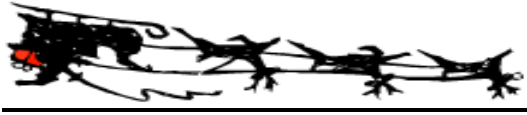




# The Edge

Monthly Newsletter

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## The Origins of Santa Claus

The story of Santa Claus has long captured our imaginations, from the earliest days of our childhood when we first heard the wondrous tale of a man in a red suit who would fly to our homes in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer and bestow upon us the gifts that we had longed for all year. But who is Santa Claus? And where did he come from?

History tells us that the legend of Santa Claus originated from a real man, a saint who gave selflessly to the poor and watched benignly over our children. His name was Saint Nicholas and he was born in a tiny little village called Patara in Ancient Greece. Nicholas was born during the third century and was raised a devout Christian. He later became a Bishop who was revered for his generosity of spirit and his dedication to improving the lives of those around him. There are many stories of his life and deeds, which help us to understand why he is so beloved and revered throughout the land. My favorite of these stories hints at the origin of one of our many Christmas traditions. This story tells of a very poor man and his three unmarried daughters. During this time it was necessary for a father to supply a dowry (money or property) for each of his daughters in order to negotiate marriage with a suitable partner. Unfortunately, this man was too poor to offer even the smallest dowry and without one the girls were destined to be sold into slavery. The story tells of how, on three separate occasions, a bag of gold was tossed down the chimney by Saint Nick. Each one of the bags happened to land in a stocking that had been hung by the fire to dry, thereby saving the poor man's daughters from their hideous fate. This may be the origin of our Christmas stocking, which we stuff with gifts every year in honor of the 'Gift Giver'.

Saint Nicholas did not become Santa Claus until the early 1800s when one Clement C. Moore published a poem that he had written for his children. In this poem he depicted Saint Nicholas as a jolly old man dressed in fur, driving a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer and 'smoking the stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth.' A wonderful man with a large round belly that 'shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly,' Saint Nick would bound down chimneys and bestow gifts upon the sleeping inhabitants. In later years one Thomas Nast, a well-known and respected painter, found the inspiration for his painting of Santa Claus from Moore's poem, an image upon which our present day version of Santa is based.

## Greetings From The Edge!

Our equipment and infrastructure are selected and installed to work in extremely challenging geographical and physical locations, which include The Whatshan, The Barnes, The Inonoaklin, and The Columbia River Valleys, as well as the Whatshan Lake System and Arrow Lake. In addition to this we have two mountain ranges, The Monashee and The Valkyr Range. Our society has met the challenges and our clients are pleased. What else is important to an isolated rural community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century beyond a reliable Communication System to the Internet?

We have been very fortunate to have [www.intheairnetworks.com](http://www.intheairnetworks.com) as our wireless data infrastructure design consultant and [www.okanagannet.net](http://www.okanagannet.net) as our Internet Service Provider to support us along on this journey of two years.

Our organization is recognized as a Community Champion. There are many aspects to entrepreneurship on the Internet. These come in four main areas: E-business, e-learning, e-health, e-content. Our community has Internet users in all of these areas, with the potential for leadership in each also. Already, we have seen an outstanding response to e-business in the volume of businesses wishing to create web pages with a corresponding success in business from the 74 radios in our Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband Network.

A very special thank you to all the residents and businesses that have supported us in the last two years on the high speed highway. It has been wonderful to have the resources of so many gifted, skilled and professional individuals on this journey.

Wishing you all the best in the New Year.

Staff and Directors  
Edgewood Community Internet Society  
Registered Charity

## Happy Holidays!!



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