

CHRISTMAS IS THE TIME TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL

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Every year, from a few days before Christmas to the week following New Year's, a plague of fires rages up and down the country. Many of these fires result from the extra hazards which exist only during the holiday season and from carelessness that would not be tolerated at any other time.

The Tree

Place the freshly cut tree trunk in water and check on the water level once a day. Support the tree well. Don't put it near sources of heat (fireplace, radiators, etc.)

Lighting

Do not use candles on the tree. Check all lighting sets before using for frayed wires, loose connections and broken sockets. Be sure the fuse on the electrical circuit is not over 15 amperes.

Decorations and Wrappings

Don't let Christmas wrappings accumulate in the home; place them in your metal covered trash barrel or burn them in your incinerator as soon as possible.

Gifts

Don't set up electric trains or spirit-fueled toys under a Christmas tree. Look for the Underwriters' Laboratories label when buying electrical toys.

And DON'T Forget

Don't allow smoking near the tree, keep matches, lighters and candles away from tiny hands. Have a bucket of water or your garden hose connected to a faucet, within reach of the tree. If fire should strike, first get everyone out of the house and then call the fire department immediately before attempting to fight the fire yourself.

A Happy and Fire Safe Christmas

(GEO. CLAYTON) Sgt.
Fire Prevention Officer,
Markham Township.

Presents For All Senior Citizens Enjoy Christmas Tree And Party

Two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon saw the Christmas tree decorated and sparkling with lights for the Senior Citizens first Christmas party being held in the primary room of the United Church.

Before the carol singing began President A. E. Plewman announced that some of the members had avoided an obligation, and that he felt very badly about it, but went on to say that in order for "Santa Claus" to call out their name they had to have registered at the door as they came in! He also regretted that he was going to have to disappoint the ladies as some material he knew they had very much hoped would be at this meeting had proved unobtainable . . . mistletoe!

With this convivial note leading into the carol singing, Mrs. Ray Jackson and Mrs. Charles Harding at the piano, led the 75 members gathered there in old and favorite carols. It didn't need very much of Mrs. Jackson's enthusiastic manner to have everyone singing, and through the singing could be felt the surge of memories that stretched far and wide, into many past Christmases and to yuletide ceremonies held from one end of Canada to the other and beyond the borders of our snowy country. At the close of the singing Mrs. Jackson said she felt that from what she heard it would be easy to form a choir within the club if anyone so wished.

Mr. Alf McLatchy had arranged the special program for the afternoon, and what would a party be without games? So off went the ladies and gentlemen in a rousing game of Musical Elbows that brought as much delight to the spectators as to the players, as ladies vied for gentlemen's arm and gent for ladies' when the sprightly music suddenly stopped.

Mrs. Don Fettes announced that Mr. Ed Butlin of the Recreation Committee had asked that a gift be given to each member from the committee, and that ball-point pens inscribed "Richmond Hill Senior Citizens" had been chosen (cheers), but that unfortunately they had failed to arrive in time. However Mr. Plewman played Santa Claus with gay candy canes as each member came forward in roll call manner to hearty applause!

Meanwhile in the handy kitchenette Mrs. Maud Benjamin had the kettles boiling and bubbling, while plates of wonderful sandwiches, ice cream and rich fruit cake were set out ready for the tea party. Small tables were set through the rooms, the chairs drawn up to them and soon everyone was having firsts and seconds of everything. The Rev. Higginson joined the throng and received an extra large vote of thanks for the church's contribution of such excellent quarters.

Such was the spirit of the meeting that when Mrs. P. Sparks, the newly elected secretary, read her first minutes they were greeted with applause. And the socks and mitts that the members had knitted for Mrs. Gustave Bilodeau's project of assisting a northern isolated village were passed around, received great admiration and went off on their journey with warm wishes.

Then the room was tidied in a twinkling and all the cups and saucers swished through the sudsy water and were settled in their quiet cupboards, and "Merry Christmas" and "Merry Christmas to YOU" sounded and resounded as goodbyes were said, and the ladies of the Inner Wheel filled their cars and off went everyone into the crisp air with the snow crunching underfoot and that was the end of the first Christmas party!

Retiring Chairman Is Extended Thanks From Recreation Committee

At the regular meeting of the Recreation Committee held in the Municipal Hall on Thursday evening deputy-reeve-elect Stan Tinker moved a sincere vote of thanks to Ed Butlin for the tremendous contribution he has made to the organized recreation program of Richmond Hill. The committee as a whole felt that Mr. Butlin's retirement would be felt throughout the town as it was his continuous work to start groups as the need for them was felt.

During Mr. Butlin's term of office as chairman of the Recreation Committee eleven new groups were formed and ten others already operating have come in under the town recreation budget up to an estimated \$31,500 for 1959, \$2,800 of which is the expected Provincial grant.

Mr. Butlin said that while he felt the picture of town recreation was healthy he thought that "through recreation a continuing cementing of relationship between the new and old areas of the town might take place" and he hoped that the committee would keep that thought in first place. He expressed his appreciation of the "grand support" the council had given the committee this year, and also his thanks to the two council members, Mr. Tinker and Mr. Bradstock who have worked on the committee.

William Babcock was present at the meeting to introduce the new assistant for next year's day

camp. Mrs. Mary Gibson is a physical education teacher specializing in public school work. She has had one season at the Taylor Statton camp and five at church camps. Both she and her sister, Miss Nancy Stocks, who will also be working with Richildaca, have taken playground supervisor courses and Miss Stocks has run the summer program at Aurora for the past three years.

Mr. Babcock said he planned to continue the day camp with the three two-week camps this year, finishing about August 15. He felt they would return to the Indian theme which lends itself to a great variety of skills. The camp will be open to boys and girls from eight to twelve years of age.

Due to increased enrollment he had had to revise his budget he said in order to remain within the estimates. Therefore he asked the committee for permission to go beyond the budget and have an entertainment for his councillors and C.I.T.'s which had to be dropped on the revised plan. Councillor Tinker made the motion that \$40.00 be allotted for the entertainment of these councillors.

STOUFFVILLE — Chief Engineer Wes Jack, 2nd St., Stouffville, is aboard the Norman P. Clement, huge Great Lakes grain carrier caught in the ice at Montreal. Mr. Jack has been aboard these vessels plying the Great Lakes for some thirty years and this is the first time he has been caught by the freeze-up.



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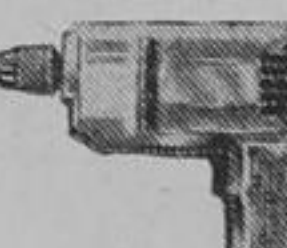


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