



About Town

Calling Out Around the World



Stories From The Porch - Patrick Sirianni
Town Crier Patrick Sirianni Niagara Falls
Tells Stories Long Forgotten

Patrick was born and raised in Niagara on River Rd. He has always been interested in local history....favorite pastime is on the micro film at the library here and in NF,NY finding old forgotten stories of Niagara that have historical significance.

Patrick is an administrator for the Niagara History and Trivia group on Facebook, alongside administrator Jim Brown, which currently has 10,500 members!

He enjoys spending a lot of time hiking gorge trails on both sides of the river.

Patrick is the Official Town Crier for the City of Niagara Falls, and also a valued and active member of our Ontario Guild of Town Criers! Keep up the good work Pat!



Town Crier David Vollick has been serving the city of Burlington for at least five years.

He gets called upon to ring his bell and bellow out the message he is in the room to deliver.

A number of months ago during the day the Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation was trying to set a new Guinness Book of Records record for the largest crowd forming a letter of the alphabet.

They did their level best to get a crowd that would form a huge J in Spencer Smith Park.

They didn't quite make it – the falling rain didn't help.



David Vollick in “full throat” making an important announcement. Vollick was awarded First Place in a recent Town Crier competition.

However there has been some sunshine in Vollick life. He recently entered a Town Crier's contest in Easton, Pennsylvania where he was awarded “First Place”.

WINDSOR, N.S. — A playful round of fisticuffs would not seem out of place at the site of the birthplace of hockey if not for the brightly coloured petticoats and tricorne hats.

On Sept. 14, the rivalry between Kingston, Ontario and Windsor, Nova Scotia over which community is the birthplace of hockey once again heated up.

Town criers were in Nova Scotia this year for an international town criers competition. On the morning of Sept. 14, a few hours before their competition in downtown Windsor, a tour bus led the town criers to Long Pond — the very spot Windsor claims founded the popular winter sport.

Chris Whyman, who is here representing Kingston, was aboard the bus.

“I was just looking at the sign that says 'Cradle of Hockey' and I thought, 'well, a cradle comes after the birth of hockey,'" said Whyman, smiling. “Someone has to be born before they get to the cradle so maybe you might want to change your signage a little bit! I'm teasing.”



Kingston town crier Chris Whyman, left, and Windsor town crier Lloyd Smith joke around at the site of Lond Pond – the very place Windsor claims hockey originated.

Town Criers Preserve A Christmas Tradition On Nantucket

During the recent Christmas Stroll on Nantucket, throngs of people milled around the intersection of Main and Federal Streets awaiting the arrival of Town Crier Eric Goddard to officially kick off the festivities.

Goddard is the latest in a long line of town criers on the island. And he looks every bit the part, with a top hat, bell, and a scarf that was knitted by his mother for this occasion.

“This scarf’s probably 10 feet long. And I wear this once a year on Christmas Stroll Saturday,” Goddard said.

Goddard became the town crier after assuming the position from his friend and long-time island resident Curtis Barnes, who filled the role for 28 years.

“There were no newspapers,” said Barnes. “The town crier would walk around and ring the bell and pass the news whenever something was happening.”

Barnes points out that when Prince Harry recently decided to get married, the town crier of London announced it to the population.

“There’s a very long tradition going back into Medieval history of the town crier being the person who brought the news and told people when they had to pay their taxes, and they were the walking, living, breathing newspapers of the day.”

Town criers on Nantucket also had an important function during Nantucket’s whaling days.

“When the whaling ships would come back after three years in the Pacific Ocean, the town crier would go around and broadcast, ‘Hear ye! The ship is coming in!’ And that would warn everyone and get them ready for their husbands and friends to return,” Barnes explained.

These days, the town crier’s role is purely ceremonial. But during the 18th and 19th centuries, town criers played a vital role on Nantucket.

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Some criers also used long horns, called “trumpets,” to make their voices louder.

Curtis Barnes was Nantucket's Town Crier for 28 years.



Photo Credit: Brian Morris

“The trumpet was to broadcast out. You didn't have microphones and speakers and stuff, so it was to spread the word. Now some of us don't need that. I'm pretty loud, and I can be heard,” Barnes said.



Eric Goddard leads the crowd to meet Santa at Straight Wharf during Christmas Stroll.
Photo Credit: Brian Morris/WCAI

By the early 1900s, the town crier's role had become obsolete, but it was re-instituted in the 1970s with the start of Christmas Stroll.

During this year's stroll, current town crier Eric Goddard led a crowd of children and parents down the cobblestones of Main Street to greet Santa at Straight Wharf.

Santa hopped up onto an old fire truck for the festive trip back into town, with Eric Goddard calling out holiday greetings to young and old as he led the crowd.

With his bell, top hat and 10-foot long red scarf, he was clearly in his element — performing a function that's no longer a necessity in people's lives, but which added a welcome touch of tradition to a Nantucket Christmas.



Main Street crowds during the Nantucket Christmas Stroll.
Photo Credit: Brian Morris

Looks like you're doing a good job Eric !

Olds Town Crier - a Great Ambassador for Olds!

Bet you didn't know that Olds has its very own Town Crier! For several years now Denis Patry (Crier) and his wife Judy (Escort) have represented Olds at both local, regional and national events.

Denis and Judy are proud ambassadors and promoters of Olds and add lots of fun and pomp to our Olds Fashioned Christmas celebrations!



Photo courtesy The Oshawa Express



Hanover debuts new town crier at Canada Day celebrations

HANOVER - Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Jennifer Olivero is the Town of Hanover's official town crier. Dressed in 18th century uniform with tri-corn hat and buckled shoes, she rings a brass bell, makes announcements and calls forth the crowds at several events each year. And Olivero is not bashful – she makes her declarations proudly and loudly, adding pomp, dignity and ceremony to every event.

Hanover council appointed Olivero as the town's official Town Crier, with duties to perform welcoming proclamations and "cries" at various events, plus represent the town at several Town Crier competitions each year.

"Council is extremely pleased to appoint Jennifer and have her both represent our community across Ontario, plus bring uniqueness, heritage and distinction to many community celebrations and events," said mayor Kathi Maskell, in a news release. Olivero is a member of the Ontario Guild of Town Criers, including serving on the executive committee, and has been a town crier for approximately 15 years.

Enthusiastic and outgoing, Olivero said it's an honour and a privilege to be the official town crier. "I enjoy performing and representing the community."



• *AINMENT*

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**Town Crier for Bracebridge Bruce Kruger ‘Cries’
at Wiarlon Willies funeral !!!!!
Soooo sad !**

