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## Fire chief warns of Yuletide fire hazard

STOUFFVILLE — Fire Chief Walt Smith warned this week that a happy Christmas can change in a few seconds to a family tragedy in a home where the fire safety rules are neglected.

Chief Smith pointed out that the Christmas tree, which is the children's symbol of Christmas, can be a terrible threat to little ones unless parents follow all the safety rules. The Fire Chief calls on the public once more this year to pay special attention to the following points:

Buy a fresh green tree and keep it outdoors or in an unheated garage until you are ready to decorate it. Once indoors, keep the tree in water, after cutting off one or two inches from the butt. Replenish the water supply at regular intervals.

Check electric lighting strings for frayed cords or short circuits. Buy only C.S.A. approved lighting sets, and only non-flammable

decorations. Make the tree a no-smoking area, and keep matches out of the reach of little hands.

Clear gift wrappings away from the base of the tree as soon as the gifts are opened. Have a large carton handy, just for wrappings.

Even a moist tree will burn if ignited by wrappings around the base.

Be sure the tree is set up well away from such sources of heat as fireplace, radiators or TV set. Be sure also that it does not block access to doors or windows in the event of fire.

Especially at Christmas, never leave small children unattended in the home.

Switch off tree lights when leaving home or going to bed, and have a happy, fire-safe Christmas.



"The Old Woman Who Lived in the Shoe" was the theme of this float featuring members of Uxbridge Township council in Saturday's Santa Claus parade in Uxbridge. Left to right on the float are Councillor Eleanor Todd, Mayor Carl

Puterbaugh and Councillor Bill Ballinger. A total of 39 floats, five fire trucks and six bands were featured in the parade — the biggest ever in the town's history. —Ted Wilcox

## THE KINSMEN CLUB OF STOUFFVILLE

wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of the 1975 Santa Claus Parade.  
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### Claremont news

## Maude Middleton, "a kindly person"

By ANNE LONEY  
 At the Senior Citizens meeting last Thursday the members stood with bowed heads for one minute of silence as a tribute and in memory of their Treasurer, the late Maude Middleton. Always in attendance at the meetings, she was meticulous in her duties, a quiet, kindly person who will be missed by those with whom she came in contact.

During the business meeting Jean Norton was elected Treasurer to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Middleton. Winning at euchre were Peg Jenkinson, Frank Jenkinson and Ella Hammond.

The Kinsmen Club of Bay Ridges is entertaining all Senior Citizens in the area at a hot dinner in the Banquet

Hall at Sheridan Mall Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3:30 p.m. The bus for Claremont guests will be leaving the Four Corners at 2 p.m.

The Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance of the Charterways Bus Line was held in the Legion Hall Saturday evening, with 125 bus drivers and their wives in attendance. Claremont drivers at the party were Mr. and Mrs. MacAlbright, both in charge of a bus; Gloria Jones, Sylvia Ryan, Linda Carder and Shirley Pilkey. All lady drivers were presented with silver Maple Leaf charms and the men received Maple Leaf tie pins. The dinner was catered by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

Congratulations to Champion Clyde Gray on his recent win in Halifax.

The continual change in the habits and population of birdlife is an interesting study for many observers. Naturalist Edge Pegg says that Evening Grosbeaks, almost unknown a decade ago, are coming earlier each year to feeding stations; this year they arrived in September. The Cardinal, a tropical bird, continues to move northward; Hairy Woodpeckers, after a decline in numbers, are making a comeback. The Mourning Dove, once uncommon, can now be seen in flocks, often at feeders where corn is supplied. (I have these regular diners at my feeder and they roost in the trees at the foot of the lane).

The rarest birds in the Balsam area last week were a flock of Rusty Blackbirds at the

feeders of Don Jamieson and T.M. Adie. The Blue Goose, that was well fed last winter, is back at Whitby Harbour. Mr. Pegg would be pleased to hear from those who feed the birds, especially if a rare bird is seen at your feeder. His phone is 649-5023, or drop a line.

Mrs. Keith Etcher of Windsor spent several days with her daughter, Mrs. Earle Pilkey and family. Mr. Pilkey is in Mason City, Iowa, for two weeks, taking a course in auctioneering.

Wilf Trolley, who was Superintendent of the Claremont Conservation area is again in Scarborough General Hospital. We hope that he will soon be able to return home.

After two stays in the Doctor Ruddy Hospital in Whitby we are glad to have Mrs. Fred Binstead convalescing at home.

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