

The Saint Paul Winter Carnival



History of the St. Paul Winter Carnival

In 1885 a New York Times Reporter wrote that Saint Paul was the "Siberia of America" and questioned whether it was fit for human habitation. Offended by this attack on their Capital City, the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce decided to not only prove that Saint Paul was habitable but that its citizens were very much alive during winter, the most dominant season. Thus was born the Saint Paul Winter Carnival.



In 1886 King Boreas I was crowned at the first Winter Carnival. This festival also featured an ice

castle, an elaborate creation made from Minnesota lakes which has evolved into an internationally recognized icon for Saint Paul's festival. The St. Paul Winter Carnival, also known as "The Coolest Celebration on Earth," is the nation's oldest and largest winter festival. With more than 75 events — including the breathtaking



ice sculptures, snow sculptures, ice castles, parades, and giant snow slide — the Carnival has become a trademark of history, community spirit, and togetherness, turning Saint Paul into a winter wonderland in late January.



St. Paul Pioneer Press Treasure Hunt



The Treasure Hunt part of the Carnival started in 1952 and is sponsored by the Saint Paul Pioneer Press newspaper. The first medallion hunt featured a

treasure chest which was worth \$1,000. Through the years the prize has increased to its current level of \$10,000. In 1988 the medallion was changed to plastic, so that hunters with



metal detectors would not have an advantage. 2001 marked the 50th hunt. Generations of Saint Paulites have passed the medallion-hunting tradition on to their children and grandchildren, and it's

not unusual to see three generations hunting together late at night with a bonfire built, their mining helmet lights illuminating the ground, shovels clanking through ice and snow in hope of finding the famed, ever-so-elusive medallion.



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