

Christmas is special

STOUFFVILLE — "Christmas has always been pretty much the same," says eighty-seven year old George Styles. "A time for friends and family to get together and share each others' company."

George, who now stays at Green Gables Manor in Stouffville, was born in England and came to Canada when he was only seven. Speaking about Christmases past, George feels folks were friendlier in those days.

"People were much more neighborly back then," he said. "They would never lock their doors or turn anyone away without a meal."

He added that when he lived in Toronto a few years back he didn't even know those living next door.

As far as gifts go, George claims there is no comparison between Christmas now and then. "It's undoubtedly better now," he said, "just look at the toys children receive today."

He also feels Christmas has become too commercialized. "The big stores start advertising weeks in advance," he said, "and they're only doing it for their own cause."

George noted it was not always easy to arrange family gatherings back in those days as they often lived many miles apart.

Residing in the Parry Sound district with his family of six, George explained that times were pretty hard. "Most people were very poor, living from hand to mouth," he said.

"But, we would do the best we could and always exchanged a gift of some kind."

He added when he was a boy he usually received an apple or an orange in his stocking. "We also made our own entertainment," said George. "Everyone would get together for a square dance which would end with the singing of Christmas carols."

According to George, that is one thing that hasn't changed.

"The carols now are much the same as they were in my day," he said.

The tradition of putting up a tree at Christmas is another that hasn't changed over the years.

"We used to go out in the bush and cut our own," said George. Then the children would decorate it. Of course we didn't have electric lights back then but they would make fancy things out of paper and always put a star on top."

Christmas dinner is another thing that hasn't changed. According to George, a large meal was always enjoyed.

"It wasn't as heavy as today's but bigger than usual," he said. "We wouldn't have turkey like now either, usually venison with potatoes, vegetables and pie for dessert."

As George puts it, "Christmas is still pretty much the same." "A time for friends and family to get together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ."

Here's Charlie



Don Harron (alias Charlie Farquharson), well known actor, comedian and author, was in Stouffville Saturday to autograph his most recent publication "1982

Town and Country Appointment Book", now available at John Lords Book Store on Main Street East. Mr. Lord is shown here with Charlie along with Carol Rae of Stouffville. —Greg Coates

Editor's Mail

Happy to pay share

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Mayor Eldred King's suggestion that recreational fees be equalized, is fine in theory. However, in practice, it won't work, nor should it.

When we sign our son up for hockey, we

realize the cost involved and we're more than happy to pay our share. If the fee goes beyond our means, our son can always turn to bowling. We do not expect financial help from parents whose sons (and daughters) play softball

and soccer.

Besides, I'm sure a survey would show that many of the same kids play both—at least a summer and a winter sport of some kind.

I feel the powers that be should endeavor to keep the fee schedule

"within reason" regardless of the activity. When the rate threatens to go beyond reason, then a greater share will have to be carried by the taxpayer.

Sincerely,
Michael Woods,
Stouffville, RR 2.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Thanks for your patronage!

From Leo, Jean Jim & Gary

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Greetings

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Christmas Greetings

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Successful

Dear Editor:

Our thanks to the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill.

On Dec. 3 and 4, the third annual T.V. Auction was held once again and proved to be a very successful event.

To all involved families and friends of Rotarians; community people who kept the telephones ringing and the staff at Classicomm

T.V., we express our appreciation.

The Phoenix Program of the York Centre for Learning Disabilities will receive the proceeds. On behalf of the young people and their families, thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Alice Frey,
Executive Director,
The York Centre for Learning Disabilities.

TOWNE Cinema

LAST TIME WEDNESDAY 8 P.M. SLAPSHOT ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT WARNING NOT FOR CHILDREN

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