



Barrie Santa Claus Parade Float Participant Guide

This guide is designed to assist you in building a successful float and be a safe part of our parade.



Float Coordinator Guidelines

Our top priority is that the Parade be SAFE; there is to be absolutely no throwing of any items from the float, and there will be no handouts or collections of any type. Barriers at the edges so nobody falls off. Seating should be in the center not at the edges. Hay bales are great but should only be used in the middle of the float for safety. There is to be no alcohol consumption during any part of the Parade. **NO WALKERS!**

NO SANTAS OR GRINCHES WEARING SANTA COSTUMES ARE PERMITTED!

Parade participants are to be informed of all parade safety instructions.

Float drivers are to be instructed to follow the Parade Route. At the end of the Parade Route, all vehicles are to return to the designated LOAD/UNLOAD SITE before stopping to let participants on/off the float.

Entry forms are to be completed and fees remitted pursuant to the terms contained in the registration forms.

Participants are to provide their own public liability and property damage insurance if so desired.

The Barrie Chamber of Commerce is not liable for any public damage or liability.

Horses will be allowed in the parade providing the entrant supplies an appropriate clean-up crew following immediately behind their entry.

The motorized vehicles used to pull floats **MUST** be driven by qualified drivers; no commercial vehicles are permitted in the parade other than those that are pulling floats.

Float entries will be lined up as they arrive in the Marshalling Area. The order of floats will be assigned by the Parade Marshall as he directs the parade to depart, based on your location in the line at the marshalling area. Late entries may not be judged or permitted into the parade-the Marshalling Area will be closed at 4:00pm.

- All registration fees are non-refundable. We proceed rain or shine.
- Entries soliciting funds, charitable goods, or commercial purposes are prohibited.
- Please try to have float in the designated area as quickly as possible.

Watch and obey all street signage, and police officers on the route.

Float judging will be carried out onsite at the marshalling area with the following criteria:

Quality of Overall Float Construction

Conformity to Theme

Spirit/Enthusiasm of Participants

Creativity with Lights & Music

Thank you for your participation & co-operation, we look forward to working with you to put on yet another great Parade that is fun and safe for all!

Construction Hints

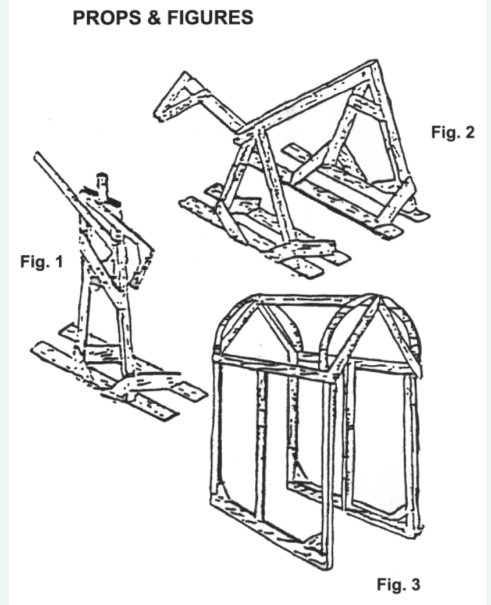


- In constructing a float using a trailer of any length, it is best to use lumber in dimensions of 1"x2", 2"x2", or 2"x4" - the lighter the better.
- Use 5/8" plywood for areas where people will walk or stand, or where your design calls for a substantial addition.
- Other areas can be covered with cardboard, pressed paper material, chicken-wire, or Styrofoam.
- Chicken wire can be covered with papier mâché. Waterproof your float as it will run rain or shine!
- With a little imagination, your oblong trailer can be structured to look square, round, or even diamond-shaped.
- You can also add a smaller trailer, connected by a bridge, that will actually be the means by which the second trailer will be pulled.
- You are only limited by your imagination.
- The diagram to the right is included here to help stir your imagination & give you food for thought!
- When the basic float is completed, it can be covered with sheeting products that come in many variations. Vinyl & metallic products are available in every colour of the rainbow.
- Multi-coloured fringe adds a nice touch, as do festooning and ropes of flower petals.
- You could also cover the float with burlap, fibreglass, or urethane. Urethane is a product that can be sprayed on and carved after it hardens.
- Paint can be used to cover exposed lumber, or other areas, and glitter products can be applied for the finishing touches.
- Additional structures or props can be added to the float. They can be cut out of plywood or wallboard or fashioned out of wood, steel rods, etc., and covered with a variety of materials, or formed to give the desired result. Similar coverings can be used to decorate. Most of the finished coverings can be stapled in place, thus the reason for using light lumber for construction purposes.

Construction Guidelines

Props & Figures

The figures outlined on this page show how simple it is to form a basic unit for a completed papier mâché form. Figure 1 could be a person, Figure 2 an animal, and Figure 3 a prop such as a rose arbour, a house, etc. Most of the framing can be made up of scrap materials.



Signs

The name of the sponsor, and contribution to the theme, should be added to every float. This sign can take the form of a banner, or a printed sign, or be presented by individual cut-out letters. These letters can be cut out of Styrofoam, cardboard, gypsum board, plywood, etc. Letters can be painted, with “glitter” added to the surface. Signage for your organization can be placed on the front of the float or on the driver side of the float. As your float number signage will be placed on the passenger side, this area must remain clear.

Lights & Sounds

With a night parade, lighting is an absolute must so that the crowds will be able to see your float properly. In addition, there is nothing worse than a silent parade, so we recommend that each float include music. The lighting and music should compliment your float and emphasize the Parade theme and the spirit of Christmas. As the power source would be batteries, you are working with Direct Current, rather than the Alternate Current in use in your homes. Make sure that you have the type of amplifiers, etc., that can handle Direct Current, and make sure you have an experienced electrician familiar with Direct Current to do your installation. If the usual home component system is going to be used it will only operate on Alternate Current, and you will need a generator. This can be effective but it can also be noisy. Make sure that the sound is directed to the front and to the side, and it is recommended that two speakers be used for each direction in which you want the sound amplified. Make sure a good sound and lighting technician is part of your float crew.

