

# THE HISTORIAN



PORT HOPE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol 2, Issue 4 DEC 2022

8016 Portland Ave, Box 133, Port Hope, MI 48468

**AS ANOTHER YEAR COMES TO AN END, THE SOCIETY HOPES ALL HAD  
A JOYOUS AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
AND WE WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thinking back over all the positive things that have happened during 2022 related to the Port Hope Area Historical Society, I am amazed at the accomplishments of our dedicated volunteers, community members and supporters from all over the world! The progress on the facility is mind-boggling! The results of our fundraising efforts exceeded our expectations. Our collection of historical artifacts has grown by leaps and bounds. And the addition of new volunteers and members has been delightful!

But one of the most amazing things has to be the role of our society as perceived by none other than Mrs. Santa Claus herself, and the wonderful things we do.

Vice-President and restoration expert, Alger Rutz, (Grandpa AL) has spoken directly with Mrs. Claus and has a special story to share and for children to read in this year-end edition of our newsletter.

On behalf of the officers of the society, I extend our very best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Jim Hunter, Society President



## **SHHHH! DON'T TELL SANTA . WE HAVE A SURPRISE FOR HIM NEXT YEAR. - -- THE STORY OF SANTA'S FAVORITE RED SLEIGH --**

I could not believe my ears! On Christmas day, I received a phone call direct from the North Pole. Much to my surprise it was from Mrs. Santa Claus. She hoped we were having a great Christmas and asked if I liked the socks I got from Santa and if Grandma Sharon liked the earrings she got? How did she know?? I could hardly believe I was actually talking to Mrs. Claus. I let her know that everyone in our family was very blessed, thankful, and having a very Merry Christmas. I asked if I could talk to Santa, but he was still sleeping from the night before. After all, it was a very long night.

I was very happy to hear that Mrs. Claus and Santa feel that Port Hope is one of their favorite towns in the whole world, because of all the nice families and happy children that live there. She then asked if we could do her a huge favor as she had a surprise in mind for Santa. Mrs. Claus felt that the children of Port Hope would enjoy playing a surprise on Santa. She then told me the following story.

"As Santa was making his rounds on Christmas Eve passing out toys to all the girls and boys, he was climbing up and down chimneys, eating cookies at every stop, drinking lots of glasses of milk, (and possibly other libations) and he was getting a little tired. Well on one stop in a small little town somewhere on a snow-covered mountain way up north, he was making his final approach for a roof landing and accidentally slid right into a chimney. Fortunately, the chimney was spared, but the front of Santa's sleigh was all cracked and broken. Sadly, it was his favorite red sleigh. Of course, Santa has spare sleighs and after an hour or so, Santa's helpers brought a replacement sleigh, they hooked up the reindeer and it was all ready to go. Santa had no choice but to leave his favorite sleigh behind. He took one last look and off he flew, on his way to complete his rounds".

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Mrs. Claus then went on to tell me that Santa is quite sad about his favorite sleigh. But Mrs. Claus decided to surprise Santa and had his helpers find the sleigh. She then asked us if we would be able to repair it and then surprise Santa for next Christmas and have the sleigh all fixed up and ready for him. He would be so happy. Not only Santa, but his eight reindeer, and especially Rudolph, would also be very happy as it was their favorite sleigh too. He might even allow us to keep it in Port Hope when he wasn't using it. He would promise to visit each Christmas and greet all the children in town.

How could we refuse to help Mrs. Claus? So, we agreed to fix the sleigh. Mrs. Claus was so very happy and said to make sure and not tell Santa. He has no idea. So, our plan is to start work on it right away and have it all completed and ready for next Christmas. Santa will be very very surprised, Hopefully, we can all be there to see Santa and his favorite sleigh. There should be plenty of time to talk to Santa and tell him what we want for Christmas, and maybe even sit in the bright red sleigh.

And late on Christmas Eve, Santa will once again, climb into his favorite red sleigh, call out HO! HO! HO! and ride off in the night to deliver gifts to all the wonderful children around the world.



WHAT SHOULD THE CAPTION SAY?

Grandpa AL



**Membership / Contribution Form**

Please fill out this form and mail with your check to:  
 P.H.A.H.S.  
 P.O. Box 133  
 Port Hope MI, 48468



**Port Hope Area Historical Society**  
 8016 Portland Ave.  
 Port Hope MI, 48468  
 Questions: 989-428-4831

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly Membership: Single** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00) **Family** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40.00)  
 January 1 thru December 31 (must be renewed each calendar year by May 15)

**Life Member** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500) **Founders/Life Member** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000.00)

All members will receive the quarterly newsletter and member names listed periodically in the newsletter. Founders & Life Members will have a plaque at the Historical Center with their name on it.

**This section is for a contribution that may be made with or without a membership.**

I would like to support the Port Hope Area Historical Society to further its development and wish to make a contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make check payable to: "Port Hope Area Historical Society".

( Contributions to the PHAHS, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines.)