DECEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 12 | OFFICE@NORTHENDBREEZES.COM | WWW.NORTHENDBREEZES.COM | FOLLOW THE NORTH END BREEZES ON INSTAGRAM @NORTHENDBREEZES

TRADITIONS THAT MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN ROULSTON

It may be difficult to believe now, but there was a time in England when Christmas was not celebrated at all. According to the University of Warwick, in 1647 the Puritan government believed that Christmas was being used to justify drunkenness, promiscuity, gambling, and other forms of excess. Even up until the late Victorian era, Christmas was still not widely celebrated in Canada or the United Kingdom. Canada's reason for not celebrating Christmas was very different from Britain's: we were simply too busy trying to survive the long and harsh cold winters. We didn't start thinking about Christmas or Christmas traditions until our finances improved and our homesteads evolved from essentially makeshift shacks to larger and warmer structures. Incidentally, Christmas became a national holiday in the United States in 1870. Nine years later, Canada followed suit.

Now let's take a peek at some of Hamilton's and Canada's more familiar and maybe not-so-familiar Christmas traditions and their origins.



On November 15th, 1949, the first-ever Santa Clause parade, scheduled to begin promptly at 9:30 a.m., saw thousands of Hamiltonians, young and old, line the parade route despite chilly winds and cloudy skies. In 1998, the CP Hol-

iday Train made its first annual stop in Hamilton, and since then, some of Canada's best entertainers have warmed the hearts of local concertgoers while raising awareness of food insecurity and money for local food banks. Both of these events have become Christmas traditions in the Hammer, and by the time this story is published, they will have likely passed for the year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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Find Out What is Happening in Your Community

with the North End Neighbourhood Association

MEETINGS EVERY MONTH

We meet the first Wednesday each month at 7pm. Meetings are currently on zoom.

Everyone is Welcome!

This is the place to meet your neighbours and hear about what's happening in the North End.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter www.facebook.com/NorthEndNeighbours www.twitter.com/nenhamilton

Check out our website and sign up for our e-newsletter at www.northendneighbourhoodassociation.com





FAREWELL WARD 2-

MAUREEN "MOE" SCALLY

Well, I would just like to take this opportunity to let my North End Neighbours and Friends know that my last day as Administrated Assistant to the Ward 2 Councillor (Jason Farr) was November 14. I put in 12 plus years in Ward 2, started with Bob Bratina, and then newly elected Councillor Farr who asked me to stay on in 2010. Now I am moving on, but it has been a pleasure and an honour speaking to many North Enders over the years. Many of you I already knew, as I have lived in the neighbourhood now for over 30 years. Whenever I went out in the neighbourhood whether it was at Our Corner. Fishers or St. Lawrence Turkey Roll I would be engaged with an issue from constituents. But I must say that I have met with so many amazing people over the years, I will miss all your calls, good and

bad LOL. Engaging with many of you has kept me grounded, gave me a real perspective of many individuals needs and aspirations. I will truly miss the people I have engage with here (luckily will still see you in the hood). I grateful that I had the opportunity 13 years ago when Jennifer Cleary retired (had big shoes to fill) Bob hired me and then Jason kept me on. In my 46 years working in politics and working for politicians, in my opinion, I have been employed by some of the best that Hamilton has produced, and who have inspired me, John Munro, Sheila Copps, Shirley Collins, and now Jason Farr. In closing I would like to thank City Staff and Constituents for their support the past few weeks, it was very overwhelming. When I say that I am moving on I am still going to be working in the City, another Councillor met with me and ask me to work for him. So doing the basically the same job but a very different Ward.

In closing I would just like say THANK YOU to my daughter Taylor Scally for always being there, she grew up with me working in ward 2 she was 9 when I started now she is 21. She is the best. Thank to All the North Enders. See you around the Neighboughhood!!

- Moe

COUNCILLOR UPDATE



Cameron Kroetsch-Ward 2 City Councillor

On November 16, I was officially sworn in at

the inaugural meeting of City Council as your new Ward 2 City Councilor! It was an important moment to acknowledge the change that has come to Council after this historic election and the work we have ahead to confront huge issues in Hamilton like affordable housing, street safety, and climate change.

Since then, I have been working to get our office set up and onboard the new members of the Ward 2 team. I'm proud to announce that Liesl Thomas and Hasnain Khan joined the Ward 2 team at the end of November! Please welcome them with that warm North

End hospitality if you see them out in the neighbourhood or at a community event.

Our team has a new email address set up so you can reach us more easily - ward2@hamilton.ca - and we will be working to get our website, office social media, public calendar, and newsletter ready. We plan to launch our office social media and public calendar in December and our website and newsletter in January.

The rest of this year, like the beginning of every new Council term, will be consumed with preparations for our budget deliberations. The budget is an opportunity for the City of Hamilton to prioritize the needs of its residents. I encourage you to reach out to me with your ideas and suggestions in the coming weeks and months.

See you in the neighbourhood!





Winter Clothing Drive

Our Parish Council of the Catholic Women's League will be collecting new store-bought or hand made <u>winter</u> hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and socks.

All sizes are welcome. Infant, youth and adult sized clothing will be distributed to those in need in our community.

Donations can be dropped off at St. Lawrence Church (125 Picton St. E., Hamilton On.) until Sunday December 11th

> Please remember this when you're out Shopping, knitting or crocheting.





Sunday Dec. 11th, 2022

12:00 pm St. Lawrence Parish Hall

(Corner of Mary & Picton Streets)

Hosted by the Catholic Women's League of St. Lawrence Church

Bring the whole family out!

Homemade Christmas Treats

Free coffee, tea & hot cocoa and a very special visit from SANTA at 12:00 pm!



WALKABOUT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

SUBMITTED BY KEN HIRTER

As the Holidays and a new year are on the horizon, I would like to give thanks. Thanks to the shopkeepers and the community, from the groups, volunteers and those who make a difference in Hamilton and here in the North End. This holiday season support the small businesses in your neighborhood.

The Walkabout 2022 Calendar

JANUARY: THE BARD AND BEAR GAMES CAFE

- 237 James Street North, (905) 523-0739
- Motto: "To Bring People Together At The Table" {Steven & Megan}
- "Make it a game night or purchase a game for a great gift idea"

FEBRUARY:LOLA LATIN GROGERY

- 245 James Street North, (289) 246-9696
- Motto: "Mi Casa es tu Casa" translation: "My house is your house" or "Make yourself at home" {Veronica & Jasmin}
- Make a festive holiday meal for friends and family or visit their restaurant Mesa Authentic Mexican food at 255 James Street North.

MARCH: SARIKNOTSARI

- 228 James Street North, (289) 389-4353
- "SARIKNOTSARI for ethical gifts, artisanal and sustainable fashion, vibrant colors and inclusive sizing" {Priya Mohan}
- Give the gift of beautiful fashion & more.

APRIL: THE MARKET GENERAL STORE

- Inside the Farmers' Market at 35 York Blvd. | www.jamesnorthgs.
- MOTTO: "Local First" {Darren Kregar}
- For food or for cool unique gift ideas. Also visit their home store, James North General Store (JNGS)
 95 James Street North.











MAY: OUR CORNER BAR & GRILL

- 495 James Street North, (905) 535-0584
- Motto: "Because they're just like family and built on friendship" {Darlene Billingsley} Northender of the Year 2021. "Make it an Our Corner Night"

JUNE: HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE "The Little Library on Wheels"

- 450 Hughson St North. (parking lot) Every Thursday between 4.30 to 5.30 pm.
- "Cuddle up to a good book or movie to go."

JULY: THE LIGHTHOUSE FISH-MARKET

- 219 James Street North (905) 777-0774
- The flavors of Italy & Portugal all under one roof.
- The Christmas season brings back the traditional live eels and codfish.

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER: THE WELCOME INN COMMUNI-TY CENTER FOODBANK

- 40 Wood Street (905) 525- 5824
- Motto: "Wherever you are be all there", "It takes a Village to build a Community" {Barb Brow} Foodbank Manager
- "Working towards justice for all recognizing that access to nutritious food is a basic right and a great social connection." {Welcome Inn Community Center)
- "Diversity and Inclusiveness for All" "The best gift you can give is food, love and company." {Krista Rowe, Foodbank & Program Co-ordinator}
- Donations of food and/or cash are always welcome.

NOVEMBER: COMPASS COM-MUNITY HEALTH CENTER (SE-NIORS KITCHEN)

438 Hughson Street North (905)
 523-6611 Ext: 3006 {Leah Janzen,

- Community Development and Food Security Specialist}
- Quote: "Food is not just fuel. Food is about identity and nourish all things where we eat well." {Michael Pollard}
- Prepare a meal to take home for the Holidays. (Open to Seniors 55+)
- Food and/or a grocery gift card for the Community Fridge is appreciated.

It is the people, places and things that really do make a difference.

"A big shout to those who made my Walkabout throughout the year an educational, memorable and a wonderful experience."

Happy Christmas and Cheers as we say goodbye to 2022 and hello to 2023. Till next year take care.



Sunday Worship 10:00 - 11:30AM

Children's Ministry Nursery to Grade 5



500 James St N, Hamilton Contact Phone: 905.527.3972 Email: office@jamesnorth.church Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9AM - 4PM www.jamesnorth.church

James North Baptist Church (formerly Hughson Street Baptist) has been a part of the North End for almost 135 years. We have been more than just a worship gathering on Sundays as we minster 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.

With the easing of Covid19 protocols we have returned to one worship gathering as we can set up to accommodate a full house. There is an area where seating will still have physical distancing in place for those who want to ease back into crowds a little more slowly. We'd be glad to welcome you any Sunday.

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 hew 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.

Perhaps you haven't had a chance to visit us in our new building at the NE corner of James St N and Picton Ave. It still feels new, although we've been here since August 2021. We would be glad to welcome you any Sunday or you can check out our live-stream to watch from home. 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.

Check our website for up-to-date information (www.jamesnorth. church)



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.

Weekday Mass Schedule:

~No Mass Monday~

Tuesday - Confession 6:30 p.m. Mass 7:00 p.m.(new) Wednesday - Mass 12 noon (new) 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.

Please check our website for most up to date schedule

Sacraments of Marriage or Baptism:

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



Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday December 24, Christmas Eve - 5:00 p.m Vigil Mass Midnight Mass

Sunday December 25, Christmas Day 11:00 a.m. Mass

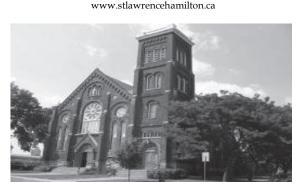


December 11 after Mass - CWL Bake Sale

Hall Rentals are available again!

Call the office or visit our website for more information.

Please keep an eye on the bulletin or our parish website for further updates.



The North End Breezes Team

The Breezes is published on the first day of the month and delivered to 4,200 homes and businesses in print and on-line. 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:** Kristina Santone, Chrissy Chrzan, Chris Pearson and Elizabeth Poynter, Keith Thompson (Marketing), and James Vanderberg (Financial Director)

Chair: Elizabeth Poynter
Secretary: Kristina Santone
Co-Ordinator: Brenda Duke
Editorial Assistant: Kit Darling
Layout + Design: Katie Fitzgerald
Social Media: Chrissy Chrzan
Web Site Development: Marie Mushing

Circulation & Distribution: The Board, Sheri Selway, Steve Osborne and Chrissy Chrzan along with a dedicated team of volunteers.

Marketing: KeithThompson

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 re¬serve 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-forprofit team of volunteers who produce a monthly newspaper and online publications to promote connectivity, share community news and promote mutual support by engaging our North End neighbourhood community.

NORTH END BREEZES VISION:

The North End Breezes is a vital resource in the North End that promotes harmony, pride and collective community action in a diverse and ever-changing neighbourhood. For 50 years now we've been a resource for the community and rely on our volunteers to keep the information flowing for years to come.

Help us grow your Breezes.

We are looking for ideas, submissions, and advertisers. Please email your thoughts to office@northendbreezes. com or call 289-933-4810.

Do you already contribute to our publica¬tion? Are you interested in sharing your thoughts about layout, design and con¬tent? Let's get together! I'd love to hear your ideas. Email or call and let me know. Thank you

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH AND NORTH END LANDING

The building housing James North Baptist Church and affordable supportive housing (North End Landing), have achieved Passive House International standards for energy efficiency. Lots of insulation, triple glazed windows and the use of electric heat pumps to heat and cool the building will reduce emissions and reduce utility costs for tenants. The partnership between James North Baptist and Indwell has been described as "a match made in Heaven" by Pastor Dwayne Cline. PHI standards are some of the most rigorous standards, globally and can help move our built environment towards a low-carbon future.





Give the Gift of Light this Christmas

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

Make a donation that will honour your intentions; in memory of a deceased loved one, a living relative, for family who cannot gather together this Christmas, in thanksgiving, in support of someone facing illness, for kind neighbours and friends.

For a suggested donation of \$10 each:

A light will be lit in the outdoor display (Dec. 15 - Jan. 8), and a gift tag will be hung on the Christmas trees inside the church. \$1 from every \$10 donation (or 10%) will be donated to Hamilton FoodShare where \$1 = \$5 worth of groceries for local food banks.

Please watch the parish bulletin for more details or contact the Parish office at 905-529-3921 to request.

Join us for a special Advent Celebration when the lights will be lit.

Mass: Thursday December 15th, 2022 - 7:00 pm Followed by light refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall.

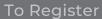
ALL ARE WELCOME!



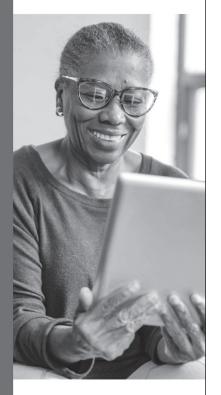
for an interactive workshop

and learn about how to stay safe online





Contact Amaris Rimay arimay@compassch.org 905-523-6611 ext. 2059





COMPASS COMMUNITY HEALTH



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DECEMBER HOLIDAY LIST

SUBMITTED BY CANDY VENNING

Suggestions from a Landscape designer and avid gardener on what to buy for the 'planty' people in your life!

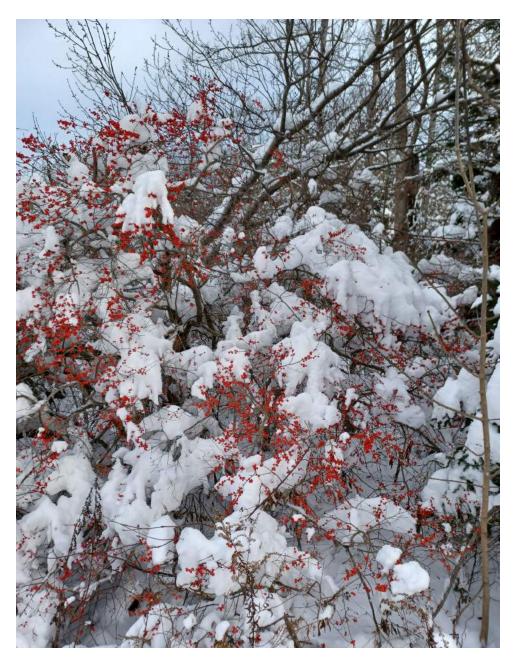
A Family Membership or donation to the Royal Botanical Gardens – Always my first choice. You'll have access to discounted classes and lectures, first pick at ticketed events, year-round access to beautiful trails and free parking. It's also just great having a membership to the most beautiful and fun club around, where other members include reptiles, deer and countless birds. RBG monitors and stewards over 1,100 hectares in a variety of habitats on three nature sanctuaries: the wetlands of Hendrie Valley, the Escarpment properties and Cootes Paradise, the largest and most diverse habitat area, wrapping around the tip of Lake Ontario. At the most recent count, 50 identified at-risk-species rely on Royal Botanical Garden habitats and the RBG relies on heavily on donations and memberships to fund it.

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 / install the shrub tree or perennials they choose. Bonus points for driving them there!

Hori Hori knife – My absolute favourite hand tool! We'll never go back to using a trowel again. The hard steel blade easily lifts weeds out of cracks, cuts through stubborn roots, is excellent for planting smaller bulbs – I should do my own version of a 'slap chop' commercial for this truly handy tool!

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 centers.

The **watering cans** by 'Haws' via Lee Valley are not cheap but they are a beautiful and well made, 'lifetime gift'. The small, indoor version is really a joy



to use for refilling vases or pots up on shelves as the long narrow spout navigates easily into tight spots. A larger, or second hand one that functions similarly might be found on marketplace, a worn patina is entirely appropriate in a watering can and it's the functionality combined with good looks that makes it a great gift.

Trug o' tings –a gift 'Trug'* that may include some festive greenery (cedar swags, a posy of eucalyptus, a grapevine wreath, some pinecones) an Amaryllis or small houseplant. New gloves, my faves are the colorful rubbery coated, cotton ones. 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 (for more on this, see last month's article) and a pot or container of dry organic fertilizer (I like Acti-sol which also really helps to keep squirrels out of con-

tainers when sprinkled on top) Copper Plant tags from Lee valley work well indoors and out – no plastic, no fading and classy. Jute string is neutrally coloured, biodegradable and therefore suitable for tying up things in the garden without being ostentatious, without harming wild-life, also used so plants CAN escape (unlike plastic that cuts through limbs and vines if not removed in time).

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.

TRUG *a shallow oblong basket made of strips of wood, traditionally used for carrying garden flowers and produce.

NORTH END BREEZES PUBLICATION GUIDELINES

To be accepted for publication, your article must meet the following guidelines:

- No personal or confrontational attacks
- No aggressive language
- Must be factual and cannot contain inaccuracies, you can include sources
- Must meet our limitations for space
- Must include the authors name and a contact email or telephone for follow up
- Any images submitted should be a high resolution jpeg, must support the article and have the permission of the subject or copyright holder
- Articles must meet the Mission and Vision of the North End Breezes
- Deadlines are generally the 15th but might vary by 1 or 2 days due to holidays and printer deadlines.

Contribute to community engagement and mutual respect and support; promote harmony, pride in our community and collective community action.

We welcome yours as long as it is expressed in a non-confrontational manner and is not a personal attack on another individual.

We reserve the right to edit articles for length, clarity and adherence to our guidelines. We cannot guarantee to submit edited articles to the author for approval

Brenda Duke

Editor/Coordinator The North End Breezes office@northendbreezes.com

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Pathways to Education Hamilton is proudly hosted by Compass Community Health



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Contact us at office@northendbreezes.com with location and # of papers wanted monthly to be added to our upcoming deliveries.





THE IMPACT OF BILL 23

SUBMITTED BY KEITH THOMPSON

To paraphrase T.S.Eliot - This is the way the world ends. This is the way the world ends. This is the way the world ends. Not with a bang, but the rumble of diesel bulldozers and the cracking snap of trees (so many trees) echoing through the wilds of Ontario's rural Eden.

On Sunday, November 12th hundreds of people from across the urban and suburban city gathered at Dundurn Castle on York Boulevard to protest against the Ford government's "More Homes Built Faster Act," otherwise known as Bill 23. The bill is seen by many as a direct violation of the explicit and democratic decisions of this municipality to freeze the urban boundary. If passed, the Bill would see thousands of acres of farm and wetland paved over.

Bill 23 is a Trojan horse. On the surface, some of the proposed amendments (like the fee exemptions for affordable housing developers) seem to be a gift for pro-housing municipalities and activists. But a closer inspection betrays the reality of this legislation. The reality is that this will shift the financial burden from the province to the municipalities, and the ratepayers who will have to foot the bill for the "More Homes Built Faster" scheme. There is a lot to dislike about the proposed Bill 23. But one of the things that concerns me specifically is the proposed change to block third-party appeals at the Ontario Land Tribunal. Certainly, there is some benefit to this idea (in theory). In practice, OLT appeals have been used by the influential or powerful to block housing development in their communities. Their fear of young and poor people potentially living in their neighbourhood is often seen as the fear of diminished value in their homes. OLT appeals can be a useful tool. But they have often been used as a weapon of the rich against younger generations and economically disadvantaged folks. In this sense, blocking third-party appeals makes sense.

However, there are times that appeals are absolutely necessary, and represent the justified intervention of neighbourhood groups, communities and activists. In the North End specifically, OLT appeals are the last tool that we can rely on to attempt to mitigate some of the potentially more damaging decisions about developments in the community. Walk through the area and you'll find plenty of evidence of the need to have a voice in planning matters. The Jamesville development has been sitting empty for far too long. It's frustrating to walk past it every day and wonder how much longer it will be before we have people living there. We have a housing crisis, yes. But we also have a community crisis and the current plans for Jamesville do very little to address it. We are in desperate need of mixed use development where people can meet, mingle, interact, and invest in the relationships which sustain and maintain a healthy democracy. We need mixed use residential and commercial developments to provide for the types of walkable, vibrant communities that are client resilient, economically successful, and socially productive. The fact that there is no ground-level retail in the Jamesville development is an embarrassment. I'm not talking about convenience stores and cannabis shops, or big box chains and a KFC on the corner. I'm not asking for the whole of the Jamesville development to be retail along James from Strachan to Ferrie.

What I am asking for is a small coffee shop. A few little restaurants. Maybe a tutoring service or a dentist office, or an optometrist. Maybe a small stand-alone Wine Rack store or a simple community-led second-hand store. Maybe it's an ice cream shop for people heading down to the Bay on a hot July weekend. I don't know what's possible, but right now I can tell you what isn't; a complete mixed-use community that would provide additional tax revenue, support the neighbourhood economy and its local entrepreneurs, and provide people with the opportunity to work, eat, and play close to home. I'm not wishing for another strip mall. I'm hoping for a small provision for retail on a commercial street. Some place where we can walk and meet our new neighbours, even if it's just as we pass through the cafe doors in the morning, or as we go to collect our eyeglasses prescription, or as we're browsing for greeting cards or books, or knick-knacks for our shelves.

Whether it's the proposal to overrule the democratic decision of the residents of Hamilton to freeze our urban boundary, or to limit the voices of legitimate concern when it comes to local planning... there's a lot to dislike about Bill 23.

LIBRARY EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2022

All HPL branches are closed on December 25-27, 2022, and January 1-2, 2023.

Day & Time	Description	Location
Fri Dec 2	Noon Hour Concerts	Central Library – Hamilton
		Room
12:00-12:40	Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO) Brass Quintet	
1:05 -2:30	Mohawk College: Classical Instruments	
1.03 -2.30	Worlawk College. Classical Institutions	
Sat Dec 3	Digitize Your Memories	Central Library - Makerspace
10-11am	AGE GROUP: Adults and Older Adults	
Tue Dec 6	Not Just Homework Help Club	Central Library – 1 st Floor,
4:00-5:30pm	AGE GROUP: Teens	Wentworth Room
Wed Dec 7	Digitize Your Memories	Barton Branch - Makerspace
11-12pm	AGE GROUP: Adults and Older Adults	·
Wed Dec 7	Basic Computer Skills 1 - Device, Mouse	Central Library – 4 th Floor
2:00-3:30pm	and Keyboard	Computer Lab
	AGE GROUP: Adults and Older Adults	
Sat Dec 10	Fraud Protection for Seniors	Central Library – 1 st Floor,
10:30-11:30am	AGE GROUP: Older Adults and Adults	Wentworth Room
Tue Dec 13	Central Book Club - Anxious People by	Central Library – 1 st Floor,
11:00am-	Fredrik Backman	Wentworth Room
12:00pm	AGE GROUP: Older Adults and Adults	
Tue Dec 13	Monthly Zine Club	Central Library – 4 th Floor
5:00-7:00pm	AGE GROUP: Adults	Program Room
Sat Dec 17	Embroidery Intro	Central Library – Makerspace
10:00-11:00am	AGE GROUP: Adults and Older Adults	
Tue Dec 20	Holiday Storytime	Barton Branch - Children's
10:00-10:30am	AGE GROUP: Kids (0-4 years)	Department
Fri Dec 30	Noon Year's Eve Countdown	Central Library – 1 st Floor
11:30-12:30pm	Ring in 2023 in a family friendly celebration.	Living Room
	AGE GROUP: Kids (0-4 years, 4-8 years)	
L		

To find more programs, visit our monthly What's Happening at HPL.ca/guide.

Hop on the HPL Bookmobile for the latest novels, movies, and music. Plan your visit with our weekly schedule at hpl.ca/bookmobile.

Shop local and wrap up your holiday shopping at the year-end Indigenous Markets on Saturdays December 10 and 17. Visit Central Library's 1st Floor Living Room from 10am-4pm for one-of-a-kind items. www.hpl.ca/indigenous-market

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH CHRISTMAS TURKEY ROLL



Help us celebrate our 56th Annual Turkey Roll

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2nd, 2022
Doors open 6 p.m.
Draws start at 7p.m. (NEW TIME)

St. Lawrence Parish Hall

125 Picton Street E. (corner of Mary and Picton Streets), Hamilton, On

3 spins for \$2

Come to WIN, WIN, WIN !!!
40 Turkeys, 40 Hams and 40 LCBO Gift Cards (\$25)

Make sure to get your 50/50 tickets!!!

For more information please call the Church at 905-529-3921 stlawrencehamilton@hamiltondiocese.com



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

TRADITIONS THAT MAKE OUR CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN ROULSTON

The annual Children's Fund Christmas Tree of Hope in Gore Park is a wonderful tradition for the younger kids. The tree is lit during the first week of December. Throughout the season, the event has a street fair vibe to it and offers free rides on a small Ferris wheel or a miniature train. Gore Park is well-lit with bright white Christmas lights and, with a dusting of snow, resembles a scene from a Christmas movie. The annual Children's Fund Christmas Tree of Hope was established in 1976 to assist children and their families who are struggling during the holiday season. Donations are gratefully accepted online through https://y108.ca/ christmas-tree-of-hope/

In the city and the surrounding area, there are neighbourhoods and panoramic displays to drive through, giving the impression that the glittering lights of Las Vegas have exploded into a Christmas wonderland.

Every year, there is a beautifully decorated and illuminated tree in front of our 61-year-old City Hall, and it stands out even more when it is covered with freshly fallen snow. The Hamilton Signature Sign, which was first lit on April 27, 2018, will change colours to reflect the holiday season.

As Christmas approaches, the malls and big box stores will begin to fill with shoppers looking for that last-minute gift to make someone feel special. Grocery shoppers will swarm the stores in search of spices, turkey or ham, and all the fixings for a fantastic feast. If children didn't send Santa an email or visit him and his helpers at city malls like Jackson Square, Limeridge Mall, or even Eastgate Square, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas.

Hamilton, like the rest of Canada, has a diverse population with a variety of religious and cultural traditions. Many of us will observe the holy season according to the various traditions to which we are accustomed, and in many cases, on different days. For example, Orthodox Christmas will be celebrated on January



7th, 2023. Many Orthodox Christians in countries such as Canada fast before Christmas Day and attend a special church liturgy.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the name Christmas comes from the Old English language and was known as Christes Maesse or Christmasse in Middle English. It further states that the term "Christmas" was first used in the 12th century.

Dundurn Castle, with its Christmas tours throughout the season, is perhaps the best place to learn about our local Victorian-era traditions.

The first indigenous peoples of North America observed winter feasts and rituals. The winter solstice came to be associated with a lot of these traditions, which were based on the moon and star cycles. Prayer, ceremonial drumming and dancing, tobacco offerings, healing rituals, and prayer were all common back then, and some of these practices are still followed today.

In the early days of New France, Christmas was primarily a religious event. In 1645, French colonists gathered in a chapel in Québec City for midnight mass and sang Chantons Noé, an old Christmas hymn imported from France. The procession of the Christ Child and the display of the crèche, a physical representation of the Nativity scene, were the main events. Later models, or tableaus, representing the scene of Jesus Christ's birth were displayed in homes and public places around Christmas.

Christmas has lost much of its religious significance at this time, in English Canada and among upper-middle-class French Canadians. The holiday evolved into a celebration of the community and families.

In Britain, roast turkey was first served to wealthy people during the Victorian era. Before that, the traditional main dish was beef and goose. Due to its ideal size for family gatherings, turkey gained widespread popularity among the general population at the turn of the 20th century. Britain is also credited with providing bally and mistleton, as well as well logg.

Britain is also credited with providing holly and mistletoe, as well as yule logs and carol singing. Before Christmas became more important to the Victorians, the exchange of gifts had been a New Year's celebration in Britain.

The most significant influence on how Canadians celebrate Christmas today is from the United States. Santa, for example, has been portrayed in a variety of roles, including a tall Santa, an elf, and even a mean Santa. Haddon Hubbard "Sunny" Sundblom (June 22, 1899–March 10, 1976), a Michigan-born artist of Swedish descent, was hired by the Coca-Cola Company in 1931 to change St. Nicholas into the Santa Clause that we know today as part of their Christmas advertising campaign. This laid the groundwork for the current level of consumerism surrounding the holiday.

Speaking of St. Nicholas, the Christmas stocking is said to have originated in Europe during this fictional character's lifetime, when children first hung regular stockings on the mantel and small gifts of fruit, nuts, sweets, and trinkets were placed inside the stockings. This tradition eventually progressed into the festively decorated Christmas stockings we buy in stores today. Children in Quebec waited until New Year's Day to open the rest of their gifts, which were placed in these stockings hung on the mantel beside their Christmas tree on Christmas

Eve. This custom continued well into the twentieth century and may still be practised in some households today.

As gifts became more lavish and larger, they were then placed beneath the Christmas tree. Christmas trees are a 16th-century German tradition, first appearing in Canada in 1781 at the Sorel, Quebec home of Baron Friederick von Riedesel. Christmas trees were slow to catch on at first, mainly because Canadian homes were either too small or the settlers were too worried about fires. Candles were frequently used for illuminating the trees, resulting in numerous fires. Before 1903, lighting a typical Christmas tree with electric lights would have cost around \$2000 in today's money, so this custom was typically reserved for the wealthy. That year, Christmas light strings were invented, and as they became available for purchase, they became increasingly more affordable and popular.

On December 7, 1898, Canada became the first country in the world to issue a stamp commemorating Christmas. It was around this time that postage was changed from a penny to a two-cent stamp. To commemorate the British Empire's unprecedented growth, the face of the stamp featured the word "Xmas." The next time Canada issued a commemorative Christmas stamp was during WWI, when regular stamps were overstamped with the words "Xmas 1935-3 Milliemes" and given to soldiers to mail Christmas greetings to their family and friends back home.

Finally, in many provinces across Canada, neighbourhoods will have pickup hockey games at the local neighbourhood rink, on frozen ponds, or in the street. After a fun-filled afternoon of hockey, the players return to their families for a big Christmas dinner.

I wish you all a joyous and safe holiday season as you celebrate. We'll see you in the new year.



LINDA'S CHATTY CORNER

SUBMITTED BY LINDA BENSON

November has proven to be a beautiful month so far. We certainly can't complain, who would have thought that we would be enjoying temperatures well into the 20's?

I went to out to Kamloops BC for Thanksgiving this year, and I can tell you that Kamloops welcomed their gorgeous weather during October. I left Ontario in the rain, also quite cool at 7 degrees, arriving in Calgary three and half hours later, where it was already 19 degrees. I had a five-hour delay in Calgary before flying on to Kamloops. It was 22 degrees when I eventually arrived at midnight their time, which was 3 am for me. A long journey for sure, however, I did enjoy unwinding for the next couple of days in their glorious weather. My Thanksgiving was a quiet and relaxed affair, sharing quiet and reflective times with my How distressing is this? I know we son and family. My daughter in law was almost 8 months pregnant, so we decided not to celebrate in the usual way. With a rambunctious 2-yearold on our hands, we took plenty



of walks and ate easy, but delicious meals. Our aim was to tire the toddler out, but we adults were the ones exhausted from his boundless energy and amusing antics. I enclose a photo of the two of us, at 8pm, after an exhausting hour walk, where you will see my grandson offering me some of his energy! I accepted.



our Municipal election campaign. I threw myself into learning about our candidates and their platforms. I was the second person in line at the Eva Rothwell Center, our Ward 3 voting Site. By the time the doors opened, there were quite a few of us. I had high hopes for a good turnout, however was quite dismayed to learn that far below 50% of eligible voters actually cast their ballot. can do much better, and hopefully we will the next time around.

Just before my vacation, I walked to OLA Café, only to find it closed and the windows and door covered

> in brown paper. I really didn't know what was going on. I had heard that the owner was thinking of selling, but sure wasn't when this would take place. When I next walked into Ola Café, I was over-

whelmed by the transformation. The new owners had totally revamped the café. At first, I missed the vibe of the "old" look, I had gotten used to it over the years and it was always my go to café for their Canadian coffee with steamed milk. On my first day back I was not totally impressed, my favourite person was not behind I returned to Ontario in the midst of the counter; my coffee did not get

served with the steamed milk; there were tiny creamers on the saucer, which I was not used to and, to be honest, I felt quite dismayed. However, I decided to give it another visit, a day later. This time, I received the coffee as I knew it, hot, steamed and tasting just wonderful. My favourite server was back, plus another two friendly ladies, a mother and daughter team. As I sat enjoying my coffee (and treat) and enjoying the banter of the other customers, I noticed how bright and cheery the décor is. The accent colour is a lovely blue, reminding me of living in Holland, where there was pottery and tiles in this same colour, known as Delft Blue. For 16 years I loved visiting the Ola Café, and I know I will now continue to do so. I have yet to meet the new owners, but I am pleasantly surprised that they have kept the same ambiance. They have added to the menu, introducing daily soup choices and more variety of sandwiches. The prices may have slightly increased, but I still feel they are some of the best in Hamilton. If you haven't tried Ola Café yet, I urge you to do so. Honestly, I am wondering if James North would be the same without Ola Café, I truly don't think so.

Throughout the winter, it is my intention to visit some new locations, maybe those a bit off the beaten track, maybe little hidden gems that I have yet to learn about. If you have somewhere in mind and would like me to visit and write about, please let me know. Oh, and you are more than welcome to join me.



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 17. There are limited quantities so register soon.

Christmas Week Services

Sundays December 18 & 25 at 10:00 AM

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24 6:30pm.

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

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

Single, quiet, mature female seeking same to share first-floor apartment in a house whose backyard looks onto the bay. Private bedroom/ bathroom unit with shared entrance, kitchen, dining room, living room, laundry and backvard patio. \$1100/month + hydro and rental insurance. Heat, WiFi, driveway access included. If interested, please email leafygreenplant@gmail.com.

I VOTED... DID YOU?

SUBMITTED BY ROBYN GILLAM

So we've just had a big turnover in our municipal government. The mayor, and some councillors retired; incumbents lost in the polls. It certainly looks like a "change election", but there's a downside. Only 35.4% of eligible voters bothered to cast a ballot (although more than elsewhere). While some have questioned the validity of the result and others what would get people engaged, what interests me is why people don't vote in municipal (or other) elections. Here follow some unscientific observations, along with reasons to vote. On Election Day, I was at the university campus in suburban Toronto where I work, chatting to some of my students before my lecture. All was bright and friendly until I reminded them to vote in the municipal election. Total silence fell as they looked at the ceiling, their shoes, their laptops, phones or fingernails, anywhere but at me. Undeterred by this chilly reception, I pressed on: "It's important- local government oversees infrastructure and services where you live... and you've got until 8pm." One fixed me with an accusing stare, saving: "I don't have time-I've got all these assignments." Another piped up: "I don't turn 18 until next week." A third simply responded: "Mmmm.."

This was not the first time I had encountered negativity on this topic. A friendly office administrator at work became a lot less friendly, saying he didn't know anything about the issues or the candidates. A friend of mine asked how on earth she could find out who was running in our ward and what the issues were. When I told other friends I was really involved in the election, all I got were pitying stares. It's no secret that most people find municipal elections, or local government, boring. You could put someone to sleep simply by repeating the phrase 'municipal election' several times, and it's generally assumed that the relevant information is inaccessible, as well as snore-inducing.

Actually, it's not really that hard to find what's going on. It doesn't take high level research skills or huge amounts of time. For weeks candidates distributed information about their campaigns and the issues by posting on line, knocking on doors and distributing flyers. If you didn't speak to them in person, their materials provided succinct overviews of their platforms and where they stood on relevant issues. (And



no, it's not junk mail, it's important information about civic government. You should definitely read it.) To dig deeper, go to mainstream and independent local journalism.

What about the issues? That's not difficult at all. The issues are whatever affects you in your daily life—garbage pickup, snow removal, building regulations, issues around health and safety. Municipal government is where you live, and if it's not boring that's because it's not working and you should be concerned.

"I'm a tenant" is another common reason for non-participation. It's a widespread misconception that residential tenants don't pay property taxes, but it's included in their rent and assessed at a higher rate. Municipal government is directly responsible for the regulation of rental properties, especially large high-rise buildings. Large numbers of Hamilton tenants voted this time to get more representation for their issues on council. You might argue that you're moving soon and there's no point in voting. Actually, there is if you are around for a few months to a year. Maybe you don't feel involved if you are a student living away from home, but you're still around for over half the year, and you really do live here.

Apart from those who are ineligible or unable to vote, most of us are too busy or not interested. However, although you didn't get to have any input in the current makeup of City Hall, it's not the end of the world. The next election is Monday October 26, 2026, and although four years seems like a long time, you now know that it only requires a small effort and a little bit of planning to be informed, if not involved. Mark it in your calendar so you won't forget.

Find out more about municipal elections at: https://www.muniscope.ca/research/municipal facts/Elections

https://www.amo.on.ca/about-us/municipal-101/municipal-elections

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CRIME + STOPPERS

OF HAMILTON

12 TIPS OF CHRISTMAS - CRIME PREVENTION

SUBMITTED BY HAMILTON CRIME STOPPERS

Hello from your Hamilton Crime Stoppers. As the Holiday season gets closer, we at Crime Stoppers would like to give some TIPS of our own with some help from our friends at Hamilton Police Crime Prevention. Festive activities will be in the spotlight, and crime prevention may not, so it is important for everyone to ensure they are doing what they can to prevent crime.

- 1.On the 1st day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by keeping your car safe from break-ins and thefts.
- Park in well-lit, traveled areas
- Keep valuables and gifts out of sight in the trunk. Do not leave in the vehicle for long periods.
- Don't leave your keys in the car while it is running
- Use a steering-wheel lock and/or car alarm to make your vehicle less attractive to thieves
- 2. On the 2nd day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by talking to youth about stranger danger.
- Teach kids to ask store clerks or mall security if they become separated from you.
- Never leave kids alone in the car
- If you have a cell phone, ensure your kids have the phone number handy to reach you, and know where they can go to access a phone (stores, info-desk, security and payphones).
- If dropping youth off to shop on their own, establish a meeting place inside the establishment for pick-up (not in the parking lot or at doorways)

- For younger ages, use a safety word.
- 3. On the 3rd day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by being a safe driver on the road.
- Reduce speed and exercise caution when driving in inclement weather
- Know your route. Have an alternate one planned in case of unforeseen circumstances.
- Pull over to answer your phone, or tend to other distracting events
- 4. On the 4th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by keeping your information safe when shopping online.
- Type the store's URL directly in your browser rather than browse to online retailers through a search engine where you may encounter malicious links,
- Use a different password for each site you must sign in for and don't let the browser store passwords for you.
- Use a credit card rather than a debit card online so you can stop payments quickly in the event of a problem.
- Be cautious with e-mails claiming to be shipping confirmation or package alerts that force you to open a file attachment. Delete any message that claims to provide tracking information but doesn't include a tracking number.
- 5. On the 5th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime, by identifying fraudulent scams to avoid.
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- If making a purchase online or through classified ads, arrange to meet at a neutral, public location and do not go alone. Use the HPS Safe Exchange Zone at Station 30, 400

Rymal Road E.

6. On the 6th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime if making donations to canvassers

for charities.

- Ask for legitimate identification only donate to registered charities.
- Contact the Canada Revenue Agency to see if the charity is registered at http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/charities/
- Do not feel pressure to donate right away – ask for information on how you can donate at a later time
- 7. On the 7th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime when sending gifts.
- Do not send cash in the mail
- Communicate with your recipient to ensure they are expecting a parcel
- When sending a gift or gift card, consider using registered mail or a courier service so parcels can be tracked and insured
- 8. On the 8th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by keeping your home safe from break-ins.
- Keep any ladders used for putting lights up away from the home so criminals cannot use them to climb up to your windows
- Do not display gifts in a window or doorway
- Properly dispose of gift packaging and boxes. Do not leave these outside for all to see, as this will advertise the contents of your home to thieves. Put inside garbage bags or take directly to recycling depots.
- 9. On the 9th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by securing your home before you go away.
- Make your home looks lived in: Put lights, radios and TVs on variable timers. Have someone stay inside your home for a while each day if possible.
- Have a trusted neighbour/friend/ family member check on your home daily, collect your mail, and shovel your walks.
- Lock-up tools, BBQs and ladders and make sure they are out of sight

- 10. On the 10th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by reporting suspicious behaviour to police.
- If you see any suspicious activity in your neighbourhood, call police at 905-546-4925. Call 911 for a crime in progress.
- You may submit an anonymous crime tip to Crime Stoppers as long as it is NOT in progress
- 11. On the 11th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by recognizing domestic violence and taking action.
- Domestic violence can be seen through various avenues for example in the workplace, neighbours, etc. It takes a community to address domestic violence and it is important to call for help.
- The holidays can be a stressful time and the effects of difficult times are felt long before they get to a point of crisis. It is important for people seek help before they get to that point.
- 12. On the 12th day of Christmas, you can prevent crime by getting home from the party safely.
- Don't leave your drink unattended at parties or other social events, to avoid the risk of someone altering it.
- Never drink or do drugs and drive and convince others do the same
- If going to a party, pre-arrange transportation to ensure a safe ride home (taxi cabs, designated drivers, public transportation)
- Always let friends or family know where you plan on going for the evening, and be accountable for notifying them when you are home safely.
- When taking a cab, note the company and number on the vehicle for accountability purposes and to track down in case you leave something behind.
- Stay in groups when travelling to and from a venue, at a function, or taking public transit and taxi cabs.

Together, we can continue keeping our community stronger and safer. IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR CALL!

We hope you enjoyed the 12 TIPS of Christmas, please have a safe and Happy Holidays!

HAMILTON ALLIANCE FOR TINY SHELTERS

It's cold out, and it's going to get much colder very soon. With winter approaching, the crisis facing many of our neighbours who are living unhoused needs to be addressed. Life is expensive for everybody, but rents are higher than they ever have been in Hamilton, and for some, that'd meant the inability to afford an apartment. Many people who have never been homeless before are finding themselves on the streets for the first time. Shelters are often at capacity, and while new investments in supportive housing have been announced by the government, it will take time to build those housing units. People need safety and warmth this winter.

A new idea has emerged to address the crisis facing our homeless neighbours. Earlier this year, a group of community volunteers and local organizations came together to form the Hamilton Alliance for Tiny Shelters (HATS). The initiative would involve building a small, temporary community of tiny cabins to help stabilize people who are already living unhoused in our neighbourhoods. These cabins are intended as temporary, personalized shelters for people who need a safe, warm space. They would be eight by ten feet in area, and include a heater, microwave, and small fridge along with a sleeping platform with a mattress. It's a lockable space and community organizations would provide support services, including medical care and skills training to assist those living at the site.

Hamilton's first tiny home community will be located on a small parking lot in the Barton and Sherman area and include up to ten cabins along with a kitchen facility and an onsite washroom and shower trailer. The site will be temporary as a new building development is planned for the location in the near future. In the meantime, it will provide sanctuary for those with nowhere else to turn.

If you're interested in learning more about HATS, or volunteering, please visit hamiltontinyshelters.ca







HOPA

PORT UPDATE

It's all hands-on deck at our winter storage facility on Hillyard Avenue. Annual haul-out marks the end of the boating season and at Harbour West, our experienced professionals are trained to remove both power boats and sail boats. "We have 320 slips at Hamilton Harbour and are proud to support the local boating community," says Rory McGuinness, Manager of Harbour West Marina. "Boats will come as far away as Kingston, Toronto and New York State."

Blue skies and beaming sunlight shine on the crew operating the marine lift as it hauls out the 'Black Swan' a 75 ft pleasure yacht. During peak haulout the team is able to remove up to 14 boats per day, supporting up to 80 metric tonnes. Boats are stored at our fully paved outdoor yard, or inside our state-of-the-art 40,000 sq ft storage facility, with radiant in-floor heating.

Safety is paramount with comput-



er-controlled access gates, security cameras and continuous port patrol ensuring the vessels are safe during the winter storage season. "Our boating community is proud of the harbour

and its rich history," says McGuinness. "They are enthusiastic about showing it in its best light."





The North End **Breezes Board** of Directors is looking for eager volunteers to bring new ideas and skills to the table!

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 volunteers to bring the commuity 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 to learn more.



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