

PUMPKINFEST PARADE



It's their party

Families and friends line up their lawn chairs on their front yards in anticipation of the parade. Kids drink hot chocolate from little stands here and there. All these local private parties going on make you want to live in this town.

Waterford takes great pride in its festival. After the parade, we strolled around and admired the Victorian beauties on Main Street and pretty houses on the side streets, many of them decorated for the occasion.

The parade itself is a charming collective effort of the residents and the local business community.

We saw horses, fire trucks complete with their Dalmatian mascot, tractors with the biggest wheels ever and a funky float



from the local paintball company. The local music store's float was a big hit with its impersonators of famous singers.

On the cute side: llamas, a dog kennel parading puppies, a clown on tractor with a beaver puppet...

The rest of the day was not enough time to explore everything. There was the 12-row-tall pumpkin tower to admire, not too far from the giant-pumpkin display. Further, a small midway and a great 2-storey-high antique shop filled with enough small trinkets to interest my 10-year-old.

The Pumpkin Express tractors could take us to the other attractions along a circuit: "scary" haunted house, indoor inflated bouncing structures, outdoor stage with food court and the Van-Go Adventure Farm.



TIPS (fun for 5 years +)

- There are admission fees to the Van-Go Adventure Farm. More on this farm on p. 143.
- The countryside around Waterford is lovely but leave early to get there, the event is popular and you don't want to get caught in local traffic while the parade goes on. There might be lots of walking from the parking lots. Bring a stroller.
- On our way back, we stopped for ribs at **Moose Winooski's** in Brantford (30 mins. from Waterford). We loved the self-serve peanut barrels with peanut shells all over the stool section's floor, and all the fun objects to look at (in Waterford, take Thomson West, follow RR-9, turn right on Hwy 24, leading onto Rest Acres Rd/CR-24, take Hwy 403 towards Hamilton, then exit at Hwy 24/Cambridge (King George Rd.), the restaurant is at 45 King George Rd., www.moosewinooskis.com).

Pumpkinfest Parade

• Waterford
(519) 443-7492
www.pumpkinfest.com

E-2
S-W
of Toronto
90-min.



Schedule: The parade usually starts at 12:30 pm on the second last Saturday in October.



Admission: Parade is FREE, small fees apply to some activities in Waterford and parking.



Directions: From Hwy 403 southbound, take exit Rest Acres Road (Hwy 24 South), go southbound then turn east on Thompson Street, and follow signs for parking. (I recommend you check their website closer to the date of the festival for the latest news regarding the parking lots.)