



Preserving, promoting and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

Our Cultural Moment this month celebrates Christmas Parades

Santa Claus parades or Christmas parades are held in some countries to celebrate the official opening of the Christmas season with the arrival of Santa Claus who always appears in the last float.

Peoria, Illinois has the longest running Parade in the U.S.A. The first one in 1887 consisted of boats and derricks sailing down the river as part of a new bridge construction. One of the largest is the Toronto Santa Claus Parade, started in 1905, by the Eaton's department store. That year Santa arrived on a train and met Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Eaton, then walked to the Eaton's Downtown store. The first float was introduced in 1908 and today the Toronto Santa Claus Parade is the longest running children's parade in the world and is broadcast in several countries.

Wellington North's Downtowns in Arthur and Mount Forest fill each year with residents and visitors as each community officially open the Christmas season with the arrival of Santa Claus. The streets shine from the lights of themed floats, dancing and marching groups and bands playing Christmas songs. Sponsored by local business and community groups, the time is used to recognize and thank these organizations and causes during the important Christmas season.

This year Wellington North has once again had two very successful parades and a special thank you goes out to the Arthur Opti-Mrs and the Mount Forest Lions for their continued support in sponsoring and organizing these parades for our community.

On behalf of the Council and staff of the Township of Wellington North I would like to wish everyone a very Safe and Happy Christmas.