



Photo by Adam Dietrich

A float from the Santa Claus parade in Belleville makes its way over the Moira River across the Dundas Street bridge on Nov. 17. Thousands came out to the nighttime parade.

# Santa Claus is coming...

By Victoria Thoms



Photo by Mandy Larade

After a long, bone-chilling wait, Santa Claus glides his way down the streets of downtown Belleville to greet the restless children. The annual Santa Claus parade lasted for two hours.

Making a list, checking it twice. Santa Claus has already arrived in many parades across the province, including Cobourg, Belleville and Toronto.

The Toronto parade featured a float from the Vaughan Philippine Heritage Band, encouraging people to donate to the relief efforts ongoing in the Philippines.

Belleville's 15th annual parade started off with a brief delay after one float broke down, but continued on to showcase many beautiful floats and displays. Travelling from King George Square and North Front Street down the entire length of Front Street, the parade ended at Dundas Street East.

Tawny's School of Dance delivered a Blue Christmas performance that included was the largest dance demonstration in the parade.

Approximately 85 floats were in the parade, including around 2,000 participants.

The weather was a definite factor in the turnout of spectators, with rain falling that eventually turned into snow. The Belleville Chamber of Commerce estimated approximately 10,000 spectators showed up to see the parade.

Upcoming parades in the area include Deseronto on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 6:30 p.m., Trenton on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4:30 p.m., and Stirling on Friday Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.



Photo by Dayna Lefebvre

(Above, left) – Ten-year-old Lindsey John watches the annual Belleville Santa Claus Parade in her pink coat. Dozens of floats and hundreds of people participated in the parade on Sunday, despite the rainy weather.

Photo by Victoria Thoms

(Above, right) – A woman enjoys the warmth of her own home while watching the parade from above.

Photo by Taylor Hermiston

(Bottom, left) Dancers from Tawny's School of Dance light up the streets of downtown Belleville during the annual Santa Claus parade. The dance school danced to jolly Christmas tunes and had the largest dance number in the parade.

