

Hello, Santa - Ho, Ho, Ho

The Santa Claus parade on Saturday marks the official start of Acton's holiday season when kids begin making long lists, merchants ready for shoppers and everyone festoons their

homes and business for the holidays.

The parade is a labour of love for the Acton Fire Fighters Association and its head elves, Bill and Diane Spielvogel, who have worked on the

parade for "27 years and counting."

"It's a lot of paperwork, but it's worth it," Diane Spielvogel said, adding there are two new entries this year - New Orleans Pizza and Pet Valu.

This year's theme is "Christmas at the Circus" and Spielvogel said the parade will feature five bands, including the Acton Citizens Band, which will lead the parade, along with two

bands from New York State including the Ghost Riders from Batavia, and Prime Time Brass from Rochester.

The parade begins at 1 p.m. from in front of McKenzie-Smith Bennett School on Acton Boulevard and heads south to Queen Street and westerly to

Main Street, when it turns north and then left at Knox Presbyterian Church and down to Prospect Park to turn around and disband.

A panel of judges will award five prizes, including \$100 for the top overall float, which last year was won by Robert Little School.



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NAUGHTY OR NICE?: Acton's Kara Wager, 4, told Santa just how good she's been this year when she visited with him on Saturday at the annual craft show at Acton High School. - Ted Tyler photo

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	See page 3	See page 10	See page 12



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