

Santa's coming to town for the Bolton Santa Claus Parade]

By Zachary Roman

Caledon residents won't want to miss this year's Bolton Santa Claus Parade, which is back in full force.

The 49th edition of the parade will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 3 at the intersection of Highway 50 and Queensgate Boulevard in Bolton. The parade will travel North on Highway 50, go through Downtown Bolton, and end near the Cenotaph on Bolton's North Hill.

The Bolton Kin have been hard at work preparing for the parade, getting sponsorships, arranging bands, registering parade participants and more.

John Stegeman is the Bolton Kin's parade chair this year, and has been overseeing the organization and preparation of the parade. He says the event is truly about the community.

There's going to be 10 bands altogether, and there's going to be about 38 entries. There's a lot of community groups, a lot of churches, kids clubs, sports clubs? it's going to be truly a community event," said Stegeman. "It's like the old days, that's what it was like in the old days. I'd say 30 to 40 years ago, we had very few businesses who put a float in the parade? it was more Girl Guides, Scouts, Churches. Then we got away from that, and now we're back to where the local groups are wanting to participate."

Stegeman noted that some businesses signed up for this year's parade. He added that the business community really stepped up sponsorship-wise so that the Kin could arrange for a number of top-quality bands to come in from outside of Caledon to play in the parade.

Bolton Kin life member and past president Joe Luschak said during the pandemic Santa came and drove through Town but it wasn't quite the same as having a full parade. He said this year's parade is going to be as big as ever.

"The parade is just phenomenal," said Luschak. "It's one of the best small-town parades in all of Ontario."

Stegeman said Humberview Secondary School is going to be participating in the parade in a big way, as their football team, drama club, robotics club and marching band are all getting involved.

"It's nice to see," said Stegeman.

The Bolton Kin are hoping for good weather on parade day and anticipate a crowd of thousands coming out to see the parade.

During the parade, Boy Scouts will be collecting food for the food bank and parade attendees can bring food items with them to help those in need over the holiday season.