

Dear Mayor Van Bynen,

I am writing this letter to you to confirm our conversation of June 23, 2015.

As you are aware, I recently became a member of The Ontario Guild of Town Criers and at the present represent the ARCH Committee of Newmarket and The Friends of the Elman W. Campbell Museum. I am writing to request that the Town of Newmarket consider appointing me as the Official Crier of the Town.

I have long been an active member of the community and felt that our town deserved to have our own Town Crier to represent it at civic and ceremonial occasions. I have represented the above organisations of our town at a recent International Competition in Bermuda and was pleased, even though I was the newest crier at only 3 months, I was able to place in the middle of the group of competitors. The highlight of the competition for me was that the Town Crier of Newmarket England was together with the Town Crier from Newmarket Ontario! I have Cried at 3 different locations within the Town of Newmarket and found the job both fulfilling and rewarding. This past weekend I participated in the Ontario Championships in Bracebridge. They were held there to honour the sixtieth anniversary of Santa's Village. I have attached two of the cries that I made regarding this anniversary.

On Sunday, July 26 2015, I was surprised and honoured by my Fellow Guild members to be elected a Director of the Guild of Ontario Town Criers. In this position I would be happy to represent the Town of Newmarket.

I would feel proud to represent our Town both within and without its boundaries! At present I have created a costume in the town's old colours of green, gold and blue but, should the town decide that it wishes to create its own livery, I would be pleased to wear it!

The role of Town Crier is an important one and I ask your consideration and support as I honour an age old tradition for our historic town. I would be happy to "Cry" for the Council should you deem it appropriate. I am including a page of pictures and the cry I presented in competition regarding our town.

Thank you so very much,

Crier Athol Hart

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Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!

One freezing day in June

Santa was feeling out of tune.

Santa said, "I'm getting old,

The North Pole is just too cold!

But when I'm in the southern clime

It's too hot for me all the time."

So the elves brought out the great big map.

Santa searched and gave his knee a slap!

The perfect place did there appear

Where he could spend part of every year,

For half-way between cold and hot

Santa saw a little black dot!

"I think I've found the very best spot!"

So that's how Bracebridge got its fame

For Santa's summer home it became.

He's now been here for 60 years

So give this place your loudest cheers!

God bless Santa!

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!

**It is an important mystery
Which we can solve through history
How Santa, Bracebridge, and Newmarket
Are connected enough for us to remark it.**

**When into history we delve
And books and papers we unshelve
We find that Santa's first home in a parade
Was by the Cane factory in Newmarket made.**

**For many years this log house led,
Sticking out of the chimney was Santa's head,
Following Yonge Street, from Newmarket all the
way down**

**To Eaton's store in Toronto town,
And here in Bracebridge we now find
His summer home of logs, same kind.**

**So Santa's log house of 1910
Is rebuilt in Bracebridge in 1955 again.
Congratulations from Santa's first log home to his
second!**

God Save the Queen!

Main & Pinotly, Newmarket



St. George's, Bermuda



*International Cruisers,
Bermuda*



*Royal Naval Dockyard,
Bermuda*



The Bracebridge Criers



Long-Time Newmarket History Advocate Recognized with Heritage Award

OHS Carnochan Award presented June 20, 2015
Aga Khan Ismaili Centre, North York, Ontario

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For Immediate Release

In 1967, The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) established an awards program to recognize individuals, organizations, corporations and authors who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage.

Dr. Ian Radforth, Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee of the OHS, is pleased to announce that the 2014 Carnochan Award, which recognizes an individual who has contributed many years of service to the heritage community, was awarded to **Athol Hart** of Newmarket.

Athol Hart has been an outstanding champion of historical preservation and heritage within his community of Newmarket and beyond. He has worked with the Chippewas of Mnjikaning First Nation and as a dedicated volunteer for many community organizations.



As a founder 35 years ago of the Alexander Muir Community Association, Hart has led its long campaign to protect Newmarket's Prospect Street residential neighbourhood, one of the town's oldest, by warding off threats of commercial encroachment and the loss of its wetland.

A member and former chair of Heritage Newmarket, Hart helped lead the charge to win the town's approval in 2014 to establish a Downtown Heritage Conservation District. His work as an activist and fundraiser has been instrumental in efforts to preserve heritage buildings such as the former Post Office and the Old Town Hall, and to prepare a heritage inventory available both in print and online.

Hart believes strongly in connecting younger generations to Canadian history. As such, he helps keep history alive through historical re-enactment. Foremost among his achievements is the highly successful production "Rebel Heartland," which brings alive the dramatic confrontation of 1837 in the Newmarket area. Hart has served variously as researcher, script-writer, performer, and promoter of this event, which has become part of Newmarket's branding and tourism initiatives.

Athol expresses his own Aboriginal heritage as "White Eagle" and he has worked to bridge the Aboriginal and archaeological communities in Ontario, particularly in connection with the Mnjikaning Fish Weirs National Historic Site near Orillia.

Athol's work as a volunteer extends into nearly every aspect of community life in Newmarket, having represented Elman W. Campbell House and Doors Open Newmarket; he is also an Elder in Residence at Seneca College.

The award was presented at the annual meeting of The Ontario Historical Society at the Aga Khan Ismaili Centre in North York.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario's history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS's Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

Photo caption: Pictured on June 14, 2014 (centre) is Athol Hart, flanked by OHS directors Robert Leech and Ian Radforth.
Photo Andrea Izzo, OHS

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