

# Still waiting for a few of these Christmas cards

**H**as the practice of sending Christmas cards fallen out of fashion? Has this tradition, like so many time-honoured customs, surrendered to more contemporary methods of communication?

We're certain it has, not entirely, but partially.

Its years are numbered.

Disbelieving? So how many festive messages have you sent this month? How many festive messages have you received? Less than last year I suspect. And likely fewer than the year before.

It's sad.

Faithfully, every afternoon, I pay a visit to Canada Post box No. 6 on Rupert Avenue, fully anticipating bundles of well-wishes so large a strong band of string will be required to keep them intact. But unfortunately there's nothing, at least next to nothing.

Most cards that have filtered through are addressed to wife Jean or a Mr. preamble is added merely to ease the senders' conscience.

With only three mail-drops existing before Dec. 25, I may have to depend on make-up deliveries



## Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

past New Year's. You know the kind. They read something like: "Sorry this is late but I've been so busy, etc. etc." How does this make the receiver feel? About as appreciated as a Christmas tree on Boxing Day!

For me, when reflecting on the origin of the common Christmas card and its probable departure, there's a balance equal to fond farewells to my faithful Underwood typewriter, dependable Graphic camera and shabby CCM skates.

Did you know, (or do you care), that the custom of sending Christ-

mas cards was started in the United Kingdom in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole?

Do you know, (or do you care), that the first Christmas card was designed by John Horsley, an artist and friend of Sir Henry?

Do you know, (or care), that the first batch of Christmas cards sold for one shilling each or eight cents on today's market?

Do you know, (or care), that Christmas cards first appeared in North America around 1840?

Reasons for the Christmas card cessation are many and varied. Undoubtedly leading the list is the obsessive use of email. Not only is this method faster, it's also cheaper. In an instant, messages reach their intended receivers. And the cost is minimal if typing errors aren't important.

On the negative side, the practice is less personal but this, I suggest, is no longer a factor since we live in so impersonal a world.

Do you recall, as many will, when the price of a stamp was but three cents — two cents if the envelope was left unsealed.

Today, it's 63 cents, plus tax. With no deductions. Little wonder

Canada Post is continually forced to raise rates, a trend that could eventually lead to its demise.

However, posted Christmas cards have a positive side. They can include notes, letters or photos, small but important surprises for many recipients. They may also originate from persons one hasn't seen or heard from in years. These people are special. However, these can be intimidating if the senders signs only first names. For me, after four score years and four they could be from anyone from anywhere.

Of the few personal cards welcomed so far, two are significant.

The first, in order of political prominence was received from our prime minister, Stephen Harper, wife Laureen, son Benjamin and daughter Rachel. This marks my second year on the PM's gala greeting inventory, a level of acceptance I appreciate. While the jingle Happy Holidays momentarily threw me for a loop, I later recovered sufficiently to discover Merry Christmas printed inside. All is forgiven. But the fact remains, I loathe the "holiday" slogan, verbal or scripted.

The Harper card has a homey

flavour in that Laureen is seen embracing a tiny chinchilla, obviously a household pet. While the Opposition, always quick to criticize, may view this as a sign of animal malice, better I say she be holding the fuzzy little critter than wearing it around her neck.

The second, again in order of political prominence, is a beautiful card from Oak Ridges-Markham Member of Parliament Paul Calandra. And true to his comment made at the conclusion of last year's Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park concert when he emphasized the true reason for the season, he wrote: "I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

No please-all politics here.

With days in short supply, I'm still anticipating seasonal salutations from Justin (Trudeau), Wayne (Emmerson) and Prince Will and Princess Kate.

And I'm willing to wait.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 60 years.

**DON'T PAY FOR ONE YEAR**

**\$3,000**

**+ 0%<sup>†</sup> FINANCING FOR UP TO 48 MONTHS**

**HURRY IN OFFER ENDS JAN 2<sup>ND</sup>**



**2013 GENESIS**  
3.8L PREMIUM WITH NAVIGATION

SELLING PRICE AFTER PRICE ADJUSTMENTS \$37,958 PLUS HST

OWN IT FOR **\$237.28** WITH **3.45%** **\$0**

FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS DOWN PAYMENT

UP TO **\$9,500**

IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS\*

**Stouffville** 

2010, 2011 & 2012 Readers Choice Award Winner

67 Automall Boulevard (Millard & Hwy. 48) • 905-888-7777 • stouffvillehyundai.com

\*Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a 2013 Genesis 3.8L Premium with Navigation. Selling price of \$37,958 after price adjustments of up to \$9,500. \$237.28 bi-weekly with an annual finance rate of 3.45% over 48 months. Cost of financing is \$2,797.41. Finance offer includes delivery and destination of \$1,800. Tax, license and all applicable charges (including HST, Registration, Insurance, PPSA and a person's fees) are excluded.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

**STK**

STOUFFVILLE TAEKWONDO • KARATE



**'Give the Gift of Fitness!'**


5 weeks **\$88**

of classes

**MARTIAL ARTS TEACHES:**  
Confidence, Self Control, Self Discipline, Respect & how to "Stick-To-It"!

**CALL NOW! 905-591-4STK (4785)**

30 Innovator Dr., Unit 10 • info@s-t-k.ca • www.s-t-k.ca



**HARVEST**

**BIBLE CHAPEL**

8176 McCowan Rd  
MARKHAM

WWW.HARVESTYORKREGION.CA