

Rockwood Parade of Lights next Thursday

Several Rockwood area farmers are preparing their farm machinery for the annual Farmers' Parade of Lights, which will be held this year on Dec. 11.

This will be the eleventh year that local farmers

converge on the village at 7 p.m. with various pieces of decorated and festively lit farm equipment to entertain spectators. The floats vary in size, (some up to 20 feet wide) and shape depending on what

piece of equipment is selected by the 20 to 25 participants.

"The parade is strictly for fun," says Murray Swantson, one of the founding organizers. "There is absolutely no

advertising, fundraising or fees associated with it."

"We have come a long way since our first year when a number of us got together and drove through town with no set route or legal considerations," says Swantson. "We now have an organizing committee that ensures that the parade occurs in a safe and well organized fashion, complete with police escorts and proper permit." He says the floats themselves have also come a long way, with some of the farmers starting a month ahead to assemble their many strands (20 - 40 per float) of Christmas lights and decorations.

"This has turned into a huge event drawing over 10,000 people from all over Ontario," says Swantson. Along with the beautiful show of lights, spectators will have the opportunity to view a range of farming equipment from yesteryear and today with

antique and modern equipment involved. Santa and Mrs. Claus will ride in style as usual for the finale of the parade atop a massive combine. Swantson points out that a sample of the beautifully

lit parade floats can be enjoyed at the group's website www.blahs.on.ca. The website also contains exact directions to the village and the exact parade route.



SANTA TAKES A RIDE: Past floats prove to be a delight - even for Santa!

Open house for Tim's

Guelph/Eramosa council is hosting an Open House Dec. 8 at Rockwood to allow area residents to see the proposed plan for a Tim Hortons outlet in the old fire hall on Alma Street. Proponents of the plan will attend the Open House between 3 and 8 p.m. to explain their plan and present their supporting information.

The proposal will be put before council's Dec. 15 meeting.

What's Your Beef?



Put it in a letter to the Editor!
Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

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