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WALKABOUT WINTER IN GORE PARK




SUBMITTED BY KEN HIRTER

As you read this month’s Walkabout the Autumn leaves have changed and Jack Frost is nipping at your door; nothing is more wonderful than strolling through a park after the snow has fallen especially at this time of year.

December 3 brings the lighting of the Christmas Tree of Hope, fundraising since 1976 for the Children’s Fund which supports dozens of local organizations during this season for giving and for hope. See the Christmas Tree of Hope lighting in Gore Park. Who

doesn’t love seeing the bright lights of the Christmas tree in any town square or city centre? Here in Hamilton, we have the jewel and gem nestled in the centre of the city, beautiful Gore Park, established in 1850. But come December a festival of lights brightens up the town square and has created many a generation of cherished memories - from the music of the carousels or riding a top the Ferris wheels as the lights twinkle and dance above your head and right down to the old school petting zoo and stable. Beautiful Gore Park with the magical fountain and

wraparound park benches and statue nestled among the tall trees, this park is a jewel and gem that sparkles even more brighter in December.

So, grab a hot chocolate and stroll throughout the parks, parkettes pockets and the neighborhoods and catch the colorful lights dotted along the way or catch the lights by car and take in the festival of lights and the decorated homes, corridors and streets.

This year dust off those strings of lights to brighten up those corridors, doors or a tree along the way...Cheers

THE BREEZES IS TURNING 50 AND THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

Less than six months from now, The North End Breezes will mark an event almost unheard of in the publishing world and we need you!

As you know, we are celebrating our upcoming 50th Anniversary. The archives that we have been publishing are a tribute to the strength and importance of volunteers and a loyal readership.

We hope to mark this anniversary with a blow-out celebration and we need some help. Our plan is to hold an event in mid-June with prizes, gifts, raffles and entertainment.

If you have any ideas, let us know. If you know of where we can get support, let us know. If you can contribute a gift or a prize, let us know. If you would like to join the organizing team, let us know!

Email us at office@northendbreezes.com to help us prepare.

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Ask for Rick Brusey**

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dedicated to the core



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Welcome Inn
Community Centre

Dare to Double It: Welcome Inn's Pandemic Recovery Fundraiser

Over the past two years, visits to our **Food Bank** have increased by 69.9% and are up to 18,230 visits. Help us expand our services and increase capacity.



The children are now back onsite for their **Learning and Fun Afterschool Program**. Help us introduce new mental health activities into the curriculum.

Supports for Recent Immigrants to Canada have grown, and our staff are now providing in-depth immigration support to 6 families. We've also added translation services to our tax clinics. This year, 160 tax returns were completed, which is up from last year's total of 94.

Welcome Inn also supports seniors and has an incredible Diner's Club, but the three programs just highlighted are the ones that really need your support right now.

Matching or, better, doubling a donation made by your friend or family member is a tangible step **YOU** can take to help our entire community in the industrial heart of Hamilton. But, it's not just a matter of how high the donations get, because everyone can *really* help us out by challenging as many your friends and family members to donate as possible.

10 friends - 20 friends - 40 friends
HOW FAR IS YOUR REACH?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 905-525-5824.

HOPA

P O R T S

PORT UPDATE



INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS JOIN FORCES TO DIVERT PLASTIC POLLUTION FROM HAMILTON HARBOUR

A group of industrial and environmental partners have banded together to collect, analyze and divert waste captured in Seabins stationed around Harbour West Marina along Hamilton's waterfront. The end of boating season officially marks the second year of waste capture at Harbour West, and this effort is part of a larger initiative called the Great Lakes Plastic Cleanup (GLPC): the single largest initiative of its kind in the world, using waste capture technology to remove plastics found in and around marinas in the Great Lakes region.

Harbour West installed its first Seabin in 2019, after seeing some of the efforts taking place in ocean marinas, and a second last year through the GLPC program. It is estimated that a staggering 10 million kilograms of plastic enters the largest freshwater system in the world each year, from Canada and the United States; and plastic debris accounts for around 80% of the litter found on Great Lakes shorelines.

"To really address plastic pollution, we need to focus on two things at once: getting plastic that's already in the water out, and putting systems in place to stop plastic from continuing to flow in every year," says Christopher Hilken, CEO of Pollution Probe, the environmental not-for-profit that, along with the Council of the Great Lakes Region (CGLR), is spearheading the GLPC.

Ultimately, through the data collected and research generated, the team hopes to encourage residents and businesses to rethink our habits on land, and keep plastic out of the lake.

For the first time this season, staff and volunteers at the Bay Area Restoration Council came on board the GLPC to lead the waste characterization and analysis process locally in Hamilton. The data collected by BARC will feed directly into the program's future advocacy for policy change around plastics and creating a circular economy around the Great Lakes.

Graciously, Burlington steel provider, Laurel Steel provided the funding for a third Seabin this year through GLPC as part of their sustainability mandate.

The partners look forward to continuing the program locally and contributing data collected in Hamilton to help improve our small corner of the Lake Ontario for future generations.

Learn more about this initiative at www.greatlakesplasticcleanup.org

LINDA'S CHATTY CORNER



SUBMITTED BY LINDA BENSON

Hello everyone. I just wanted to send a word of hope and peace for our upcoming Christmas season. This year has simply flown by, especially for me. I'm actually still in the Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day mode. Oh, talking of which, I saw this wonderful Poppy display, in the Burlington Mall.... I am glad that the younger people are now learning of the true meaning of this special day, when our brothers and sisters fought for our continued freedoms. Not only do we acknowledge those who fought in the first and second world wars, but also remember and honour those in more recent times.

Oh and Theodore, it was an honour to see you close up, once again, at the Hamilton Harbour. (I actually can't believe my friend asked who Theodore is!!).

Christmas, I just can't believe it's almost here. I am not one of those people who prepare ahead of time, I am not considered a "Christmas Shopper", mostly leaving everything to the last minute. Yes, a Christmas Eve shopper in the flesh, that's me. Although, during the past few years, I have preferred to donate my time to "not for profit" organizations rather than stress out about the actual day itself. Since the boys fled the coop, I no longer worry about the meal, grocery shopping and all the preparations beforehand. Should you happen upon my home on Christmas Day, you may find a Shepherd's pie, a Chili or a sandwich, equally tasty,

just not the traditional Christmas affair.

However, I realize many of my North End friends and neighbours come from huge families, and this season is one of great expense, both with family gatherings and all the preparations that go with it. To you I say, take a moment to breathe and enjoy the day for what it is, a time to celebrate with family.

There are also many who are not able to celebrate, for whatever reason, and to you, I say this is a day of rest, a day to enjoy the peace and quiet that surrounds you. If you are away from your family, as I am, this is a day to reach out via video chat or email, or for a more personal touch, a phone call. If you are alone and/or feeling lonely, please reach out to someone, anyone, a neighbour, a friend, someone you trust.

There are many organizations, "not for profit" and churches, that can help you, provide you with a meal, clothing, toys and support. I am happy to provide you with contact information for local organizations.

My Christmas wish is for everyone to feel joy and peace in their hearts, not to be caught up in the materialism of this season, and to remember those who are struggling, sending them prayers of love and safety, and for our world to begin to heal from all it's been through.

Peace and Joy, Linda

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your neighbourhood organization! We are looking forward to a wonderful 2022!



NENA meets the first Wednesday of every month. If you'd like to be added to NENA's mailing list, please visit www.northendneighbourhoodassociation.com/ and sign up for our Monthly Newsletter on the home page. You can also find us on social media: www.facebook.com/NorthEnd-Neighbours | <https://www.instagram.com/northendhamilton> | <https://twitter.com/nenhamilton>

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY DEBT CENTRE

Debt, it can have a massive impact not only on finances, but on our mental, social, spiritual, and even physical well-being. In my work with our church's Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Debt Centre, a free credit-counselling service, I have seen firsthand how debilitating debt can be for people who are caught in the debt cycle.

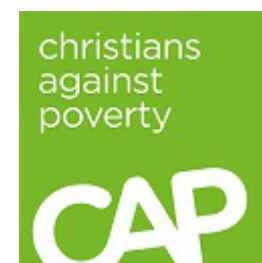
The debt cycle starts by finding oneself short on cash. Many of the clients I've met through our debt centre have had complicated experiences that led them there, such as a relationship breakdown, job loss, addiction, vet bill, injury, etc. And most turned to borrowing money, usually through a credit card or money lender, to make ends meet. With high interest rates their balance grew, and they found themselves once again short of cash after paying bills. By the time they come to CAP, our clients are stuck in the debt cycle and are often finding it hard to manage.

At our CAP Debt Centre, we meet with people who are in debt and hear their story. Together, we send their financial information to CAP, an accredited credit counselling agency. CAP creates a plan to get out of debt and makes a budget tailored to each client. As an

accredited credit counselling agency, CAP negotiates with creditors and asks for interest to be stopped. Instead of clients trying to figure out how much to pay to their creditors, they now make one payment to CAP, and every dollar of that goes towards their debts. With interest stopped, the balance then finally starts to significantly decrease.

It usually takes between 1-7 years for our clients to pay off their debt, and during that time our church, First Hamilton Christian Reformed Church on Charlton Ave W, gets to know and support our clients. Whether it is groceries, rides, friendship, or donations, we do our best to walk with our clients. We love celebrating with our clients when they finish the hard work of paying off their debt and going debt-free!

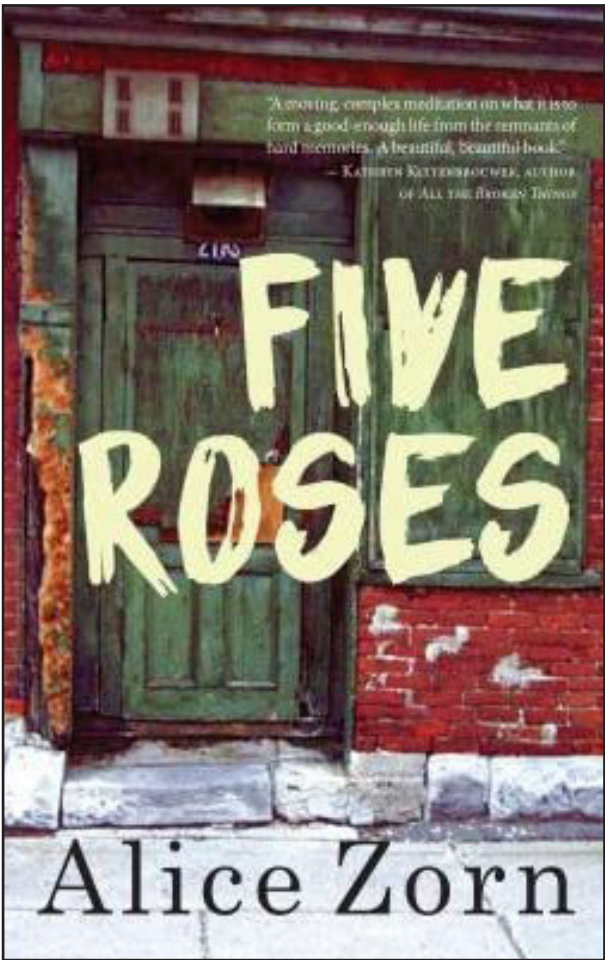
You can find out more about this free service at CAPCanada.org, or by calling CAP's toll-free number at 1-855-214-9191.



BOOK CLUB CORNER

SUBMITTED BY KIT DARLING AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BAY AREA BOOK CLUB

In November we discussed Five Roses by Alice Zorn. Set in Montreal, the book takes its title from the FARINE FIVE ROSES FLOUR sign originally erected in the 1940's by Ogilvie Flour Milling Company. The sign became a distinctive landmark on south shore Montreal. Set in the story revolves around the lives of three women. Maddy is an-ex hip- py who has purchased and renovated the former commune from which her infant daughter was abducted. Fara and her husband are a young couple, purchasing their first home in the Pointe Saint-Charles neighbourhood, a house with a tragic history and next door to Maddy. Rose is a socially awkward young woman who was raised by her mother in a



remote cabin in the woods. The lives of the three become intertwined in this gritty and slowly gentrifying neighbourhood. Family, whether born or created, love and loss are the

thematic threads that connect these three women. - Kit Darling

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi. Diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, Paul Kalanithi was 36 years old and nearing completion of his training as a neurosurgeon. Suddenly the future he imagined evaporated. This memoir is his legacy to his infant daughter - his accomplishments, the richness of his life and the impact he had on his patients. He believed "life isn't about avoiding suffering, but rather about appreciating what one is able to leave behind." With an MA in English Literature from Stanford University and an MPhil in philosophy and medicine from the University of Cambridge, he contemplated "what makes life worth living in face of death" and "what does it mean to have a child,

to nurture a new life as another one fades away?" Kalanithi struggled to use the time he had left to write this book. "Words have longevity I do not". He died before it was completed. His wife penned a heartbreaking epilogue and published his book. Throughout the book, we see into his life as a doctor, a husband, a father, a son, a brother. A heart-rending and unforgettable read for all of us as we inevitably must come to grips with our own mortality. "The dying are the ones who have the most to teach us about life." Dr. Atul Gawande - Paige Turner

Note: The bookmobile is at Bennetto Recreation Centre, Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:00. There is no access to the bookmobile to browse, but staff are on hand for contactless returns and holds pickup.

Have you read any of our recommendations? Liked any of the same books we talked about or disagreed totally? Let us know at bayarea-bookclub@bell.net .

Let The Breezes Help You Promote Your Business!

Let's get down to business.....We want to help you promote your business while you struggle with restrictions. Send us a quick email about how you are continuing to serve the North End and we will feature you in an upcoming issue free of charge.
Email ads@northendbreezes.com



Do you tweet? Do you have a couple of hours a week?

The Breezes would love your expertise! The Breezes needs someone to help with our social media platforms on Twitter and Facebook.

Please contact:
office@northendbreezes.com



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UPDATE: In-person services on Sundays, following the Covid19 protocols of face masks and social distancing

Pre-registration is needed due to attendance restrictions. You can register for the services by visiting our website at www.jamesnorth.church and following the link.



500 James St N, Hamilton

Contact Phone: 905.527.3972

Email: office@jamesnorth.church

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9AM - 4PM

www.jamesnorth.church

We are enjoying in-person worship services, following the Covid19 protocols of face masks and social distancing. Pre-registration is preferred as we are limited in numbers, but you are still welcome to just walk on over and we'll find a space for you! Check our website (www.jamesnorth.church) for registration and service times as they change according to the protocols and attendance. If we have 2 services they are at 9am and 11am. If we have one service it is at 11am.

James North Baptist Church (formerly Hughson Street Baptist) has been a part of the North End for the past 134 years. We have been more than just a worship gathering on Sundays as we minister to as many people during the week as we do through our Sunday worship times. Under the leadership of Pastor Dwayne Cline, we believe the Lord has called us to a very simple philosophy of ministry – we seek to bless the North End of Hamilton in Jesus' name.

We believe the gospel changes everything. The good news of the gospel is that the death of Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sin, taking the penalty we deserve on Himself, saving us with certainty because of His resurrection. The gospel grants us purpose, hope and a new perspective on joy and fulfillment. Life may not always be easy, but our hope in Jesus Christ gives us strength for the journey. At James North we strive to continually offer the hope of Jesus to others through our ministries and programs.

We've been in our new building now for just over a year – have you dropped in for a look yet? We would be glad to welcome you any Sunday or check out our live-stream. You could also come by on Fridays from 9-11am for Coffee's On where our Food Bank is open to help those who need a little boost. Our website is the place to go for up-to-date information



St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish

125 Picton Street E., Hamilton, Ontario

905-529-3921

stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com

www.stlawrencehamilton.ca

In case of after hours emergency please call 365-888-1275

Pastor: Rev. Peter Jurzyk

Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.

Update St. Lawrence the Martyr Christmas and New Year Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Vigil Mass – Fri. Dec. 24th - 5:00 pm (Registration Required)

Midnight Mass – 12:00 am (Registration Required)

Christmas Day: Sat. Dec. 25th - 11:00 am (Registration Required)

New Year's Eve: Fri. Dec. 31st - 7:00 pm

New Year's Day: Sat. Jan. 1st - 11:00 am

Weekday Mass Schedule:

~No Mass Monday or Tuesday~

Wednesday - Confession 6:30 p.m. Mass 7:00 p.m.

Thursday - Confession and Adoration 6:00 p.m., Mass 7:00 p.m.

Friday Mass 9:00 a.m.

Saturday-Confession 9:30 a.m., Mass 10:00 a.m.

Sacraments of Marriage or Baptism:

Please contact the parish office to make an appointment to meet with Father Peter.

Parish News

Winter 50/50 Draw - The winner of our last draw in October took home a jackpot of \$2387.50! Tickets are now on sale for our next draw to be held on December 19th. Tickets are available through the Parish office and the usual parish volunteers in our community. 3 tickets for \$10 or \$5 for one ticket. licence no. M783190

Fall Food Drive - Our fall food drive was a great success, with several hundred pounds of food and other items provided to Good Shepherd to help in their ministry.

Winter Clothing Drive - Our Catholic Women's League is collecting new winter clothing items to be distributed to those in need - donations can be made at the Parish Office.

Congratulations to those children in our Parish who celebrated their first Communion and Confirmations in November!

And finally, **Advent Began November 28th** - If you haven't joined us for Sunday Mass in a while - why not join us this Advent as we prepare for Christmas. Everyone is welcome.

Give the Gift of Light this Christmas!

On Christmas Eve, the St. Lawrence Church garden will be lit with a display of lights kept lit throughout the Christmas season.

Purchase lights for \$10 to honour your intentions (a deceased loved one, a living relative, family who cannot gather together this Christmas, in thanksgiving, in support of someone facing illness, for kind neighbours and friends, etc)

\$1 from every light purchased will be donated to Hamilton FoodShare where \$1 = \$5 worth of groceries for local food banks.

A Mass will be offered remembering all the intentions we receive.

Call us or visit the Parish website to purchase lights online

905-529-3921 <http://stlawrencehamilton.ca/>



St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish wishes everyone in the community a Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Happy New Year

The North End Breezes Team

The Breezes is published on the first day of the month and delivered to 4,200 homes and businesses. Contact us at 905-523-6611 x.3004, by email at office@northendbreezes.com or on our website: www.northendbreezes.com

Published by:

North End Breezes Board of

Directors: Paul Havercroft, Ian

McDonald, Chris Pearson, Bill

Wehrens & Elizabeth Poynter

Editorial Assistant: Kit Darling

Co-Ordinator: Brenda Duke

Layout + Design: Katie Fitzgerald

Circulation & Distribution: The

Board, JoAnn Osti, Sheri Selway,

Sandra Hudson, Cameron Kroetsch

and Steve Osborne along with a

dedicated team of volunteers.

The articles written represent the opinions of the individual and must meet the Mission and Vision of The Breezes and the Board of Directors as set out. Articles may be edited for length, tone, clarity and are subject to publication based on available space. We strive to publish articles based on these principles and the applicable time frame for the content.

Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month prior to publication. We appreciate an early notice by the 10th of the month if you want to reserve ad space and early submission gives us time to edit your articles. Pictures and logos are accepted and will be included as space allows.

NORTH END BREEZES MISSION:

The North End Breezes is a not-for-profit team of enthusiastic volunteers who produce a monthly newsletter in order to promote community connectivity and mutual support by engaging our North End Neighbours.

NORTH END BREEZES VISION:

The North End Breezes will be a vital resource that promotes harmony, pride and collective community action in a diverse and dynamic neighbourhood.

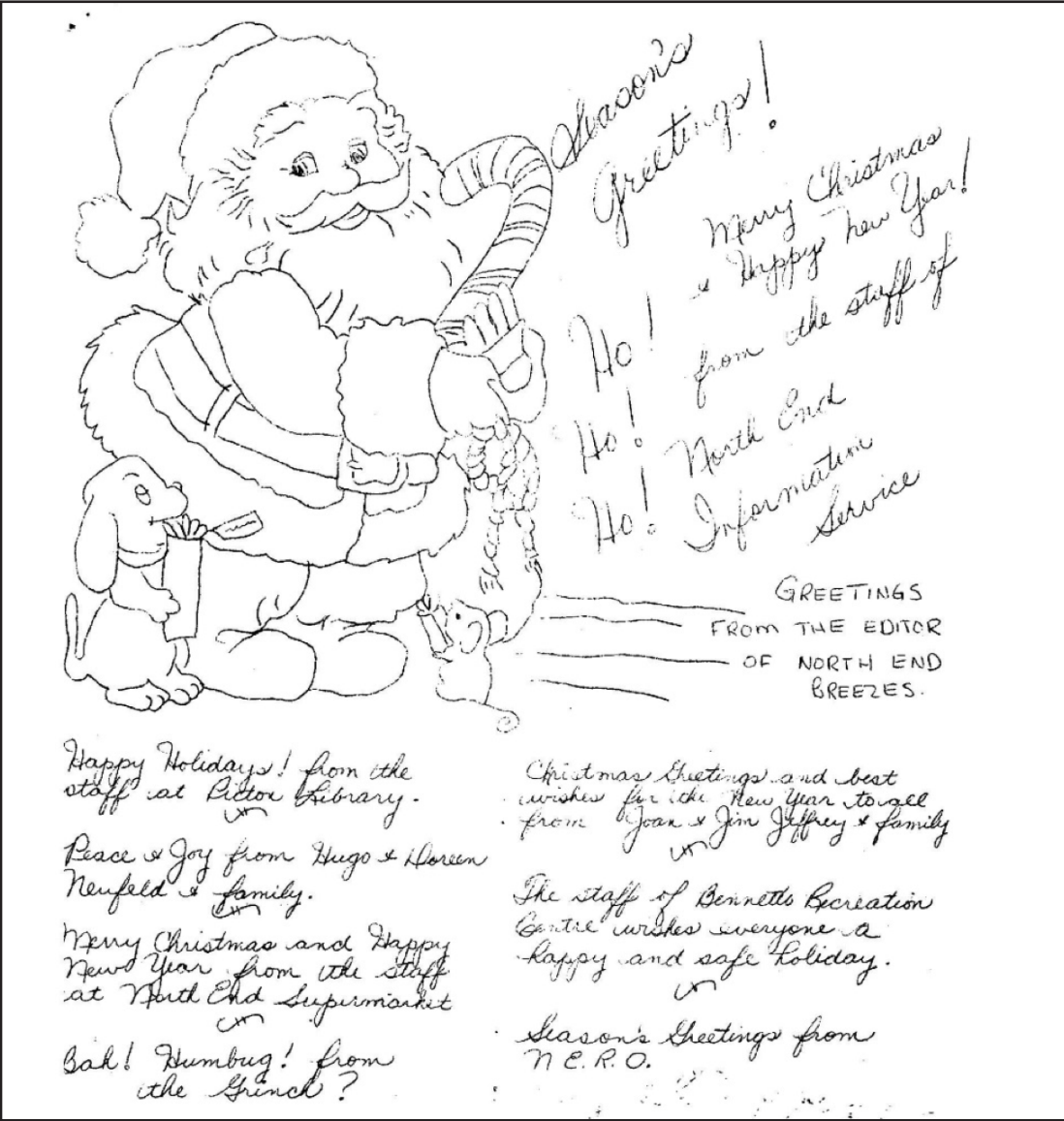
Help us grow your Breezes.

We are looking for ideas, submissions, advertisers. Please email your thoughts to office@northendbreezes.com or call 905-523-6611 x.3004. Leave your contact name and number and we'll get back to you.

Do you already contribute to our publication? Are you interested in sharing your thoughts about layout, design and content? Let's get together! I'd love to hear your ideas. Email or call and let me know. Thanks, Brenda

FROM THE NORTH END BREEZES ARCHIVES...

We've been taking a look back in time by sharing some of The North End Breezes' archives. This month, we have some content from December issues in the 70s and 80s! Do you remember when the Breezes looked like this?



Above:
Holiday Wishes from the North End Breezes and Community Partners - what a great idea! We wish we thought of this -- next year for sure!

Right:
Bennetto Recreation Centre was a very busy place over the holidays in 1985! A Senior Dance Beach Party after New Years sounds like a blast!

Bennetto Recreation Centre 529 2948
450 Hughson St. N.

Christmas Specials
December 19, 12-1:30 Adult Noon
Swim Christmas Social
Dec. 21, 5:30-8:30, Christmas Jr.
Dance, 8-11 yrs, prizes \$1.00
Dec. 22, 10-12, Children's Swim Les-
son Christmas Party
Dec. 27, 5-6:30, Santa Splash
Dec. 28, 9-1, Pre-school Panic, 3-6
yrs. Visit by Santa 50¢
Dec. 29, 3-9, Family Trip - Niagara
Falls \$6 per person
January 3, 1985, 9:30-4, Winter
Wonderland 8-13 yrs., 5 pin bowling
\$1.50
Jan. 4, 709:30, Sr. Dance "Beach
Party"
*CENTRE WILL BE CLOSED DEC. 25, 26
and JAN. 1, 1985.

News from WELCOME INN

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" The old saying fits very well into the Welcome Inn. There are activities around the Welcome Inn that show Christmas is very much anticipated. Special Christmas cookies have been baked, decorations are going up and you hear buzzing noises while persons are planning for Christmas parties. December 13, 1:30 - 4 p.m. has been the date set for the Family Christmas party. Around 60 children are expected to be there with their parent or adult and each child up to the age of 14 will receive a small gift. A singing group from St. Catharines called the "Gospel Edition" will provide entertainment. There will be a few games and everyone will enjoy refreshments. Monday evening ladies group has been busy quilting for 12 weeks and they are planning a party for Dec. 15. A pot-luck supper will be the delight for all who love variety. After the food, each lady who

VOL.IV December 1975 No.8

CHRISTMAS 1975!

So many wonderful poems and stories have been written about Christmas; we thought that we'd print a few very short pieces for your reading pleasure as a reminder to what Christmas is all about.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and Nature sing"
Isaac Watts

"It isn't far to Bethlehem Town,
It's anywhere that Christ comes down
and finds in people's friendly faces
A welcome and abiding place.
The road to Bethlehem runs right
through
The homes of folks like me and you.
Madeline Sweeney Miller

If somewhere there's no Christmas
tree,
Some child who'll be forgot,
Lord, guide my feet into that street
And to that shadowed spot.
There bid me give a star away
And comfort bring on Christmas
Day.

Author Unknown

Letters to Santa

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN ROULSTON

It's that time of year again when Santa and all the elves at the North Pole are hard at work making toys, cleaning the sleigh and checking Rudolph's nose. Reading and writing letters from children all around the world is one of Santa's most sizeable and favourite things to do. It's his way of learning about the children and their wishes for Christmas Day.

The tradition of writing letters to Santa Clause began long before the United States Postal Service was established in 1775. According to the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. children would write their letters and then burn them. They believed the ashes would float in the air until they magically reached Santa Clause at the North Pole.

In 1871, Thomas Nast, a cartoonist for Harpers Weekly, created the image of the Santa Clause that we know today. The tradition of sending letters by mail began in 1879 and it was a result of two additional Norman Rockwell style images that he created. Santa in the first animation was seen sitting at his desk replying to one of the many letters taken from the stacks of mail that surrounded him. The second image depicted a little child leaning up against a lamp-post. His tiny, white dog looked with interest as he dropped an envelope labelled 'St. Clause at the North Pole' into the slot of a mailbox mounted to a lamp-post.

Nast's images captured the imagination of children everywhere; soon the United States Postal Service became inundated with mail addressed to the jolly ol' guy in the red suit. The U.S. Postal Service was unprepared and routed the letters to the Dead Letter Office only because the service considers Santa to be non-existent. In 1912, the U.S. Postmaster



General authorized local postmasters to allow postal employees and civilian volunteers to respond to the letters. It became known as Operation Santa. Since the first Royal Mail-Canada post offices opened in Halifax, Montreal, and Trois Rivières in 1867, children in Canada have been writing letters to Santa.

Many of the Santa Clause letters written by children in the 1970s went to Minnedosa, Manitoba, a small town north of Brandon. Verna and Charlie Green owned and operated a modest grocery store in Minnedosa. Charlie placed a box for the local children to drop off their letters to Santa. The children often used imaginary Christmas-themed addresses such as Snowflake Lane or Candy Cane Lane. In time, word spread, and individuals from all across the country began sending letters there too. The elderly couple happily answered the letters for twelve years.

Canada Post offered to assist Santa in answering some of his Christmas letters in 1982. St. Nick acquired his North Pole postal code (HOH OHO) that year and was given his zip code (88888) by the United States Postal Service seven years later. By 1985, the official Santa Clause Letter Response Team answered 22,000 letters. In 2019, Canada Post and its army of volunteers answered over 1.6 million letters in 38 languages.

When writing to Santa:

1. Provide your full return address. Santa may already know where you live, but his helpers want this information to return your letter. You don't need a stamp.

2. Mom and Dad could turn it into a fun family activity by assisting the children with their letters. Santa likes to look at drawings created by the children and read about their favourite sports, jokes, school, and family activities.

3. The postal elves usually begin answering his mail six weeks prior Christmas. The mail takes a long time to get to and from the North Pole, and Santa has many other things to do before the big night. The deadline for sending letters to Santa Claus is December 10. Following that, letters may or may not get returned in time for Christmas.

While it may not be as exciting as writing a letter to Santa, email has reduced the number of letters delivered by mail. Approximately 80,000 emails were received to the U.S. Postal Service's website during its first Christmas online in 2017. The Sun, a prominent tabloid in the United Kingdom, received 250,000 emails in the only year they offered the service.

In Calgary, Alberta, a popular free website called emailsanta.com began because of a Canada Post mail strike in 1997. A thousand emails were received by emailsanta.com over several weeks in the first year of the website, solely by word of mouth. After a year, the site received a thousand emails a day. In 2017, the number of emails surpassed one million. According to emailsanta.com, Santa enjoys receiving photos of family outings and scanned pictures of the toys the children would like for Christmas. Even Rudolph joins in on the fun; you can send photos of your pets to the red-nosed reindeer, and because he speaks

'Animal' he will reply.

Kerr has received emails from all over Canada, the United States, Russia, and over 200 additional countries, including Iran, Namibia, South Korea, and Ecuador. At the moment, he can only respond in English, French, and Spanish. Kerr gets emails ranging from young children and the young at heart, even a 72-year-old lady wrote to Santa through his website. The Emailsanta.com site offers additional safety tips on how to write to Santa and choose a Santa email service aside from their own.

While we are on the subject of Christmas and mail, did you know John Callcott designed and sent the first Christmas card ever mailed? It was in the United Kingdom to Henry Cole in 1843. Initially, Christmas cards featured Nativity scenes which were popular, but later on, snowy scenes became popular as they reminded the British of a particularly bad snowstorm in 1836. Robins (the bird) was frequently shown on Christmas cards to honour their letter carriers, known back then as Robins, because of their red Royal Mail uniforms. The original Christmas cards in America were prohibitively expensive, and few people could afford them until they were mass-produced in 1875 by a printer named Louis Prang. Unfortunately, email and e-cards services are steadily eroding another one of the most popular Christmas traditions of the past.

I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the readers of the North End Breezes and its volunteers.

Dare to Double It

Welcome Inn's Pandemic Recovery Fundraiser



Over the past two years, visits to our **Food Bank** have increased by 69.9% and are up to 18,230 visits. Help us expand our services and increase capacity!

The children are now back onsite for their **Learning and Fun Afterschool Program**. Help us introduce new mental health activities into the curriculum.

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Welcome Inn also supports seniors and has an incredible Diner's Club, but the three programs just highlighted are the ones that really need your support right now.

At a grassroots organization like Welcome Inn, every donation--even \$10--is a major donation!

PLEASE DONATE & SHARE WITH FRIENDS!

Check out . . .

fundrazr.com/Dare2DoubleIt



Welcome Inn
Community Centre

WHAT'S COOKING THIS SEASON...

Part of the holiday traditions for many of us is preparing our favourite recipes. Looking through our archive articles, I came across these in our December 1983 issue. I've recreated them here for you. Put on your apron and stir up some memories.....

Tourtiere: Traditional French-Canadian Pork Pie served Christmas Eve

- 1 ½ lbs. ground pork
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 gloves garlic, minced ¾ cups water
- 1 tsp salt
- ¼ tsp each: pepper, thyme, savoury or sage
- Dash of cloves
- 1 small bay leaf, crumbled

In skillet or heavy saucepan cook pork until it loses its pink colour, stirring with a fork. (If meat is very fat, drain off a little).

Add remaining ingredients, cover and simmer about 15 minutes or until most of the liquid is absorbed but still very moist. Let cool. Line a 10" od deep 9" pie plate with pastry, fill with meat mixture, cover with top crust, brush with slightly beaten egg yolk, seal edges well, cut a few slits in top. Egg yolk will make pastry shiny and is optional.

Bake in 425° F oven about 30 minutes or until well browned. Cut in 6 or 7 wedges to serve.

Mulled Wine: England and Sweden

- 1 bottle dry red wine
- 3 whole cardamom seeds crushed
- 3 whole cloves
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 stick cinnamon
- ½ cup raisins
- Peel of ½ orange
- ½ cup blanched almonds

Combine wine with spices and orange peel. Cover, let stand 12 hours, add sugar and raisins. Bring almost to boil. Add almonds and serve hot in mugs. Makes 10-12 servings

Basic Shortbread: Scottish and English Tradition

- 2 cups butter at room temperature (500g)
- 1 cup fruit sugar, very fine (250 ml)
- 3 ½ cups all purpose flour (675 ml)
- ½ cup rice flour (125 ml)

Cream butter well. Blend in sugar, cream thoroughly. Combine flours; using wooden spoon gradually beat into cream mixture. Press into ball and knead lightly on floured board until smooth. Pat dough into 2-0 " square pans about ½ " thick or shape into rounds, place on baking sheet or pie plates. Bake in 275° F (140° C) or about 45 minutes or until lightly brown. Let cool thoroughly before storing in tins. Makes about 72 pieces. * Dough may be rolled and cut into desired shapes or pressed into a shortbread board.

Spiced Nuts: Middle East

- 2 cups salted mixed nuts or peanuts
- 1 egg white, slightly beaten
- 5 tbsp granulated sugar
- 4 tsps cinnamon
- 1 cup raisins
- ½ tsp salt

Combine nuts and egg white, toss until well-coated. Combine sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle over nuts, stirring until well coated. Spread in baking sheet. Bake in 325° F oven for about 20 minutes stirring once or twice. Stir in raisins and sprinkle with salt. Cool. Store in covered container.

If you try any of these dishes, write to us to let us know what you thought! Happy cooking!



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS HERE!

And just like that.....It's Christmas! We've enjoyed the spring and summer months, done our gardening, had our vacations and prepared our homes for the cold and weather of the winter.

Our children are excited, our homes are being decorated and we are caught in the frenzy of preparing meals, buying gifts, baking and planning for THE DAY!

Perhaps you don't celebrate the "holiday season" in the same way as your neighbours and friends. Perhaps you have your own traditions and beliefs or perhaps you prefer to celebrate at another time of the year. December 3 is the end of Hanukkah, Dec 21 is the Winter Solstice (a promise that light will come again!) December 25th is Christmas day and the 26th is the beginning of Kwanzaa. No matter your traditions, people are preparing for the season in some way or another.

What is the purpose of all this preparation and celebrating? Is it respect for your fellow man, support for those that provide a service or a business, enjoyment of the wonder in our children's eyes or an appreciation for the beauty of the season. These are the things we should be celebrating all year around. Like all holidays, this season is all about celebrating traditions, creating new ones and loving family and friends.

On behalf of The Board of Directors and The Breezes Publication Team, we'd like to extend our wishes for a peaceful and joyful holiday.

THE GARDENER'S HOLIDAY LIST

SUBMITTED BY CANDY VENNING

Hmmmm.... What to get that gardener on your list – or perhaps 'wann-a gardener' or maybe just thinking about becoming a gardener while collecting houseplants kinda' gardener?

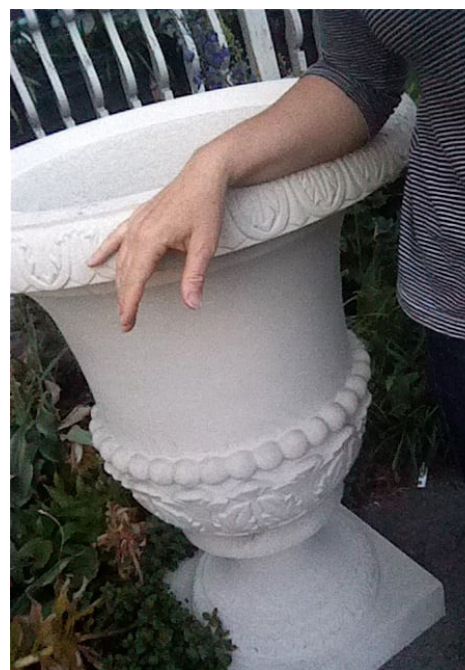
A family Membership to the Royal Botanical Gardens – supporting beautiful trails, research, and courses, always having free parking...it's a fabulous gift, like having a membership to the most beautiful and fun club around.

Garden 'forms' – if you can find them – these are shapes (either whimsical or geometric) often in metal, to train plants up or within. Most common are the 'Obelisk' shapes or 'Tuteurs' that fit inside a pot or large/taller forms to go in a garden with the 'feet' planted or staked down – fun for growing veggies in raised beds or clematis in a sunny spot where you want some height but aren't willing to plant a tree (trees are wonderful in every way – but also cast shade and sun may be lacking in your urban oasis) If you know a carpenter or are handy you could make or have them made to measure in wood.

Gift card with a twist – if you love someone and you want to spoil them – a gift card for a local nursery and a promissory note to plant to install the shrub tree or perennials they choose. Bonus points for driving them there!

Hori Hori knife – my absolute favourite hand tool! Will never go back to using a trowel again.

Secateurs – Japanese ones at specialty shops or online but ya can't go wrong with the classic, standard Felco #2 pruners. This is my number one gripe with doing some light gardening at a cottage or my dad's place, he buys the cheap-ola ones and they're terrible to work with (I bring my own everywhere now). Felco are available at Lee Valley and in most garden centres.



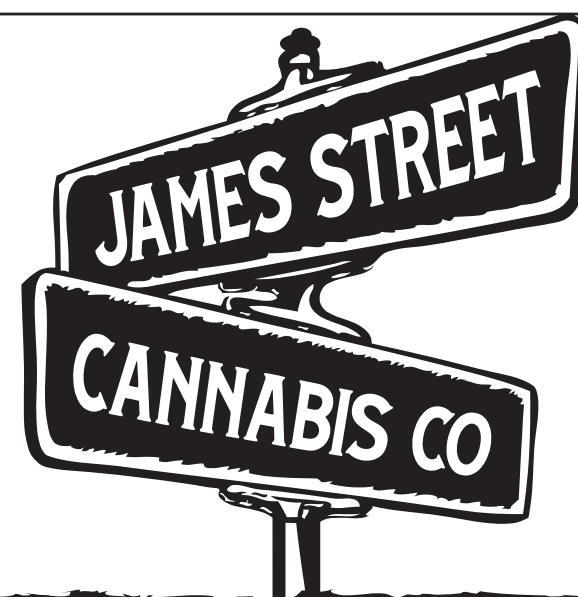
garden without being ostentatious, harming wildlife, also used so plants CAN escape (unlike plastic that cuts through limbs and vines if not removed in time)

The watering cans by 'Haws' via Lee Valley are not cheap but they are lovely and well made. The indoor version is really a joy to use for refilling vases in place or reaching into tiny spots as the long, small spout can get into tight spots. A larger, second hand one that looks similar could possibly be found on marketplace – a worn patina is entirely appropriate in a watering can.

An online garden consult – suitable for anyone in Canada – yes this is a service I provide and as such I won't go into detail but if you know someone struggling with a big or small space including balconies or native plant converts – send me an email or find me on Instagram @vennigardens for more info.

Gloves – there can never really be enough gloves – my faves are the rubbery coated, cotton ones – grippy and not sweaty while stretchy to accommodate different sized hands. They give me superpowers when I need to pull something rooty out and prevent splinters when handling old woody stuff but nothing really stops rose thorns. (so don't bother with rose gloves)

Basket o' tings – a gift basket that may include some festive greenery (cedar swags, a posy of eucalyptus, a grapevine wreath, some pinecones) a small houseplant with the aforementioned gloves. Seeds of easy to grow annuals like Marigolds, Nasturtiums or Sunflowers for kids (direct sow in sun late spring) or slightly more advanced native plant seeds for 'Winter sowing' (more on this next month) and a pot or container of organic fertilizer (I like Acti-sol which also really helps to keep squirrels out of containers when sprinkled on top). Jute string which is neutrally coloured, biodegradable and therefore suitable for tying up things in the



Friendly and knowledgeable staff here to help with your questions and curiosities - First timers are always welcome.

We carry a wide mix of categories including edibles, drinks and the city's largest CBD and wellness section.

Come visit us in the James and Burlington Plaza!

905-308-9444

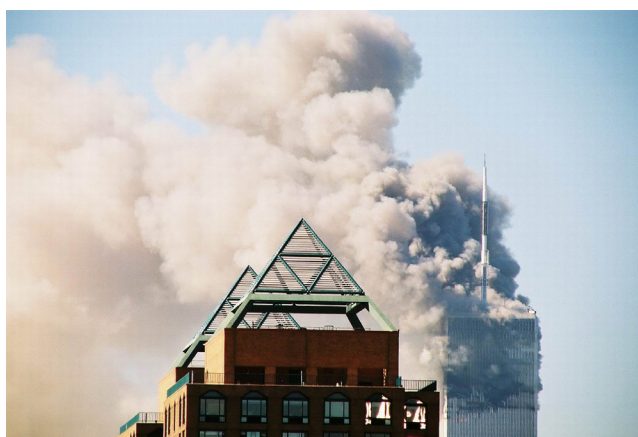
www.jamesstreetcannabis.com

TWENTY YEARS ON: DAVID GRUGGEN REMEMBERS 9/11

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN GILLAM

David Gruggen's photography studio is located at 326 James St. North. Most of the time his window displays feature family portraits or his striking aerial views of Hamilton, but this September a remarkable exhibit commemorating 9/11 featured the photographer as well as his subject. He explained how he happened to be there for this historic event.

David first became interested in photography in the Seventies as a teenager in Westdale. After studying at Mohawk College, he pursued a career as a TV cameraman, as well as a freelance photographer, working in journalism and advertising. Over the years David has documented major events and important political figures, as well as the changing shape of Hamilton in a remarkable series of aerial photographs. At the turn of the millennium, he was working a lot of special events like product launches and fashion shoots.



The commission to cover a Marc Jacobs fashion show was nothing out of the ordinary, except that it was in New York City. David had never been there before and looked forward to experiencing the excitement first hand. The morning after the shoot wrapped up on September 11, while breakfasting in a diner, he heard the World Trade Center was on fire and rushed outside. David's pictures show what he saw on the street some 3 km away from Ground Zero, including crowds of people watching the structures burn. There is an image of a huge debris cloud which he only later realized showed the collapse of one of the towers, as well as pictures of crowds fleeing the debris. The many images of first responders like firemen and paramedics remind us what an important role they played in this emergency situation, but especially

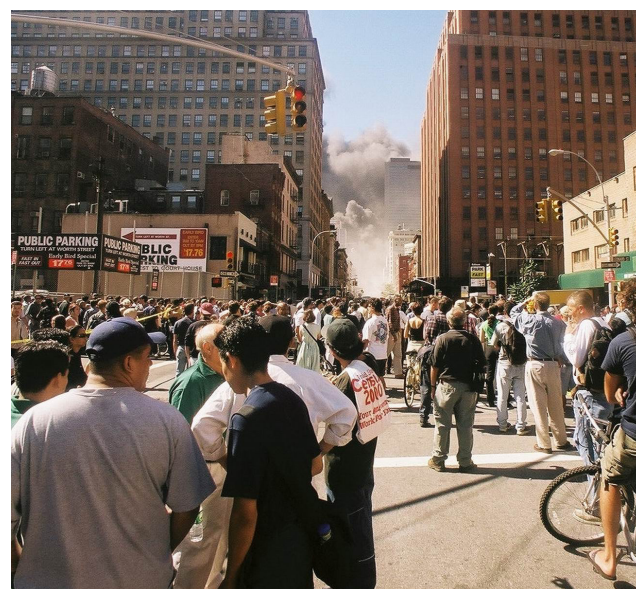


how vital they have been in helping us deal with Covid. As the official photographer for Hamilton Fire Department and Emergency services, David doesn't need reminding.

Caught up in this momentous event, David contacted CHCH and did a telephone interview, but forgot to get in touch with his family. Luckily, his son heard the interview at school so knew he was safe. He had become part of the story. David didn't get back home until the end of the week, driving up from Buffalo in the middle of the night.

9/11 was twenty years ago, but, as David Gruggen's pictures show, it was an event in which ordinary people, like us, rather than politicians, military commanders or celebrities, played a leading role. In fact, that's what history is – the deeds and events that unfold in our lives over time and that we ourselves shape directly by our own actions. These pictures are valuable in helping us understand that.

We make our own history, both in and out of our neighbourhood. We contribute to it when we record our own lives online, in words or images, and collectively like in the pages of this newsletter. You can also learn more about the history of our community at the Workers' Art and Historical Centre on Stuart Street and in the archives at the Hamilton Public Library on York Boulevard. These sites are once again open to the public as well as being available on line. The author wishes to thank David Gruggen for sharing his experiences and making his amazing images of them available.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID GRUGGEN

NORTH END BREEZES FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

Ad content subject to approval by the Board of Directors in keeping with the Mission and Vision of North End Breezes. Submit your ad - call 905-523-6611 ext 3004 or email office@northendbreezes.com

- Looking for a professional cleaning lady in the Northend for my 3 bedroom home, no stairs or animals. Must have own tools such as vacuum cleaner, mop and cleaning products. If interested e-mail me @ mleclercq@cogeco.ca
- Roommate wanted to share an apartment. Reasonable rent plus shared responsibilities. Please call 289-389-1070
- Lawn Mowing: I am a 14 year old boy looking to make some money over the summer by mowing lawns in the north end. If interested call Ezra Oucharek at 905-517-1661.
- Children's Birthday Parties: Make your child's birthday the talk of the neighbourhood. Earlee the Entertainer will make it happen Magic, balloons, paintable tattoos for only \$75.00 per hour North End Neighbours – special rate of \$65.00 per hour Call Earl Ross – 289-439-0166
- Downtown Delivery Driver: Looking for a MATURE adult to do deliveries in the City of Hamilton's lower city. Trips / tips / extras you keep. You should have a float of at least \$75 to make change for customers as a float will be provided to you to purchase items. If you are interested, please call 905-921-9339 and ask for Pearl.
- Be a driving force in your community! Drivers are needed to provide transportation for seniors to get to medical appointments. Flexible schedule and mileage reimbursement. Please call 905-529-0700 or email voncsshamilton@von.ca

GOOD FOOD BOX

Pick up your box at Welcome Inn, or Eva Rothwell Resource Centre! Place your order by the second Wednesday of every month, and pick up on the 3rd Wednesday from 2-5!

High quality, fresh produce at a fair price!

\$15 for a large box (\$20 value)

\$10 for a small box (\$15 value)

Order at NHCHC
or Eva Rothwell.

Call for info:
905-523-6611 ext 3007

Brought to you by:

The Eva Rothwell
Resource Centre
at Robert Land



Come visit the Beasley Community Fridge!

Located at 249 John Street N & Available 24/7

Stop by to pick up some food, or
to drop off some donations!

Yes to: water, grab-and-go snacks,
fresh or frozen fruit & vegetables,
bread, eggs, dairy & alternatives,
commercially produced frozen
meals, canned goods, baby
formula, menstrual products and
hygiene items.

No thanks to: home cooked food, raw
meat, or expired food.

More information is available at:
https://linktr.ee/CF_HamOnt



Some Technical Housekeeping at The Breezes

The North End Breezes is getting busier and we love it! More articles, more news and more volunteers -- keep them coming!

To streamline things, we have added two new email addresses:

For general inquiries:
office@northendbreezes.com

For articles and submissions:
articles@northendbreezes.com

For ad sales, inquiries and invoices:
ads@northendbreezes.com

Are you Pregnant?

YOU'RE INVITED TO...

Welcome Baby
Program



We provide the following at this program:

- Access a Registered Dietitian and Public Health Nurse.
- Pregnancy and post natal education
- Meet other moms
- Healthy snacks and recipes
- Food vouchers
- Bus tickets
- Free prenatal vitamins.
- Free Vitamin D drops
- Free child minding for children under 6.

Where?

Compass CH – 438 Hughson Street North

For more information contact:

Cory at: (905)-523-6611 Ext.3047



JOIN OUR TEAM!!



The Board of Directors is looking for eager volunteers to bring new ideas and skills to the table.

Now in our 49th year, The Breezes is looking to put some new wind in our sails that will lead us forward. If you have skills in technology, event planning or fundraising, we can use those skills to grow our team. The North End Breezes relies on our volunteers to bring the community news to you. We require minimal commitment of two hours per month. Contact us for details and to discuss how you can be part of the team! Email office@northendbreezes.com

CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

at James North Baptist Church

Christmas Hampers

If you live in the North End and you could use some assistance with food and gifts for your children this Christmas, contact the James North Baptist Church office at 905.527.3972 to register your family to receive a Christmas Hamper on December 18. *There are limited quantities so register soon.*

Christmas Week Services

Sunday, December 19
at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM
Visit our website to register for our services

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24
Visit the James North website for times.
Start your evening in worship.
A simple service of carols, reading the Biblical story of Jesus' birth, and the traditional lighting of candles.



500 James Street North
office@jamesnorth.church
www.jamesnorth.church | 905.527.3972

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DINNER PARTIES
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FISHER'S SWAG MASKS \$7
\$2 FROM EVERY MASK WILL GO TO CITY KIDZ AND FOOD4KIDS

Christmas is about giving. Let's help those who needs Us. We are doing a toy drive for City Kidz, non perishable food items for our local food bank and cash donations for Food4Kids. Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!
Ed, Kelly, Dannial and the rest of the Gang at Fishers.

**Even if you don't own a boat,
YOU can be a member.**

Our membership is open to everyone!

RHYC was established in 1888, Our club provides a year-round facility offering an exceptional waterfront experience. Social memberships are available to enjoy our beautiful pool, dining facilities, meeting rooms and patio.

For membership information or a visit please contact us at **(905) 528-8464** or email: **sail@rhyrc.ca**