

# GREG KLYMA'S NON-BUFFALONIAN'S GUIDE TO rust belt vagabond

## LAKE EFFECT SNOW:

Every 2 to 5 years, a baffling amount of snow descends on Buffalo, NY and, as if it's news, the national media get the word out. As of August 2008, the largest snowfall in the history of the city took place in 2001 when 82.3 inches of snow fell in a period of one week (from Monday December 24th, 2001 to Friday December 28th, 2001). The kind of snow that Buffalo gets is called Lake Effect. You can learn a little more about it by listening to verse two of "Two Degrees in Buffalo" or by visiting this link: <http://www.weather.com/encyclopedia/winter/lake.html>

## COLLEGES:

Need an education? Think about Buffalo. Off the top of my head: State University of New York at Buffalo (UB), Canisius College, State University of New York College at Buffalo (Buff State), Erie County Community College, D'Youville College, Medaille, Bryant and Stratton, Villa Maria College, Hilbert College etc. et. al.

## BROADWAY MARKET:

Found at 999 Broadway, the Broadway Market was established in the late 1800s on Buffalo's East Side. Founded as a place for immigrants to preserve heritage in their new home, the Market has gone through many changes over the years, but remains the place to get fresh foods from family-owned shops in an old-world shopping atmosphere. <http://www.broadwaymarket.com/>

## "DZIEN DOBRY PANI MATKA":

There doesn't seem to be an ethnicity that isn't represented in Buffalo. After arriving at Ellis Island, Buffalo, NY was the city that many ethnic groups ended up in when originally arriving from Europe at the end of the 1800s. The Rust Belt Vagabond has a Polish heritage. This phrase is Polish for "Good day, mother."

## BEEF ON WECK... SAHLEN'S HOT DOGS...

There's more to Buffalo cuisine than chicken wings. Remember: there doesn't seem to be an ethnicity that isn't represented in Buffalo. The food and variety of it are amazing. Visit the city in July for the Taste of Buffalo and see for yourself.

## ELMWOOD STRIP...ALBRIGHT-KNOX...

Elmwood Avenue starts (or ends?) north of Buffalo in Tonawanda and travels south clear through the city ending behind the glorious art deco structure of City Hall near the terminus of the Erie Canal and the port of Buffalo's Inner Harbor. The "Elmwood Strip" that I'm referring to is that section of the street that runs from Forest Avenue down to around West Utica. There's a myriad of shops, restaurants and so on. You can satisfy your appetite and pick up something more interesting than the fair your apt to find at the mall: <http://www.foreverelmwood.org/>

Albright-Knox is a world-class art gallery located just north of the Strip at 1285 Elmwood. Thomas Hoving, art historian and former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, said that "the Albright-Knox Art Gallery should be on everyone's list to see, for it's an overwhelming art experience. Small, intimate, and seductive, the museum has one of the most thumping modern and contemporary collections in the world."

<http://www.albrightknox.org/>

## FATHER BAKER:

Hey, I wrote him a song! Nelson Henry Baker was born in Buffalo in 1842, fought at Gettysburg in the Civil War and is recognized by the Vatican as a Servant of God (one of the five steps to Sainthood). Over the course of his 90-plus years on Earth, the man was the embodiment of kindness. Learn more about him from Track 8 on Rust Belt Vagabond and by visiting this website: [http://www.ourladyofvictory.org/FatherBaker/bakerstory\\_noflash.htm](http://www.ourladyofvictory.org/FatherBaker/bakerstory_noflash.htm)

## "Of the inventions, exhibitions, contributions to a nation growing strong A STOP ALONG THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD"

Honestly, I am not a Buffalo, NY historian, but I keep learning very interesting things about the city I was born in. Like, that Willis Havilland Carrier invented the air conditioner while working at the Buffalo Forge Company to solve an application problem for the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing and Publishing Company in Brooklyn, NY. Like, John R. Oishei and John W. Jepson – founders of the Tri-Continental Corporation, known today as Trico – inventing and patenting a hand-operated squeegee for cleaning automobile windshields marketed as the Rain Rubber. Like, the engineering marvels that began generating hydroelectric power from Niagara Falls in the 1880s.

My good friend Roy informs that the modern Grain Elevator was perfected here on the shores of Lake Erie and Edison himself helped to light the Pan-American exposition of 1901, thus giving Buffalo it's early 20th Century nickname, "The City of Light." H.H. Richardson's Post Office (which he used as a model for the one he later built in Washington D.C.) which is now the E.C.C. City Campus and his stunning twin tower Buffalo Psychiatric Center dominate the skyline in their respective neighborhoods. Also, the Kleinhans Music hall, designed by Eliel Saarinen, in collaboration with his son Eero and opened in 1939 still serves as an example of one of the finest acoustically tuned buildings in the world. Let us not forget Frank Lloyd Wright and his Darwin Martin House and Greycliff on the lake just South of the City.

Buffalo has a long, wondrous, progressive past and a future for the taking.

## PRESIDENTS:

Grover Cleveland was the mayor... Millard Fillmore founded the University of Buffalo... William McKinley was killed during the Pan-American Exposition... Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as president on Delaware Avenue... it's not all pretty, but these presidents all have significant connections to the City of Light.

## NICKNAMES:

Nickel City, Queen City, City of Good Neighbors, City of Light, City of no Illusions...  
city of nicknames

## OLMSTED PARK SYSTEM:

From the home page of Buffalo Olmsted Parks -- <http://www.buffaloolmstedparks.org>

Frederick Law Olmsted believed parks were places where city dwellers could enjoy scenery designed to "refresh and delight the eye, and through the eye, the mind and spirit."

This philosophy inspired Buffalo's park and parkway system—a wealth of cultural gems that sparkle in virtually every neighborhood. In Buffalo, Olmsted created the first of its kind—an interconnected park system that is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## COURIER-EXPRESS:

In 1926, William James Conners, owner of the Buffalo Courier, merged his paper with the Buffalo Express. Many years before that, Samuel Langhorne Clemens had been a part-owner and editor of the Buffalo Express.

## OLD PINK:

In the heart of Allentown – Buffalo's equivalent of the East Village – there is a bar at 223 Allen Street and, the last I heard, it's actually the Allen Street Bar and Grill. At one point it was a 2-lane bowling alley. At some point it was the Pink Flamingo. The original owner of the bar left the business to open the New Pink Flamingo on Main Street in the early 1990's and took the name with him, thus leaving the building's owner and now bar operator, The Brinkworth family, with a nameless bar that everyone in the universe calls the Old Pink. Check out a classic country Sunday some time. If I'm in town, I'll meet ya there for a drink.

-- compiled by Greg Klyma  
-- contributed to by Roy Bakos

For more information on Buffalo, visit these websites:

<http://www.buffalonian.com/index.html>  
<http://www.ci.buffalo.ny.us/Home>  
<http://www.niagara.edu/library/buffhist/erieI.html>  
<http://www.niagara.edu/library/buffhist/eriehome.html>

