

# OPINION

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## A matter of timing

There's an old phrase that "everyone loves a parade". However, here in Halton Hills not everyone can seem to agree *when* to love the local Santa Claus parades.

As evidenced by writer Ted Brown's Nov. 9 column and e-mails and letters (including two on this page) received by this newspaper, the timing of the annual tributes to Santa— particularly the Georgetown parade— have irked some residents.

When it comes to observing Remembrance Day, Georgetown and Glen Williams have always held ceremonies the weekend prior to Nov. 11. When Remembrance Day falls on that weekend (as it did this year on Sunday) some people feel holding the parade that weekend is a sign of disrespect to veterans. We sincerely doubt parade organizers— who literally begin work on the next parade a year in advance— deliberately intend to steal the spotlight so rightly reserved for the veterans. In fact, when Remembrance Day has fallen on the second Saturday in November (as it did last year), organizers moved the parade to Sunday, Nov. 12. Still, it's a matter of perception.

Frankly, we're in agreement with young letter writer Kimberly Ivany (opposite) who finds the Christmas season begins far too soon.

The argument that the Georgetown parade is "always" held the second Saturday in November doesn't wash as it has been held several times in late November and even early December in the past 20 years.

We're sure there are a myriad of hurdles for organizers to overcome in moving the parade date further back on the calendar (and there's always nastier weather to consider).

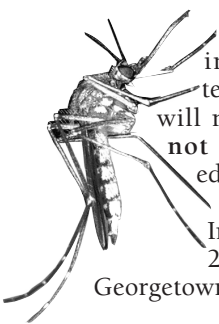
Perhaps the Georgetown and Acton parades could be held back to back (Saturday and Sunday) on the same weekend or perhaps the same day (one in the daytime the other in the evening).

Or maybe— and here's a radical thought— holding ONE parade to celebrate the best all of Halton Hills (that's Georgetown and Acton) has to offer. The parade could be held in each community in alternating years.

We're sure there is a way to celebrate the holiday season and Remembrance Day in this great community without anyone being offended or upset.

## Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!



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Steve Nease



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Santa parade more suitable for December

Dear editor,  
I want to express my frustration in regards to the fact that the Christmas season is already starting to take over Georgetown despite Christmas being more than a month away.

Stores have already started to stock up with everything from Christmas trees to blow-up Santas for the lawn. I was in the Superstore before Oct. 31 and found that the Halloween section of the store had been cleared away to make room for Christmas décor.

Consumerism has exploded out of control. Major corporations are so concerned about making money, they'll commercialize every public event and holiday as early as they can. There is never a time when we don't feel obligated to spend our money since the stores are constantly demanding that we move on, buy more and keep up.

An event that relates to this issue is the Georgetown Santa Claus Parade. It think it's unnecessary to have this Christmas kick-off in the middle of November. People are still enjoying the fall season and Halloween would have just passed. December 10 would be much more suitable. More importantly, however, this event was held the day before Remembrance Day.

All my life I have been lectured about the importance of this significant holiday and how it's expected of me to demonstrate the utmost

respect for this commemoration. Is this what we call being respectful-shadowing such an important day by commercializing a holiday that is nearly two months away?

### Parade doesn't conflict with Remembrance Day

Dear editor,  
A great big thank you to the Lions Club of Georgetown for producing another wonderful Santa Claus Parade.

I know I speak for most people when I commend them for all their hard work and effort. These volunteers gladly give of their time and talents for the sake of the children in this town, and having seen the faces of those children, and their excitement in enjoying the parade, I would say it was a worthwhile task and well done.

On the same note I would like to refute Ted Brown's (Nov. 9) column, which spoke so negatively about the parade being held on the weekend of Remembrance Day. Might I remind you that many of those participating in the parade were also involved with the veterans, and many of them had family and friends in the various wars. Believe me, they have NOT forgotten.

I would also like to remind you that this parade is always held on the second Saturday in November, both for the Georgetown retailers, and to accommodate the Acton Santa

Are we supposed to wear a Santa hat or a poppy? It doesn't make sense to me.

Kimberly Ivany, Grade 12  
Georgetown

Parade, which is always held on the third weekend in November, and in which some of the same bands/floats are involved. (The idea of marching in both parades on the same day is totally unacceptable as many seniors and children are involved.)

Last year, the parade date was changed from Saturday to Sunday evening, in order to respect Remembrance Day.

Surely you must know how much time and effort is involved in organizing such a huge spectacle, and arrangements begin many months in advance, which poses great difficulties for changing dates, as this also reflects on participants who plan their itinerary a year ahead.

Most importantly, the Lions did "join with our veterans in observing Remembrance Day, solemnly and unchallenged, on the day it was designated!" That day was Sunday November 11.

I think you owe them— and this town — an apology!

Marian Ritchie,  
Georgetown

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