

For Immediate Release

## A 30 Year Tradition in Hespeler Santa Claus Parade Features over 55 Entries

Cambridge, Ontario. November 30, 2009...It might not have started in 1809 when Hespeler was first inhabited but it's been a long standing part of the community for over three decades. Thanks to the work of Russell and Peggy Bygrave, the Santa Claus parade has brought delight to both the participants and the spectators for a long time.

Beginning at 12 noon on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup> at Groh Avenue and Holiday Inn Drive, the succession of floats, marching bands and costumed characters make their way north east onto Queen Street, past the Old Hespeler Town Hall to Tannery Street and ends up at the Baptist Church (at Adam and Franklin Streets). It is estimated that between 55 and 60 entries will be part of the mix this year. The entire parade is expected to take about one hour, but the fun doesn't stop there. Afterwards, Santa Claus will drop by the Hespeler Scout House in Forbes Park (Forbes and Kribs Streets) where he will share goodies with all of the kids.

"There are six bands in this year and I will try something really new with a decked out golf cart instead of my traditional vehicle," said Russell Bygrave, Parade Marshall. When asked how long it takes to put together the event, Bygrave replied, "when this is over we start working on next year - it's a year long process." There are nearly 100 volunteers working on the parade including folks from the Optimist Club and the Company of Neighbours. There are even judges who rank several categories including: the Best Homemade float; best Christmas Float; and Best overall entry.

Ward Councillor Rick Cowsill commends Russell and his team for the hard work and years of volunteerism. "The event is something that everyone looks forward to and it's wonderful to see the smiles on so many children's faces as they take in the festivities." The City of Cambridge encourages residents to join in and pick a spot along the parade route to enjoy the holiday celebrations.

-30-

Contacts:  
Hespeler Santa Claus Parade Marshall  
Russell Bygrave  
519.658.4721

Nancy Movrin  
Recreation Coordinator, City of Cambridge  
W.G. Johnson Centre/Ted Wake Lounge  
31 Kribs Street, Cambridge ON N3C 2L3  
[movrinn@cambridge.ca](mailto:movrinn@cambridge.ca)  
519.740.4681 x4459

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2009, the population reached over 126,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit [www.cambridge.ca](http://www.cambridge.ca)  
The City of Cambridge press room is located at  
[http://www.cambridge.ca/the\\_office\\_of\\_the\\_chief\\_administrative\\_officer/corporate\\_communications\\_marketing](http://www.cambridge.ca/the_office_of_the_chief_administrative_officer/corporate_communications_marketing)  
To opt out of the news release distribution, please send an email to Linda Fegan [feganl@cambridge.ca](mailto:feganl@cambridge.ca)