

Christmas Cake Recipe



It's a wise hostess who prepares well in advance for the rounds of hospitality that accompany the Christmas and New Year's festive season. Christmas cake is one of

the traditionally popular dainties served at this time of year. Here is a tested wine fruit cake recipe that will win the approval of your guests. It makes a six-pound Christmas cake, which is more than adequate for the average household.

- Wine Fruit Cake**
- 1 lb. white raisins
 - 1/2 lb. citron
 - 3/4 lb. candied cherries
 - 1 lb. candied pineapple
 - 1/4 lb. mixed orange & lemon peel
 - 1 lb. nut meats
 - 3 cups sifted flour
 - 2 tps. baking powder
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
 - 1 cup shortening
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 5 eggs
 - 3/8 cup Canadian Port
 - 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 - 1/2 tsp. almond extract

Chop fruits and nuts and mix thoroughly with 1 cup flour. Sift remaining 2 cups flour with baking powder and salt. Cream shortening, gradually add sugar, and cream well. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat vigorously after each addition. Add sifted dry ingredients to mixture alternately with wine and extracts. Fold in floured fruit and nuts. Pour into pans which have been greased and lined with wax paper. Bake in a pan of water in a slow oven (300 degrees F.) for 2 to 2 1/2 hours, or steam in a steamer for 1 hour and bake 1 1/2 hours. Remove from pan. Peel off the paper and cool on cake rack.

To store fruit cake: wrap in cloth moistened with wine and in wax paper. Store in pans in which cakes were baked. Place pans in stone crock or other covered container. Sprinkle small amount of wine over cloth-wrapping occasionally to keep cloth slightly moist with wine. Store 1 to 2 weeks before cutting.

For a distinctively different Christmas cake frosting, here is a simple recipe:

- Wine Frosting**
- 1 tbs. butter or margarine
 - 1 1/2 cups confectioner's sugar
 - 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
 - Canadian Port to moisten to spreading consistency.
- Blend butter or margarine into sugar. Add nutmeg and enough wine to bring mixture to smooth spreading consistency.

Stories Of The Christmas Carols Feature R.H. Women's Inst. Meet

The December meeting of the Richmond Hill Women's Institute was held on Thursday, December 11, in the Sunday School room of the Presbyterian Church and opened by singing the first four verses of "O Come All Ye Faithful." The roll call was answered by telling of a "Christmas Tradition" in the member's family.

Mrs. J. Pollard and Mrs. O. L. Wright donated smocks to be used by the volunteers at the Child Health Clinic. The next clinic will be held on January 5.

The president reported on the sewing and knitting being done by Richmond Hill Women's Institute for York County Children's Aid. The Children's Aid Society supplies the material and the members make up the garments of which a goodly number have already been sent in.

An invitation from Scarborough Women's Institute to attend their anniversary party on Tuesday, January 6, 1953 at 2:30 p.m. in the Silver Cross Rooms was accepted.

Since the January meeting will mark the 40th anniversary members were told of the plans being made for a luncheon and speakers.

Mrs. C. Harding, pianist, had charge of the program which was musical, around the Christmas theme. She introduced Mrs. E. R. Jackson, who had collaborated with her in preparing the program and who acted as narrator.

Mrs. Jackson in introducing the program said wherever groups of people gather at this time of year they enjoy singing carols. The custom is as old as Christmas itself, for the first carol was sung over Judea by the angel choir and heard by the shepherds on the hills. Many of the carols work in this story. One "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night", written in the 17th century to a 15th century air was then sung by the audience.

Just as the shepherds following the heavenly choir and the star found their way to Bethlehem, centuries later, Phillip Brookes followed the same route to attend a Christmas Eve service at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. He was so impressed that on returning home he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for the children of his church. The organist promised to set it to music but for a week could not compose anything. Finally in the middle of Saturday night, he awakened to write down the beautiful air which he always insisted was a heavenly gift. While Bethlehem is famous, what made it so was the "Babe." During the Middle Ages, the meaning of Christmas was lost and religion became so involved in ritual and a cold spirit. Saint

Francis of Assisi built the first creche to remind the people of the Christ Child. Martin Luther composed "Away in a Manger", set to an old air. This was touchingly sung by Lois and John Perkins. We sometimes think of the various emotions aroused by the carols, the greatest of which is Joy. Isaac Watt, the great hymn maker, wrote "Joy to the World" and the great musician Handel composed the music.

No carol singing would be complete without "Silent Night, Holy Night." No one ever tires of it and it has indeed sung its way into the hearts of men. It has been sung in some 90 languages and many countries claim it. It was written in Oberdorf in the Bavarian Alps in 1819. Mice had damaged the organ in the church and it could not be repaired in time for the Christmas service. The organist felt very badly and thought of a new song for the service might help overcome the lack of the organ. So the vicar wrote the words, the organist wrote the music in three-part harmony and it was used at the Christmas service to guitar accompaniment. When the organ repair men heard it they were so impressed they took the song back to the Tyrol to a family of folk-singers who included it in their repertoire and started it on its way to becoming one of the great carols.

A modern English composer, Michael Head, has written many lovely songs and Miss Rosemary Jackson sang one of these "The Little Road to Bethlehem." She also sang "O Holy Night." These solos gave much pleasure to those hearing her.

And so the carol singing goes on through the centuries. Most carols are of a devotional nature, but there are others. The Christmas Tree, originating in Germany, has become a tradition. Lois and John Perkins sang "O Christmas Tree" as a fitting climax to the musical program, and all the members joined heartily in singing the last verse of "Joy to the World."

Mrs. N. Evans in thanking those taking part said that although the weather has not made us think of Christmas, after hearing the program of carols, every member will be conscious of the Christmas spirit. She presented those taking part with small gifts on behalf of the institute.

Members then exchanged small gifts which had been piled under a lighted and decorated tree, which had been loaned for the meeting by Rice's Flower Shop. Mesdames T. Allison, W. Anderson, J. Hunt and J. Ley were hostesses for the social half hour when members visited with each other.

BOXING DAY CIVIC HOLIDAY

It is hereby proclaimed that Friday, December 26, will be observed as a Civic Holiday in the Municipality of the Township of Vaughan.

All residents of the township are requested to govern themselves accordingly.

J. M. McDonald Clerk
Marshall McMurphy Reeve

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May a joyous Christmas usher in a New Year of happiness and good health for all our cherished friends.

E. C. Mansbridge & Staff
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO

To All A Merry Christmas

At this joyous season of the year, when everyday cares are overshadowed by good fellowship and kind thoughts, we extend to our many friends our sincerest holiday greetings. A Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

ANSWELL LIMITED LUMBER

Thornhill Concord

Greetings

Here is our wish to all our friends—that this may be the Merriest Christmas ever—the Happiest, Healthiest and Most Prosperous New Year of all.

NORM'S SHOE REPAIR
9 Yonge St. N. Phone TU. 4-1549

String up the lights, dust off the shiny ornaments—for it's time to decorate the tree and to wish all our many friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE RICHMOND THEATRE
RICHMOND HILL

The Holiday Season affords us the opportunity to express our appreciation to our many friends for their good will and thoughtfulness during the past year.

And with this appreciation goes our wish for a memorable Christmas—one that will be abundant with good cheer and good health followed by a New Year of contentment and good fortune.

H. J. MILLS LIMITED

Jas. Pollard
Manager & Director
RICHMOND HILL

Yule Ideas: Buffet Supper, A House Decorating Party

With Christmas only a few days away, greeting cards are arriving. The last of the presents are being bought and wrapped. Decorations are ready to hang and a happy festive note rings throughout the house.

Activities on Christmas Eve vary from home to home in our country. In some, the children go to bed early in anticipation of Santa's visit, while father dresses the tree and mother completes last minute preparations for the Christmas dinner.

In other homes, the first party of the season takes place. Sometimes it takes the form of a house-decorating party. If this is the case, as the guests arrive, they are made responsible for some small part of the decorations, and at the end of the evening, their work is judged and a prize awarded. In still others it is the custom for the family to have a large meal after the return from midnight church service.

According to home economists, refreshments should be planned and prepared in advance so that all may join in the fun of the evening. It is important to bear in mind that everyone eats a large variety of rich foods at Christmas time and that simple, attractive party fare that tempts the appetite without taxing the budget should be the order of the day.

A buffet party will eliminate many serving difficulties. The guests, by serving themselves, help with the work. If the dining room is large enough leave the table in the centre with the decorations in the middle of it. If the room is small, or if the living-room is to be used, place the table against the wall and arrange the decorations along the side of the table nearest to the wall.

The plates, cutlery and napkins may be placed at one end or both ends of the table and duplicate dishes of food are a good idea if many are to be served. Card tables with pretty cloths could provide extra spaces for dishes. The menu could be sliced ham or tongue with perhaps a potato salad, and for color, a jellied one in a Christmas shape. Another good idea is to have an easy-to-prepare hot casserole dish such as creamed chicken and mushrooms. Whether the main dish is cold or hot, be sure to have a festive array of relishes on the table. There should be a generous supply of hot rolls.

Boar's Head Feast

Some 500 years ago, so the story goes, an Oxford University student was studying Aristotle while taking a walk, when he was attacked by a wild boar. He calmly despatched the brute by thrusting the volume down its throat. His feat is commemorated annually at Queen's College by the Boar's Head Feast on Christmas Day. Although the 90-pound specimen under whose weight two attendants used to stagger is today replaced by a papier mache model, the spirit of the ceremony remains unchanged. As the choir sings the last notes of a traditional carol, the head is placed on the table of the Provost, the Principal of the college. The Provost then presents the ornaments and embellishments one by one to the choirboys and visitors, the solo singer receiving the orange.

To Wish You a Happy Christmas

May joys beyond description be yours for Christmas and the New Year.

REAMAN'S VARIETY STORE

IN THE *Christmas Spirit*

Each Christmas we realize anew, that our most rewarding possession is our many enriching friendships. And so to all our friends we wish a merry merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

HAROLD W. MORTSON
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO