

July 23rd 2026

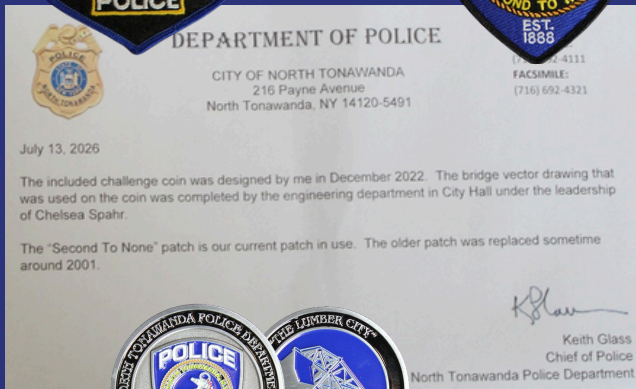
Organized by the office
of Mayor Austin Tylec

ARTIFACT CATALOG

2026 - 2076



This catalog showcases artifacts donated in advance to the City of North Tonawanda's Semiquincentennial Time Capsule. Items contributed during the time capsule ceremony are not included in this catalog but were accepted and preserved as part of the final collection.



North Tonawanda Police Department

Around 2001, the NTPD changed their patch as part of a broader effort to modernize and strengthen the department's identity under Chief Carl W. Stiles. The old patch was described as plain and outdated, so the department created a new design unique to North Tonawanda. In that sense, the change represented a renewed sense of departmental pride and a stronger connection between the police force and the city it served. In 2022 Chief Keith Glass commissioned the City Engineer Chelsea Spahr to design a challenge coin representing the same community connection.

North Tonawanda Common Council

A photograph of the 2026 North Tonawanda Common Council preserves a visual record of the local leaders serving the city during America's 250th anniversary year. As the City's legislative body, the Common Council represents North Tonawanda's residents, adopts local laws, approves the municipal budget and helps guide decisions affecting the community's future.

(Council President and 1st Ward Alderwoman Gabby Richards, 2nd Ward Alderman Willard Schulmeister, 3rd Ward Alderwoman Hilary Roe, Alderman-At-Large Joe Lavey Jr, Alderman-At-Large Tom Murphy, Mayor Austin Tylec, Clerk-Treasurer Donna Braun, City Attorney Ed Zebulske III)



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Office of the Mayor

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A uniform patch and challenge coin donated by the North Tonawanda Fire Department represent the courage, service, and tradition of the city's firefighters. These items honor the department's longstanding role in protecting residents, responding to emergencies, and serving the community in 2026.

150 YEARS

Columbia
Hook & Ladder Co.,
No. 1
We Race To Save

FOUNDED
MAY 7, 1876

COLUMBIA HOOK & LADDER CO., NO. 1, INC.
P.O. Box 357 North Tonawanda, New York 14120-0357

June 2026
May 2026

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY
SATURDAY, JUNE 6th
PARTY TIME 11:00 am - 10:00 pm
PUBLIC INVITED

THINK ANNUARY
COLUMBIA DRIVE

PROBLY SEE BY OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS
The City is closing our Irish road.
The City is providing the Music Stage for our entertainers.

There will be Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages.
Live Music on the Stage - see Ear Two Bands will perform.
Additional Musicians - Instrument and Vocal - will be welcome!
Additional Sound System will be in use.
Lord Games - Source House - Duck Tank
Expect to have a Dog Rescue Service to have live puppies for adoption.

Smile Display
Historic Fire Company Pictures - Firefighter Turnout Gear
Antique and Unique Artifacts

There will be portable outdoor public restrooms on the street...
...that is something different.
Will negotiating for several public service display trailers.

This is a special and one-time event of your Volunteer Fire Company.
Members' Help Needed at all time alone and activity zones.

Bring your spouse or significant other, children or grandchildren,
siblings, other relatives, and helpful friends. There will always be
a task that needs attention.

We realize most Members won't be there for every moment of the
Block Party. There are often family events, paying job work, medical
appointments, that come first. Then, before or after these other
commitments, there likely is 2 - or - 3 - or - 4 hour times when you
can come on down and join your Fellow Members.

Be Proud of Your Fire Company. Let the Public know of the
Importance of our Fire Service. And maybe we can even recruit New
Members to Build Our Future.



Mayor Austin J. Tylec

Mayor Austin Tylec donated soil from the construction of the Payne Aquatic Facility, a water bill, an electric bill, and a collection of State of the City addresses and departmental summaries. Together, these items document a major public investment, the everyday cost of living in 2026, and the priorities, projects, and operations of North Tonawanda's city government when the capsule was sealed.



North Tonawanda City Market

Bags, commemorative coins, a Corn Fest T-shirt, and an America 250 banner donated by the North Tonawanda City Market reflect its importance as both a farmers market and community gathering place. Voted the nation's top farmers market in 2023, the Market has become a popular destination for local food, small businesses, festivals, and family activities, representing the continued vitality of one of North Tonawanda's most valued public spaces.



North Tonawanda Clerk-Treasurer Donna Braun

The 1997 North Tonawanda Centennial Coin was created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of North Tonawanda's incorporation as a city on April 24, 1897.

The coin represents a century of community growth, civic pride and achievement, from the city's rise as the "Lumber City" and a center of industry and manufacturing to the neighborhoods, businesses and institutions that shaped modern North Tonawanda. It provides a tangible connection to the residents who celebrated the city's first 100 years and reflects their desire to honor North Tonawanda's past while looking confidently toward its future.





North Tonawanda Department of Public Works

From maintaining streets, water lines, and trees to plowing snow during harsh Western New York winters, the men and women of Public Works embody civic duty, resilience, and public safety. Including their gear in the time capsule honors the hands-on labor and dedication of the workers whose daily efforts safeguard North Tonawanda's infrastructure, protect its residents, and build the community from the ground up. The Public Works Department serves as the backbone of local infrastructure, and this gift ensures that future generations remember the hands-on labor that built and sustained their hometown.

North Tonawanda City Court

North Tonawanda City Court has served the community since the City's incorporation in 1897, evolving from the former Police Court into part of the New York State Unified Court System. The donated court bag, pin and name tag represent the judges and staff who carry out this important public service for the residents of North Tonawanda.



North Tonawanda Parks and Recreation

A T-shirt and flash drive donated by the North Tonawanda Parks and Recreation Department capture the people, programs, and public spaces that brought the community together in 2026. The photographs document events such as the city's July 4th celebration, construction of the Payne Aquatic Facility, and other recreational activities, preserving a visual record of community life for future generations.

Niagara County Legislature



Governor Kathy Hochul

The Governor’s commemorative coin and accompanying letter represent the strong connection between local and statewide leadership during the America 250 milestone. Governor Kathy Hochul has been a valued partner to North Tonawanda, working with the city to support numerous projects and community initiatives. As New York has played an important role in many defining moments in our nation’s history, these items also reflect the continued partnership between North Tonawanda and New York State in preserving our shared heritage and building for the future.



NYS Assemblyman Bill Conrad

Assemblyman Bill Conrad donated a photograph of himself and Mayor Austin Tylec celebrating the completion of North Tonawanda’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative at the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum. The image represents a major period of investment in the city’s downtown, the preservation of North Tonawanda’s historic character, and the partnership between local and state leaders in shaping the community’s future.



Old Technology

The television remote and hair straightener represent common household technology used in everyday life in 2026. Preserved in this time capsule, they offer future generations a simple but recognizable glimpse into the design, convenience and technology of life in the early twenty-first century.



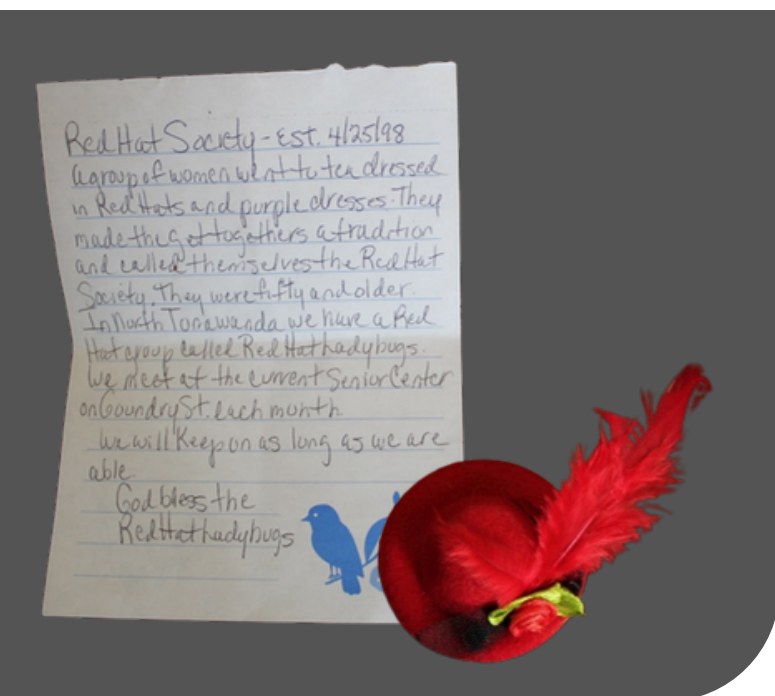
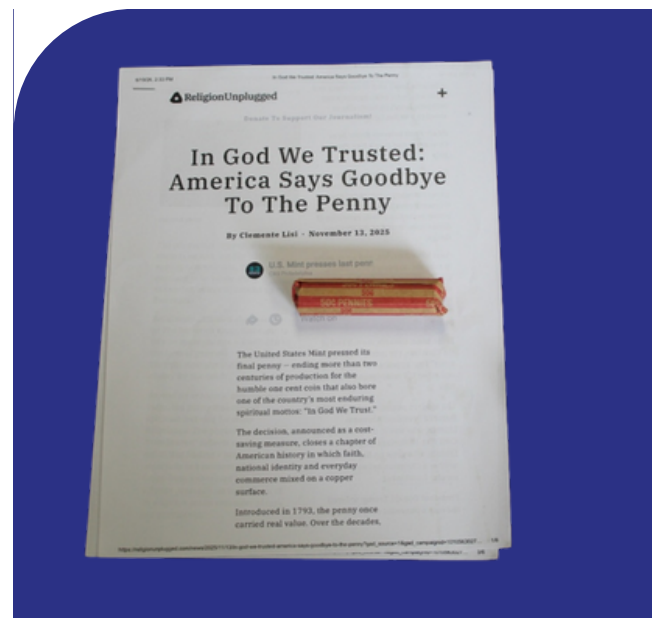
North Tonawanda Graduating Class of 2026

This 2026 high school yearbook, signed by the entire graduating class, captures the faces, experiences and voices of a generation of North Tonawanda students at an important moment in their lives. The photographs, activities, accomplishments and personal messages inside reflect the friendships, traditions and school community that shaped the Class of 2026. This yearbook will give future residents a personal look at what it was like to grow up and graduate in North Tonawanda during America's 250th anniversary year.



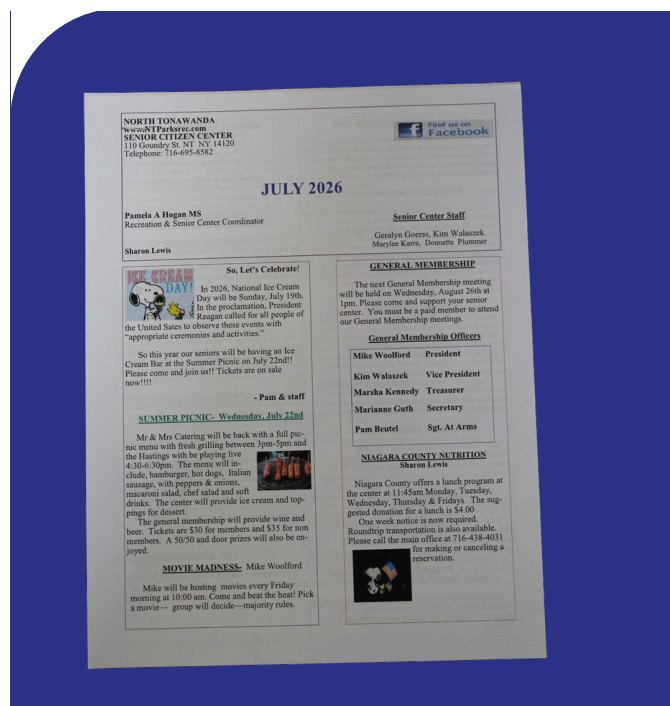
North Tonawanda Senior Center

in late 2025, President Trump announced the retirement of the US penny, the 1 cent coin. A roll of 50 pennies commemorates this end of an era in American everyday life and represents a major national change. The accompanying article provides historical context for the retirement of the penny and the debate surrounding its changing role in American society. The motto "In God We Trust," first placed on U.S. coins during the Civil War and later established as the national motto, reflects the enduring religious and cultural traditions that have influenced American history.



This Red Hat hair clip signifies membership in the North Tonawanda Senior Center's Womens' club, the "Red Hat Lady Bugs" who pay homage to the older "Red Hat Society", a womens' social club in North tonawanda active in the late 1990s

The senior center publishes a monthly newsletter with a calendar and description of the activities they offer. this July article highlights some normal senior activities such as euchre, movie nights, and birthday club.



Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum

Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum Pennant, Sticker, Volunteer Brochure, and Letter. The Herschell Carrousel Factory helped make North Tonawanda an internationally known center of amusement-ride manufacturing. The factory produced thousands of carousels and other rides, creating jobs and building on the city's existing lumber, skilled woodcarving, canal, and railroad industries. Its legacy became so important that North Tonawanda was once known as "The Home of the Carrousel." Today, the preserved factory serves as a reminder of the city's industrial heritage and cultural identity.

North Tonawanda Public Library

North Tonawanda's Public Library has been a pillar of our community since first chartered in 1893. Tracing its roots back to the town's early growth as the "Lumber City," the library has long reflected North Tonawanda's commitment to civic engagement and open access to knowledge. The Library caters to kids and adults alike, and will continue to harbor a place of community, knowledge and growth.



Youth Sports

The North Tonawanda National Little League, North Tonawanda Wrestling Club and North Tonawanda Ladyjacks Softball represent the important role youth sports play in the community. Together, these organizations provide young athletes with opportunities to build confidence, discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship while creating lasting friendships and community pride. Their inclusion in this time capsule recognizes the dedicated coaches, volunteers, families and participants who continue to strengthen North Tonawanda through youth athletics.





Riviera Theatre

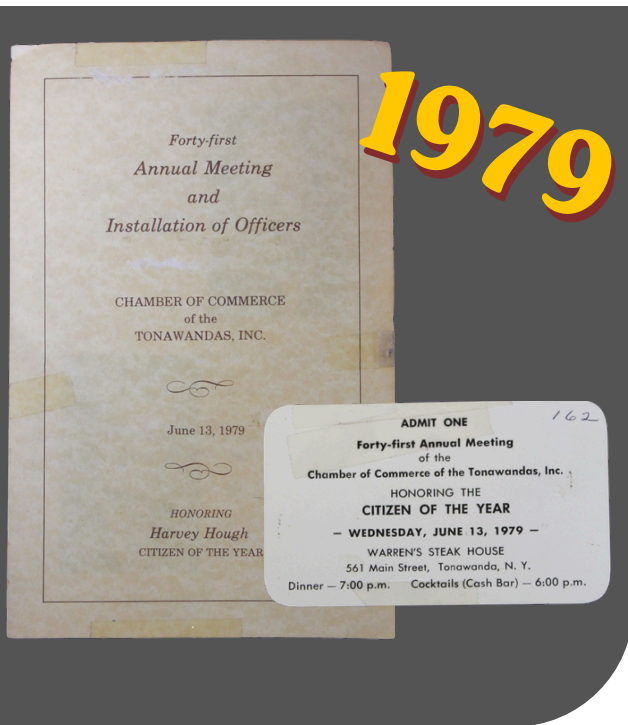
Celebrating its 100th Birthday in December, the Riviera Theatre has been an architectural and cultural gem in North Tonawanda. Opened in 1926, this landmark Italian Renaissance-style movie palace is world-renowned as the "Home of the Mighty Wurlitzer" housing one of the few original Wurlitzer theatre pipe organs built locally right in North Tonawanda by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company. Beyond its architectural beauty and deep musical roots, the Riviera serves as a major economic and social anchor for Webster Street and the downtown canal district. By hosting live concerts, classic films, and community performances year-round, the theater preserves Western New York's historic entertainment legacy while remaining a vibrant gathering place for new generations.

North Tonawanda History Museum

The North Tonawanda History Museum preserves and interprets the city's history, from its lumber and canal industries to its manufacturing, immigrant communities, entertainment, and everyday life. Its archives and exhibits help ensure that local stories and artifacts are not lost.

Howard Roske's *Little Known Stories of North Tonawanda, New York* adds a more personal and detailed perspective to that history. The book helps reveal the everyday experiences and overlooked stories that traditional histories may leave out. North Tonawanda's history is not only about major industries and famous landmarks, but also about the people and smaller stories that shaped the community.





Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas

The Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas represents the businesses, industries and community organizations that contribute to the economic strength and character of North Tonawanda and the greater Tonawandas. By connecting local businesses, encouraging investment, promoting tourism and supporting community events, the Chamber helps preserve the area's strong tradition of commerce while preparing it for future growth. The chamber highlights the important role local businesses and civic partnerships play in creating jobs, strengthening neighborhoods and sustaining a vibrant community for future generations.

2026 Visitor Guide

CHAMBER of
COMMERCE of the TONAWANDAS
Your Bridge to Success.

250
America

Let the Chamber of today meet your needs of tomorrow. We understand your business has changed over the years, and so have we. The Chamber hosts regular networking events for our members where you can interact and get the word out on your business and any updates. We are always prepared to hear what is new in your business and how we can help you. Join today! We look forward to meeting you and working with you to make your tomorrow better than today!

2026 Membership Rates
Sole Proprietor - \$175/yr
2-10 Employees - \$225/yr
11-49 Employees - \$275/yr
50+ Employees - \$300/yr
Non-profit & Government - \$150/yr
Individual (Civic members) - \$95/yr
Student Membership - \$75

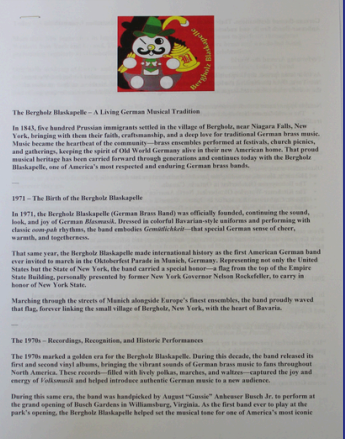
Scan the QR Code
to view the
**2026
Visitor Guide**
www.the-tonawandas.com
250 America

Bergholz German Band (Blaskapelle)

The Bergholz Blaskapelle was born from the strong German heritage that has helped shape North Tonawanda and the surrounding Niagara County community. Formed in 1971, the band preserves the traditional brass music brought to the Bergholz area by Prussian immigrants who first settled there in 1843. Through its music, colorful uniforms and performances at festivals and community celebrations, the Blaskapelle has passed this cultural tradition from one generation to the next. Preserving the diverse traditions that remain part of life in North Tonawanda and Western New York.



BERGHOLZ GERMAN BAND SCHEDULE 2026					
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TIME	LOCATION	TIME
7/31/2026	7:30 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	7:30 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	7:30 PM
8/28/2026	5:30 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	5:30 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	5:30 PM
9/12/2026	6P - 9P	ST. JOSEPH'S	6P - 9P	ST. JOSEPH'S	6P - 9P
9/13/2026	9:00 AM	ST. JOSEPH'S	9:00 AM	ST. JOSEPH'S	9:00 AM
9/26/2026	5:00 - 8:00	ST. JOSEPH'S	5:00 - 8:00	ST. JOSEPH'S	5:00 - 8:00
10/3/2026	5:00	ST. JOSEPH'S	5:00	ST. JOSEPH'S	5:00
10/4/2026	4:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	4:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	4:00 PM
10/6/2026	6P - 10P	ST. JOSEPH'S	6P - 10P	ST. JOSEPH'S	6P - 10P
10/7/2026	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM
10/8/2026	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM
10/9/2026	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM
10/12/2026	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM
10/17/2026	6:00 - 8:00	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 - 8:00	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 - 8:00
10/24/2026	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM	ST. JOSEPH'S	6:00 PM



Platter's Chocolate Factory

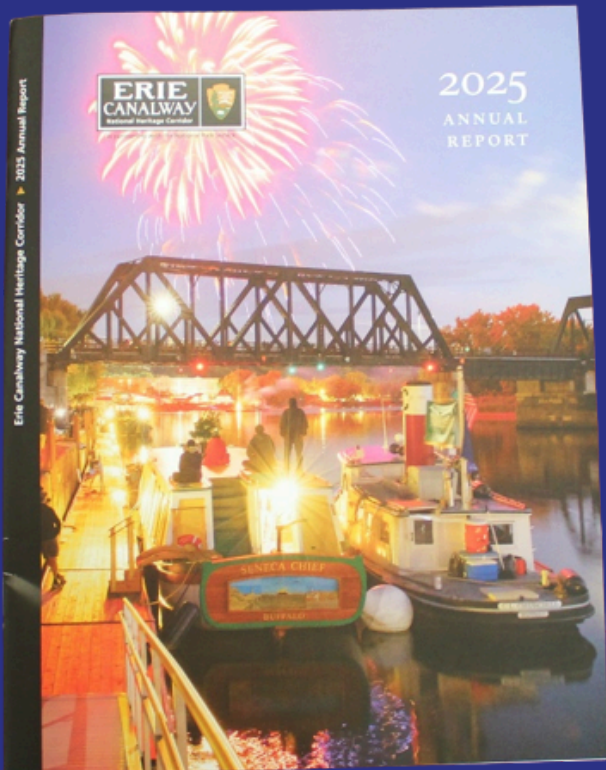
Established in 1938 in the basement of a home on Felton Street, Platter's Chocolate Factory grew from a neighborhood candy-making operation into a well-known Western New York destination, celebrated especially for its orange chocolate and sponge candy. Its present home in the historic Wurlitzer building connects two important chapters of North Tonawanda's history: the city's industrial heritage and the continued growth of locally owned businesses. Platter's story demonstrates how craftsmanship, innovation and generations of community support can transform a small hometown business into a lasting North Tonawanda tradition.



Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, preserves and shares the history of the canal and the communities that developed along its shores. Its work is especially significant to North Tonawanda, where the Erie Canal transformed Tonawanda Creek into a major transportation route, fueling the lumber, shipping and manufacturing industries that shaped the city's "Lumber City" identity.

Today, the canal remains a defining part of North Tonawanda, connecting the Twin Cities at Gateway Harbor while supporting recreation, tourism, and economic revitalization. The Corridor's 2025 Annual Report preserves a record of how this national and local partnership continued to protect the canal's history while helping communities like North Tonawanda carry its legacy forward for future generations.



Campaign materials donated by 1st Ward Alderwoman and Common Council President Gabby Richards, a local small-business owner, preserve a snapshot of North Tonawanda's political and civic life in 2026. They reflect local campaign methods, community priorities, women's leadership, and the connection between public service and small-business involvement.



Since 2015 Oliver Streets Merchants Association has fostered revitalization of the historic Oliver Street commercial corridor. By bringing together small business owners, residents, and civic partners, Oliver Streets Merchants transforms a major arterial street into a vibrant, welcoming destination. With the collaboration of professionals, business owners, and volunteers, OSM has put on many community events including Oliver Street Pride Fest and community cleanup efforts. Notable businesses include: Council President Richard's Vegan grocery store; Klimek's Tavern, opened over 50 years ago by former Alderman Raymond Klimek, the namesake of Klimek's Veterans Park.

WNY Drummers for Homeless People

A T-shirt, sticker, and brochure from WNY Drummers for Homeless People, founded by Will and Debbie Schulmeister in 2018, represent how Western New York's music community used its talent and public support to give back. The nonprofit collects money and essential supplies for people experiencing homelessness while funding scholarships to carry its mission into future generations.



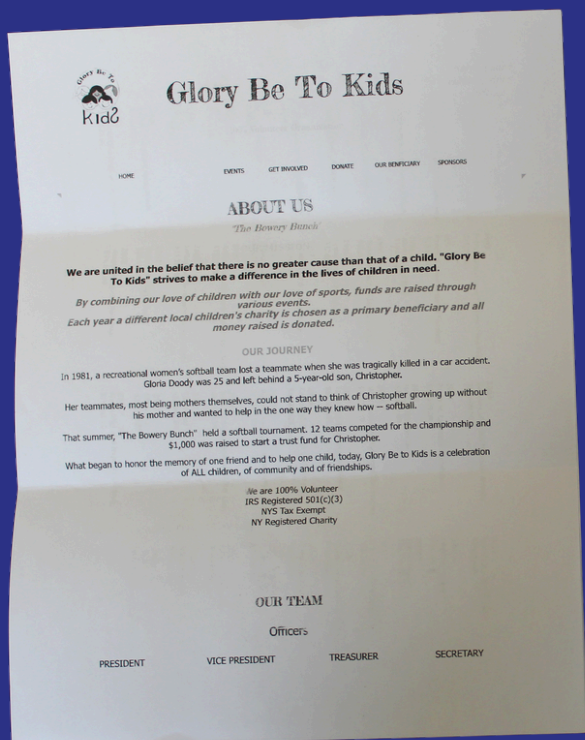
National Anniversary Memorabilia

Donated by Alderman Willard Schulmeister, a 1976 Bicentennial flag, an America 250 quarter, and a 2026 penny connect the nation's Bicentennial with its Semiquincentennial. Together, they preserve examples of the patriotic symbols and currency used to commemorate America's 200th and 250th anniversaries.

Tim Serwinowski, Hometown Hero

A memorial card, sticker, and rubber bracelet honoring Tim Serwinowski were donated by his mother. These items represent the North Tonawanda residents who answered the call to military service and remember those, like Tim, who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their inclusion preserves both a personal family tribute and the community's lasting gratitude to its fallen service members.





Glory be to Kids

Glory Be to Kids represents the generosity and community spirit of North Tonawanda and Western New York. Operated entirely by volunteers, the nonprofit raises funds and brings people together to support organizations and programs that improve the lives of local children and families. Through charitable events and partnerships with community beneficiaries, its members turn local participation into meaningful assistance for young people facing difficult circumstances.



Boy Scouts

Boy Scout Troops 184 and 582 of North Tonawanda represent a longstanding tradition of youth leadership, service and community involvement. Through outdoor activities, civic projects, skill-building and volunteerism, these troops help young people develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork and respect for others. Although both troops are no longer active, their members and volunteers made a lasting impact through civic projects, outdoor activities and generations of young people who developed confidence, responsibility and teamwork through Scouting. Troop 184 honored its final Eagle Scout in June 2026, marking the close of a proud local tradition. Their inclusion in this time capsule preserves the legacy of the Scouts, leaders and families who served North Tonawanda through these two troops.

Bills Mafia

The Fisher-Price “Go Bills!” Little People set, Buffalo Bills rubber duck and lanyard represent the deep connection between the team and its passionate “Bills Mafia” fanbase in North Tonawanda. From 2019 through 2025, the Bills reached the playoffs for seven consecutive seasons, creating a memorable era of renewed success, excitement and community pride across Western New York. These everyday collectibles show how support for the Bills extended far beyond game day and became part of local homes, businesses, traditions and family life. Preserved together, they reflect the loyalty, resilience and shared identity that united North Tonawanda residents as they cheered on their local team.

