

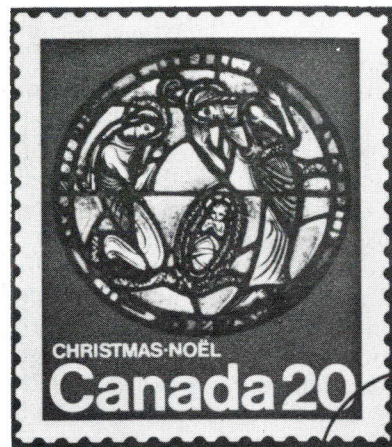


Vancouver's decorated "carol ship" prepares to spread the Christmas spirit.

and *pyrophy* (cooked dough with sauerkraut filling).

Folklore surrounds Ukranian Christmas observances. One concerns the extra place at the dinner table – not only will a stranger be welcome there, but legend has it that deceased family members' spirits unite with their loved ones during the season. We are also told that livestock and birds can speak on Holy Night.

All these traditions – and more – combine to make Canada's Christmas mosaic the celebration it is, year after year, when young and old join to mark a season of peace and goodwill. (Photos courtesy Canadian Government Office of Tourism)



vechera. Twelve dishes are usually served – one for each of the 12 apostles. Foods can include *kutia* – a mixture of cooked whole wheat and honey, *borscht*, *holubci* (cabbage rolls stuffed with rice or buckwheat), fish

when Polish-Canadians carry candles to church and have them blessed for use in times of distress.

Ukranian festivities

The holy celebration of Ukranian Canadians is on January 7 (by the Julian calendar, which is 13 days behind the Gregorian one). A high point of festivities is the carolling from January 6 to 8, when bands of young Ukranians go from door to door entertaining friends and neighbours, receiving in return donations for the church groups they represent.

The traditional dinner on January 6, Christmas eve, is known as *sviata*



Madrigal singers entertain guests at the Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C.