

Annual Milton Santa Claus Parade set for Sunday

Santa Claus is coming to town Sunday to be the star of the 26th annual Milton Santa Claus Parade.

It will kick off at 2 p.m. and run mostly along Main Street from Bronte Street to Milton Mall.

About 90 participants are already booked, including walking groups, floats and marching bands, said parade organizer Paul Scherer.

The theme for this year's parade is Toy Land.

Prizes will be awarded for the best overall float, best theme float, best non-theme float and best school float.

Close to 60 volunteers will dress up in clown suits for the event, which usually draws a massive crowd of kids and adults alike.

"People are lined up four or five deep all the way from Bronte to the mall," said Mr. Scherer. "It's very popular. It has a local flavour. It's not

big city."

But it also doesn't have big city money behind it. The budget for this year's parade is about \$18,000, with most of that going toward 10 marching bands.

Sponsorship stems from local businesses, as well as donation envelopes passed out during the parade.

"We get no outside money. It's all community

money," said Mr. Scherer. "We try each year to collect the \$18,000 so the next year's parade is covered."

Though it normally takes place in early November, the parade falls a little closer into the holiday season this time around.

"We feel it's a better time," said Mr. Scherer. "It'll really kick off the Christmas season for the town."


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Finding affordable housing for seniors is a must: Mulvale

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Of those, a whopping 73 per cent are seniors. But there's currently just 214 assisted housing units set aside for singles.

Also, more than 3,000 single parent households with children have incomes of under \$30,000, but a three-year waiting list is the norm for the 1,900 assisted units available to them.

The answer, said Ms Maloney, is for senior levels of government to step up to the plate and help encourage assisted housing.

At the Regional level, staff and councillors should ensure all available programs are maximized, while encouraging private and public sector partnerships.

Total housing crisis

Finding affordable shelter for residents is a must, said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale.

"This is not peculiar to Halton at all," she said. "We, I believe, have an absolute housing crisis."

Governments need to make the link between productivity and adequate housing for all income brackets, added Ms Mulvale.

But Burlington Councillor Jack Dennison said efforts should also be made to motivate those earning less than \$30,000 to achieve a higher income level.

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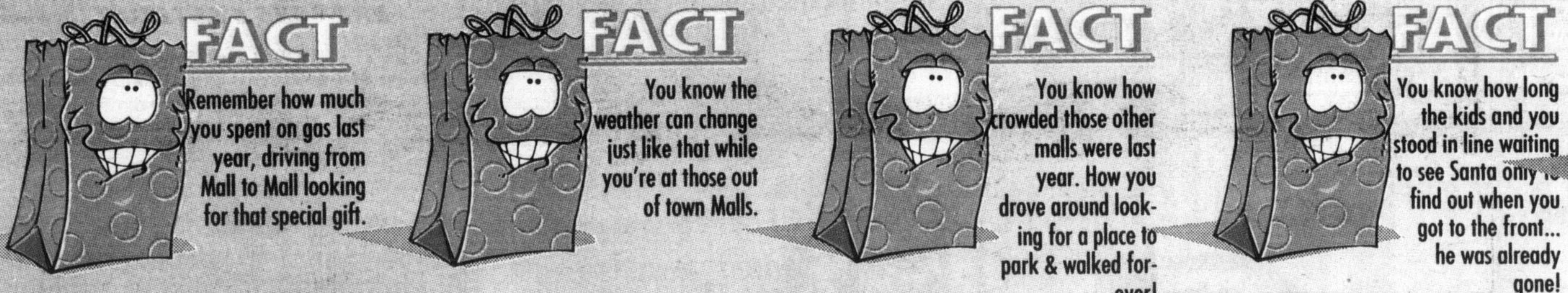
RELAX!

FACT Remember how much you spent on gas last year, driving from Mall to Mall looking for that special gift.

FACT You know the weather can change just like that while you're at those out of town Malls.

FACT You know how crowded those other malls were last year. How you drove around looking for a place to park & walked forever!

FACT You know how long the kids and you stood in line waiting to see Santa only to find out when you got to the front... he was already gone!

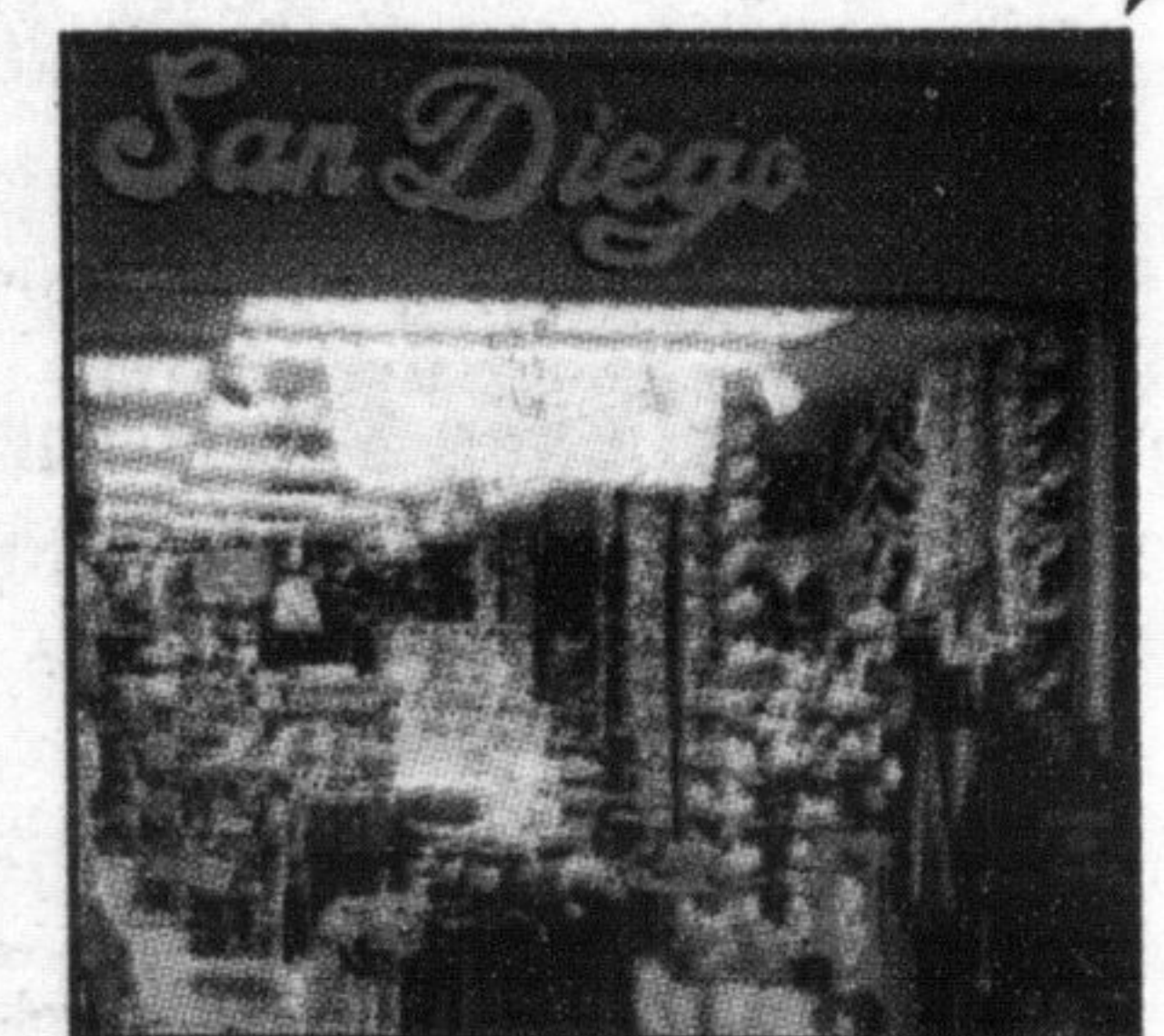


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