

Santa, Civitans join forces here



'Jingle bells, jingle bells...

It is safe to say all systems are go for tomorrow's fourth annual Midland Civitan Club's Santa Claus Parade here in town.

By the time the parade rolls into high gear leaving Midland town docks and working its way up King Street to Yonge as many as 50 or more entries will highlight this early December extravaganza.

Following the "do" young people who participated in the parade will be invited back to the Windrifter for some treats, according to Dick Ivens, parade chairman.

Civitans have been working almost around the clock to make tomorrow's parade the biggest and best yet.

Local and area service clubs, shriners, schools

and businesses will be entering floats, marching and clown units and assorted other entries, reported Ivens during a last-minute chat with the parade chairman this week.

Civitans plan to sell their famed Christmas cake along the parade route as a means of raising funds for the many projects the club gets involved with each year as a community service.

Santa himself will be a busy fellow. Monday night he made a brief visit to a Midland nurses alumni Christmas party, tomorrow he's in Midland for the afternoon and Sunday he'll be at Midland Secondary School for the teachers' annual children's Christmas party.

In the weeks to come he'll be making other brief visits to this part of Huronia.

Snow mounds only remains of storm

Pedestrians and drivers had to negotiate around or over waist high strips of snow down the middle of Midland's wider streets Wednesday while a skeleton public works crew held the fort.

Plowing of the previous night's fall of snow began Tuesday evening and the works department's full force was plowing and sanding by midnight.

Between six and eight hours are needed to

cover the town.

The thrust of the crew's energy during a heavy snowfall, said Works Commissioner Percy Ehler, is to clear the streets and lay down sand so that people can get to their homes.

The public works department has three plows, one grader, two sanders and two sidewalk plows. Dump trucks are rented as needed by the hour.

Midland's public works department used to have enough personnel to be able to field two shifts. However budget restrictions in the past have cut the number of men available to 16, enough for only one shift, Ehler said.

Snowfalls

Department policy on snowfalls before Christmas is to clear the streets the night after the storm. After Christmas snow removal may not be as swift, but streets will always be cleared by Friday night.

In the case when it seems certain that one snowfall will follow on the heels of another, Ehler said, snow would not be carted away until the end of the second fall, because costs dictate that two accumulations can be removed as cheaply as one.

Town council has budgeted \$85,000 for snow removal this year, down from \$125,000 the previous year. The budget follows the calendar year. Less snow last January through March than

usual meant this winter year's budget could be lowered.

Ehler estimates the average cost of plowing and sanding the town's streets as between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

It is only beginning

Winter's first major blast of the season which whipped through Huronia, Tuesday night, dumped 10 centimeters of snow on this part of Simcoe County.

Stiff winds ranging as high as 55 kilometers added to the Dec. 2 chaos.

Mel Curtis, 84, of Midland who has been keeping track of such information since 1948, reports that so far this year a total of 24 centimeters (14.4") of snow has fallen on Midland.

Nov. 24 a total of three centimeters fell; on Nov. 25, one centimeter; on Nov. 28, five, Nov. 29, four; Dec. 1, one centimeter and then on Dec. 2 a total of 10 centimeters fell.

To say driving was tricky during this week's major snowstorm is to say a mouthful.

The chilly blast prompted many a motorist to rush to his nearest service station Wednesday morning to have snow tires fitted to family vehicles.

And as so often is the case members of Midland and area public works departments worked 'round the clock unclodding streets and highways in time for Wednesday morning's rush hour traffic.

And just think before it is all over about 150 inches of snow will fall on our neck of the woods before spring returns next year.

Awards for achievement

by Marilyn Bidgood
assistant agrep
North Simcoe

November has been a month of recognition for the outstanding efforts extended by 4-H members through the club year. Several of the local sponsors, including Kiwanis Clubs, Lions Clubs, Kinsmen, and various

Agricultural Societies, have hosted 4-H members and their families

Six Projects:

Bernadette Baks, Elmvale; Tom Boker, Elmvale; Fern Hickling, Oro; Dave Hummelink, Elmvale; Andy Jones, Vasey; Dave Anderson, Orillia;

Dan Trace, Elmvale; Lisa Robertson, Elmvale; Roger Jones, Vasey; Kenneth Wood, Vasey.

Twelve Projects:

Tom KleinGebbinck, Elmvale; Larry KleinGebbinck, Elmvale; Doug Ritchie, Elmvale.

These Certificates of

Achievement represent dedication and hard work on behalf of 4-H members.

Congratulations to all 4-H members on a successful 4-H year, and many thanks to local sponsors, 4-H Leaders, and parents for cooperating to make the 4-H program possible.



STEP right in

George VanderSchaaf, right explains some of the philosophy behind the Modified Systematic Training for Effective Parenting Program, known as STEP held recently in Bayview Public School's library. Basically the program teaches you to be a better parent, despite the ominous sounding title.

VanderSchaaf's partner in instruction is Dave Brooks, standing at the rear of the table. Some of the parents who attended the program are seated from left to right: Florence Todd, Julie Anna Hervieux and Sylvia Holderny.

Main St. hill defeats many drivers

Although Tuesday night's blizzard which deposited about six inches of snow on Penetanguishene and area caused havoc for anyone caught out in the blizzard, Fred Linn, superintendent of Penetanguishene Public Works said his crew viewed it as "just another blow."

Linn said yesterday public works had just its regular crew of eight men out to handle things the night of the storm and suggested spare bodies were available if the need had arisen to add personnel to the snowplowing and removal operations.

On Wednesday, effects of the storm were still visible as Penetanguishene drivers slipped and slithered their way up Main Street hill in attempts to get up to the top.

At rush hour Wednesday, the hill was littered with vehicles as frustrated drivers who couldn't reach the summit tried backing

down the hill, only to slide sideways in front of other vehicles moving up and down the steep incline.

Amazingly, there were no accidents as a result of the slippery conditions.

Linn said yesterday, the hill had been sanded and salted, Wednesday, but explained the salt has little effect in temperatures below 16-17 degrees.

He pointed out yesterday, once the sun warmed things up a bit, the ice melted off and the salt took effect, melting the ice off the hill and making driving on it somewhat easier.

Linn mentioned police will from time to time be adjusting traffic lights at the intersection of Main and Robert streets in Penetanguishene so that lights for Main Street will be a constant flashing amber and the Robert street lights will be flashing red.