

Optimist Santa Claus Parade

Welcome

Monday, Nov. 16, 2009.

7:00 – 7:30 pm



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

Introductions:

Our Parade Committee

David Kuchma

Gene Shackelton

Al Holt

Dave McCormick

Bud Willis

Gregg Paisley

Neal Ambrose

Tom Intven

John Ewanick

Bob Jackson

Bob Holt

Chuck Gratton

Jeff Goodman

Jim Wakefield

Barry Bottineau

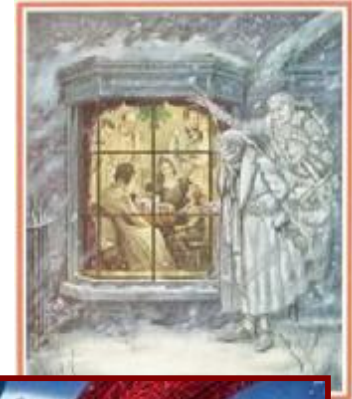
Leo Lynch



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

2009 Theme

Christmas Past, Present & Future



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

2008 Winners

Best Theme -	St. Thomas-Elgin Artists Guild
Best Children's Entry -	Central United Church
Best Commercial -	Country Charm Café
Most Unusual -	Lifeline Warranty
Most Photogenic -	Formet Industries
Best Overall -	Presstran Industries



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

Parade Rules & Regulations

- All vehicles and floats are to be decorated and well lit, keeping with the holiday season.



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- Candy must not be thrown from vehicles. It could cause kids to get too close to your float. Any candy being distributed **MUST** be handed out by volunteers from your float.



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- Watch for children getting too close to your float.
- We want everyone to stay **SAFE!**



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... from CNN.COM/US

Boy killed by parade float

PLANT CITY, Florida (AP) -- A 9-year-old boy died after being run over by a church float in a Christmas parade. Jordan Hayes was walking alongside the float, ... when his foot was caught by a wheel and he fell under the float Friday night, said Police Chief Bill McDaniel.

Parade watchers shouted at the driver to back up, but the pickup truck pulling the Greater Heights Family Worship Center float ran over Jordan a second time. The driver is Jordan's cousin, authorities said.

Jordan, of Inverness, [Florida](#), had been in Plant City visiting a brother.

"This is a tragedy that defies words," McDaniel said. "This was supposed to be a time of celebration and joy, but it has turned into a terrible tragedy."



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- Flyers or advertisements are not to be handed out during the parade. These sheets tend to be left behind and litter the street.



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- A driver of the float must remain with the vehicle at all times during the staging portion of the parade.



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- We do not want to confuse the children with more than one Santa Claus. The Optimist Club of St. Thomas will provide the one and only Santa Claus at the end of the parade.



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- No riders are allowed on their floats during entry to the staging area.



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- The north parking lot of Timken will be available for dropping people off.
- The south end, in front of Timken, is being reserved for the Marching Bands.
- Parents are not allowed to drive into the staging area.



Optimist Santa Claus Parade



FLOATS Enter Here From North

Staging Area

ONLY Bands Enter Here



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- In order to have a smooth flowing parade, all vehicles must keep moving when possible. Otherwise the length of the parade is extended and gaps can occur. This results in much frustration for spectators.

Please keep it moving!



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- There will be a police officer at the end of Talbot Street. They will either direct you straight through on Talbot, or signal you to turn left onto Elgin Street.



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

- Tractor Trailers and large floats will go straight on Talbot to disembark riders along Talbot St from Elgin to William St
- Smaller floats will turn left on Elgin to disembark riders at your pre-determined location. **YOU CANNOT STOP HERE!**
- Only Talbot is closed – the remainder of streets are open to public transportation
- Be prepared!



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- Some ideas for your groups include:
- Courthouse, Wellington Street School, Old Co-Op Lumber yard, municipal parking lot behind CIBC, IGA Foodland on William, etc.



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- Limit the number of vehicles for VIP persons
- Rogers Cable should time their schedule according to the Parade and not vice versa. The parade is slowed by their (Roger's) schedule.
- All floats should be moderately decorated.
- Parade is too long. Feedback over the years and again this year is that the parade is becoming too much advertisement.
- Slower floats (bands, etc.) put near the front to prevent large gaps in the Parade. (Some gaps were one block)
- Parents leaving early before Kids see Santa because parade is too long and kids are very cold. Very disappointing. Purpose of parade is lost.
- Return to a day parade when it may be more warmer than at night
- Parade is great at night with the lights



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

2007 letter
in the TJ

Few follow theme of Santa Claus parade

Editor:

I would like to comment on this year's Christmas parade. I am not going to bash the work of the Optimists, but the organizations, businesses and council members who took part in the parade should be ashamed of themselves.



Christmas around the world, doesn't begin and end with commercialization. There were a few floats that had the spirit and music of Christmas. What was with the big trucks driving through, not decorated, not pulling anything?

Council people driving in undecorated cars. It would have cost them all of \$25 to decorate their vehicles or play some good Christmas music. Heck they could have even dressed up as something and walked along, helping collect the food or letters.

I am not the only one that I heard speaking of the parade and saying what a waste of time it was and we won't be back to watch another in this town. That is pretty sad.

Perhaps if these businesses gave the Optimists more help and read the theme of the parade it would have all been a lot better.

Sue Arnold
St. Thomas



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If you have any digital pictures you would be willing to share with us, please email them to us through our website:

www.optimistsantaclausparade.com



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Next year's parade will be
on Saturday, November 20,
2010, at 6:00 pm.



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Be On Your Best Behaviour:

ROGERS TELEVISION will be televising the parade live, and re-broadcasting many times.

Smile, Smile, Smile, but don't
STOP MOVING!



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

Parade registration numbers will be distributed during this meeting. Please don't leave without them.

Registration Numbers are only for identification. "First In" does not necessarily mean "First Out".



Optimist Santa Claus Parade

Thanks to our Sponsors:

- Downtown Development Board



- Rogers TV



- McDonald's



- Giant Tiger



- Real Canadian SuperStore



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HAVE FUN & ENJOY THE
PARADE

THANK YOU
FOR COMING

The End.

