



Season's Greetings!



SEVEN NEWS

DECEMBER 15, 1983

TORONTO'S OLDEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FREE

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Commercial Christmas

by GERRY DOUCET

A lot of people regret the commercialization of Christmas. They think of family, a cozy fire, the exchange of warm greetings and thoughtful gifts. They do not often realize that 25 per cent of the jobs in service and retail businesses depend on Christmas sales.

Perhaps your own job is one of the 85,000 jobs in this sector in the City of Toronto, or 20 per cent of the 450,000 total jobs in the City. Countless other office and manufacturing jobs also relate to how well retailers do in the Christmas season.

The ups and downs of retailing are apparent anywhere in the City. Whether you visit the Bloor-Yonge shopping mecca or stroll down Parliament Street, you see hundreds of retail establishments, with an average employment of one to ten people. Some are bustling with activity. Others are barely hanging on. The failure rate in retail is the highest of any sector in the country because it is so competitive and because it is essentially small business. How the consumer perceives them and whether he or she is willing to make a purchase in their store are critical to their survival.

Canadian retailers have fought hard in the last couple of difficult years to keep governments out of the pockets of the people,

so they can have more discretionary income to spend in the stores. If people spend more, more goods are manufactured, and more jobs for Canadians are the result. The current recovery in the Canadian economy is directly attributable to the growth of consumer confidence in the future of their jobs and the future of the Canadian economy. During 1983 they have begun to spend more, and retail sales have increased dramatically. It is the consumer who has led Canada's economic recovery, with 320,000 jobs reinstated in the last six months.

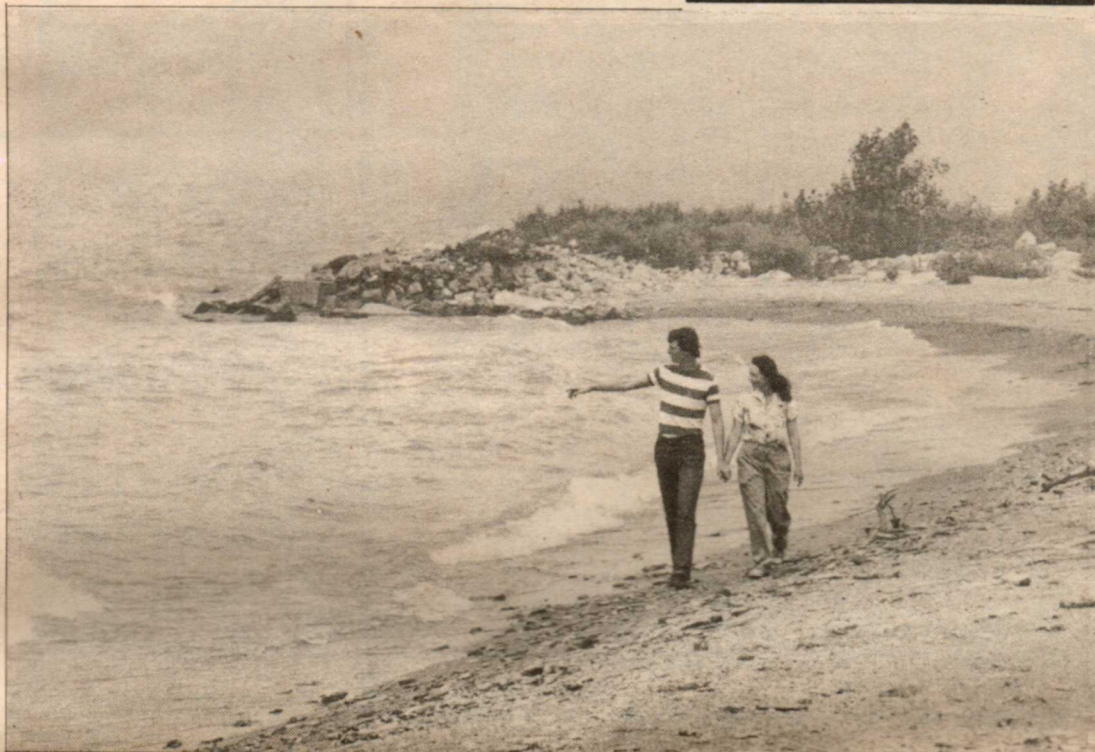
But there is a long way to go. There are still over 1 million Canadians seeking work. This year's Christmas season sales will be all important to the momentum of Canada's recovery. There are many positive signs that it will be Good Cheer for everyone. For example:

* the inflation rate is the lowest in years, and consumers can expect only a 4-5 per cent increase over last year's prices. Retailers have honed their operations to keep costs to a minimum;

* more people are working than last year, and the burden of debt is falling;

* purchases on credit will cost less because interest rates are substantially lower than last year;

continued on p. 6



A memory of summer to get us through these bleak winter days. The Leslie Spit offers a refuge from city life - without leaving the city! Photo by Dennis Robinson. Copyright Globe and Mail.

Nature thrives on Leslie Spit

by ROY MERRENS

One of the great success stories of this city is the Leslie Street Spit. It began life as a lakefill project, formed by earth and rubble from city excavation sites and sand dredged from the harbour. Over the years nature has taken over and transformed the Spit into a natural area of wildflowers, shrubs and forests. It has become a priceless wilderness on Toronto's East End waterfront.

This year's attendance set a new record. Over 25,000 visitors walked, cycled, or took the bus to enjoy the sights and sounds of its hundreds of acres of beaches, headlands and bays.

Each year, a few weeks before Christmas, the task of working out the programme for the coming year begins. Representatives of groups who use the Spit get together in a working committee. They decide what kind of programme they would like, and their views go to the Toronto Harbour Commissioners and the City for approval and budgeting.

Over 50 people met earlier this month to set the wheels in motion for the 1984 programme. The meeting was lively, as two opposing viewpoints clashed.

On the one hand were the boaters. They have already leased a part of the Spit and set up a yacht club, with a clubhouse and parking lot. They want access to the Spit for private cars, with the right to drive their cars on and off and to park there on a 24-hour, seven days a week yearly basis.

On the other side were all the other users, those who enjoy it on foot, on bicycle, or on the bus. These users include all sorts who go to the Spit for a quiet retreat, to enjoy its wilderness qualities and car-free environment, and to escape from the noise and concrete of the city. For them, cars are an unwelcome and unnecessary intrusion on the Spit.

The opposing views were vigorously expressed. They are now being passed on to the Harbour Commissioners, who have to finalize a programme, and City politicians, who have to pay for it. Final decisions will be made early in 1984.

What happens now is important and will influence the long-term fate of the Spit. An organization called Friends of the Spit, is pushing for preservation of the Spit as it is (for more information, call Friends of the Spit at

961-1050). yacht clubs and the Ontario Sailing Association are calling for major development and unlimited access for private vehicles.

Meanwhile, the Spit has just been opened on a year-round basis. Because of a suggestion made at last year's meeting, a turnstile for pedestrians and bicyclists has been put in place at the entrance to the Spit. So people can now go out there any weekend to enjoy the Spit, even in winter (when it's a great place to watch Snowy owls).

But there's no bus service along the Spit until the spring, so you may want to wait for a few months. Then you'll be able to ride the bus all the way to the lighthouse at the end of the Spit and see the carpet of wildflowers coming to life. Or, in the summer, take a picnic lunch out there and discover one of the city's best kept secrets - a public swimming beach that remained open and unpolluted all through the last summer, when most of the city's beaches had to be closed.

The entrance to the three-mile long Spit is at the foot of Leslie Street. It's free, a gift from Mother Nature. Season's Greetings!

Gallery No explores new directions in art

by HELEN LENSKYI

When is a gallery not (only) a gallery? When it's a Gallery No.

Consider these scenes at the Gallery in recent months:

* Close to 100 artists and friends attending the opening reception of the Gallery's first group show last August, where works included the glowing coloured pencil drawings of Juro Mikus and the lively collages of Teresa Allan.

* The Gallery's window occupied by a giant snail, over seven feet long, its circular flowing form and warm wood colours a tribute to the artistry and craft of Ward Seven resident George

Akula. His unique show of plywood sculpture, ranging in style from the light, airy Flying Wheel to the solid, mysterious God's Binoculars, opened on August 2.

* In October, another packed opening - not only the floor of the Gallery but also the walls - when a multi-media show, entitled Melange - One Context, presented over 100 pieces, ranging from masks and scarecrows to quilts and acrylics.

* Two very different one-artist shows: in September, Uno Hoffmann's collection of large, sweeping canvases, and, in November, Ruth Nichols' Naive

Last minute gifts p. 7 stories p. 5

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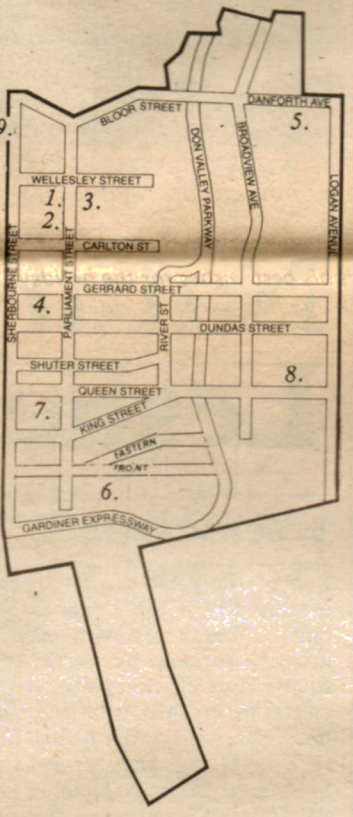


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SPEAKING OUT

FROM THE EDITOR

Not only is this our Christmas issue, it's also our end-of-1983 and wasn't-she-a-grand-old-year issue, so we're taking this opportunity to thank some old friends, welcome some new ones and get a bit sentimental about the season and this newspaper as well.

1983 saw the rebirth of Seven News, which had been a dream of many people for a long time and we look forward to a successful new year of service to the community.

I would like to personally thank the retiring board of directors, first of all for hiring me and allowing me to become part of a very special organization, and secondly for the unwavering support which they gave me in all areas of my work. Next I would like to welcome the new board, a really committed and enthusiastic group of people who stepped into the breach when it looked like the paper was going down for the final count. I would particularly like to thank John Campey, who has been the driving force behind keeping us alive, although he has gone to great pains to point out that just because I'm no longer on salary doesn't mean I can start turning Seven News into a feminist theatre magazine (darn).

A special thanks to Don and Joan who run the Community Centre. Joan is planning a senior's dinner for this Thursday and I'll be strapping on an apron (Do you strap them on? It's been so long since I was anywhere near one!) to lend a hand in spreading the Christmas cheer.

And thanks to Frank, Anne, Michele and Doron the sum total of our staff, who have been patient, creative and always committed and who have made my job a pleasure.


And lastly to our readers, some of whom have actually read my



Photographer Doron Rescheff sends his best wishes for the holidays to the Ward he loves to photograph. This shot is from our recent foray into exercise studios.

editorials, and many of whom have supported us with kind words over some tough times.

Merry Christmas to you all, Season's Greetings and see you in January!



Merry Christmas

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for 1984 from the Neighbourhood Information Post. During the weeks of December 19 and 26, 1983, we will be closed on Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26, Friday, December 31, 1983, and Monday, January 2, 1984.



May the spirit of Christmas be with you... and may you have a happy and peaceful 1984!

Shirley & David Rombie

Season's greetings from Your Community Representatives

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Without whose help~

The Seven News Board would like to thank the many people who have helped us keep Seven News on the streets in 1983. We sincerely appreciate your help, and look forward to a successful 1984. Best Holiday Wishes and a Happy New Year to all of our friends and supporters, including, but not only, the following:

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- The kind people at Pickwicks
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- Our advertisers
- IBM (for not repossessing our typesetting machine)
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- Everyone who helped with and attended the Seven News Banquet from:
- John Campey
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- Frank Guile
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- Rob Hutchinson
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Gallery continued from p. 1

Abstract: A One Woman Show, where richly textured abstracts contrasted with small, detailed paintings in the Naive Tradition.

* And, for the month of December, Araby - An Annual Christmas Bazaar, offering a variety of arts and crafts. Original works in oil and water colour, collages, woodwork, crochet, quilts, crystal, jewellery, sea shell crafts, framed sand dollars, books, records, prints and more. Tables are available from \$10 per day, and there is a good chance that there will be some space still available for interested craftspeople right up to Christmas.

These shows are only one of the Gallery's many faces. Different sights and sounds greet visitors most Saturday and Sunday evenings, when candlelight, herbal tea and guitar music form the ambience for readings of poetry and prose. Last month, a performance piece entitled Two Plus One featured poet Aiyanna

Black and Vancy Kasper, with flautist Lucie Batteke, in a presentation that was funny, moving and entertaining.

Music and poetry were combined equally effectively at a December reading, where Isa Katz's sensual images were complemented by the lyrical flute of Michael Roberts. The September music and poetry readings included the classical guitar of Peter Acker and Jenny Young, and the country-folk music of singer-guitarist Deborah Scott. In September, too, Peter Acker began a ten-week guitar course at the Gallery, and Reg Hartt presented a film series on Thursday Nights.

Poetry has been experiencing a revival in Toronto in recent months, and there have been some packed houses at the Gallery No. People strolling along Danforth often drop in out of curiosity, while others see notices of upcoming events which spark their interest. Still others, poets or poetry enthusiasts, come to hear new works and to

join in the informal discussion after the reading. The atmosphere is always friendly and relaxed, and the performances varied and interesting. A new poetry series will run on Sunday evenings through January, with the first reading on January 8 at 8 p.m.

And who is the inspiration behind this multi-media Gallery? Allen Sutterfield is a poet, artist and teacher. His art work is primarily collage, but collage with a difference: his pieces have unusual texture and depth, and some incorporate the printed word as well as colour and image, in order to merge the two art forms of poetry and collage. His poetry has many facets - reflective, personal, experimental - but his delivery is always lively, dramatic and memorable.

The concept of the Gallery No is open-ended, multi-dimensional and dynamic. Artists in all genres are encouraged, and while traditional works are included in the concept, experimentation is especially welcomed. Special attention is given to artists who are past the beginning stage but not yet successfully established. In keeping with the openness and flexibility of this approach, the space is not booked more than two months ahead. It is available, at very reasonable rates, for meetings and other events as well as for exhibitions and performances.

Plans for the Gallery for January and February include a group show in early January, a show of portraits by Bryan Walsh, and drawings and watercolours by Paul Androsko, in February. On the weekend of January 14/15, actress Patrusha Sarakula will give a solo performance of The Connexion to Mr. Chekhov's Three Sisters, which previewed at the Gallery last November. The Gallery is located at 315 Danforth Avenue, one block west of Chester subway. For further information, call Allen at 461-7610.

FIRST, HE KILLED THE BOTTLE...

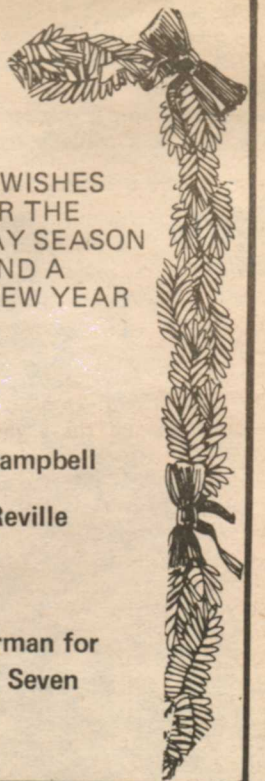


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Holiday wishes and memories

from HOWARD HUGGETT

The approach of the "festive season" always seems to remind me of an old familiar joke, as follows:

Three-year old boy: "Do you believe in Santa Claus?" Five-year old boy: "Nah, it's the same as the devil, it's really your father."

Probably the reason that the memory of that joke stays with me is that belief in the existence of the jolly old boy stayed with me until I was nearly ten. Those years of delightful innocence were lived out on a Muskoka farm. There were no department stores or shopping plazas, and Santa never appeared, except of course very late on Christmas Eve. By that time all children who knew how to behave had been in bed for hours. I can still recall vividly how excited I would be in the darkness of Christmas morning when I crawled out of bed into the cold to find a bulging stocking that was hung at the foot, as I knew it would be. So every year the proof was there. Besides, the tracks made by Santa's sleigh could be seen in the snow on the field next to our house.

Of course it was my father who was responsible for the sleigh tracks, and it was a shock when one year I got back out of bed on Christmas Eve to find the presents already under the tree and my parents still up. But how precious were those years of innocent belief, and my sympathies go out to small children of today as they try to cope with the idea of a magical and unique figure that has been mass-produced until he is as common as a bar of soap. There are some beliefs that will not stand the light of day.

from K.L. BRANDY

One Christmas I was unemployed and lonely, far from my family, and all my roommates had gone home.

Two women I knew slightly discovered my situation on Christmas Eve, and insisted that I spend that night and Christmas Day with them. One took me home to spend the night. Her family lived in a working class neighbourhood in a house luridly decorated and redolent with the season: trees, food, candles, and wine. Everyone was there, it seemed, so much family, so many neighbours; I felt shy. The mother of the house embraced me with kisses and laughter, giving me a drink in one hand and a pair of boy's flannel pajamas in the other. She explained that I must share a bed with her daughter, since, with an accounting wave of her hand, all others were taken.

The evening was spent in song and joking; some of us went to church. Throughout, I was made to feel like a distant cousin, stranded by circumstance, but immensely welcome. After the hectic Christmas breakfast, taken in stages by those present, I thanked them as well as I could for easy happiness.

My other benefactress and her spare family lived in a neat middle class suburb. Everything was perfect, I think, except me. They were determined that I was a charity case, some sort of

homeless and scarcely deserving one. They were too kind, they must have told themselves and patronized me incessantly. I have never felt less comfortable.

I remember that Christmas, for both spirits, and beg us all to temper our charities with charity.

How wonderful that we choose the meanest, bleakest day for our joyous celebration of Christ's birth. In past times we might have counted the cold days against the stores put by, but we feasted, and believed that spring would come. Today, we number minutes to 1984, to apocalypse, to mass starvation and the exhaustion of our resources. Now is the moment to remember the promise of peace on earth, the gift, which is always present and available in our hearts.

Santa Claus

That winter Santa Claus was depressed. In the 30s he left gifts of peace and love and goodwill in the stockings but they fell through a hole in the toe and the starving children cried while the beast howled hungrily outside nosing in the ashes of burnt grain.

house where I'd celebrate Christmas.

A few years ago, though, at 27, I got the notion into my head again. I bought a beautiful little menorah for myself and I usually light the candles on Hanukkah. Sometimes I make latkes. It seems like old traditions die hard.

from ANNA THOMPSON

When I was a child, my parents followed the German custom of not letting the children see the Christmas tree until it is fully decorated and lit up. The tree lights are never turned on until Christmas Eve, which is when we celebrate Christmas.

One Christmas Eve, when I was three or four years old, Dad was late in getting started on the tree decoration, and I was running around excitedly, not giving him much opportunity to work in secrecy. It was an extremely cold night, but my mother packed me into the wooden sled, and pulled me around the block for about an hour and a half, waiting for Dad's 'ready' signal to appear in the front window.

Just before we both got frost-bite, Dad finally called us in. I don't know who worked harder to make that tree a surprise —

from HARRY POSNER

As a young boy I loved to sing Silent Night round about this time of year. My parents, as Jewish as they come, frowned upon this goyishe activity, but, thankfully, hadn't the heart to stop me.

For me there seemed to be no real difference between Hanukkah and Christmas. Both involved family, giving and a rekindling of an inner force that the dead of winter would snuff out if it could.

In these times when the light kindness and understanding in the world seems so precariously close to extinction, it is imperative for all of us to cherish in each other that living spirit which makes us truly human. Nothing less will pull us through.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright. . .

from CINDY WEINER

Imagine the disbelief of a ten-year old girl sneaking downstairs early on Christmas morning to find no stockings bulging with treats nor any presents piled neatly below.

Had she miscalculated the date?

gift-giving. They are holy days observed for religious reasons.

Christians celebrate the birthday of their messiah, Jesus Christ, on December 25. The Jews commemorate the end of a struggle with the pagan Philistines in 165 B.C.

Hannukah is called the festival of lights because when the Jews recaptured their temple, they found enough oil to light their holy lamp for eight days.

Hannukah is over, but it's not too late to wish everyone a wonderful holiday and a very happy new year.

from CY BASSMAN

I was born in 1891 and away from our home, which was a confectionery store at 22 Queen Street East, here in Toronto.

Our home was above the store. My mother was kept busy watching the store from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, a helper at noon hour appeared and gave her time off to feed her family. No rest. Dad was in the basement making candy of various kinds: Taffies one day, chocolate coated creams, hard centres, or nuts and fruits another day.

About my fourth or fifth birthday my sense of smell became very keen, and from there on Christmas always had the pungent aroma of peppermint. From the middle of December until January; our store was a beehive of activity, candy canes from five inches to six feet long, from half an inch thick to the big giant size which was mounted on a board and displayed in our windows; . . . It was delivered to St. Michaels Hospital the day before Christmas and broken into small pieces on Christmas Day for the patients and staff.

Christmas was a happy and merry time. It was also our very busiest time of year. We had little time for other activities. At the end of every day our stairs up to our home were lined up from top to bottom with five to seven children for bedtime prayers with mother on the bottom step, as the store was still open, someone had to watch for customers, and it was always mothers job.

from ANNE-MARGARET HINES

As for many people, Christmas when I was growing up was always a time to spend with the family. Coming from a household of five active children and two even more active parents, it was a rare event to find us all in the same place at the same time so Christmas was particularly special.

We had all the usual traditions which families collect over the years. The littlest ones would wake everyone up at six in the morning, because everyone had to go into the living room together, my father would always suggest that we go back to bed after the stockings had been opened when he knew we were all dying to get to the tree, everyone would laugh about how I was the only one to find a potato (signaling that I had been a less than perfect child that year) at the bottom of my stocking and there would be many more annual jokes and traditions which made Christmas Christmas for us.

One tradition, however, sticks *continued on p. 6*



Frank Langrell, Michele Young, Rena Ginsberg, Howard Huggett, Cindy Wiener . . . part of the Seven News writing team. Photo by Doron Rescheff.

from RENA GINSBERG

My parents, being first generation Americans and socialists, did not believe in Hannukah. And that was that. But one year when I was about nine or ten, I got it into my head that I wanted to celebrate a holiday. And I started bugging my mother about this in my usual repetitive way. I was actually surprised, though, when she agreed to my scheme to celebrate Hannukah. She went out and bought a menorah and candles and agreed to give me a small gift for each day of the festival. In spite of some funny looks from the rest of the family and my brother's exclamation of "What's with her," this went on for two years. After that, I lost interest and the menorah disappeared. Instead, I would go over to a friend's

Mom making her cold rounds outside, or Dad working feverishly on the tree!

from JOHN CAMPEY

My parents, both staunch monarchists, held firm to their belief that no Christmas presents should be opened until after the Queen's Christmas message had been broadcast. As an impatient child, not the least bit interested in Elizabeth and Philip's home movies, and anxious to discover what was in the intriguing assortment of parcels under the tree, this always seemed to reflect the aristocratic high-handedness of the worst sort. Perhaps this early brush with the oppressive side of the aristocracy has played some part in the shaping of a socialist!

Had Santa overlooked their house?

Her mother explained that, yes, it was Christmas Day but that she was old enough now to understand that Jews did not celebrate two holidays.

Their family had always enjoyed the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah — lighting a new candle on the menorah (candelabra) each of the eight days, spending time with relatives and exchanging gifts.

But because she and her sister went to an Anglican school where all their friends celebrated Christmas, every December 25 they would receive presents too. The children were aware of their good fortune and greedily missed the second holiday.

But their mother was correct to explain to them that holidays are not merely a time for

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TO ALL
Our Friends and Customers

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Terry & Sons

Fresh & Frozen Turkeys

A fine line of Red Brand Grade "A" meat.

516 PARLIAMENT ST. 925-7665

We specialize in freezer orders.

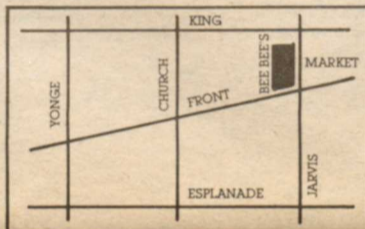
BEE BEE'S FLEA MARKET

Open Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Located in the St. Lawrence Market,
one block south of King at Jarvis
and Front Streets

Ample parking. Close to TTC.
Admission: Adults .50¢, Children with parents
free. Door prizes, free tea or coffee.

Bee Bee's
Flea Market Inc.
461-1605 or
759-4046



Christmas continued from p. 5

in my mind particularly. Every Christmas Eve just before we went to bed, my father would sit us all on the couch and read us the Christmas story from the Bible.

I still remember the firelight, the breathless anticipation of the next day, surrounded by the people I loved best in the world, listening to the timeless poetry the story of the first Christmas. No presents, no candy, no Christmas dinner, but the love of my family, our joy at being together, and the peace and promise of that story from the gospel of Matthew.

It has been a long time since we have sat with my father to hear him read on Christmas Eve and the family has grown and scattered across the country. But the joy and wonder of Christmas which was planted in our hearts so many years ago still shines in our smiles and rings in our laughter and brings us home to each other each year.

May this joy be yours this holiday and throughout the coming year.

Merry Christmas.

the Epicure shop

Merry Christmas

Joyeaux Noel

From everyone

at the Epicure

473 Parliament St.

928-0291



CABBAGETOWN CAPERS

The new Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre invites you to join them for the Cabbagetown Capers, an evening of music, dance and celebration!

On December 18 the Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre, an organization which has been bringing dance, music and art to area children for many years, will host a gala evening of entertainment to raise funds for their upcoming season.

The evening will feature Lubica Dobica, former prima ballerina of the Czechoslovakian Ballet Co., Australian dance champion Ann Harding, Toronto singer/dancer Shirley Johnson, Rick Cameron and the Toronto Jazz Connection, Tommy Oki, Mark Sepic, John Gibson, Carl Ellison, Tony Collacott Trio, CBC personality David Shatsky and MC Jason Ross. There will also be performances from the Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre kids.

Tickets are \$6 and are available from the Ritz Restaurant (243 Carlton) or by calling 927-7525. Support our first community arts centre, and enjoy a fabulous evening of family entertainment at the same time!

December 18 at 7 p.m. CBC Cabbagetown Studio, 509 Parliament Street.



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Ages 5 to 9

Subsidised spaces available

922-8827

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AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

OFFICE & PLANT — 586 PARLIAMENT ST.

Phone 925-7393

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Wash & Set 8.00	Tint 14.50 up
Facial Clinic 10.00	Bleaching 14.50 up
Sun Tan Indoors	Perms 19.99 up
each sessions 6.00	Electrolysis 18.00

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for

Payment: Money order or VISA

exp. date

Name

Address

Postal code

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Signature

1984 TOYOTAS

COROLLA \$ 7,898 SUPRA \$19,148

TERCELL \$ 6,448 CELICA \$11,528

CRESSIDA \$16,748 CAMRY \$11,388

TRUCKS \$7,398

USED CARS

'76 OLDS CUTLASS SALON \$3,995

4 Door. Finished in sand beige with complimentary velour interior, fully equipped including air conditioning, bucket seats, radial ply tires and custom radio. OLDSMOBILE'S TOP OF THE LINE CUTLASS. SER. No. 170970. Full PARTS and LABOUR 1 YEAR/20,000 KM WARRANTY

'78 TRANS AM \$5,895

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DOWNTOWN TOYOTA

THE TOTAL SERVICE DEALER

677 QUEEN ST. E.
(AT BROADVIEW) 465-5471

SALES • SERVICE • LEASING • PARTS

Commercial Christmas continued from p. 1

* more purchases will be made on credit because the fear of lay-offs is lower and consumer confidence is higher than it has been in 18 years;

* there are five shopping Saturdays in December to attract the shopper compared with only three last year.

Times are actually getting better. Customers are starting to loosen up, feel better and spend more. Look for retailers to reinforce this upbeat mood in their advertising, in the range and quality of the products they market. Christmas is the time of year when people want to feel good — about themselves, about the things they buy, and about the stores they buy from.

Today's customer — you and me — is looking for added value in everything he or she buys. Staff attitudes, the cleanliness of the store, the neatness of signing, the crispness of merchandise display, and a genuine air of bustling cheerfulness are all essential to the spirit of Christmas shopping. People still buy basic, utilitarian goods at Christmas, but it is also the time of year they spend money on goods that will simply be enjoyed: goods that give pleasure, goods that bring a smile, or fill someone with joy.

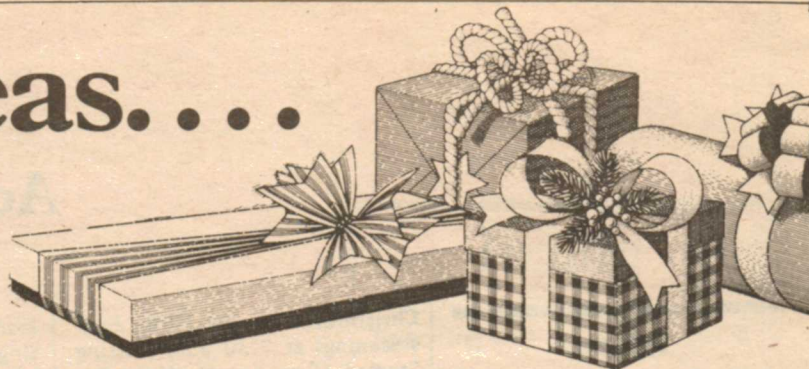
In the true spirit of Christmas, Canada is on the brink of genuine recovery and renewal. Canadians will have enough to share once again. Retailers who catch this spirit and are sensitive to it will do very well indeed.

With them, I wish you the warmest Season's Greetings!

Gerry Doucet is a Senior Vice-President with the Retail Council of Canada.

Last minute gift ideas....

Wrapping it up for under \$20



Our area merchants have come up with some special gift ideas to save you from last minute shopping panic. So relax, enjoy the holiday and get to know your neighbourhood merchants!

Okamé Japanese Antiques and Crafts

450 Parliament 929-1095

Okamé (named after the Japanese goddess of mirth) offers a wide range of gift items new and old, all reflecting ancient traditions of design and craftsmanship. In the under \$10 range you will find many unusual gifts such as children's toys, origami books and papers, plain or colourfully patterned hand-made paper for artists, wind-bells, fans, chopsticks, cards, writing sets, decorative paper boxes and note and address books. From \$10-\$20 are larger multi-section paper boxes ideal for jewellery and small treasures, dyed cotton shop aprons and doorway curtains, saké jugs, books and calenders, bowls, and traditional handicraft items. From \$20 up are many unusual and special gifts, including silk kimonos, lacquered bowls and boxes, porcelains, screens, woodblock prints and paintings, even authentic samurai swords.

Future Past

194 Carlton 925-3021

Ceramic pottery by local artists including vases, planters, cream and sugar sets, bowls, and pitchers from \$5.99. Candles of various sizes from \$1.25 to \$9.99. Oils to scent your candles include cinnamon, myrrh and frankincense for \$2.50. Gift certificates are also available for merchandise or for psychic readings.

City Streets Gallery

339 Dundas St. East 363-0466

Toronto street-scape Christmas cards including Cabbagetown scenes in pen and ink line drawings. Five cards to a package for \$5.

Lambda Leather

464 Parliament St. 968-0025
Belt buckles from \$7 to \$8.50, leather coasters are 50 cents each. Handmade belts \$12.

Body Corps

95 Danforth 469-5225

Gift certificates are available for \$5 each for one class. A couple of cards might make good stocking stuffers.



Betty Miyasaki of Okamé, gifts with a Japanese flair. Photo by Doron Rescheff.



We're making massive changes to equipment in the "46" exchange which will mean major improvements in your telephone service.

As part of the \$27 million project, we are replacing the equipment in the switching centre with high technology digital switching in addition to replacing the lines that connect your telephone to the switching centre.

To keep customers informed on the project, a mobile information booth will be situated at various locations throughout the area. Watch for the notice advising you when and where the Bell Information Booth will appear in your neighbourhood. You will have a chance to ask questions about the project, see displays and an audio-visual presentation.

Bell

Lickits & Crackits Emporium

237 Carlton 928-0132

Under \$10, 1001 creative stocking stuffers, "Boo Boo" strips, colourful band-aids \$2.98 per package. Under \$20, Italian design writing utensil \$17.95.

What's Cooking

555 Parliament 921-4361

Various gift baskets, for example, two egg spoons in white china, two egg cups of clear glass and salt & pepper shakers will cost \$9.98. Or for the same price a pastry utensil set including decorating comb, cake tester, feather pastry brush and icing knife. Between \$10-\$20: spaghetti making tools are a possibility. A glass jar for storing spaghetti, a measuring stick, server and garlic press will cost \$17.98. Two champagne tulip glasses and one wooden cookscrew would be \$12.50. Or a chinese food utensil set including a rice paddle, two pairs of chopsticks, a set of chop sticks for cooking with, and two china chop stick rests for \$10.98.

Natural Threads

927-0362

Under \$10, hand carved, hand painted balsawood birds from Ecuador are \$5 each. Hand crafted pewter Christmas ornaments are \$8.75 each. Hand knit alpaca gloves for \$10. From \$10-\$20 hand woven Ecuadorean wool scarves for \$18. Iceland mitts are \$16 and hand crafter pewter broaches are \$19.95.

Epicure Shop

473 Parliament St. 9280291

Embroidered "EPICURE" apron 16.95, Special gourmet delights, many great gift ideas under 10.00

Cabbagetown Bathshoppe

453 Parliament 921-1234

Under \$5, Soap leaves for purse. Under \$10, baskets of soaps.

Screen Art Video

551 Parliament St. 968-0933

Movie posters for under \$10. Under \$20, gift certificates and membership, rentals and blank tapes. See our ad on page 4.

Vivien Silver Works

Silver jewellery under \$10 to \$20. Earrings, pins and rings.

Plant Ideas

228 Gerrard St. E. 924-3933

"Just about all our flowered plants are under \$10... point-settas, mums, Christmas cactus, geraniums..." A stocking stuffer suggestion might be leather plant hangers - \$2 and Christmas flower arrangements made out of pine cones for table settings. Starter plants for table are 99 cents... "teaches them to look after plants, it gives them a feeling of accomplishment when they see they're actually growing." From \$10-\$20 - Crystal vases averaging around \$15.

Fabric Solution

244 Carlton St. 923-8841

Custom throw pillows of solid colour. Chintz 14 to 24" square. \$17 to \$22.

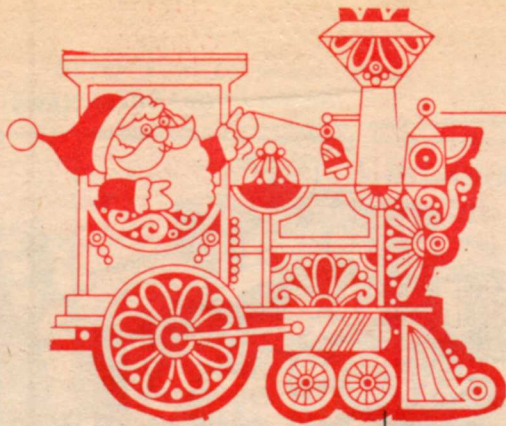
Bee Bees Flea Market

Sundays at St. Lawrence Market 461-1605

Over 100 dealers and each one is different. "We have everything from children's toys, books old and new to bakery products." Also homemade jewellery, wood carvings, Christmas decorations, picture frames, silverware, antique and stainless steel.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Activities for the holidays

Friday

December 16

The Toronto Union of Unemployed Workers is holding an Unemployed Dance, Rock'n'Roll Sock Hop. 8 p.m. at the Ralph Thornton Centre, 765 Queen Street East. Admission is \$3, unemployed \$1.50.

Christmas tree decorating party for children. Queen-Saulter Library. Carols, food and fun! 4 p.m. Queen-Saulter Library 765 Queen St. E. 465-2156.

Christmas Party at the John Howard Society Club 7-10 p.m. 168 Isabella Street. Come share the Christmas spirit!

Neighbourhood Legal Services wishes to announce that the office hours of the clinic have changed as follows: Drop-in clients and information Monday to Friday 1:30-5:00 p.m. Appointments only Monday to Friday 10:00-1:30.

Saturday

December 17

Family Christmas Party. Stories, refreshments and musical entertainment with Muddy York. Parliament St. Library 4 p.m.

Make a Christmas Wreath to decorate your front door. 2 p.m. Riverdale Library. 466-2197.

Christmas with the NFB: This series of free films continues at 7:30 p.m. with two new dance films, Flamenco at 5:15 p.m. and Gala. York Quay Centre.

Bridge every Saturday at 2 p.m. Matthews Lawn Bowling Club House as fund-raising event to help keep the building open. For more information call Margaret Gauthier at 465-2975. All welcome.

Sunday

December 18

Photo Exhibit at the Market Gallery. The work of Nir Bareket, freelance photographer. 50 or so black and white images - candid portraits, bustling street scenes and tranquil views of Toronto's parks and buildings - together capture the mood and pulse of life in the city.

Christmas with the NFB: Free screenings at 7:30 p.m. Getting Started, Glenn Gould off the Record and Singing: A Joy in Any Language. York Quay Centre.

Monday

December 19

Make Decorations for the Riverdale Library's needy trees at the Library 2 p.m.

A Luncheon will be held at the East Toronto Seniors Centre at 12:30 p.m. To be sure you're served, buy your tickets early, we can only count on those people who are booked for the lunch to come out. 690-3877.

Wednesday

December 21

Are you ready for a Christmas Party? Get into the spirit of the season with a jolly holly party at the Riverdale Library 2 p.m.

Friday

December 23

Christmas with the NFB: This series of free films winds up tonight with Twice Upon A Time and Why Rock the Boat? 7:30 p.m.

Sunday

December 25

The John Howard Society Club will be holding a sing-a-long. 168 Isabella Street. 925-4386.

Monday

December 26

Harbourfront Puppet Festival: A 5 day festival of workshops and performances (varying prices). A pass for the day can be bought for \$6. Parents are admitted free, except to puppet plays. Information 364-5665.

The Elves and the Shoemaker: The Ontario Ballet Theatre puts on a ballet production of the beloved Grimm's fairy tale in the Premiere Dance Theatre. Through December 31 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. \$4.

Traditional Sounds: The Chic Singers put on a special Boxing Day performance from 2 to 5 p.m. Free. Sponsored by Coca Cola Ltd.

Tuesday

December 27

Holiday Ideas for Children: Keep your child active and happy during Christmas vacation. The YWCA's Winter Magic holiday activity program for children 5-11 years runs December 27 to December 30, 9-4 p.m. at the YWCA, 2532 Yonge Street. Fee is \$50/4 days or \$15/day, 10% discount for 2nd and 3rd child, same family. Activities include games, stories, crafts, clown makeup, outdoor programs and outings. 487-7151.

An Evening of Myth and Mirth with Tony Molesworth and Michael Ross at Harbourfront. Each creates a character who tells a story aided by magic tricks and comedy.

Saturday

December 31

A New Year's Dance for Seniors, by the East Toronto Seniors Centre at Adam Beck Community Centre, 400 Scarborough Rd. Toronto (use entrance off Lawlor Ave. for parking).

The bar will be open from 8 to 12:30 p.m. Singles and couples are all welcome to attend. Line Dancing will be featured during the evening. Your \$5 ticket includes hats, party favours, live entertainment and a late evening snack.

For more information call 691-5754. Come and join our Seniors, let's bring in the New Year right!!!

Film Festival 2 p.m. Riverdale Library 466.2197.

Stories. All ages welcome 2 p.m. Movies. 2:30 p.m. Parliament St. Library.

Kaleidoscope: There's lots of fun for holidaying children and their parents, with games, crafts and activities at this weekly family program. Open 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday, free.

Tuesday

January 3

Reading Series: Barry Dickson, author of Home Safely to Me (Anansi Press), and two children's book will be reading from his fiction, set in Toronto in the 1940s. 8:30 p.m., free.

Rendezvous for Seniors: Smooth seniors enjoy disco and ballroom dancing Tuesdays, ethnic folk-dancing Thursdays, at this free program at York Quay Centre, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday

January 4

Rec Trek: Our first Sunday trip will leave the East Toronto Seniors Centre at 9:45 p.m. Lunch at the Beacon, then on to the Doll House Museum in Fort Erie, and then to St. Catharines to see Annie at Brock University. The price of the trip is \$33 and seats should be booked as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. 690-3877.

Professional Directory

W. Frank Robinson

Denture Therapy Clinic

2 College Street Suite 204
(Corner Yonge & College)

Monday to Friday

923-7558

Oliphant White + Associates

Management consultants

Oliphant White + Associates offers a full range of management consulting services. In many engagements the firm collaborates with other professionals with complementary skills.

The firm invites enquiries from public, private and not-for-profit enterprises concerned with social and cultural policy or with adapting to social or economic change.

37 Amelia Street, Toronto M4X 1E3. (416) 924-2387

The School
of The Toronto Dance Theatre
80 Winchester Street
Toronto, Ontario

Enroll NOW in:

FUNDAMENTALS OF MODERN DANCE
ELEMENTARY MODERN DANCE
STRETCH & STRENGTH
FELDENKRAIS AWARENESS THROUGH
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CHILDREN'S CLASSES (Ages 4-13)

\$ 65 - 10 class card
\$170 - 30 classes
Please call for
Children's fees.

967-6887

CLASSIFIED

Help Wanted

Part-time: person to do laundry and ironing in their own home. Flexible hours. Contact Jim or Pat Telfer 466-8181.

Classes

Classes: gain new energy with dancercise by Body Sculpture. Total fitness workout, variety of music, first class complimentary Open house on January 10, 12 310 Danforth Ave. 429-3607.

Services

Holiday Pictures: repair to all photo equip. Free estimate, free film, one day service and one year warranty. Call Photo Tech 465-6727.

Misc.

To YKW - Candlelight, soft music, Beaujolais Nouveau, and you. Wherever, whenever. BB.

Pink Flamingos make wonderful gifts. A message from the Pink Flamingos Make Wonderful Gifts Association. (PFMWGA).

Talking With: by Jane Carter. Theatre that laughs, loves and leaves you with joy. Poor Alex Theatre until December 23. 927-9533.

Bodycorps Exercise Studio now offering affordable X-MAS GIFT CERTIFICATES Give a gift of health. Safe and effective Aerobic exercise program. 95 Danforth at Broadview.

