

An Afternoon of Dickens coming to Alton Mill

Actor and Town Crier Andrew Welch presents a dramatic reading of Dickens' A Christmas Carol Dec. 18.

It will be at Alton Mill, starting at 1:30 p.m. His celebrated performance of this timeless classic is 90 minutes of suspense, Christmas magic, extraordinary characters and captivating energy.

Welch has an extensive performance resume, spanning 30 years of TV, radio, film and stage appearances. He specializes in readings and voice work, and has performed this Christmas favorite for audiences across Ontario, as well as special appearances in the U.S. The characters come alive and the story is wonderfully captivating for young and old listeners.

He says his approach to the piece is true to the roots of the original ? in fact, Dickens himself toured readings of his work for many years after it was first published.

?It is first and foremost a ghost story,? Welch said, ?and the Victorians were masters at that genre. Remember, these were the times of Edgar Allen Poe and Bram Stoker. It is important to capture that edge to contrast it with the wonder that is the magic of Christmas itself.?

Welch is best known as the Official Town Crier for both Caledon and Erin, and also locally for his hugely successful Earth Day Payback project ? a dramatic reading from Margaret Atwood's book Payback, which he created in 2009. He has performed this adaptation of the Christmas Carol for Earth Day in different venues around Ontario with such acclaimed actors as James B. Douglas, Janet Laine-Green and David Nairn, along with CBC personalities Paul Kennedy and Dave Seglins.

Get tickets now. They are available in advance online and at Gallery Gemma (in the Alton Mill) or at the door the afternoon of the performance. They are \$15 for adults and seniors, or \$11 in advance, and \$10 for youth (\$7 in advance).



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