

## **MAYOR'S MESSAGE – SISTER CITY**

In 1992, City of Sylvania Mayor Jim Seney and City of Woodstock Mayor Margaret Munnoch signed an agreement declaring the Cities of Woodstock and Sylvania as sister cities. For decades Woodstock and Sylvania have been celebrating cross border and community events.

A key part of the sister city relationship was the communities sharing in the fall celebrations for each. Woodstock's sister city members along with members of their city council and the mayor join in Sylvania's festivities.

Sylvania's sister city commission ran the fall festival for many years and worked diligently to build it into a community celebration. In 2016, the implementation of the fall festival transitioned to the Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce where it has continued to grow and create joy for thousands of people throughout the Sylvania area.

Likewise, Woodstock also has a celebration each fall which participants of Sylvania's sister city commission sojourn to Woodstock to enjoy the Woodstock Santa parade. We were joined this year by Scout Troop 154. The Scout Troop participated in the parade, and I had the honor of riding in the parade with Woodstock Mayor Jerry Acchione and his wife Sarah. The parade featured 89 floats and took nearly an hour to complete while thousands of residents lined the streets of Woodstock waiting for the main event of the evening...Santa!

As always, Woodstock was a gracious host to everyone. Each autumn the communities find local events for the other group to enjoy each year. This year, among other things, we were able to try our hand at the sport of curling. If you have not tried it, I recommend it but wear your jacket. It is cold inside.

While I was not particularly proficient at getting down into position to slide the stone down the ice, it was a great time. Below is a picture of the sister city curling adventurers!



I particularly want to thank Mayor Acchione and his wife Sarah. They made me feel like part of the community and I look forward to seeing them again. Friendships between people do not know or care about borders. They just are.

As always, if you have something else you want to share with me or if you have a question on other City services, please contact my office at 419-885-8926 or [lsmith@cityofsylvania.com](mailto:lsmith@cityofsylvania.com).