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## Two more sleeps 'til Santa

The bands are tuned and ready to march, the floats are festooned with holiday finery, and the kids can't wait to see Santa Claus who arrives in Acton on Saturday, with Mrs. Claus, in a horse-drawn carriage.

This year's parade is the 28th annual event – the theme is Dr. Seuss – for the Acton Fire Fighter's Association, which took over organizing it from the Acton Y's Men Club. For parade organizers, Acton's Bill and Diane Spielvogel, it is a labour of love and a lot of work.

Staging a parade is also expensive – the bands' tab will be approximately \$8,000 this year – money raised through generous corporate donations from the Acton community. "That's why the Association relies on donations – they rarely cover the cost," Spielvogel said on Tuesday, adding the Acton Citizens Band will lead the parade.

"We have two bands back this year from New York State – the Ghost Riders and Prime Time Brass," she said, adding she'd had a call earlier this week from a band, hoping for a cancellation so they could take part in Acton's parade.

On Tuesday, adding the M.M. Robinson High school Band will return, and there are two new bands, the drum line from John Vanier Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough, and the Optimist Alumni Band.

A panel of judges will choose the best over-all float and win-

ners in five categories including local schools, churches, service clubs, sports groups and community entries. The best over-all entry receives \$200 in prize money, and the others each receive \$100.

Thousands of people are expected to line the streets to cheer on the 36 entries including floats, local dignitaries, marching bands and old St. Nick. Post Office staff will collect letters to Santa to kids along the route, and fire-fighters will hand out approxi-

mately \$500 worth of candy. As well, Halton police will collect new, un-wrapped toys for its Toys for Tots program

The parade begins on Acton Boulevard at 1 p.m., heads south to Queen Street, west through the downtown, north on Main Street to Knox Street and Prospect Park.

Prior to the parade, kids can have their pictures taken with Santa for free at the Roxy, compliments of Acton BIA from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



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