

December 2024

St-Catharines Photographic Club
TRIPOD TOPICS

Festival of Lights

Of all the festivals out there, three come to my mind for this time of year. All of them have 'lights' of some sort or another coupled with various types of music too.

Winter Solstice – Indigenous Peoples

marks the exact moment when half of Earth is tilted the farthest away from the sun. It usually happens on December 21 or 22, at the exact same second around the world. Symbolically, this day also represents the triumph of light over darkness, signalling the gradual return of longer days and the promise of renewed life.



Christmas – Christians celebrating the birth of Jesus.



Hanukkah, or Chanukah in Hebrew - the Jewish festival of light.

The word Hanukkah means 'dedication' and celebrates one of the greatest miracles in Jewish history.



This year, Hanukkah actually falls (or starts) on the same day as Christmas Day. Usually it is much earlier in the month. The solstice – Dec 21st, Christmas – Dec 25th, Hanukkah – beginning Dec 25th (this year) are great reasons to be awed by light. Whether it's the night sky, the stars and moon, candles, or man-made lights of all different colours, let's make a point to learn something new about how others celebrate.

Some places one can see light displays in our area:

<https://wfol.com/lighting-displays/dufferin-islands/>
and along the walk around the actual Niagara Falls

City Hall



Downtown



Port Dalhousie



Orlando Ave

Also a must see for anybody driving through. The whole neighbourhood is involved here. Be prepared to spend some time either driving or walking.

1791 York Rd – Niagara on the Lake



All this and much, much more is on display on somebody's private property. What a sight to see every time I see it. Amazingly done!

In short, I just want to wish everyone a wonderful Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and all the best in health, happiness and good friends. Cheers!

Be the light (*change*) you want to see in the world – *Mahatma GHANDI*
By *Petra BUČEK*