

THE NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW

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Parade torch bearer still a mystery

Posted 1 hour ago

There's just one more sleep until Santa Claus comes to Niagara Falls.

The Niagara Falls Santa Claus parade will take place Saturday, starting at 11 a. m. Parade grand marshalls Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games mascots Miga, Quatchi and Sumi will lead some 90 entries along Victoria Avenue and on to Queen Street.

A "secret community torch bearer" will accompany the mascots. However, his or her identity won't be revealed until today.

"This year's parade will feature exciting bands, beautiful floats, local high schools and many community groups," said Lori- Lyn Albanese, the city's community development co-ordinator.

Marching bands include the Burlington Teen Tour Band as well as the Prime Time Brass from Rochester, Pa. which will also perform in front of city hall after the parade from 12:45 to 1:05 p. m.

Niagara schools will be well represented at the parade, including a band from Niagara Christian Community of Schools which will be participating for the first time.

"Last year, the high schools were just amazing and stole the show so we're really anxious to see what they're going to do this year," Albanese said.

Representatives from Project SHARE will be picking up food donations along the route and Canada Post carriers will take letters for Santa Claus.

The grand finale will obviously be Santa Claus, who will be aboard a horse-drawn carriage.

The mascots will be at city hall from 1:05 to 1:20 p. m. for a meet-and- greet with spectators.

Meanwhile, Santa will be at The Buttery on Queen Street from 1 to 2 p. m.

Albanese said some 100 volunteers have busy over the past few weeks preparing for the event.

"Without these key volunteers, the parade wouldn't happen," she said.

The parade route is as follows: Victoria Avenue at Armoury Street, north on Victoria Avenue to Valley Way and then follow the bend in the road to Queen Street, ending at Erie Avenue near city hall.

At Centennial Square at city hall and at the gazebo on Valley Way, participants can enjoy free Tim Hortons hot chocolate and Timbits, as well as free face painting.

Queen Street shops will be hosting a Queen Street Trivial Pursuit contest where visitors have the chance to win a \$500 Downtown Niagara Falls gift certificate. The winner will be drawn Dec. 16.

More information is online at www.niagarafalls.ca

For anyone who can't make it downtown to watch the parade, Cogeco Cable 10 will broadcast the event Sunday at 5 p. m.; Dec. 2 at 7 p. m.; and Dec. 5 at noon.

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