

# Rockwood Parade of Lights December 11

The early blast of Winter has Rockwood area farmers in the mood to prepare for the annual Farmers' Parade of Lights. This year the parade is will be held on December 11. "There is still some corn out in the fields to combine, but our participants are frantically trying to finish it up so they can concentrate on making their floats outshine last

year's entries. The Parade is a great opportunity for us (the participants) to have some fun now and share with our community. Spectators can expect to see some very exciting floats on the 11th," says Tyler Brander, one of the event organizers.

This will be the 22nd year that farmers from the surrounding area converge on the village at

seven o'clock in the evening with various pieces of decorated and festively lit farm equipment. The floats vary in size, (some up to 20 feet wide) and shape depending on what piece of farm equipment is selected by the participants. "One very unique aspect of this parade is that it is strictly for fun," says Brander. "There is absolutely no advertising, fundraising or fees associated with it."

"The parade has come a long way since our first year when a number of local farmers got together and drove through town with no set route or legal

considerations," says Brander. "We now have an organizing committee that ensures that the parade occurs in a safe and well organized fashion, complete with Police escorts and proper permits." He says the technology in the floats themselves is incredible. Many have state of the art electronics to control the many strands (30-60 per float) of Christmas lights and decorations.

"This has turned into a huge event drawing well over 10,000 people from all over Ontario," says Brander. Along with the beautiful show of lights,

spectators will have the opportunity to view a range of farming equipment from yesteryear and today with antique and modern equipment involved. Santa and Mrs. Claus will ride in style as usual for the finale of

the parade atop a massive combine.

Exact directions to the village of Rockwood and the parade route. Can be found on the website, [www.rockwoodfarmersparade.org](http://www.rockwoodfarmersparade.org)



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*We will be closing at 6 p.m. on December 11<sup>th</sup> to enjoy the hard work our local farmers have put into this event.*

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