

GRAFTON GAZETTE

The Community Newsletter of 5 Ogilvie, Dundas

Special Christmas Issue – # 15 - December 2025



Dear Neighbours,

The season of light and celebration is upon us, inviting reflection and gratitude. We are **reminded how fortunate we are to share this Grafton Square**, not just as a place to live, but as a friendly and caring community, expressed through hallway or elevator conversations, shared smiles, small kindnesses, and festive decorations on our doors. A few examples are displayed above. This is our home.

We are also happy to manage the renewal of our condo newsletter, “Grafton Gazette”, now emerging from a season of rest. Its return is intended as a simple, occasional means for sharing news, introducing us to each other, and enjoying stories, ideas, photos, notices, and snippets of whimsy and wisdom that reflect who we are. **We invite submissions for future editions** - short reflections, announcements, seasonal photos, creative pieces, recipes, or suggestions. This newsletter belongs to all of us, and is enriched by our many voices. Submissions may be sent along to gazettegraffton@gmail.com or by uploading at grafftongazette.ca.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we pray that it may bring an infusion of peace, of joy, of good health, for each one of you, and fresh neighbourly connection, within our homes, and throughout our shared spaces.

With best wishes for 2026.

Wayne (401)

DEADLINE for NEXT ISSUE – MARCH 1

We Welcome our New Residents, **Roger and Moira Taylor, #103**, who moved here from their home on upper Sydenham, having arrived in Canada from Scotland 17 years ago.

They continue to come and go to the UK for visits quite regularly.

Roger tells us he was a paint chemist saving the planet from paint fume pollution.

We hope they find joy in being part of our Grafton community.

A SNIPPET OF GRAFTON HISTORY

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Dundas was a key manufacturing and community center.

John James Grafton became a leading merchant here, and president of Grafton & Company Ltd., one of Canada's earliest and best successful clothing manufacturers and department style retailers. Our building, Grafton Square, sits where the Grafton department store was located.

Colonel Grafton, as he was known, lived in a home, now gone, on Melville St. near Cross.

He also donated land and funds for public landmarks such as the site for the Carnegie Gallery, and the Dundas Driving Park.



Lawnview Mansion (16 Melville Street – until 1961)

THE DUNDAS CHRISTMAS TREE



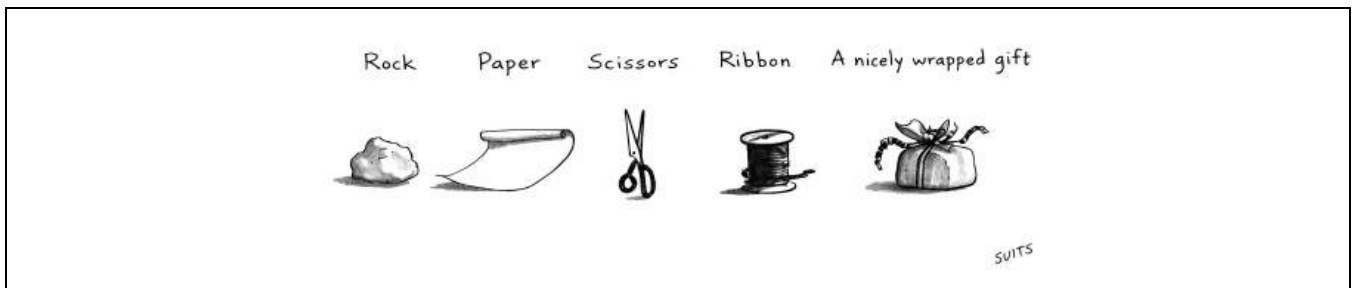
The first public/municipal Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Canada took place in Dundas in 1914.

While there were Christmas trees in homes, churches, schools, and businesses earlier, Dundas's event was notable for being an official town-centred, public civic celebration, bringing the community together around a decorated Christmas tree in the main square, Memorial Square-

The tradition has continued annually for over a century and remains to this day a part of Dundas's holiday celebrations.

The photo to the left is an image of that actual first tree.

A JULIA SUITS CHRISTMAS CARTOON



Visit our new Webpage at graftongazette.ca
and find former issues of the Gazette and more.

You can upload submissions there, or email them to gazettegrafton@gmail.com:
Greetings, Messages, Local history, Community Photos, Acknowledgements,
Recipes, Announcements, Notices, Invitations, Cartoons, Whimsy.

