



Front & Centre

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Meet Charlie Williams

Charlie Williams retired from City work in 2013, but patrons of the Bath Trolley would never know it.

Charlie, a Phippsburg native who moved to Bath and never left, was hired by the Public Works Department in 1983. By the time the first City trolley was purchased in 1998, Charlie was working four ten-hour days and wondering what to do with the other three days.



"I like to get out and do something," he said. "I don't like to sit around. When they opened a part-time driver position, I decided to take it."

That's the same mentality that has kept Charlie driving the trolley. Not only does he drive the trolley on Fridays and Saturdays during the summer months but also for chartered events like weddings, and, in December, for caroling.

Riders on the trolley who want to learn a little more about Bath are welcome to ask Charlie for an impromptu history lesson – he's happy to answer questions and share his knowledge of the City of Ships. Did you know, for instance, that the original trolley was named "Emma" after Emma Eames, Bath's famous opera singer? And that the trolley in operation today, named "Charlie," is not named after Charlie Williams but after Bath forefather Charlie Burgess?

"People ask if I get bored driving the trolley but I don't. I like talking to people – in the summer I roll down the window and talk to people on the streets."

When Charlie underwent an operation in 2017, local children painted trolleys on stones for him as a get well present. Charlie remembers their gifts with a smile.

"Bath is just friendly people. I like being one of the greeters. That's what I do. I greet people every day."

The Bath Trolley is municipally funded, and does not receive or use federal or state funds. This year's trolley caroling was made possible in thanks to the generous sponsorship of several local businesses: [Mario's Pizza](#), [JR Maxwell's](#), [Southgate Restaurant](#), [Byrnes Irish Pub](#), [Wilson's Drug Store](#), [The Galley Restaurant](#). To learn more about the Bath Trolley, [click here](#).

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