

In Sydenham, accent was on youth

By REG WHITTY
Special correspondent

SYDENHAM — A shimmering of snow Saturday morning provided an ideal atmosphere for the Santa Claus Parade.

But there wasn't quite enough snow for Santa's sled and reindeer. Craig Coupland easily took care of that by transferring the jolly old gent and his entourage to a float for a triumphant tour of the town. The parade was sponsored by the Loughborough Township Firemen.

The accent was on youthful participants. Youth groups entering floats were Sydenham 4-H Homemaking Club, Sydenham Brownies, Girl Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Boy Scouts and Perth Road village Cubs. A special teenage entry was Sydenham Jug Band with the members playing their lively mountain music.

Prizes for best floats all went to the younger entrants. Sydenham Cubs were first, followed by Sydenham 4-H Homemaking Club and Perth Road village Cubs.

Horses played a prominent part in the parade with individual entries far outnumbering motorized vehicles. The largest group of saddle horses was from Carriage Lane Farm Saddle Club. There were also several individual saddle horse entries.

John Martin of Holleford and his beautiful team of matched Clydesdales proved that heavy farm horses can step right along with the roadsters. Tom Gordon of Odessa drove his four pony hitch — an eye-catching outfit that won him many prizes at area fairs this year.

Ross Webster drove a pony team.

Novelty entries included a baby carriage and numerous irrepressible clowns. Earl

Reynolds of Harrowsmith drove his shining antique auto.

The Sydenham Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, assisted by local merchants, entered a float. An additional out of town entry was by the Chimo CB Radio Club.

Branch 496 (Sydenham) of the Royal Canadian Legion set the tone for marching with a smart-stepping color party.

Township fire trucks from both stations participated in the parade. They got strong support from neighboring fire departments in Portland and Storrington Townships. A group of Loughborough Firemen led the parade, pulling an antique pumper used to fight local fires 50 years ago.

The parade disbanded at the high school sports field, where Santa and his firemen assistants distributed hundreds of bags of candy to the large crowd of eager youngsters.

Santa Claus Parade