

# "Christmas was enjoyable"

By Jim Thomas  
STOUFFVILLE — It was exciting too back in 1908, perhaps more so than now. Eva Hoover remembers. Born in the stone

house on what most folks today call "the Harper farm" at the end of O'Brien Avenue, it was common for her mother and dad, Ida and Elias Hoover, to spend Christmas at her grandfather Jacob Hoover's place.

Things were simpler back then and enjoyable. "Sure, we had a Christmas tree," Eva recalled, "but no lights." And for good reason. There wasn't any hydro. Decorations included home-made popcorn, bits of tinsel and ornaments. Gifts consisted of a game or two; nuts and candy; maybe a doll and something to wear — nothing too expensive but still appreciated.

Goose was the popular fowl of the day, or chicken, but seldom turkey. Eva Hoover remembers the Stouffville Christmas Fair. Competition was keen. She recalls her mother's entries of butter and how she won a 1st prize with a white layer cake. The Stouffville Christmas Market and Horse Show were a popular attractions too.

The Christmas season didn't begin as early as it does now, she

said, at least, the storekeepers didn't decorate their shops as early. Eva remembers one exciting attraction on Main Street — a live Santa Claus at Shaw's where Murray Wilson Shoes is now located.

"That was quite a novelty," she said. He handed out candy to all the children. Young and old looked forward to skating on Christmas night at the rink. The town band would be there and everyone had a fine time. On occasions, the weather wasn't cold

enough for ice-making. "That was a great disappointment," she said. O'Brien Avenue was the centre of activity as far as Eva was concerned. She remembers Arthur and Ann Lehman, Harold Sanders, Nelson Jones and Dorian Woodburn. She also remembers how her father would pickup as many kids as the bob-sleigh would hold and take them to what is now Summitview Public School. Sometimes, she'd ride back in the horse and cutter or walk.

Were there any school Christmas concerts?

"We weren't even allowed to sing carols," Eva replied. Jim Hanna was the principal and book-learning was his main interest. "Our only recreation was spelling bees," she said.

A highlight of the Christmas season was the Methodist Church Sunday School concert, usually held in Ratcliff Hall. The program was open to the public and the place was usually crowded, she remembers. Drills, pageants, dialogues and choir numbers, kept things "warmed up," but not to the "degree" Eva would have liked. "The floor always seemed drafty and my feet were usually cold," she said. The Sunday School Superintendent or the church minister served as Santa Claus. Oranges, peanuts and cream candies were distributed among the children.

There was nothing too spectacular about Christmas "back then." "We were easily satisfied," said Eva, "we made our own enjoyment."

Maybe that's how the adults of year 2,048 will remember Christmas, 1978. Who's to say?



Eva Hoover, a lifelong Stouffville resident, remembers Christmases that used to be.

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## Night courses

STOUFFVILLE — New 10-week night courses begin next month at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School.

One relates to Food and Nutrition (registration Jan. 8) and another pertains to yoga and fitness (registration Jan. 4).

Further registrations are possible for the last ten weeks of the following 20-week courses — English as a Second Language; Furniture Refinishing; Physical Recreation (Men); Sewing, Dressmaking and Tailoring; Sewing (beginners); Physical Recreation (Women) and Cake Decorating.

English as a Second Language is held on Mondays and Thursdays. Registration is Jan. 4 and 8. Furniture Refinishing is Mondays. Registration is Jan. 8. Men's Physical Fitness is Tuesdays with registration, Jan. 9. Sewing, Dressmaking and Tailoring is Tuesdays with registration Jan. 9. Sewing for Beginners, Women's Physical Fitness and Cake Decorating are all Thursdays with registration Jan. 4.



Newlyweds reside in Aurora

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walls are pictured here following their marriage, Sept. 9, in St. Andrew's United Church, Markham. The bride is the former Susan Clee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Clee, RR 4, Stouffville. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Walls, also of Stouffville, RR 4. The happy couple are now residing in Aurora.

## Around Town

**Christmas party**  
The management and staff of Widdfield's Drug Store in the Stouffville Plaza, enjoyed a Christmas luncheon at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club, last week.

**At Latham Hall**  
The theatre production entitled "The Reluctant Maxine" will be staged at Stouffville's Latham Hall and not in the Public Library as stated in the Calendar of Events column last week. The date is Friday, Dec. 22 at eight o'clock.

**On crutches**  
Stan Schmidt, Burkholder Street, Stouffville, is moving about with the help of crutches these days following recent knee ligament surgery.

**Roller skating party**  
Kim Graves and Ginny Eby, Fairview Avenue; Wanda Couperthwaite, Ninth Line North and Cathy Thomas, Rupert Avenue, enjoyed an evening of roller skating, last week, at the Roller Palace, Scarborough.

**Christmas Party**  
The Tribune staff enjoyed their annual Christmas Party, Friday afternoon at Sleepy Hollow Gold and Country Club.

**Limited suspension**  
Last week, The Tribune reported that Donald Ray Tustin had been fined \$150 and had his driver's licence suspended for one year following conviction in Newmarket Court. A witness to the case reports the suspension as three months, not twelve with no probation period.

**Sixteen at dinner**  
Sixteen local ladies enjoyed dinner one evening last week at the Success Steak and Seafood House, Success Square, Main Street East. The party included — Glenys Drewery, Lois Holder, Joyce Spensley, Martha Lynn, Doris Redquest, Ruth Whitmore, Yvonne Lauder, Ruth Morris, Joan Marshman, Pat Mullen, Jean O'Neill, Dennie Stephenson, Myrna Hathaway, Isobel Prentice, Loretta Addison and Vi Schope.

**Wedding Anniversaries**  
Congratulations to three local couples who recently celebrated another marriage milestone — Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pipher (51 years), Sunset Blvd., Stouffville; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Baker, (62 years), Rupert Avenue, Stouffville and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brillinger (62 years), Gormley.

**In hospital**  
Win Timbers, Winona Drive, Stouffville, has been a patient in Scarborough Centenary Hospital, last week.

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