

An Independent Weekly — Established 1873  
 Subscription Rate, \$2.00 per year; To the United States \$2.50  
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association  
 J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Christmas 1948 comes to a world still troubled and disorganized and it would seem still quite out of tune with the message the angels did sing of Peace on Earth, Good Will among Men. However here in Canada we have much to be thankful for, and we should celebrate this great occasion with the true spirit of Christmas in our hearts. The true spirit of Christmas is joy, gratitude and good will to all. In this spirit we are happy to extend to all readers of The Liberal our very best wishes for a joyous Christmas. May every home in this district be blessed with a happy Yuletide holiday.

DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH

There is a story of a little girl who brought her birthday book to a guest, staying for the first time in her home, with the request that he write his name in it. Idly turning the pages, he came to December twenty-fifth, and found carefully written in her childish hand, "Dear Jesus Christ". "But, Margaret," he said, "this book is only for the names of your friends."

Looking back at him earnestly and without self-consciousness, she replied, "Mother says that Jesus is my dearest friend, and I think his birthday the nicest time of the year."

In all history, in all mythology, there is no narrative so chaste, so sweet and reverence-compelling as that of the birth of the Christ-child. In truth, there is in all the Scriptures themselves, no portion with more effective influence in cleansing human hearts of all selfishness. How insignificant it was! Only the birth of a little child! Yet how mysterious and far reaching!

How are we planning to commemorate this nicest time of the year and to whom shall we bring our gifts? And in what spirit? Are we forgiving and forgetting or are we remembering the petty so-called injuries we think we may have suffered from others and approaching the Christmas season with a shade of bitterness in our hearts? Have we made our own, the song the angels sang "Glory to God"? Have we done our part in making "On earth peace, goodwill to men" come true?

If we have failed in this, let us recapture the Love-Spirit of that first Christmas gift, sharing it generously with others and making our Christmas giving, love-giving and more Christian.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Each year the Christmas season is ushered in by the singing of Christmas carols and hymns, and we hear again the familiar and ever beautiful songs of Christmas which have been handed down through the centuries.

An ancient and lovely custom is the singing of Christmas carols, and it harkens back to the days of old when carols were sung in the streets by waits and minstrels, when the Yulelog burned on the hearth, holly and mistletoe gleamed among the Christmas candles and wassail songs made glad the festive and joyful Christmastide.

We like to think that the first carol ever sung was by the angel chorus on that first Christmas eve, nearly two thousand years ago. But, it was not until the thirteenth century that we find the beginning of the true Christmas carol and Italy is its birthplace. From Italy, the carol spread to Spain, France, England and other European countries where it retained its folk-song qualities of legendary lore and childlike simplicity with a strange mingling of reverence and genial mirthfulness.

The beginning of the eighteenth century marks the transition from the true carol to the more dignified and solemn Christmas hymn. The nineteenth century brought the beautiful "Silent Night, Holy Night" and also "O Little Town of Bethlehem" written by our Phillips Brooks and inspired by a Christmas eve spent by him in Bethlehem.

Thus, Christmas carols have lived through the centuries.

SNOW FOR CHRISTMAS

Realization that the Yule-tide season is drawing very near, reminds us that sleighing for Christmas used to be a condition devoutly desired as good for business and good for the farmer. Sleighing meant easy access to the wood-lots and good roads to market. The long lines of wood-sleds which wound their way slowly to town in the mornings and hastened back to the farm at night, linger in the recollection of those whose youthful days left memories of winter with plenty of snow, wood-sleds and pitchholes in the roads and with detours through the fields for better going, straw-rides at night with everything sparkling with frost, the sky full of stars, the man in the moon full of smiles and beaming good cheer. Memory also dwells fondly upon snowshoe episodes, tobogganing and bob-sleighing, while skating meant mostly the whole of outdoors where there was a river, creek or lake nearby.

How times have changed. Horses and sleighs for the most part have been retired, and paved roads hum with automobile traffic. Only the old-timers long for an old-fashioned winter with plenty of snow and bright sunshine — and good sleighing for Christmas!

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Municipal elections in Richmond Hill and neighboring municipalities are over for another year, and to those elected to municipal office we extend congratulations and best wishes for a successful year.

In some municipalities there were acclamations for sitting members and in others spirited contests took place for the various offices. A regrettable feature of municipal contests was the small percentage of possible vote polled. No particular contest or municipality can be singled out for censure as the failing seems pretty general not only in this district but throughout all Ontario. As an example however in the Richvale sub-division of Vaughan township there were 1008 eligible voters and only 293 exercised the franchise.

Municipal administration is important to every citizen. Municipal administration deals with important matters touching the lives of all people. Surely it is not too much to expect citizens to take enough interest in their own business to attend once a year at the polling booth to determine just who will handle their public business.

Very often the chap who complains loudest during the year about municipal government is one of those who failed to take the trouble to vote on election day.

BUY AT HOME

"Never again" sighed a tired Christmas shopper as she dropped off a Yonge Street bus in Richmond Hill after a tiring day shopping in Toronto. The lesson this lady hadn't learned was that her home merchants have well stocked shelves from which she could do her Christmas shopping without the expense and fatigue of a visit to the big city.

The local merchants in your home community whether it be Richmond Hill, Thornhill, Maple or King City, or any other York County centre, has a variety of goods not only at Christmas but throughout the year which in quality and price compare favorably with the big city store. The home merchant is an important factor in the life of your home community. He supports your schools, churches, charity and community enterprises and on his record of good citizenship as well as with dependable personal service in merchandizing deserves generous patronage and support.

For your shopping needs at Christmas or any other time of the year, don't forget your home community merchant.

MAPLE

The Maple C.G.I.T. held their Third Annual Candle-Light Service in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church which was attended by an overflow congregation. The beautiful service was ably conducted by Marilyn Snider, the president, who was assisted in the Candle Lighting Ceremony by Agnes Kinnee, Ann Lawrie, Joanne Johnson and Marion Waters. During the service 'The White Gifts' were presented which will be forwarded to Evangel Hall for distribution to the needy.

PITY THE POOR POSTMAN

Have you had to stand in line for your mail and to purchase stamps the past few days at the local Post Office? Here are the reasons.

The largest incoming mail on record has been crowding the working space, and a larger staff than usual has been working long hours of overtime, to handle it. The outgoing mail has also reached heroic proportions. Some idea of the great volume of cards mailed locally may be gained from the fact that over 95,000 one-cent stamps had been sold up to Tuesday night (in comparison to 75,000 during all the 1947 Christmas season.) Add to this over 20,000 four-cent stamps and the thousands of parcels, and the burden of Christmas mail on the staff of the local post office can be imagined.

So if you have to stand in line for long periods, don't be angry, but do resolve that in 1949 you will mail early.

Another overburdened public servant at this season is the Rural Mail Courier. He also is putting in many hours of extra time to see that his patrons receive their mail. Be sure to remember him at Christmas.

MERRY XMAS and happier housing in 1949.

DAVID McLEAN  
 Real Estate & Business Broker  
 Thornhill Office, Phone 12  
 Evenings Mt. Overbury 48W

HILLCREST BEAUTY PARLOR

To all our friends and customers, we wish a better New Year than ever before and a very Merry Christmas.

93 YONGE ST. PHONE 256

Holiday Greetings

May I again express my Yuletide Greetings to you and your families.

TED GRAINGER  
 YOUR BARBER

Yonge Street Richmond Hill

AT THIS CHRISTMASTIDE THE CITIES SERVICE GARAGE

Repeats its wish to serve you at all times, and extends the Season's Greetings.

GENERAL MOTORS PARTS

Also expert repairing done on all motor cars and trucks.

See us for Tires, Mufflers, Tail Pipes, Exhaust Pipes and Accessories.

Cities Service Products

MEL. MALTBY

Phone 12 Richmond Hill

For Last Minute Holiday Shopping Remember

"HOLLIES"

THE WOMEN'S SHOP FOR PRETTY THINGS

117 Yonge St. Richmond Hill

All the World Stops for CHRISTMAS TIME

And we stop in the midst of a very busy season to thank our many friendly customers for their patronage during the past year.

We wish to greet you one and all and to wish you a delightful holiday season.

FISHER 5c - \$1.00 STORE

GEORGE FENWICK, Manager

Season's Heartiest Greetings

Just the same old wish that we have extended during the years we have been serving you, and a hope that our cordial relations will continue for many more.

Richmond Hill Hardware

Yonge Street Richmond Hill

JOSEPH RABINOWITCH, B.A.

BARRISTER & SOLICITOR  
 NOTARY PUBLIC

Wishes his friends and clients of Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham Townships, a Merry Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

40 Yonge Street Richmond Hill Telephone 229

Merry Christmas & A Bright & Prosperous New Year

We wish our many friends much joy throughout the Yuletide Season.

In order that our staff may enjoy the holiday, we will remain closed December 25th, and December 26th, but will be ready to serve you again at noon, Monday 27th.

RICHMOND HILL CAFE

H. COLEMAN, Proprietor

Yonge Street Richmond Hill

Christmas Goodwill

Not just a wish for Christmas  
 But a wish for each day of the year,  
 And never were greetings more hearty  
 Or wishes more true and sincere.

Gunnar Tailoring

Yonge Street Richmond Hill

To Our Many Friends and Customers  
 Sincere wishes for a

Merry Christmas

AND A

Happy New Year

PERKINS FARM & HOME EQUIPMENT  
 2 CHURCH ST. TELEPHONE 21W

SINCERE WISHES FOR A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

To all those whom it is our privilege to serve... Our sincere thanks not only for your patronage, but for your patience and co-operation.

Sheppard & Gill Lumber Co.

Richmond Hill

We Greet You

With the true spirit of Christmas and a hope that all the beauty of the Yuletide Season may be yours.

H. J. MILLS Ltd.

CUT ROSES