

The ROCKWOOD Miller

25th Anniversary of the best night parade around

By: Vivien Fleisher

The annual Rockwood Farmer's Parade of lights took place last Thursday on one of the coldest nights of winter so far this year, wending its way along the same route it's taken for 25 years: out from the back of the Bonner Farm on 4th Line to County Rd. 27 across from the police station, down Main St., across Alma and back on to 4th Line.

Started by "The March Blahs Group" in December 1993 by Murray Swanston, Art Davis, Murray Williamson, Grant McRae, Rob Gray, Cam Mullen,

Carl Wahlstrom, Fred Hawkins, Alex Lush, Earl Penick and Walter Swanston, these farmers may not have foreseen how their little homegrown idea would become such a beloved and highly original tradition for the town. In a previous interview, Murray Swanston said it all started when they saw a photo of a combine all decked out in Christmas decorations and decided to try it out on their own tractors—crossing the field behind the Brander Farm on the 4th Line into and through town. Kitchener's CKCO came out to cover it, and things went so well, the question that first

night of "Will this be an annual event?" became settled in short order.

Among the changes: Swanston retired as chairman; computers control the lights; LED's mean they can get more lights running off their generators; and, the town kicks in a little money to help out. What hasn't changed: the event is free of advertising; it's volunteer driven; and just like the mailman, through rain, sleet or snow, the parade must go through. And, with a quarter-century under their belts, they've experienced all of those conditions at one time or another.



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK: Members of the Nassagaweya Historical Society gathered for their Annual Christmas Potluck at the Presbyterian Church on 15th Sideroad last Tuesday, just before their winter hiatus. In March the group reconvenes their monthly meetings for 2018, traditionally kicked off with the always-popular Irish Stew fundraiser. - Vivien Fleisher photo



LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE: Branch Manager Kiirsten Maki makes Santa-hat decorations with siblings Violet and Alex Halmai at Rockwood Library's Holiday Open House recently. About 30 patrons came out for crafts, a green screen activity, robots and refreshments—a very good number considering last year's never got off the ground due to a snowstorm. - Vivien Fleisher photo

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
NASSAGAWEYA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Morning Service	10 a.m.
Family Service	4:30 p.m.
Candlelight Service	7:30 p.m.

For further information, visit:
www.nassagaweya.com
 or call 905-876-3322 or 905-749-3993

Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church 3097 - 15 Sideroad
 (just east of Guelph Line)
www.nassagaweya.com

Merry Christmas

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Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

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