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Beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Led by a handsome team of horses, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in Acton in style on Saturday for the official kickoff to the holiday season, the annual Santa Claus Parade, sponsored by the Acton Fire Fighters Association.

For retired firefighter Bill Spielvogel and his chief elf, wife Diane, the parade has been a labour of love since the Association became

involved with it in 1983/84.

"We have six bands and 34 floats signed up," Diane Spielvogel said on Monday, adding they often accept entries right up to parade day because they hate to leave anyone out. This year's theme is a "Comic Book Christmas."

"We've got Prime Time Brass and the Ghost Riders back from the States, and we've

got M.M. Robinson, a Burlington high school band this year," she said, adding the first band will be the Acton Citizens Band, and the 197 Typhoon Squadron Army Cadet band is also in this year's lineup. The Toronto Signal Band will escort Santa and Mrs. Claus into town.

Before the parade, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., kids are invited to the Roxy Coffee to have a free photo taken with Santa.

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Thursday, November 18, 2010

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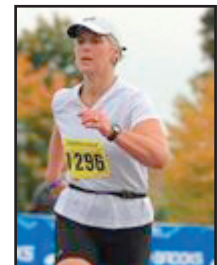
WHAT'S INSIDE



Carnage on local roads.
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Goon Sharon makes his debut.
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Rockwood woman completes marathon
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TWICE AS NICE: Acton twins Abby (left) and Lily Haynes, 4, told Santa that they'd been very good this year when they sat in his lap at the Acton High School annual Christmas craft sale on Saturday.

— Frances Niblock photo

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