

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

In this troubled period of our history when humans face a multitude of challenges, Peter Harris of Waterville finds hope for us in the double-play he witnessed at a baseball game.

### Will We Survive?

*by Peter Harris*

Maybe if we all become that second baseman  
who sprinted right, dove, snagged the grounder,  
thudded to a stop, too late to get up and change  
hands, too late to do anything but what he could  
not do, had never tried, could not have done if he had tried:  
shovel the gloved ball backhanded over his back,  
without looking, to the shortstop. No,  
not to the shortstop, but to where the shortstop  
would be when he flew across the bag,  
barehanded the ball, toed the bag, swiveled,  
elevated above the spikes-up, take-out slide,  
high enough to make the throw  
to first for the double play. Game over.  
The not-doable, done. No sound at all inside  
the redundant thunder of applause.

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