students. Kim Tuck, the president of Student's Council at Elmvale District High School, said, "Because very few students signed up to be a part in the Variety Night, we were forced to cancel Variety Night."

Although this has been a disappointment for some, the students have been quick to recover. They are already looking forward to their Christmas Formal.

The students hope this is a great success. They believe next year might bring more talent and courage for a 1985 Variety Night. The students remain op-

organizations and private entrepreneurs. Some 52,000 trees were chosen and cut by city families who walked among the growing in farms trees throughout the province and selected the family tree from a forest of green prospects.

"This 'choose and cut' method, as we call it, is a wonderful start to the Christmas tradition,"

"because choosing the family tree begins the feeling of sharing and participating. Everyone helps to select the right tree, and everyone helps tree, the family's with choice."

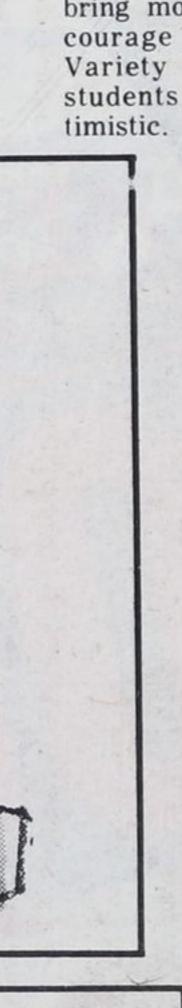
home as beautifully as a Horton says.

Keith Horton says, Christmas tree. Nothing says the cheer and warmth of a Christmas as well as a Christmas tree. As a grower I'm always trhilled when I see the joy a real tree to cut and carry it. Then brings to a child, and to when it gets home many young families everyone participates in who mark the start of decorating the family their home together their first Christmas, tree shared "Nothing decorates a in a family setting,"

Getting down to Unristmas

the Highland Motel, is dwarfed by a

Ray Cavelaire, maintenance man at 10-foot-high Christmas spruce he installed in the lobby last Wednesday.



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