

# Walk to Bethlehem

BY DEBORAH QUAILE

Imagine hiking along the road to Bethlehem in the dark of a starry

night. Mary and Joseph are on their way with you to be counted in the

census. As you pause a moment to admire the splendour of a King in his court, you realize it is the tyrannical Herod, using his wily ways to assure the Magi that he, too, only wants to find the chosen child to worship him. Upon the hill, shepherds nurture flocks of sheep and wonder at a brilliant planet in the sky.

The popular nativity pageant, *On the Way to Bethlehem*, returns to Country Heritage Park in Milton from November 28 to December 1.

"This is the second year for the pageant. Over 4,000 people attended last year," notes Reg Cressman, general manager of the park. "This year's production will be evolving, with extra scenes. The co-ordina-

tors will even add a real camel this year. Roman soldiers mounted on heavy horses will stop visitors and demand to examine their passports."

*On the Way to Bethlehem* is a cooperative project of Milton area Christian churches, with some assistance from local businesses. Sheets of plywood donated by Home Hardware, for example, are to be decorated by local children and will act as a windbreak for people waiting for their turn to be led along the route. The 100-foot mural will depict the Nativity. King Wenceslas and his group will entertain visitors, along with the celebrations of a Huron Holy Family, complete with a 15-foot tepee. Dickens carolers in Victorian dress will help to warm hearts with a tuneful welcome.

Pageant creator and director, Dr. Andrea Rowbottom, says,

"This year's pageant will be even bigger and better than last year's. Three new scenes have been added, bringing the total number to 12, and the cast has been expanded to 120 participants."

With a guide, visitors walk from scene to scene to interact with the participants to reveal the Christmas story. An elaborate set in Puslinch Hall portrays King Herod's court. Authentic costuming adds realism, along with live animals and background sound of superb Christmas music. After the completion of the journey to Bethlehem and the moving manger scene, visitors are given a wagon ride back to the Gambrel Barn for refreshments while a mass choir performs carols.

The walk is a wonderful event for the whole family and a great way to begin the spirit of the Christmas season. The production runs from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. There is no admission charge nor ticket requirement, but a free will offering is gratefully accepted. Several local churches are prepared to serve a hearty dinner for visitors arriving at the pageant by bus. Please contact the park at 905-878-8151 for arrangements.

Country Heritage Park is located at 8560 Tremaine Road, Milton (off the 401 west of Milton at the foot of the Escarpment).

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## The 2003 Milton Santa Claus Parade

presents

# "All I Want for Christmas"

Sunday, November 23, 2 p.m.



To: Everyone!  
 You can:

- Enter your float • Participate
- Donate • Volunteer

Pick up your entry forms at:

- M&M Meat Shops
- Subway, Market Drive
- The Chamber of Commerce
- Mailboxes Etc.
- Mike's Barber Shop

**Calling all volunteers!**

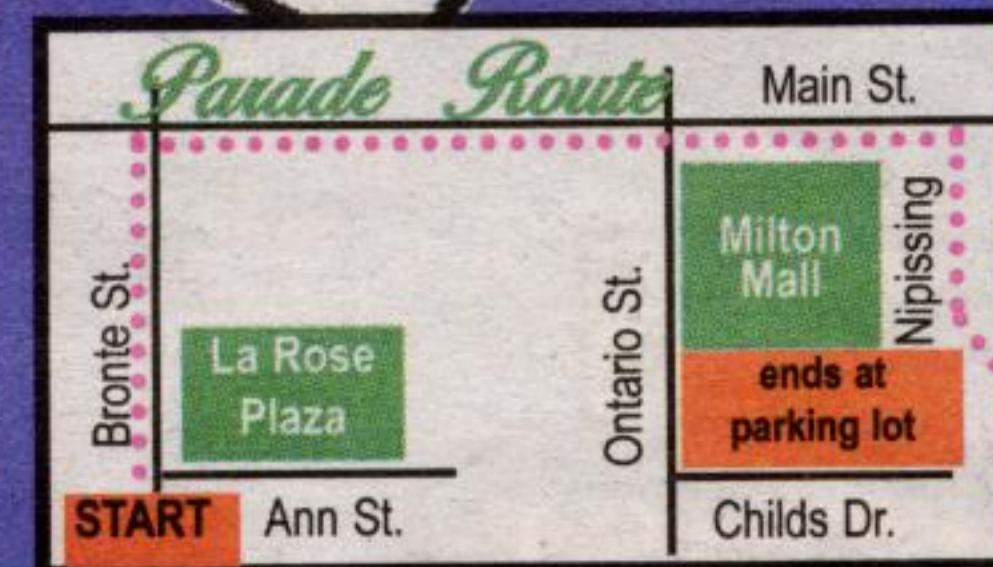
- Students: Helping out qualifies for your community service hours
- Dress up in costumes
- Give out candy
- Help with the food drive
- Have some fun!

Call Clem Scholtz at 905-878-3401



Kids! Don't forget your letters to Santa. Canada Post will be collecting them during the parade

Salvation Army Food Drive  
 Please bring non-perishable goods to be collected by firefighters along the route



For more information call Laura McKee at 905-878-6347 or email [mckspec@interhop.net](mailto:mckspec@interhop.net)