



The jolly old gent arrives officially in Georgetown Saturday amid the sighs and cheers of the little people who lined the parade route.

Santa Claus arrives in town

Response to the Georgetown Lions Club Santa Claus parade on Saturday was a big disappointment to the organizers because the number of spectators was down by a third from last year.

"We bend over backwards to make a good parade and people don't seem to appreciate it," says parade chairman Don Jarvie. "Parents don't seem to take an interest in getting their kids out to see it the way our parents did. If they don't take them it seems the kids just don't get there."

Although the entries were coming in well last week when parade day arrived a number of the units failed to show up. Of those that didn't appear some called club members and explained that they couldn't get their entries finished because of lack of help.

"It just seems to get harder and harder to get people out both to help with entries and to actually watch the parade," Mr. Jarvie says.

Mr. Jarvie wonders if the club may need to put more thought into preparing for the parade next year.

"We don't usually start working on it until May. We didn't advertise much because of the cost. We're still \$600 to \$700 in the hole what with the cost of bands. Bands are asking \$200 to \$300 to appear in a parade now and travelling expenses as well. That's why we don't have many bands any more," he says.

The club is sponsoring an old-fashioned turkey roll Friday evening in an effort to make up some of its deficit.

Even though the parade was shorter than usual the entries were judged and Dave Barrager named the winners as follows: Best Overall entry - Georgetown Figure Skating Club, Best Service Club entry - Georgetown Lionses, Best Band entry - Georgetown Legion Pipe Band, Special Awards - Canadian Camping Association, Halton Hills Volunteer Fire Department and a float showing Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest for which he could not yet locate a sponsor's name.

Judges for this year's parade were Graham Goebelle, Paul Armstrong, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, and Mr. Barrager. Terry Baines was unable to attend the parade although he was an honorary judge.

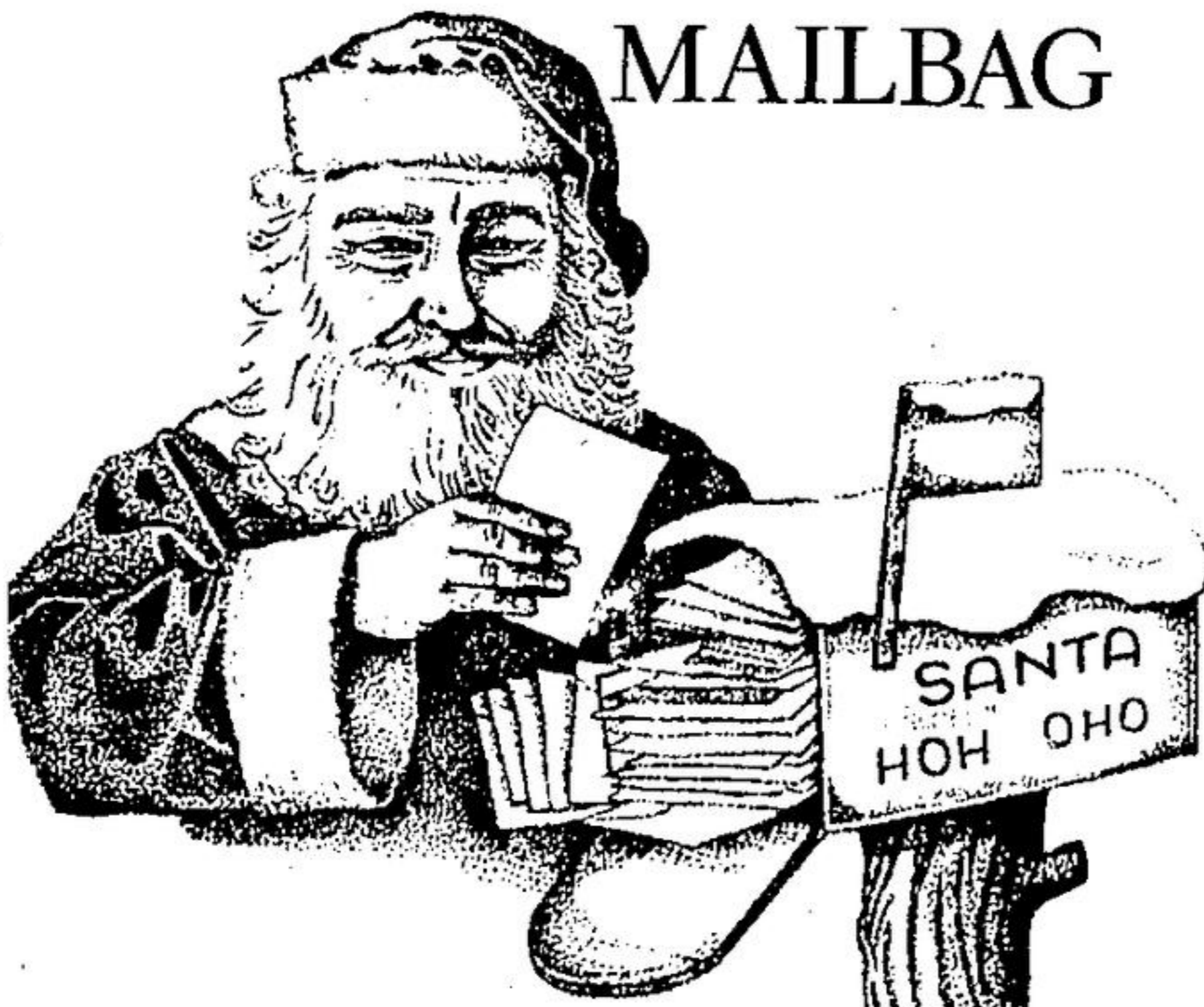
Club members could think of no reason why attendance was so poor this year. They remarked that the parade has gone on through rain and sleet in past years but there seemed to be no excuse either for the poor attendance or the drop in entries at the last minute on such a fine day.

Dave Barrager commented that people seemed to be losing interest and suggested that it would be a pity to see it die because it has been a tradition in the town for over 40 years.

Mr. Jarvie agreed that it had been part of Georgetown for many years but did not feel that there was any danger of the club withdrawing their support from the annual event in the near future.

"It's a tradition we can't do without," he said.

SANTAS MAILBAG



Dear Santa Clause,
Could you please bring me a tea wagon, toaster, blender and heaters. I've been a pretty good girl all year, but I'm going to try to be much better from now on.
Thank you so much, I love you.

Eve. I am very happy to hear you've been a good girl and that you are trying to be good all the time. You will be very happy on Christmas morning.
Your friend,
Santa

be a good girl. Thank you so much.
Love from
Cindy Wallace
RR 2
Acton

From
Julie Wallace
RR 2
Acton

Dear Santa Clause,
Could you please bring me a Jaimes Summers Doll, and a Bake Set. I love to bake so it would be nice to have my own things to do it with. I will soon be six years old and I'm in grade one. I will do my best to

Dear Cindy:
Thank you for the nice letter. I'll make doubly sure that your name is on my list for my big trip on Christmas Eve.
Be a good girl,
Santa

Dear Julie:
Santa is preparing for his big trip and all is set for him to stop at your house Christmas

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GEORGETOWN

DONNA HILTS
DUFFERIN ST.
INGLEWOOD



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