

**Announcing a New Book of Stories that Capture the Spirit of Christmas
in the 1950s in a Rural Ontario Village**

Memories of Christmas linger long in our hearts. For many, as the pop song goes, Christmas is the “most wonderful time of the year” and for most, it is wonderful because of the celebrations we remember from our childhood.

When Christmas Came to the Village is a new book of stories that lets you step back in time to capture the spirit of the 1950s: the Christmas decorations, the stockings hung for Santa Claus, Santa’s gifts, Christmas concerts and carols ringing out through starry nights.

Crafted by Judy Colbert, the stories are based on her memories of growing up in Hyde Park, Ontario, Canada, a rural community at the corner where a concession and side road met in London Township. As part of the City of London, her village at the corner is now almost invisible to the traffic that passes through today’s busy intersection.

“I wrote this book,” Colbert says, “to be a record of a community and a way of life now gone and to provide a glimpse of the past for the people who live there now and are building a different kind of community for the future. We are living in changing times. In fact, my village of Hyde Park could be any one of several rural villages now passing into history. I hope that people who know Hyde Park will enjoy my book, but I think it will be of interest to others as well, including those who are new to Canada and are just learning about our customs.”

A turning point in the life of Colbert’s Hyde Park was the closing and subsequent sale of the United Church there. The church figures prominently in several stories, as a focus for community life especially at Christmas, and its closing is the theme of the final story in the book, “Christmas Eve in the Village.”

While Christmas is the inspiration for her stories, most also explore other aspects of growing up in a rural village, including the significance of trees and living with nature, skating as a winter pastime, and the changing meaning of community in the present and future.

When Christmas Came to the Village is a slim little book that is convenient as a stocking stuffer or an oversized greeting card. It is a treat for yourself or the perfect gift for friends and family. Order it from Volumes online at www.volumesdirect.com or by telephone 1-888-571-2665. For information: info@villagechristmas.ca.

Available Soon: www.Chapters.Indigo.ca and www.Amazon.com and www.villagechristmas.ca

When Christmas Came to the Village by Judith A. Colbert – 34 pages, 8” x 8,”Glossy Stock, Full Colour Illustrations

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