

Lose up to 20 lbs. +
Before the holidays
Call 416-801-4092

here comes christmas!

Christmas tree a centuries-old holiday staple

Of all Christmas customs, perhaps the most universally treasured is the Christmas tree.

Brightly decorated with shimmering lights and glittering ornaments, the tree is as likely to reflect the traditions of each individual family as it is those of

the world at large.

From the exciting moment when the tree is erected, usually some days in advance of Christmas Eve, it commands a position of central importance during holiday festivities.

So much so that it is difficult to believe that 200 years ago the custom of trimming a tree at Chrimastime was not widely observed outside its native Germany.

One legend credits Martin Luther, the 16th-century theologian, with having set up the very first Christmas tree.

According to this legend, Luther conceived of a tree alight with countless candles as a way of representing to his children the glory of the starlit heaven.

However, historical sources indicate that the first Christmas tree can be traced to the early 17th century, when fir trees decorated with colored paper, gold foil, apples, toys and candies were reported in the German city of Stasburg.

What are the antique origins of the Christmas tree?

Historians point to a multitude of sources, among them the Roman custom of decking residences with evergreens during the festival of the Kalends, which occurred in the early part of January.

Parallels between the Roman observation of Kalends and traditional Christmas festivities are many and include those of decorating the home with lights and extending lavish hospitality to friends and family, as well as extravagant gift-giving.

Many early Christian beliefs stand behind the tradition of trimming a tree at Christmas. For instance, it was customary for people to bring flowering trees, like hawthorn or cherry,

Christmas Eve.

This tradition may be derived from the belief that St. Joseph of Arimathea, settling at Glastonbury in western England, planted his staff in the earth, whereupon it became a thorn tree and sprouted leaves. Furthermore, it miraculously blossomed.

Dec. 24, according to the old



The Christmas tree has become a Yuletide staple with historic roots embedded over 200 years ago.

church calendar, was the Feast of Adam and Eve, on which day it was traditional to hang a fir tree with red apples.

This Paradise Tree, as it was called, is certainly a forerunner of the Christmas tree as it is known today.

There are some very pretty stories associated with both pine and fir trees, among the most popular choices for Christmas trees.

According to one legend, the pine tree provided a hiding place for the Holy Family when they were fleeing from the soldiers of Herod.

The fir tree, according to another legend, boasted both flowers and fruits until Eve discovered the tree and plucked its treasures. From that time on, the legend continues, only needles grew on the fir tree until on the evening of the Nativity, it suddenly blossomed once again.

Today, centuries later, the Christmas spirit is still represented in the timeless manifestation of the ever-beautiful, ever-enchanting Christmas tree.

Whether decorated with candles and strings of popcorn or colorful lights and shiny ornaments, it is an important part of the holiday season.

IT'S TIME!!

at
Harper's Fresh Meats

The festive season is just around the corner and to make it even more special, Harper's is once again offering their delicious fresh turkeys and country-smoked hams for your Christmas dinner.

Don't delay - order yours today!!

We also prepare mouth-watering cheese and meat trays for all your Christmas gatherings. Entertaining doesn't have to be hard work - just fun!!

Harper's Fresh Meats
6420 Main Street, Stouffville, Ontario (905) 640-4761

Santa Claus

To receive your child's personal hand written letter from "SANTA CLAUS THE NORTH POLE" send his/her FULL NAME, ADDRESS, POSTAL CODE, AGE, SEX, CHRISTMAS WISH, AND GOOD/BAD BEHAVIOUR, on a piece of paper with a cheque for \$5.00 (per letter) to:

995A WILLIAM ST., STE 410
COBOURG, ONT. K9A 5J4

Send today for Christmas delivery. Santa will send a gift to 1 in every 500 applications received.

For more info call
Anne at: 1-905-372-1252

HEY KIDS!

Send your letters to Santa today at The Tribune. Santa has a subscription to The Tribune so he will be able to read some of your letters before Christmas. Those that are not printed will be mailed to him.

Send your letters to:

88 Brock St. W Unit 1 Uxbridge, L9P 1P4 or fax them to 852-4355	6244 Main St. Stouffville L4A 1E2 or fax them to 640-5477
---	---

FAME MEN'S HAIRSTYLING

6180 MAIN ST. STOUFFVILLE 640-3549

Why look to the rest - When you get the best

- Steps from the Stouffville GO Station
- Appointments available, but not necessary

Serving Stouffville Since 1967.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Now is the time to start organizing the Christmas and New Year celebrations for your family, friends or business associates. At The Corner House in Stouffville, we can help you do it better.

☆ The Corner House can prepare special or traditional menus for your party, tell us your budget and special requirements and we will make menu recommendations and take care of the details.

☆ There will be 2 sittings for New Years Eve.

☆ Gift certificates are available.

6403 Main Street, Stouffville. For reservations please call 640 8494.

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT BOOK EARLY!

LEMONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

"Christmas with a Country Flavour" Crafts and Collectables

SAT. NOV. 23 & SUN. NOV. 24

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

13453 McCowan Rd., South of Bloomington Rd.

indoors during the autumn so that they might bloom and bring forth fruit on