

Christmas scene now and then

Christmas is a portentous day in Arthurian legends. It was on Christmas Day that the miraculous event occurred which was to put young Arthur upon the vacant English throne. At the behest of Merlin the magician, the leaders of the realm gathered on the birthday of Jesus, in the hope that a sign from Him would reveal their rightful king. The sign took the form of a sword, embedded in an anvil, which only Arthur was able to withdraw. Malory also recorded (again with no support from history) that on a later Christmas, Arthur was crowned Emperor of Rome.

Churches

All Mississauga churches have special services over the holidays. Following is a list of a few of them:

Erindale—Erindale United Church will hold two services Christmas Eve. At 7:30 p.m., there will be an hour of family service with the children's choir and storytelling; at 11 p.m., the major celebration of the season will include Holy Communion, the senior choir, the Brass Quintet from Erindale Secondary School

Old, give me an old-fashioned Christmas card.
With hostlers hosting in an old inn yard, With church bells chiming their silver notes, And jolly red squares in their jolly red coats, And a good fat goose by the fire that dangles, And a few more angels and a few less angles, Turn backward, Time, to please this bard, And give me an old-fashioned Christmas card

and a harpist. On Christmas Day at 10 a.m. there will be a celebration with carols and choral music.

Streetsville—Streetsville United Church will hold Christmas Eve Communion at 11 p.m. On Christmas Day there will be a family service at 10 a.m.

St. Joseph's—St. Joseph's Parish holds midnight mass at 11:30 p.m. At 9 p.m., there will be midnight mass in Portuguese. Christmas Day masses are at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in Portuguese.

St. Richard's—Christmas Eve mass at St. Richard's is at 9 p.m. and Christmas Day mass is at 9:45 a.m.

Clarkson—Clarkson Road Presbyterian

St. Nicholas' Day (Dec. 6) marked the opening of Christmas revelries. In the morning the Mayor and his fellows heard Mass and listened to a sermon by the Boy-Bishop; then, after dinner, they played solemnly at dice (a traditional part of the festival) until the Boy-Bishop arrived with a train of clerical attendants to give the town officers his blessing and be refreshed with bread and wine. . . . He was a busy man during this season dominated by the Lord of Misrule. The people of Bristol, like those of other towns, celebrated with mummery and gaming and dancing and brawls among visored rascals in dark streets. The Mayor heard sermons . . . and on Christmas Eve he issued the usual proclamation against wearing of masks, carrying weapons, and remaining in the streets without lights after curfew.

Church holds a Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. On Christmas Day the mass is at 11 a.m.

Risen Christ—Risen Christ Lutheran Church holds its Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. Christmas Day services are at 11 a.m.

Burnhamthorpe—Burnhamthorpe United Church, Dixie and Burnhamthorpe Roads, holds a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

St. Christopher's—St. Christopher's will have two Christmas Eve masses. At 9 p.m., there will be a folk mass with carols beginning at 8:15 p.m. At the midnight mass, the senior choir will sing and carols begin at 11:30 p.m. There are three Christmas Day masses—9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and noon.

St. Peter's—St. Peter's Church in Erindale has two Christmas Eve services—7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

The night helped to make Christmas. All the stars were out. The windows of the mountain church shone out into the blue night from the valley and from high up little rows of lights came towards the church. People carried them. They shone up into happy, quiet faces. Silent, holy night—only the bells of the churches rang from near and from the far white fields.

St. Luke's—Church of St. Luke holds a Christmas Eve celebration at 7 p.m., during which the Christmas tree will be decorated. At 11:30 p.m., the midnight Eucharist will be celebrated. On Sunday, there are services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Follow me in merry measure,
Fa-la-la, la-la-la, la, la, la, la,
While I tell of Christmas treasure,
Fa-la-la-la, la-la-la-la.

Clubs and events

For children—The Young People's Theatre Centre, 165 Front St. E., just east of Jarvis Street, has several shows planned for during the holiday season:
Kazoophony—Kazoophony is the zany and hilarious musical spoof brought to you by a quartet of kazoo players whose musical antics will turn your favorite music into a symphony of laughter. Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday, Dec. 29, 2 p.m.

Lampoon Puppet Theatre—Last year, Toronto's favorite puppet theatre shared top prize at the International Festival of Puppetry in Prague. This holiday season, they'll be playing at the Nathan Cohen Studio Theatre in the YPT Centre with a delightful holiday show for your young children. Monday, Dec. 26 to Saturday, Dec. 31. All tickets \$1. For further information, phone the box office at 864-9732.

The shepherds at those tidings Rejoice—ad much in mind, And left their flocks a-feeding, In tempest, storm and wind; And went to Bethlehem straightway, The Son of God to find.

Science centre—The Ontario Science Centre in Toronto is featuring a Holiday Festival. Caribbeans perform in native costumes on Dec. 26 and the Greeks on Dec. 28. On Dec. 29, Native Canadians give their explanation of Christmas followed Dec. 30 by Ukrainian festivities. Dec. 31 Scottish Day includes the social



activities of New Year's Eve. The festival draws to a close on Jan. 1; with an Armenian day and Jan. 2 a German day. Phone for festival times, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free with admission to centre, 777 Don Mills Rd. at Eglinton Ave. E. 429-4100.

Flower show—There's a Christmas flower show at the Allan Gardens until the end of January. The brilliant floral display includes poinsettias, cyclamens, primulas and colorful cacti. There are over 500 different types of plants on display at the Gardens, Jarvis Street, Toronto. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are no charges. For further information, phone 367-7286.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading,
Still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Yule trees—The Christmas trees of 12 countries are on display at Valhalla Inn until Dec. 31. The Gallery of Christmas Trees is a tradition at the Valhalla, Burnhamthorpe Road at Highway 427. Hostesses are on hand to explain each country's Christmas customs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is no charge. For more information, phone 239-2391.

Party—There's a New Year's Eve party at Pierre Laporte School. It begins at 9 p.m. Call 828-0282 for information.

Newcomers—Mississauga Newcomers Club is holding a New Year's Eve party at St. Martin's School from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. For tickets, call 279-6948 or 828-9497 or 822-1154 or 822-2215.

Terra Cotta—This conservation area will not be open for Christmas and New Year's weekends, but will be open during Christmas week, Dec. 27, 28, 29 and 30. Ski rentals are \$5 per day. Hot food, drinks, washrooms, movies are available in the heated education centre. Snow shoes can be rented at \$2 and \$1 per day. John White of Caledon is providing half-hour horse-drawn sleigh rides through the snowy woods in the conservation area. Cost is 50 cents a person.

Pools—All city run pools will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Big Brothers—Any man interested in becoming a Big Brother is asked to con-

tact the Volunteer Centre of Peel, 275-4299. Mississauga has at least 30 little brothers on the waiting list. Being a Big Brother means spending some time at least once a week for at least a year.

Fitness—Burnhamthorpe Fitness Centre operates a pay-as-you-play squash facility. Two courts are available to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$2.50 a person, for 40 minutes on the court. Call 625-8691 for full information.

Judo—Judo for adults is offered by Mississauga Recreation and Parks

So now is come our joyfulst feast:
Let every man be jolly,
Each room with ivy-leaves is dressed,
And every post with holly,
Though some churls at our mirth repine
Round your foreheads garlands twine,
Drown sorrow in a cup of wine,
And let us all be merry.

Department. Classes begin at 8:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 30, and will run Mondays and Thursdays, twice weekly. They will be held at Port Credit Secondary School. Call 279-7600 for details.

Tennis—Indoor tennis lessons will be offered in January at Erindale Secondary School on Sunday mornings, and at Lorne Park Secondary School on Monday evenings. Cost is \$20 per person for five one-hour lessons. Call 279-7600 for details.

Volunteers needed—The Mississauga Y is starting a Youth Basketball Association. It brings together the best of basketball and good youth work. Volunteers are needed. The name of the game is values. If you are interested, call the Mississauga Y at 275-3005.

Overeaters—Overeaters Anonymous meets every Monday night at 8 p.m. at Sheridan-Park Royal United Church, Truscott Drive in Clarkson. The group is a nonprofit, self-help organization which is patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous. There are no fees, no weigh-ins. "Try us for 30 days, if not satisfied, we will gladly refund your misery."

Dancing—A dance program for women is offered by the Mississauga Recreation and Parks Department at three locations this winter: St. Louis Separate School, Thursday evenings; Tomken Road Public School, Monday evenings; and Streetsville United Church, Saturday after-

I have never seen Paris so charming as on this Christmas Day. The weather put in a claim to a share in the fun, the sky was radiant and the air as soft and as a southern spring. It was a day to spend in the streets and all the world did so. I passed it strolling half over the city and wherever I turned I found the entertainment that a pedestrian relishes. What people love Paris for became almost absurdly obvious: charm, beguilement, diversion were stamped upon everything. I confess that, privately, I kept thinking of Prince Bismarck and wishing he might take a

turn upon the boulevards. Not that they would have flustered him much, I suppose, for, after all, the boulevards are not human, but the whole spectacle seemed a supreme reminder of the fact so constantly present at this time to the reflective mind—the amazing elasticity of France. Beaten and humiliated on a scale without precedent, despoiled, dishonored, bled to death financially—all this but yesterday—Paris is today in an outward aspect as radiant, as prosperous, as instinct with her own peculiar genius as if her sky had never known a cloud.

noons. Register now. Call 279-7600 for more information.

Golf—Indoor golf lessons will be offered by the Mississauga Recreation and Parks Department this winter. Classes for Level II golfers will be held during the second hour of these lessons. All golfers must supply their own clubs. Classes begin the second week in January. Phone 279-7600 for times and places.

Basketball—For women at T. L. Kennedy Secondary School, Tuesday, nights, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Fee is \$15. You should have playing experience in basketball. Phone Sharon Maloney 278-0560 before Jan. 7 to register.

For the young—The Mississauga Recreation and Parks Department offers the following courses for the winter session: Ballet, for those four years and over; tap dancing, for boys and girls, six years and over; modern jazz, for girls eight years and over. The fee for these programs is \$20 for 12 weeks. Register now. For details, phone 279-7600.

Welcome Wagon—New residents in

And I wonder now, years gone,
mother gone,
The boys and girls scattered, drifted
away with the snowflakes,
Lamplight done, firelight over,
If the sounds of our singing in the
streets are still there,
Those old tunes, still praising:
And now, a life-time of Decembers
away from it all,
A branch of remembering holly spears
my cheeks,
And I think it may be so,
Yes, I believe it may be so.

In the Ninth and Tenth Centuries, much of Europe fell to the Norsemen, or Vikings, from Scandinavia. Along with the Anglo-Saxons and the Franks and Goths, these fierce Norse sea lords accepted Christianity and retained in their Christmas celebrations several customs from their common pagan past. The ceremonial boar's head, which they served with its tusks replaced, and an apple in its mouth, probably harks back to Frey, the Norse god of the herds, whose symbol was the boar. The blazing yule log, centre of so many superstitions, remained popular, and so did the bonfires that had been lit on the shortest day of the year to speed the return of the life-giving sun. Another remnant was the use of evergreens. The Norsemen and Anglo-Saxons continued to decorate their halls with evergreen boughs during their Christmas revels, but as the generations passed they slowly forgot that the custom had been a pagan act in defiance of the winter's power to kill.

Mississauga should give Welcome Wagon a call at 364-9010.

PWP—For information on the Peel chapter of Parents Without Partners in Malton, call 671-2249. Dances are held at the community centre.

Recovery—Recovery Inc. is a self-help organization for people suffering from nervous and emotional distress. Meetings are held at Cooksville United Church on Thursdays at 8:15 p.m. For further information, call 255-8279.

Calendar

Mississauga libraries have plenty of activities planned for children during the Christmas holidays. Following is a list of some of the things:

Wednesday, Dec. 21

The Littlest Angel is on screen at Park Royal library, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 22

The Muppet Club meets at Port Credit library, 10:30 a.m.

Irwin Spiegel demonstrates gemstone

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round von Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

cutting and jewelry design, Sheridan Mall library, 10:30 a.m.

Films at Malton District library, 7 p.m., include The Selfish Giant, An Old Box, Six Penguins.

Friday, Dec. 23

Films for all ages at Central library, 8 p.m., include The Juggler of Notre Dame, Pearls of the North, The Ugly Duckling.

Saturday, Dec. 24

Children's department at Central library presents a puppet show, Star, 10:30 a.m.



Burnhamthorpe library presents a Christmas special with Santa, 10:30 a.m.

All Mississauga libraries will close at 1 p.m., Dec. 24, and reopen Wednesday, Dec. 28.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Youngsters are invited to register for string crafts at Streetsville library, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Magician James Sheridan entertains at Clarkson-Lorne Park library, 2 p.m.

Miguel Cervantes shows youngsters how to make animals with wire, Burnhamthorpe library, 2:30 p.m.

Kevin Brew entertains with the Magic Web of Keb, Malton district library, 2 p.m.

Phil Parmentier and Marc Clement begin a three-session mime workshop for youngsters, Burnhamthorpe library, 7 p.m.

Kevin Brew presents a magic show, Malton library, 2 p.m.

Youngsters eight to 12 are invited to register for string crafts, Streetsville library, 2 p.m.

Magician James Sheridan entertains at Clarkson-Lorne Park library, 2 p.m.

Miguel Cervantes shows how to make animals out of wire, Burnhamthorpe library, 2:30 p.m. At 7 p.m. at Burnhamthorpe, Phil Parmentier and Marc Clement present the first of three sessions of a mime workshop for children.



Seniors

Cawthra Centre—The Cawthra Senior Citizens' Centre has cancelled Wednesday afternoon Euchre for December, but will start the sessions again at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4. The centre closes at 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23 and opens at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Dinner, dancing—This is a cold buffet and dancing at Cawthra Senior Citizens' Centre on Friday, Dec. 30 at 8 p.m.

Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped His beauty round.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

Performing Arts

Mr. Dressup—There will be a Mr. Dressup concert Sunday, Jan. 8 at Glenforest Secondary School on Fieldgate Drive, 1:30 p.m. and again at 4 p.m.

Tickets are available by mail if ordered before Dec. 10. Enclose cheque or money order with stamped, self-addressed envelope to Bethesda Concert Series, Dress-up Tickets, 3311 Fieldgate Dr., Mississauga, L4X 2H9. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 tickets for children make great stocking stuffers!

A Frosty Christmas-eve, when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone, where westward falls the hill
And from many a village, in the water'd valley
Distant music reached me, peals of bells a-ringing:
The constellated sounds, ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above, with stars was spangled o'er.

Then sped my thought to keep, that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching, by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields, and marvelling could not tell
Whether it were angels, or the bright stars singing.

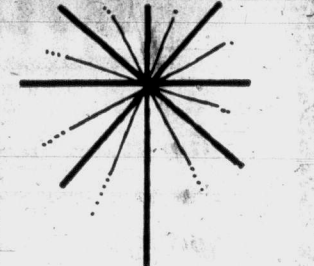


Arts and crafts

Poinsettias—Rolly Kendall of Visual Arts, Mississauga is one of 12 artists displaying paintings of poinsettias at the Valhalla Inn in Etobicoke. The paintings will be on display until Jan. 15. There is also a display of Christmas trees decorated according to the customs of different lands. There's a representative of each country on hand during December to explain the customs, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Hallo! A great deal of steam! The pudding was out of the copper. A smell like a washing-day! That was the cloth. A smell like an eating-house and a pastry-cook's next door to each other, with a laundress's next door to that! That was the pudding! In half a minute Mrs. Cratchit entered, flushed but smiling proudly, with the pudding, like a speckled cannon-ball, so hard and firm, blazing in half of half a quarter of ignited brandy, and bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.

O, a wonderful pudding! Bob Cratchit said, and calmly too, that he regarded it as the greatest success achieved by Mrs. Cratchit since their



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenus was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.



Sweet Adelines—Women interested in joining the Sweet Adelines barbershop four-part harmony choir should call Camille Wood at 239-9214, or Marcella Oldershaw at 278-4441.

Arts centre—Those interested in developing a performing arts centre in Mississauga please call 279-7600.

Three Kings came riding from far away,
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar,
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,
And they travelled by night and they slept by day,
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.



All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down This set down
This, were we led all that way for Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt, I had seen birth and death
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods,
I should be glad of another death.

Schreyer—There are oils by Brigitte Schreyer at Clarkson-Lorne Park library to Jan. 4.

Ferri—Marie Ferri has a display of paintings at Streetsville library to Jan. 4.

Kershaw—Portraits by Jo Kershaw are on display at Port Credit library until Jan. 7.

marriage. Mrs. Cratchit said that now the weight was off her mind she would confess she had had her doubts about the quantity of flour. Everybody had something to say about it, but nobody said or thought it was at all a small pudding for a large family. Any Cratchit would have blushed to hint at such a thing. . . . There was nothing of high mark in this. They were not a handsome family; they were not well dressed; their shoes were far from being waterproof; their clothes were scanty; and Peter might have known, and very likely did, the inside of a pawnbroker's. But they were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time.