



COMMUNITY

## Santa Claus is (still) coming to town

Organizers of annual Lindsay Santa Claus Parade turn event into 'road trip' in order to keep holiday spirit alive during COVID-19 pandemic

By [Catherine Whitnall](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week

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The COVID-19 pandemic has cancelled plenty of things, from birthday celebrations to fundraisers, but organizers of the annual Lindsay Santa Claus Parade are not about to let it take out the Christmas spirit.

On Sunday, Nov. 22, Santa and his reindeer will be hitting the streets once again to bring holiday cheer to everyone; it just isn't going to be in the usual way.

“We didn’t want the kids to think that Santa Claus wasn’t coming this year because of COVID,” said Jenn Ellis, one of the organizers of the annual event hosted by Baker Tilly in Lindsay. “We all know how special this event is to everyone and decided that we needed to move forward, just in a different way ... We also wanted the kids to know how proud we all are, including Santa, of how hard they have been working, washing their hands and wearing their masks, to stay safe at home and at school.”

Alternately dubbed Santa’s Road Trip, the parade will once again kick off and return to the Lindsay Recreation Complex on Adelaide Street. The ‘tour’ will cover a 22-kilometre route through Lindsay, albeit participation has been significantly reduced. This year Santa will only be accompanied by first responders – fire, ambulance and police – all maintaining appropriate physical distance and wearing masks.

“We know that there’s been such strict regulations with physical safety that we didn’t want to chance anything, especially with the holidays right around the corner,” said Ellis.

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Other changes to this year’s event include no visit with Santa after the parade or collection of letters for him – they can still be mailed to the North Pole free of charge – and volunteers will not be accepting any food or toy donations. Anyone wishing to make a donation is asked to directly contact the Kawartha Lakes Food Source ([705-324-0707](tel:705-324-0707)) and Kinsmen Toy Drive ([www.lindsaykinsmen.ca](http://www.lindsaykinsmen.ca)).

The parade begins at 2 p.m. The route and specified stop times are posted at [www.lindsayparade.com](http://www.lindsayparade.com) as well as on Facebook [@lindsaysantaclausparade](https://www.facebook.com/lindsaysantaclausparade) so that spectators can get an idea when to gather at their homes or, if not on the route, walk to the closest spot. This, said Ellis, will reduce the number of people congregating. If in groups, people are asked to physical distance and wear a mask.

“As always, thank you to all the businesses that have helped in the past and especially

those who have stepped forward this year,” added Ellis.

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