

Santa arrives in Georgetown and Acton Saturday.



IFP file photo

Santa making rounds in Halton Hills Saturday

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Santa Claus will be making the rounds in Halton Hills for the annual Santa Claus parades.

Nov. 18:

Acton Santa Claus Parade: 1-3 p.m., from Queen Street and Acton Boulevard to Prospect Park.

The Acton Firefighters Association will once again

host the annual Acton Santa Claus Parade. The parade route will run from Queen Street to Acton Boulevard, throughout town, and ending at Prospect Park.

Georgetown Santa Claus Parade: 5-8 p.m., starting at Georgetown Market Place, through Downtown Georgetown, ending at the Georgetown Fairgrounds.

Come out and celebrate the season by attending the

86th annual Georgetown Santa Claus Parade. Take in the winter weather, the beautifully decorated floats, and the lights illuminating the street.

Nov. 19:

Santa arrives at the Georgetown Market Place: 12-4 p.m. in Centre Court.

Take your picture with the big man in red to commemorate the Christmas season.

Stewarttown Public School to 'Spread the Net' in memory of student

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A local public school has honoured the memory of a student every year by donating to charities since her passing 10 years ago.

Chelsea Deforest was a vibrant, happy, giving Grade 7 student at Stewarttown Public School. Ten years ago, Deforest passed away after being involved in a vehicle collision, and instantly, her presence was missed.

According to Grade 6 teacher Katie Fraser, Deforest was a caring, giving and wonderful student who was always looking at the bigger picture. She even ran her own spirit days for causes close to her heart, like breast cancer.

"She was a phenomenal kid," Fraser said. After her passing, the school wanted to join together and do something in her name, and so Chelsea's Charities was born. For the past ten years, the student-led group has donated to charities every year in Deforest's name, including Cancer Assistance Services Halton Hills, Halton Women's Place and Ronald McDonald House.

This year, Chelsea's Charity has decided

to fundraise for Spread the Net: a school challenge under charity Plan Canada where bed nets are purchased for families in Africa. Malaria is the leading cause of death of children under five, and is transmitted through mosquitoes. The challenge is co-funded by Rick Mercer, and is used as a fun competition to get schools involved in the cause. There is a prize for the school that raises the most money, Rick Mercer himself will come and film a taping of his show. For the 10-year anniversary, the school went big and set a fundraising goal of \$10,000 and had a deadline of February. The fundraising began last school year in April, and by October, they surpassed their goal. Now, they hope to raise \$20,000.

"If we don't raise enough money, we're hoping we can still have him visit," Fraser said. "That would be a great celebration and something Chelsea would just love."

Fraser hopes people in the community would want to get in on the action and invites everyone out to donate. Each net costs just \$10 and would help the school celebrate Deforest's memory. For more information on Deforest or the challenge, visit the school's website at ste.hdsb.ca

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