

# Don't miss Parade of Lights!

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Rockwood Miller

Dashing through the snow ... on a mammoth farm machine surrounded by 500 feet of Christmas lights.

That's how Santa Claus will make his last trip to Rockwood before Saturday when he joins 14 other floats in the village's second annual Parade of Lights tomorrow (Thursday) night at 8 pm.

The 90-minute agricultural-Santa Claus parade will begin just north of Rockmosa Park, head into town and west on Hwy. 7 to Guelph Street. It then heads back toward Main Street, winding its way around the Henry-MacLennan Street area before returning north on the highway to entertain folks

in the Princess-Gzowski Street neighbourhood.

Organizers are hoping people jam the streets to see lights dangling from the area's top farm equipment.

The idea came about six years ago when 11 members of the Third and Fourth Line March Blahs group of Eramosa Township were joking about attaching lights to farm equipment and parading.

Later, a member of the group heard of an agriculture parade in the States while another saw tractors lit up in a magazine.

"It was very enjoyable last year," says March Blahs secretary Walter Swanston, former owner of Swanston Farm Equipment in Rockwood. "We even had Letters

to the Editor in the local papers that said, 'thanks for filling our Christmas here.'

"Every float has to be decorated in the Christmas manner and have some farm machinery behind it. That's what is interesting about this parade."

And yes, the jolly old elf himself will finish the parade alongside Mrs. Claus on a huge float.

"When it (the machine) comes down the street it doesn't even need lights on it," says Swanston, who adds the parade will also include carollers from Burlington, horses and Christmas music from Rockwood TV.

"There will also be a few surprises," Swanston continued, "including a float no one has seen here that rivals one south of the border."

And what's a parade without sipping on a hot cup of cider, especially if Jack Frost is nipping at your nose. The Rockwood Information Centre will be handing out cider to its visitors and more will be available at another stop along the parade route.

And for those with camcorders, flood lights will be set up in front of McPhed's to make lighting ideal for taping.



**RAPPING ROOSTER:** Centennial student Kyle Krawczyk performed the Cock-A-Doodle Rap during the Kindergarten to Grade 3 Christmas Concert last Wednesday. (Doug Harrison photo)

## R.I.D.E. stats for region

Police report that some 2,768 vehicles were stopped in the third week of the OPP's area R.I.D.E. initiative.

A total of 17 12-hour suspen-

sions were handed out, along with five impaired charges and four liquor possession charges.

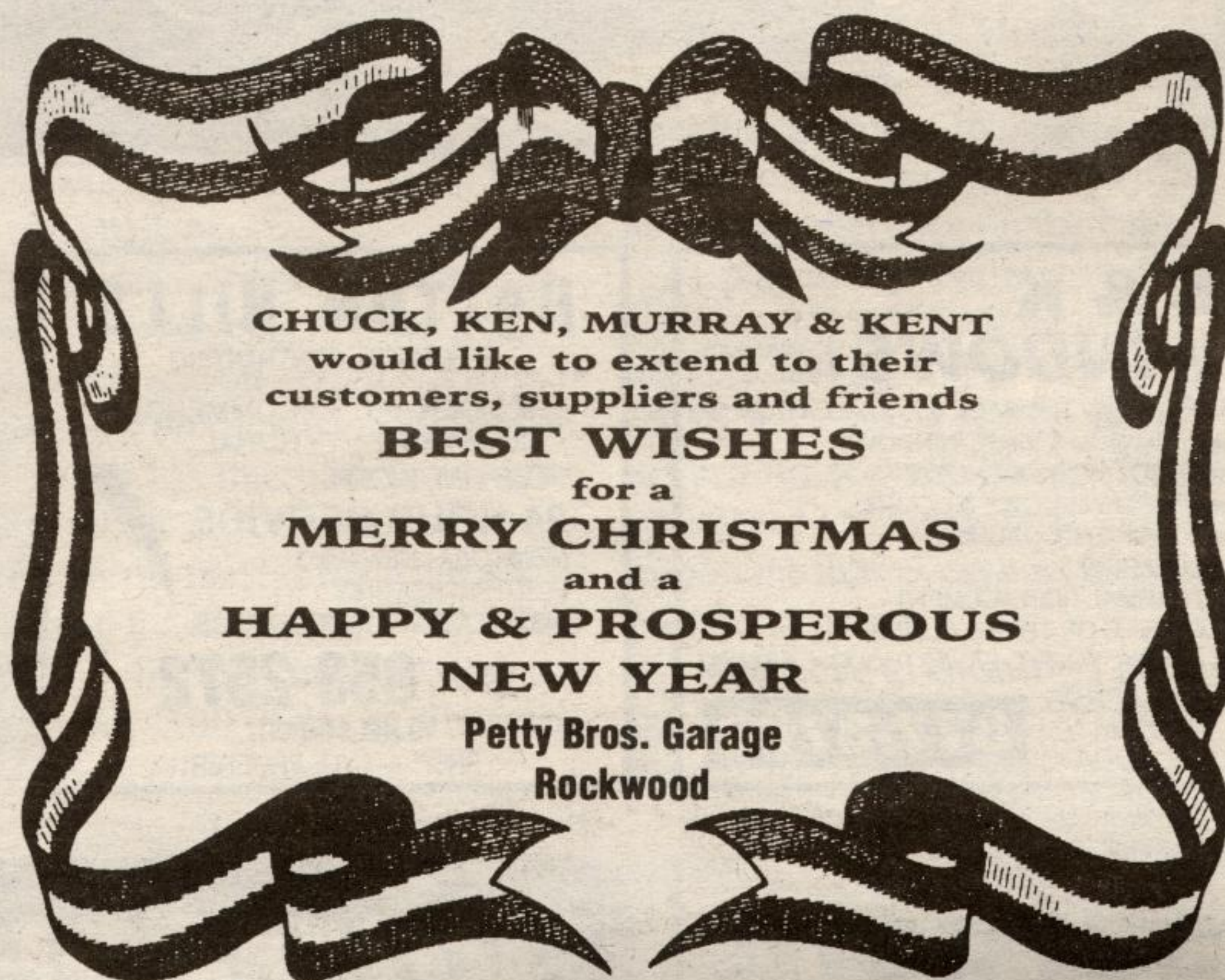
The program will run until New Year's Day.

## Singers on CBC

The voices of several well-known Rockwood residents can be heard early Friday morning on CBC's Ontario Morning program with host Joe Cote.

Folk singer and song writer James Gordon, song writer and music teacher Debbie Tilson and Eramosa piano teacher Lois Cherry will be featured, along with their assorted children, singing original songs and Christmas carols.

Unfortunately CBC listeners in Eramosa and surrounding areas won't be able to tune in and hear the local talent because CBC broadcasts Metro Morning, not Ontario Morning in this area.



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