

THE REPORTER

VOL.15 NO. 2

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

SUMMER 2020

Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary People.

No one saw this coming. With shocking speed, the world's cultures, economies, and social systems have been either shut down or severely restricted by an invisible enemy, the COVID-19 virus. Millions of people are at risk and health care systems are being inundated worldwide with an unprecedented flood of patients.

It's during these times of crisis that people exhibit both the best and the worst of human nature. We have all watched or read about the rancorous political and medical conflicts, the pointing of fingers, the unscrupulous profiteering of PPE equipment and essential commodities, as well as other controver-

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Tell Us Your Story: The Crabtree Family



In 1992, Dorothy Crabtree (above) received the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada for her efforts to keep the carousel in Port Dalhousie.

One of my earliest memories is of my mother lifting me up to see my father, Floyd, playing in the orchestra on the bandstand of the Lakeside Park dance pavilion in Port Dalhousie. I was three. That was the beginning of a string of events that have me and my family going back-and-forth from St. Catharines to Port for more than 80 years.

Dad played sax and clarinet with Bruce Anthony's orchestra and other big bands from 1938 until 1945. You'd be surprised how much money he made playing in the orchestra. How about \$1.50 for five hours? The man must've really loved what he was doing but, in fact, he really loved his family and wanted to provide a home for them. Every cent he made playing in the orchestra went toward the building of a new home for my mother Dorothy, my brother, Ron, myself and my sister, Kathie. No, our home wasn't in Port Dalhousie, it was straight up Ontario Street just past the railway tracks that went behind General Motors, McKinnon's then. Dad worked there and could walk to work. Playing in the orchestra was to make the down payment for that house come a little faster.

My mother was an antiques dealer and an artist. Most of you probably know her as the lady who saved the merry-go-round or carousel, but before that she was in Port Dalhousie drawing the old fisherman's shanty, the lock master's cabin, and the old storefronts. When she found out the carousel was going to be put up for auction because Sid Brookson was closing up the midway at Lakeside Park, Mom realized how much it would mean to the present and future generations to keep it in Port. She set about raising \$25,000, the purchase price at the time. I remember the model that she and artist friend Alice Crawley made of it, using swirled soda straws for the poles that held the beautifully drawn and coloured carousel animals

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The COVID-19 Pandemic Forces Us to Consider What's Most Important in Life.

Every crisis is unique. From extreme weather events to civil war to disease outbreaks, each poses its own, often existential, threats.

One thing crises have in common, though, is that they force us to determine what is most important in life. They force us to adapt in real time, to assess how we are living and to determine how things might need to change.

It's often difficult to remember that in times of chaos, we are naturally more resilient and socially cohesive than we might expect. I was head of Doctors Without Borders/MSF Canada during the Ebola crisis in West Africa. There was no cure and fear was spreading around the world. I learned that life carries on — people find ways to feed their families, care for neighbours and the less fortunate, and join together in the face of imminent danger. Most amazingly, I witnessed how West Africans maintained these cohesive self-help connections after the crisis had passed, for the betterment of all.

As the spread of COVID-19 brings loss, fear and uncertainty, we take comfort and solace in the most basic elements of life: food, nature and human connection.

*Even during
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Just a few weeks ago, we were experiencing a society based largely on individualistic actions and systems. The primary goal for many was to care for oneself and one's family, with less concern for others.

Today, from those delivering essential services for the common good — keeping everything from grocery stores to public transit running — to our life-saving health-care workers, we see daily acts of courage and love for something greater than oneself. We see acts of altruistic communal service that remind us what life can be like in a world where we take care of one another first.

Even during the toughest times, we see that connecting with nature is an essential part of the human experience.

People are also finding creative ways to reconnect with

sies. But we choose not to repeat those scandalous scenerios here.

Instead, we should align ourselves with the good in human nature, specifically the millions of people who through their compassion and acts of selflessness shine through the darkness like beacons of hope and care. First and foremost are the medical and social frontline workers who have sacrificed their lives and the safety of their own families for the benefit of us all. But let's not forget the many other essential workers, those in food and goods supply, public service and safety, transport, and utilities and communications. They all should be applauded for their commitment to everyone's safety and well-being.

This altruism filters down to the community level. Here in Port many of these workers are our friends and neighbours and we should be grateful to them all. Many residents have erected public signs and displays to offer thanks and show their support, others have generously donated money, food, services and PPE equipment to those individuals and agencies in need. It surely renews one's battered faith in humanity when it reveals a great capacity for goodness in troubled times. Ultimately, it's all

about people helping people.

While it's good to pursue the positive, we shouldn't wear rose-coloured glasses when it comes to the negative effects that COVID-19 has caused. As mentioned, the global pandemic has ruptured and devastated many people's lives and livelihoods throughout the world. Locally, the businesses of Port have not escaped the negative effects of enforced lockdowns and closures. These are dire times for our neighbours' businesses and now more than ever they need our support. So please contribute to their well-being by buying locally. Once the pandemic eases off and things return to a semblance of "normal", we hope we don't see closed businesses and boarded up storefronts in Port Dalhousie. We've been there, done that.

The production of this issue of the Port Reporter was a bit of a roller-coaster ride, but with the help of our diehard volunteers we managed to pull it off. A very special thank you goes out to our advertisers, who through uncertain times have continued to support us. Enjoy the read, and please stay safe, healthy, and happy this summer! ■

- Peter Wing

nature. It's amazing what a short walk outside can do for body and soul — to lift the weight of daily angst-filled newscasts. And it's heartening to see so many planting seeds of new life in hope-filled balcony flower pots and kitchen herb gardens. Even during the toughest times, we see that connecting with nature is an essential part of the human experience.

As is re-prioritizing human connection. Video dance parties, "quarantinis" with long-lost friends and FaceTime chats with family are all the rage. We do it under the guise of making sure everyone is safe, but maybe there's something about this deliberate, purposeful way of connecting that we can bring into a post-COVID world.

As we wade through this crisis and eventually emerge on the other side, I hope we find ways to reimagine our world — a world where the interdependence of all living things is central and celebrated. A world where we continue to revere not only the supermarket worker but the farmer and migrant worker. A world where we pay a fair price, and workers are paid a fair wage.

Imagine a world where we are more connected to everything that keeps us alive, from food and shelter to the natural systems that give us air, water and soil.

Imagine a world where we are more connected to everything that keeps us alive, from food and shelter to the nat-

ural systems that give us air, water and soil. Building on our balcony gardens, we can take community "rewilding" to the next level and begin to see nature as the solution, not the problem.

The worst of COVID-19 may still be to come. But it's not too early to see how this pandemic can help us determine what's most important. If we intend to "recover better," it will be essential to identify what we want to hold on to, then plant and tend to it in the new world we create together.

As we have seen with yellow fever, Ebola and now COVID-19, if we continue to dismantle and encroach on the last remaining areas of wilderness, we may not only accelerate the mass extinction crisis, but we may also help engender further zoonotic diseases that put the entire planetary balance in disarray.

In this time of emergency, we must rise up, come together and support those most affected. As we recover from this pandemic, we must seize opportunities to become more localized, densified and green. It will help us persevere and better respond in future times of crisis.

Our global interdependence and humanity must overcome. It is, after all, our greatest strength. ■

- David Cornish

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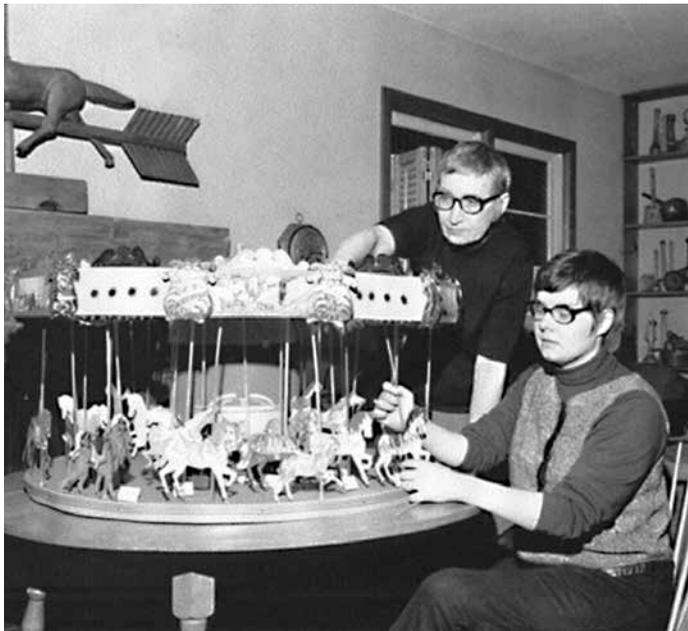
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Alice Crawley and Linda Crabtree working on the carousel model.

in place. It was that model that she took to schools, meetings and everywhere she could think of, to raise the needed funds. When she'd done everything she possibly could, including a walkathon, she was still \$5000. short. Sid Brookson kindly agreed to lower the price to \$20,000 and Brookson and my mother presented the carousel to the City of St. Catharines in 1970 with the understanding that the admission price for a ride would remain at five cents. It has. The walkathon

finished the walkathon, he was in pain, but no one knew why. He and my mother had bought me a house at 36 Canal overlooking the Henley Regatta course in the fall of 1971. On New Year's Day 1972 Dad died in his sleep of a massive heart attack likely brought on by angina. Mom was a widow at 59 and she took out her grief renovating that old house. I lived there for 10 years.

In memory of my father, Mom donated a big, beautiful bell for the tower of the Port Dalhousie Library. The bell is still there.

It was also during that time that Mom's friends, Lillian and Blake Harley, renovated the Murphy building. Mom sold antiques upstairs in Murphy's for years. And, during that time the idea of forming a craft guild presented itself as a result of one of the interviews I did for my art page in The Standard. Thanks to many dedicated, talented people, The St. Catharines Craft Guild was a mainstay in Port from 1976,

in the Murphy Building to closing in 2008, then in the former post office on Lock Street. All those years, the Guild proudly brought fine handcrafted work by local artisans to those who lived in and visited Port.

In 1978 Mom called me at The Standard and asked if she could meet me at the house after work. She had something she wanted to show me. That something was a house on the lake side at 34 Bayview in dire need of an extensive renovation. Her idea was that we would sell the house on Canal and renovate the house on Bayview. She would live in the two-storey side and I'd be in the ground level add-on. We sold Canal and bought Bayview and a year and \$50,000 later, we had a beautiful



Dorothy Crabtree's sketch of the fishermen's shack, once on the Michigan side of Port.

home with skylights and a stunning living room, formerly a summer cottage, rolled over from the property of our next-door neighbour. It was in that house that I started a charity, CMT International, for people all over the world who have the same neuromuscular disease that I do. My husband, Ron Book, and I ran that charity for 18 years.

During the blazing hot summer of 1988, Ron and I found that it was almost unbearable trying to work in a house without air-conditioning. We put the old house on Bayview up for sale and within two weeks it was sold with a six-month closing date. We had to find someplace else to live ...fast. Once again, we didn't go far, just up Martindale Road to behind Ridley College, where we found the perfect lot. I designed and had built a totally air-conditioned home that is accessible for me. We remain here to this day but Port Dalhousie still has part of my heart.

In 2016 I had the privilege of working with Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator for the City of St. Catharines, and Katherine Nelson-Riley, President of Friends of the Carousel, to pull together a series of blown-up photographs and vintage post-cards depicting the history of Lakeside Park, the midway and the merry-go-round. They were mounted on the interior wall of the carousel building and give those waiting for a ride a brief overview of how the area developed.

Because I can no longer walk, the Port Dalhousie piers are one of the few accessible places I can truly enjoy, especially around sunset. I have a fierce longing to be out there again. I hope that before I leave this life, I will be able to complete the circle and return to Port, but this time out on a new pier, with the memory of my father's big band music and the happy sound of the merry-go-round my mother saved, behind me. ■

- Linda Crabtree

Linda Crabtree is the recipient of multiple awards, medals and honours and is proud to be a Member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. Her autobiography **CMT and Me: An intimate 75-year journey of love, loss and refusal to surrender to a disabling disease** (325 pages, 125 photos) is available on Amazon, Kobo and Kindle.

THE REPORTER

The Port Reporter is a not-for-profit, all-volunteer, community information newspaper published by the Port Dalhousie Conservancy since 2005. The paper focuses on issues related to the St. Catharines waterfront, the conservation and celebration of heritage in Port Dalhousie and across the city. It also encourages residents to work together to improve our community environment.

It is published quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. 8,500 copies are delivered to homes and businesses in Port Dalhousie ward. It can also be found at Avondale Stores, City Hall, public libraries and in various local business establishments.

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Copy Editors Bram Hoff/Deborah Kehler/ Henry Knoop

Help the Reporter thrive and grow by making a financial donation. Checks can be made out to the Port Dalhousie Conservancy, 600 Ontario Street, P.O. Box 28049, St. Catharines, ON L2N 7P8 or donate through our website @ www.pdconservancy.org. With regret, tax receipts are not available at this time.

Please send contributions for future issues to editor.portreporter@gmail.com. All submissions are subject to a review including both editorial approval as well as copy editing for grammar etc.

Deadline for posting of community events, advertising, & article submissions is the first of the month prior to printing (February 1st, May 1st, August 1st and November 1st). Late submissions are considered at the discretion of the editorial board.

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The Demise of Lakeside Park *An Excerpt from the Journals of Sid Brookson*

“I took possession of Lakeside Park on Feb 15th 1950. The park and the Steamer Dalhousie City had been put up for sale by the CNR and I bid for the park. The SS Dalhousie City was sold to a Montreal interest. It ran on the St. Lawrence from Montreal to some islands where there were Shrines for about three years. She burned at her dock but the steel hull was saved and used as a tow barge for hauling pulpwood to the paper mills. Without a boat it was necessary for me to book picnics to come by bus and car. This worked out fairly well although I lost all of the Toronto Sunday School business as the boat trip was the highlight of their picnics. Some industrial picnics still came and I was able to get the local industries and Sunday Schools interested as we were not crowded and had desirable open dates. To also help the operation I agreed to pay for a vote by the citizens of Port Dalhousie to be able to operate on Sunday. A by-law was passed on July 15th, 1950 which allowed this.

Things went quite well until around 1959 when the scare about polio was rampant and Dr. Curry of the Ministry of Health put a piece in the Standard that it was quite possible that the children swimming at Port Dalhousie could contract the disease from the water. This

article hurt my business badly.

Anyway as St. Catharines grew in population so did the sewage problem and by 1966 it was so bad that the beach became like the Sahara desert and my picnic business disappeared. I decided to sue the city for the loss of business. It took three years to get a court date. I ended up winning my case and settled



The Lakeside Amusement Park Midway, shuttered for the last time.

with the city for all my legal expenses plus 25,000 dollars plus the privilege of operating for the 1970 season with no rent or taxes or any charges of any kind for utilities. In turn I had to turn over my lease for the land which was owned by the Seaway and anything that was on the

property as of Dec. 31, 1970.

I agreed to this and sold or auctioned anything that could be. The Hey Dey and Aeroplane swings went to the scrap heap and I tried to sell the Merry go Round to the city, but they wouldn't buy it. So a citizens committee was formed and they had dance-a-thons, walkathons, swimathons, you name it and they did it. It was

Anyway I offered it to her for 25,000 dollars. She got up to 18,000 in no time and then fundraising started to drag so I told her I would settle for whatever was in the bank which worked out to a little more than 20,000 dollars. That with the City Settlement I got about 45,000 dollars plus what I made operating the Park in 1970 for free. There was a condition I put on the Merry Go Round that if I let them have it at that price, that it could not leave St. Catharines and that it was never to cost more than a nickel a ride.

Eventually the city built a new building for it where the lavatories used to be at the cost of 225,000 dollars. They even put in gas heaters and kept them burning all winter to keep out the dampness and they still only charge the one little nickel per person per ride. It is in very good condition and it is quite a tourist attraction. Everything else at the park was bulldozed and used as fill for the old Port Dalhousie Dry docks (now Rennie Park) which was moved to Port Weller. The dance pavilion burned to the ground on December 18, 1974. It was suspected that some kids had crawled under it and were smoking dope that caused the blaze. Besides the Merry Go Round all that was left is one picnic pavilion.”

(torn down in 2017 to make way for the new pavilion). ■



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A Brewery, The Summer That Never Was... and Always Will Be.

The undeniable air of excitement in Port Dalhousie during the summer months is something of legend. On an unseasonably warm afternoon in May, I step out of our new home and wheel the lawnmower on to the lawn. That familiar feeling of excitement sweeps over me as the heat brings back memories of years gone by. With flashes of nostalgia in my mind, I crack a wide smile, overjoyed to live in Port once again after 7 years away. Turning to start the mower, the Cenotaph at Main and Ann catches my eye. Having heard first hand accounts detailing the horrors of war by previous generations, the idea of a draft is a terrifying thought. On this May day, while we are engaged in a new type of battle, my idea of a draft is a whole lot different.

My idea, which is a product of a far less courageous generation, is the satisfying draft that is poured after cutting a plot of fresh grass. In simpler times, after a short walk down Main street, I would find myself in the biergarten at Lock Street Brewing Co., sipping a Port Side Pilsner, a very light, clean, crisp-bodied brew, perfect for a post sweat thirst quench. The magic in the atmosphere here on a summer night is somewhere

in between the twinkle of the lights that hang above, and the closeness of friends new and old enjoying the biergarten together. It's as close as you can get to Berlin in a vibrant community that is just as creative and refreshing.

My daydream is interrupted as neighbours walk past with a smile and a nod, carefully stepping aside to ensure we're 6 feet apart. I continue to labour on the lawn before the mower sputters, letting me know it's time to fuel up. Walking back to the shed, the rumbling in my stomach echoes the mower engine and I realize that it's time to fuel up my body as well. A first feeling of hopelessness surfaces. I'm reminded of my neighbours walking past just moments before, and how I would love to invite them with me to Lock Street. During simpler times we would have created new memories over a generous charcuterie plate from Chz Plz in the biergarten at Lock Street.

Like everyone else I have to remind myself that the hopelessness that we may feel during these times will be transient. Its disappearance starts with

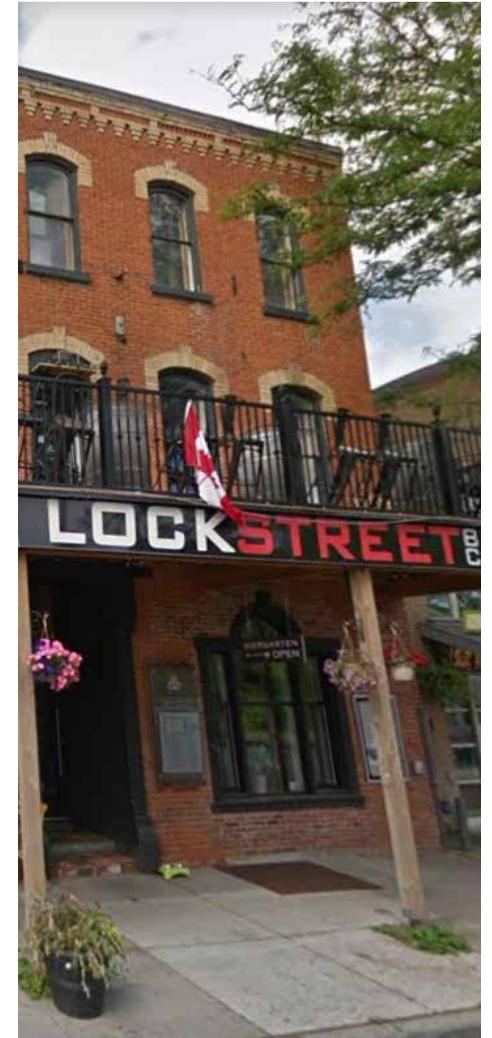
the hard working teams at both Lock Street Brewing Co. and Chz Plz who have creatively adapted their services to the challenges we're facing, all with the same type of creativity that could be found in Berlin's biergartens. Maybe all is not lost.

I look back to the Cenotaph. Just as residents of Port Dalhousie endured through two World Wars, the Korean War and the War in Afghanistan, we will once again adapt and endure. This may very well end up being the summer that never was, but summer in Port Dalhousie *always* will be. ■

- Jesse Otta

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From Where I Sit... *Let's Get The Horse in Front of the Cart for a Change!*



**Hank
Beekhuis**

In the normal course of events, City staff come up with proposals and make recommendations for change; Council then approves a mandate and expenses for the hiring of experts/architects etc. All of this often occurs before any consultation with the public even takes place. The consultant then designs based on what they are told by staff, and what the City wants to see, and what the designer deems appropriate in the circumstances. Then finally, the public is consulted often with a limited number of prepackaged options.

This process often leaves the public

feeling left out and in the odd situation of responding to a plan that is already well underway. They are forced to react to the preconceived notions and assumptions inherent in the plan itself. In order to have any major change, the public has to challenge both the staff and the consultants. Feelings are easily hurt and professional umbrage is easily taken.

Is this the best way to create good community relations? It sets up an adversarial relationship with the public right off the bat. If there is a perceived problem, staff should seek public input on it first. Staff themselves ought to be more than capable of doing this preliminary work including the development of options without hiring expensive consultants.

Let's live up to our City's motto and really put the "citizens first" and answer questions early in the process.

A) Why is the change necessary? Does the public think it is necessary? Is it really causing a problem? Is it really a legal requirement? Is it really unsafe?

- B) Is it a community priority, or is something else more important?
- C) Is the public willing to pave over parkland or lose greenspace?
- D) Are they willing to give up public land to achieve a particular goal?
- E) Are there alternative ideas? Can a renovation or repair do the job?
- F) Are we meeting the City's corporate objectives or are we meeting the real needs of people?

All of this public input can then be integrated into the mandate and be a part of the approval of a mandate, before experts or consultants are hired. Then when the actual plans come out, the only thing left is for the public to review it and tweak what really came from them in the first place.

The public needs to be seen as a resource, not an impediment. Citizens live here, and many are well- educated, experienced professionals and in some cases may have more years of experience in the working world than some city staffers. Their input should be taken much more seriously than is often currently the case.

It could also save us money and taxes if we can get our processes right. It is the citizens who ultimately have to pay for it, so shouldn't they get the first input?

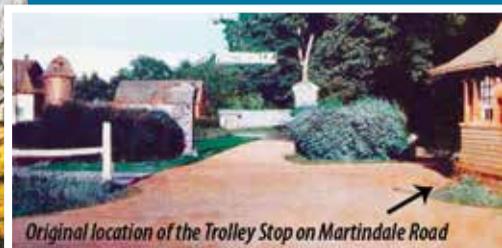
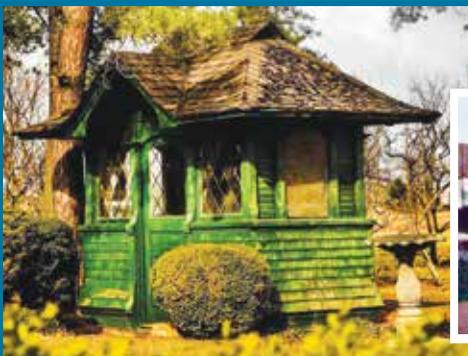
Let's put the horse in front of the cart! ■

Save the Last Trolley Stop!

The Port Dalhousie Conservancy is trying to save the last remaining Trolley Stop of the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Street Railway. The NS&T operated in Niagara from 1899 to 1959 in St. Catharines. It remains the world's first Commercial Electric Street Railway. It was used to transport people and goods from Port Colborne to Port Dalhousie in the era before the widespread use of automobiles and buses. The Line from St. Catharines to Port Dalhousie was the first one to be opened in 1901 and the last to close in 1959. This particular building is the Barnsdale Trolley Stop. For its 110 years, it is relatively well preserved. It has been donated to the Conservancy and is currently in Queenston for Restoration. It is our intention to create a significant space for it where it can be used for generations to come. The estimated cost of relocation and restoration is only about 15,000 dollars but we need your help. Please, donate to this very important cause and help us make this into a useful and lasting memorial of this unique piece of St. Catharines history. We can do this together,

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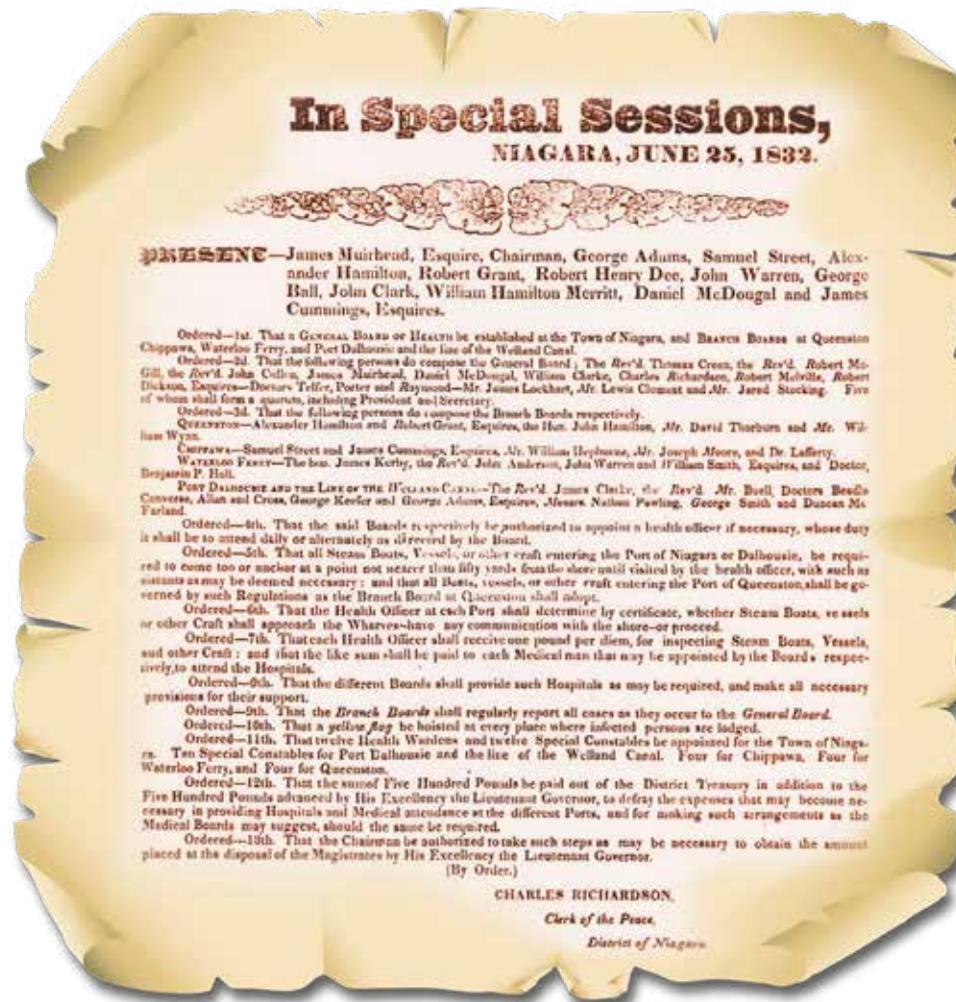
Don't Let Your Guard Down!

Past Port Dalhousie Pandemics. *In 1832 and 1918 Port Dalhousie Weathered Outbreaks.*

The COVID-19 pandemic is not the first health emergency that the inhabitants of the Niagara Region have faced during the past two centuries. The "Spanish Flu" was prevalent here following the end of WW1 before finally being brought under control. However, an even earlier disease caused widespread panic in the area during the summer of 1832: the Asiatic cholera. Then, as now, the crisis was dealt with by front line workers who risked their lives to prevent the spread of the disease.

The cause of cholera was then poorly understood, and local physicians visited Lundy's Lane and Chippawa "to examine the nature of the disease prevailing there." It was believed to originate with unsanitary conditions, and that it was carried through the air as a "pestilential miasma" often arising from swamps and rotting garbage. It is now known that it stems from eating food or drinking water contaminated with the vibrio cholerae bacterium, which produces a toxin in the small intestine. This causes the body to secrete enormous amounts of water, leading to diarrhea, rapid dehydration, and loss of electrolytes. Cholera was particularly lethal during the hot summer of 1832, and it reappeared in the province in 1834, 1849, and sporadically during the 1850s.

The magistrates hastily convened a special meeting of the Quarter Sessions of the Peace at Niagara on June 25, 1832, in order to establish Boards of Health to deal



with the outbreak. A Board was established for "Port Dalhousie and the Welland Canal line," the others being located at Niagara, Queenston, Chippawa, and Fort Erie. Regulations of the Board of Health were to be posted in prominent locations, such as taverns, for the information of the public.

The members appointed to the Port Dalhousie/Welland Canal Board of Health were Rev. James Clarke, Rev. Mr. Buell, Drs. Beadle, Converse, Allan, and Cross, and Messrs. George Keefer, George Adams, Nathan Pawling, George Smith, and Duncan McFarland—who were then among the community leaders in Port, St. Catharines, and Thorold. They were empowered to appoint a "health officer" or "warden" if necessary, and George Smith was selected to fill that position. Ten special constables were appointed to assist with the work of the board. The health officer and doctors were paid at the rate of £1 per day for this dangerous work, and were identified by a red ribbon which was worn on the left breast. Records referred to J. Murrett and M. Judge as two of the nurses during the epidemic.

The Grantham constables Silas Vandecar, John McDade and Thomas Gilleland were ordered to "clean and whitewash the buildings at St. Catharines" as a preventative measure to help 'stop the spread.' Cellars were to be cleared of standing water and decayed vegetation and then white-

Continued next page



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washed. Dead animals and offals were to be removed from the streets and from private property and buried at least two feet [0.60 m] deep. Fines and other punishments were imposed upon those who were negligent in keeping their premises clean. Some communities fired cannons at regular intervals, in the belief that the percussion from the blast would stir up the atmosphere and break up the disease, but it is not known if this was done at Port. Goods sold in the market at Niagara were closely regulated, and the activities of tanners, soap boilers, and tallow chandlers were carefully monitored. Strict regulations were passed to ensure sobriety during the epidemic, and bars and taverns were ordered to close at 9 pm. Similar measures may have been enacted at Port and along the canal.

The Boards for both Port Dalhousie and the Town of Niagara were given specific instructions to prohibit entry to any steam boats, vessels, and rafts until they had been inspected by the medical officer of health and his assistant. All vessels were required to anchor "not nearer than 50 yards [150 feet, or 45 m] from shore" until the inspection was complete, and no "filth, putrid substance or matter" was permitted to remain on board. Any vessels deemed to have unsanitary conditions had to be "purified" with chloride of lime. When the inspection was satisfactory and there was no evidence of sickness, a certificate was issued to the ship's master for permission

to "approach the wharf, have communication with the shore, and proceed." All new cases of the disease were to be reported to the General Board of Health at Niagara, and a yellow flag was ordered to be flown "at all places where infected persons were lodged." The local press, searching for a scapegoat, reported that many of those who were ill were "poor immigrants, chiefly Irish."

The board was responsible for establishing an isolation hospital for the cholera patients, and for keeping it supplied with bedding, medicine, daily rations, and firewood for heat, cooking, and washing. Records show that an old "store house" on the 1st Welland Canal pier at Port was converted into a temporary isolation hospital. Jonathan Woodall and George Smith cleaned the building in preparation for the reception of the sick, and Rev. James Clarke, Nathan Pawling, and George Rykert provided blankets and bedding. Another hospital, fitted up with bunks, may have been established in St. Catharines.

Patients treated in the various hospitals were provided with "beef, candles, sugar, pepper, potatoes, bread, and milk," as well as "oil, flour, straw for beds, pillows, wine, tea, soap, tin basins &c." The

cost of these supplies was charged to the district and the magistrates at the Quarter Sessions authorized payments for them. Jonathan Woodall and his wife attended the sick at Port, and provided patients with bread, milk, rice, and fowls. It seems that chicken and rice soup has always been considered a standard cure-all!

Dr. John Allan was appointed to serve as the chief medical officer at Port Dalhousie in June 1832. Rev. John Clarke is known to have ordered medicine for use in the hospital on his own behalf from the shop of William Chace in St. Catharines. This medicine included: laudanum, nitric acid, sulphuric acid, Peruvian bark, and ammonia. Say whaaat? No ingestible household cleaners on the list? Just

what kind of doctor was Mr. Allan!

Those with no known family who succumbed to cholera were buried at the expense of the District. The itemized bills included the cost for burial shrouds and coffins for the deceased, digging graves, and covering the remains with a layer of lime. Records show that at least 37 people died at St. Catharines in the summer of 1832, including eleven paupers. The clothing and bedding of the dead were generally

burned, which included an expensive "new silk handkerchief" found on the body of one individual.

Constable William Row was paid £7.10.0. for his services in "removing the corpses" at Port Dalhousie in June-July 1832. In August of that year, coroner Samuel Wood summoned a jury to sit upon the body of an infant named John Jones who died at Port Dalhousie; Jones was "accidentally drowned when he fell from the Hospital door into the water between the piers." Orphaned children were provided with temporary care by individuals who were reimbursed by the District for their trouble, and some of the children were conveyed to Fort George where they were provided with temporary food and shelter.

The cholera hospitals appear to have been used afterwards as temporary shelters, and in the early winter of 1834, Constable Francis Proctor was summoned to "turn people out of the cholera hospital" at Niagara. In March that building was to be sold "with its appurtenances...and the proceeds were to be paid into the District Treasury." Similarly, the temporary hospital built at Fort Erie in 1832 was "out of repair and useless" and was ordered to be sold at public auction in August 1834 and the money be refunded to the District Treasury. What eventually became of the hospital at Port is not known. ■

- Brian Narhi

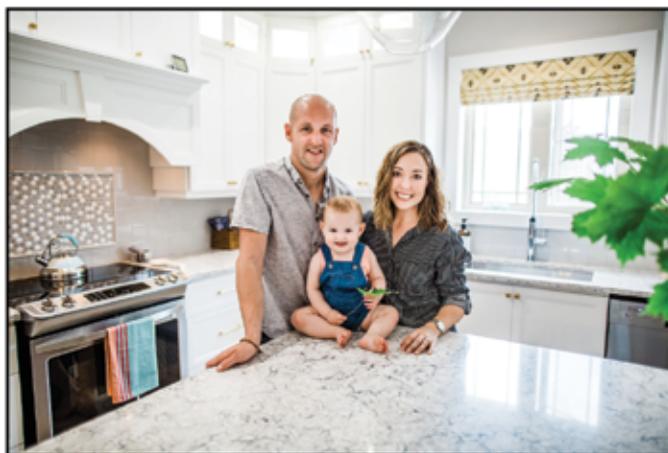
"Some communities fired cannons at regular intervals, in the belief that the percussion from the blast would stir up the atmosphere and break up the disease."

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Bruce Williamson

Councillor,

Port Dalhousie Ward

City of St. Catharines



Report from Councillor Bruce Williamson Port Dalhousie Ward



These certainly are unprecedented times. The adjective unprecedented seems to be the go-to term for people grasping to find language to aptly describe the current state in which we find ourselves. An image making the rounds features a graph illustrating the exponential growth in the use of the word unprecedented. This well reflects the nature of the sudden and radical shift in our lives.

I commend everyone who has complied with social distancing and other challenging regulatory measures made necessary to minimize the harm and reduce the loss of life to the contagious Coronavirus. It was unimaginable a few months ago that we would have to undergo such a drastic and overwhelming transformation. Yet here we are, stuck in a radically constrained state of affairs, with just

about all of the everyday arts, culture, sports, fund-raising, religious, school, holiday and other community events we enjoy being cancelled. The list of concerns which stem out of this crisis is mind-boggling, some of which include social, economic and psychological effects. The closure of small businesses and their future in a post-pandemic world is one with which the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Departments is grappling. Rest assured, these organizations are working diligently to advocate on behalf of local enterprises with senior levels of government to assist them through these troubling times.

To many in our community who have lost loved ones due to Covid-19 or to other causes, I express my sincere condolences. Not being able to interact directly and engage in personal practices

of mourning makes these losses much more difficult.

Like many Canadians, I share the belief that the central purpose of democratic government is to serve the common good: carrying out the best interests of the greatest number of people, while at the same time not neglecting the most vulnerable and least able to fend for themselves. This calamity, and our response to it, demonstrates the uniquely Canadian mindset through our willingness to endure individual sacrifice on behalf of the broader collective interest. This contrasts markedly with some of the reaction we have seen in some American states where armed demonstrators have tried to block entrances to hospitals and occupied state buildings.

City Council and municipal committee meetings dealing with the most pressing matters of governing in a new reality, as well as carrying on with the routine prescribed matters of local government, have continued, though, in a remote electronic format. By its very nature, this new style of conducting civic affairs is in ways less accessible to members of the public. Councillor

Garcia and I have continued to express our concerns that decisions which impact neighbourhoods be made in such a way that open and transparent public consultation and participation not be compromised. The City of St. Catharines website provides up to date notifications on meetings times and dates, as well as upcoming meeting agendas.

At the Council meeting of April 22nd 2020, I put forward a motion to amend the City's procedural by-law, to restore a Council member's ability to bring forward consent agenda items without restriction to open discussion. This was passed. This subtle change is a consequential and symbolic step in terms of improving the degree of openness of public discourse. Thanks to Councillors Garcia, Phillips, Dodge, Townsend, Kushner and Miller for supporting this motion.

Work on the Port Dalhousie piers was temporarily discontinued because of restrictions related to Covid-19, but work has now restarted as the Province allows some construction work to resume. Councillor Garcia, who sits on the Piers Task Force, advises the pouring of

Continued next page

Chris Bittle
Member of Parliament - St. Catharines

COVID-19 Questions?
Call or Email us!

Community Office www.ChrisBittleMP.ca
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the concrete deck on the west pier will still happen this summer. Challenges do persist with high Lake Ontario water levels. However, while we continue to be concerned about these high levels, they are not predicted to reach the record levels we experienced in 2017 or last year.

Councillor Garcia and I were appointed to sit on the Neil Peart Commemorative Task Force to determine the best way to honour Neil. Officially, we will make recommendations to City Council regarding a memorial for Neil Peart. The task force will be responsible for:

- Reviewing options for the scope and type of the memorial (Phase 1)
- Reviewing options for site selection and funding, including consideration of operating / maintenance costs (Phase 2)
- Securing funding, design and installation (Phase 3)

Prior to installation, the Task Force will be required to report to Council for approval with a recommended project plan and maintenance strategy based on the findings of Phase 2. The Task Force will follow the processes and guidelines set out in the City's Public Art Policy.

One major positive outcome of the shutdown has been seen in improvements of environmental conditions in places and ecosystems across the planet. Reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and less air and water pollution have enhanced the quality of life for people and other species in surprising ways. Some ecological scientists link the original source of the virus to pushing human exploitation of Mother Nature too far. It is my hope we simply don't go back to business as usual, but are more thoughtful of how we are interconnected with and part of the web of life on Earth. Recent events demonstrate how critical it is for us to put greater emphasis on operating on a more local basis. We need to be more reliant on ourselves instead of being

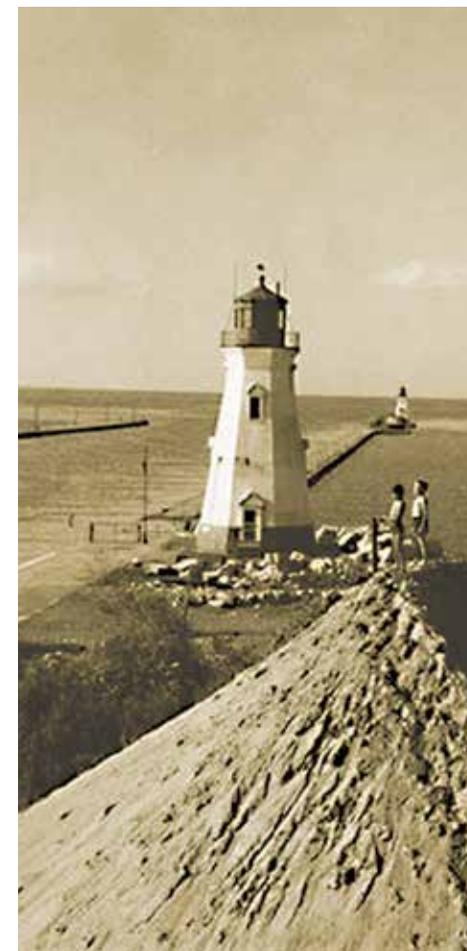
dependent on distant supply chains for food and essential medical equipment, which has proven to be a precarious way to live. While it is not easy to find silver linings in what has descended upon us, a feeling I hope we will be left with when this is over is a true sense of appreciation for the opportunities we have in life to interact with family members, friends and neighbours beyond our own four walls. Here's to hoping those days return quickly.

I would be remiss not to extend my sincere appreciation to the essential service workers and front-line health care professionals who are navigating us through this crisis.

As always, thanks to my colleague Carlos Garcia for his tireless efforts and support in representing you on City Council.

Wishing everyone sunnier days ahead. ■

- Bruce Williamson



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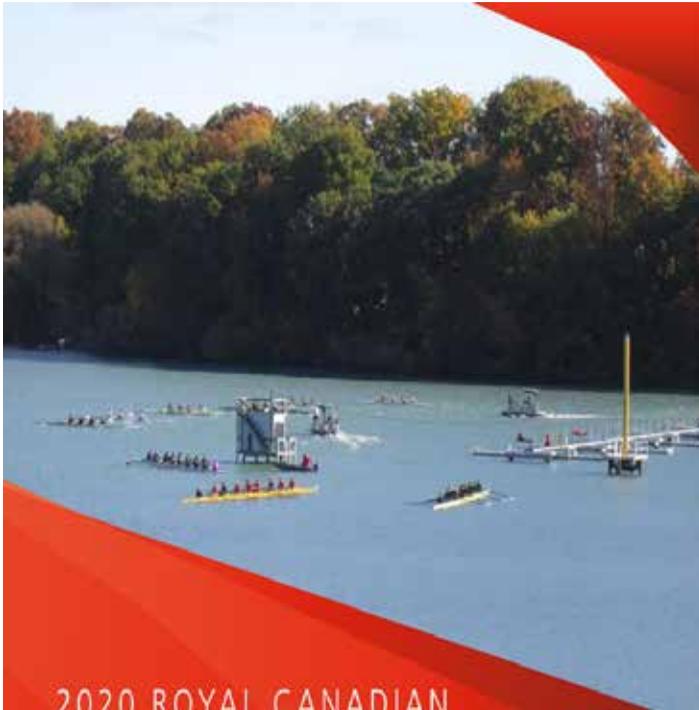
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Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee Summer Report

Your BWC was very excited when writing the Spring Report, listing all of the events that were well underway, Earth Day Clean Up, Bike Swap, Fundraiser BBQ and the five Concert Series to be held in "Port's Old Lock One Stage." We had already designed a new logo.

However, sadly due to the obvious uncertainty, it was decided to cancel most of the events with the hope that we may pull off a concert or two and maybe the BBQ later in the year. We even have suspended the garbage box refurbishment as the work space we were using is under lock down.

On a more positive note, with all of the available time that most of us now have, the gardening group has got a good start on the season. All of the planters that the BWC are responsible for have been cleaned out, refilled, and now are ready for plants. Our displays this summer are doubly important as the City has, unfortunately, cancelled the placement of all of their planters and hanging baskets. However, the City's tulip beds have been spectacular. You will see we have increased the number of planters in the Lock. Six more large planters were donated by Frank Basile, the owner of 1 Lock Street. Thank you Frank.

We hope to get a suitable water supply in the Lock and we are in early discussions with the PDYC Sailing Club. Once again, Rankin Construction has offered to fill the large water container above the Port Mansion Gardens, Thank you "Rankin Boys." We will have a water supply from 1 Lock St, Patio Andaluz and possibly also from Balzac's to enable the watering of the 14 railing mounted planters.



BWC volunteers hard at work!

The COVID -19 pandemic sparked an idea from one of our long-time members, Kathy Stapleton, who, whilst respecting the limitations, has initiated a "Bottle and Can" drive, by receiving and returning the many empties that we have all accumulated. There was an overwhelming response to this drive during the whole month of May. However, as the central depot, in Stoney Creek, was only open on Sunday, we could only make deliveries once a week, so storage became an issue. The proceeds from this were shared with Community Care. So, keep drinking for the cause, save your empties as we are also planning a "Big Bottle and Can" drive in June. Please check our page at [Facebook.com/PortDalhousie BWC](https://www.facebook.com/PortDalhousieBWC) for further details. And a big thank you to Hank Beekhuis, Mike Thibodeau and Bart Haalster who have kindly already delivered truckloads of empties to Stoney Creek. Thank you to all who have donated to this drive.

And on a lighter note, we were extremely pleased to see the Lock being used by a couple of young ladies, who, finding their gym closed, set up their exercise routine in the Lock and were thrilled to have found this location! ■

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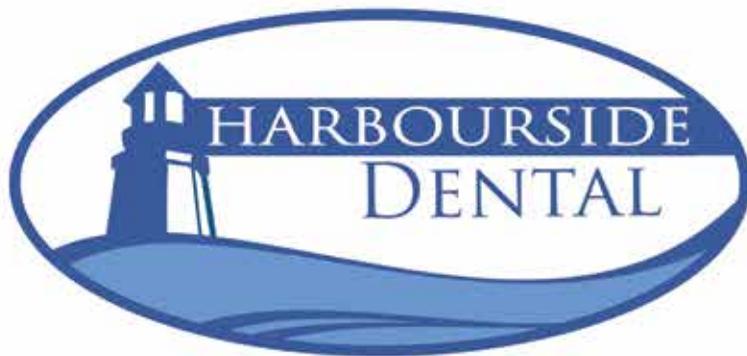
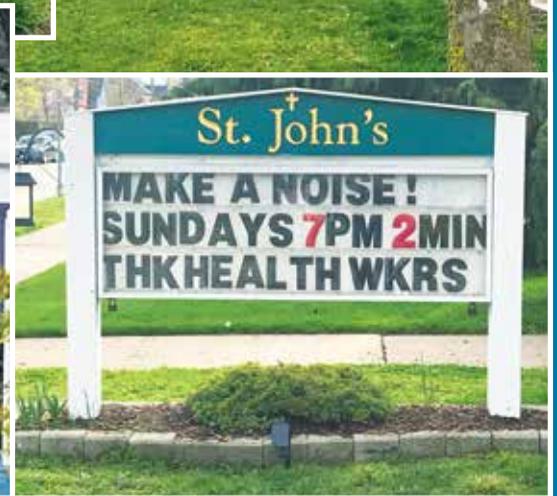
 



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for the
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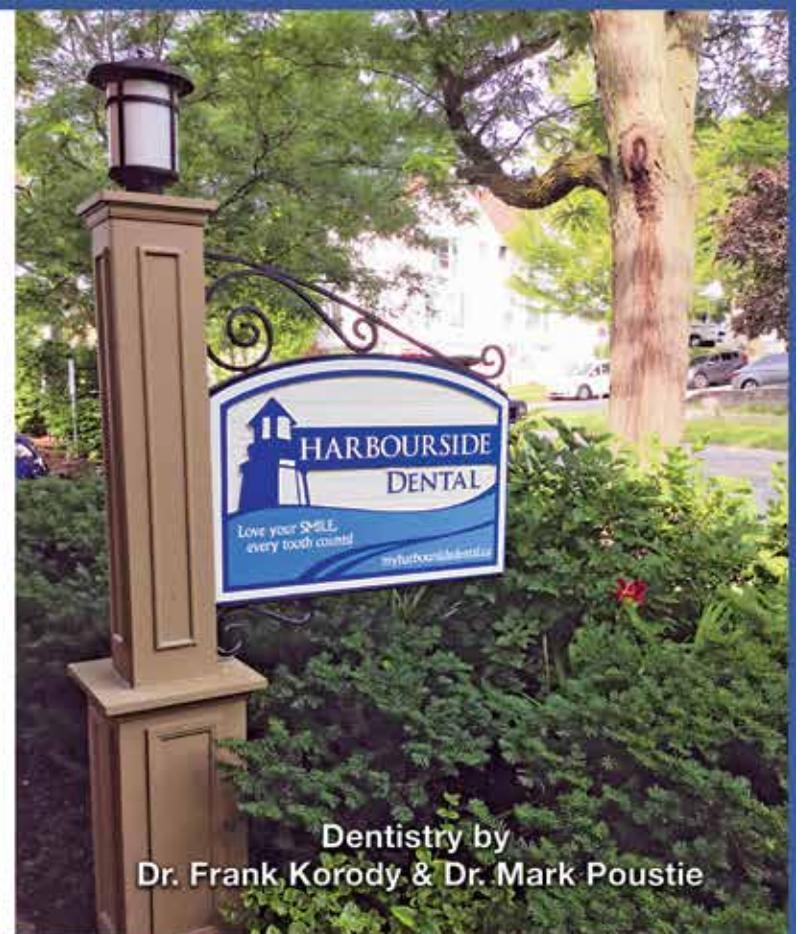
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The Mayor's Report

A Special Message During the COVID Crisis

As we begin a summer like no other, I want to say thank you. As we continue to navigate the unprecedented COVID-19 health crisis, I have seen our community rise to the challenge. From following the directions of the health experts, to our local businesses and residents responding to the call for supports for our front-line with disinfectants, shields and other equipment, we have shown how a resilient community comes together to support one another.

While we face the prospect of a summer without festivals and celebrations, and the challenges that brings to our local businesses, service clubs and charitable organizations, I encourage you to do your best to stay positive and reflect on how we can all be part of the recovery efforts coming out of this pandemic. Be innovative, be engaged, and consider ways to support our community if you have the capacity to give, whether that be as a consumer, donor, or other forms of support.

Despite our challenges, there appears to be some positives as we enter summer. As climate change continues to be a reality, early indications are that

the high water levels we saw in 2019 will not return this year. While predictions are subject to change should we experience significant precipitation, or sustained high winds, the International Joint Commission has shared a cautiously optimistic forecast. As of early May, the IJC indicated Lake Ontario water levels are predicted to be "substantially better than last year" on each of their scenarios, including should there be a wet summer.

While provincial directives saw the work briefly come to a halt on the Port Dalhousie piers, as restrictions eased the Department of Fisheries and Oceans indicated Bronte Construction was scheduled to resume work by June. The efforts on the west side is scheduled to wrap up this summer, with rehabilitation continuing on the east side, and the project remains on target to be completed by its March 2021 target date.

Work also continues on revitalizing Port Dalhousie's commercial core. As you can no doubt see, Rankin's team has been working through the winter transforming the former Royal Canadian Legion property into its Royal Port

waterfront condominium, which will be a wonderful addition to the waterfront community of Port Dalhousie.

At City Council we continue to focus on recovery and forge on with business continuity as best we can. In Port Dalhousie that means moving forward on remembering Neil Peart at the Lakeside Park pavilion, and establishing a memorial task force to review opportunities for a memorial. Staff also continue to work on redevelopment of public and private lands within the west harbor area.

Thanks to the Port Reporter for the opportunity to connect with you. I can't wait for the opportunity to see you again across #OurHomeSTC.

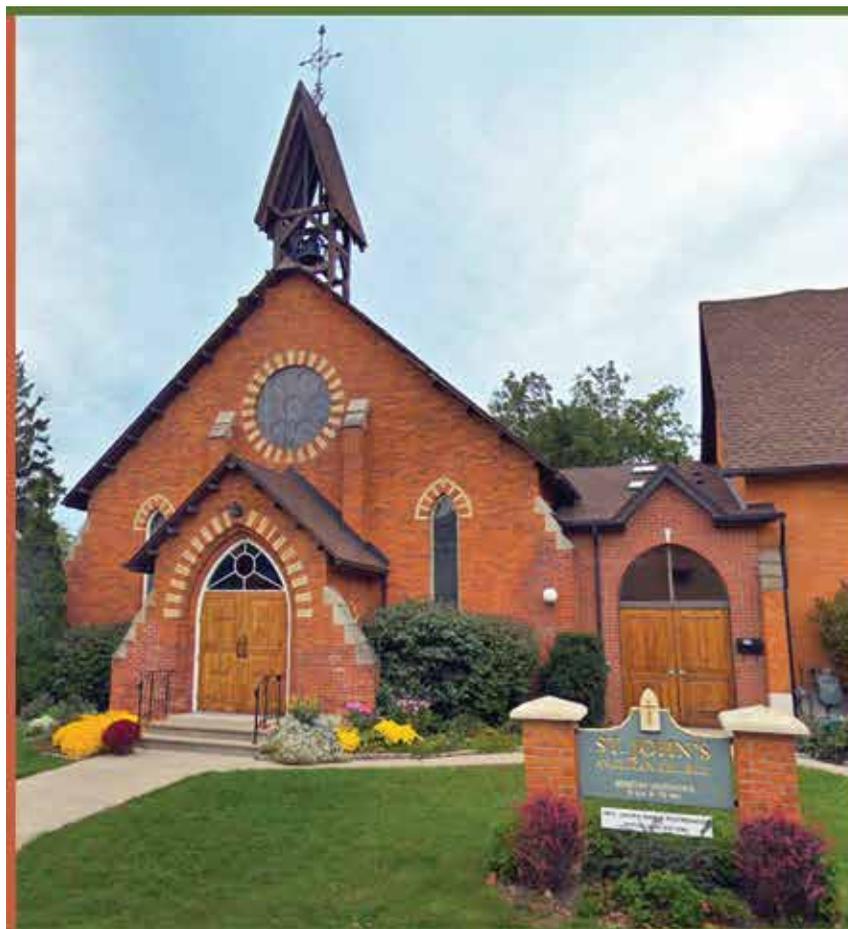
Cheers



Walter Sendzik, Mayor
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 - Outreach continues! Check our messages and sign for permitted initiatives to support Community Care and our Dignity Kits for the homeless.
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The Taxman Cometh!

Questions and Answers About the Upcoming Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) Reassessment

These are answers to questions asked of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) by Merriton residents regarding a large development in their neighbourhood. MPAC is the organization that assesses your homes for tax purposes. We felt that it is equally applicable to Port Dalhousie and since the reassessment is occurring this year, it might be of interest to all residents given the increased evaluations of properties in our neighbourhood and the recent and ongoing construction of fairly expensive new condo projects.

Q) It is my understanding that there will be a province-wide property assessment in 2020 based on property values on January 1st 2019. Is that correct?

A) Yes that is correct. MPAC is legislated to reassess every four years. So in 2020 all properties will be sent out a Property Assessment Notice with values that reflect a January 1, 2019 valuation date. These values will be detailed and show the increase in value phased in over 4 years (taxation years 2021-2024). For the 2020 taxation year the valuation date is January 1, 2016.

Q) Is the MPAC property value assessment the primary document used to determine property values for real estate tax purposes and establishing the mill rate for real estate tax purposes?

A) MPAC provides all the information to the municipality and annually delivers the Assessment Role in December. The city uses MPAC values in their budget process. The tax rate is based on the service costs and is an exercise that the city can speak to in greater detail.

Q) Would the approval of development projects affect the value of real estate in that surrounding area and any other real estate nearby in a positive or negative fashion?

A) MPAC does not speculate on the future use, ownership or tenancy of a property. When assessing any property, MPAC relies on the market to indicate what factors influence a property's value. MPAC does this through the ongoing study and analysis of the market, including the investigation of sales transactions.

Q) Would the MPAC property assessment base the value of a project on the current structure/property footprint or what might end up being developed on the site?

A) MPAC does not speculate on the future use of a property. Instead MPAC is



informed by actual sales of properties with similar characteristics and permitted uses as determined by land use policy set by the Province and municipalities. The 'project property' has been assessed to reflect its current use. Currently and for all property, the value is based on the current structure/property footprint and the existing land based on how it is currently used.

Q) Would MPAC take into consideration the density factors requested by a developer?

A) MPAC's valuation would be based on the actual number of units built. If an apartment, the value would be based on the income approach to value, based on the number of units. If registered as a condominium, then based on the value on sales of the units (with a separate assessment/roll number for each unit).

Q) Will residents in the area affected by the development have the right to appeal the MPAC assessment based on the proposed development?

A) Every Property owner has the option to file a Request for Reconsideration (RfR) with MPAC, free of charge, if they do not agree with their assessment. The process is detailed on their Property Assessment Notice. Should they require assistance, they can call MPAC and we can walk them through the process. If they are not satisfied with the outcome of their RfR they have the right to file an appeal with the Assessment Review board (ARB). ■

- Hank Beekhuis

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**We Fell Asleep
in One World,
and Woke Up
in Another.**

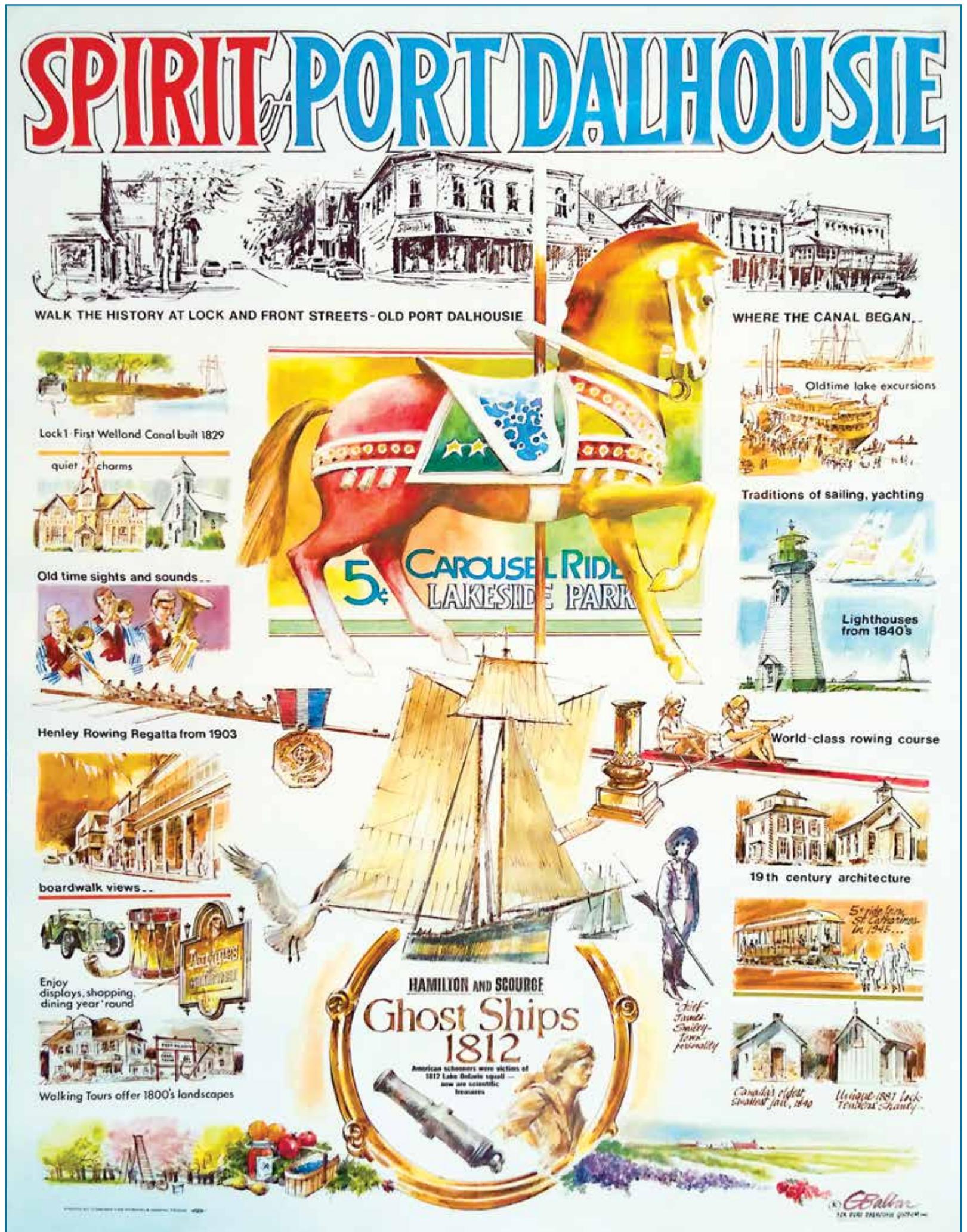
Suddenly Disney is out of magic, Paris is no longer romantic. New York doesn't stand up anymore. The Great Wall of China is no longer a fortress. Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons, and not visiting parents and friends - an act of love.

Suddenly you realize that power, beauty and money are worthless, when can't get you the oxygen you are fighting for.

The world continues its life and it is beautiful. It only puts humans in cages.

I think its sending us a message: "You are not necessary. The air, earth, water, and sky are fine without you. When you come back remember that you are my guests. Not my masters."

- Haroon Rashid



Poster produced by the Port Dalhousie Quorum, 1974

The TD Jazz Festival

Is Determined to Keep the Music Alive This Year.

This summer the TD Niagara Jazz Festival is determined to keep the music alive in Niagara and beyond...

In a changing world, most festivals and events this summer have been canceled, but this past March the TD NJF immediately took to live-streaming to keep the music alive. They started to plan their 'Virtually Possible' Niagara's Summer MARDI GRAS.

"Planning a festival or event when one does not know how many will be able to gather on the day of the event is extremely difficult and almost impossible to do." says Juliet Dunn, the festival Executive Director, Co-creator and Artistic Producer. "So we had to get creative..."

"Firstly, while in lockdown people were getting really bored, so in addition to our live-streamed weekend concerts we added 'Niagara's Summer MARDI GRAS Sessions'."

The 9 sessions are FREE weekly interactive workshops featuring mask-making, Cajun cooking demos, NOLA cocktail demos, 2nd line dance steps and more! These are some things to look forward to and to get us all ready to celebrate together. It's VIRTUALLY possible...

Secondly, for the day of the event, the festival came up with the 'Tentative concerts' idea. www.tentativeconcerts.com "We realize that after such a huge lockdown we will definitely not be able to go right back to large events and gatherings... people will be tentative and that makes total sense. So the set-up for Mardi Gras and our concerts moving forward will be intimate events with tents spaced apart to respect physical distancing.

If gatherings of 30 are allowed, 4 - 6 VIP tents will be on sale for those who are interested, and the event will still be live-streamed for everyone celebrating on their own property. We will also be offering a take-out dinner with a guided cocktail tasting for those who choose to celebrate at home. Either way, we all celebrate together and enjoy live music and the culture of New Orleans and Mardi Gras!"

The festival will also be implementing the same formula for their former 'WORLD MUSIC on the BEACH' event. Rebranded as:

ONE LOVE: A Celebration of World Music, it will feature weekly sessions starting in late July with the actual event on Saturday, September 12th.

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The COVID Follies

- Gonna ask my mom if that offer to slap me into next year is still on the table.
- All these people are worrying about a baby boom in the next nine months. Two days of homeschooling should nip that right in the bud!
- If you thought toilet paper buying was crazy, just wait until 38 million people all want a haircut appointment at the same time.
- Quarantine day 56. I've started taking calls from telemarketers. Some of them are actually quite nice. Jamar from Superior Life Insurance has a new baby!
- My wife and I play this fun game during quarantine. It's called, "Why Are You Doing It That Way?" There are no winners.
- When we come out of this and I ask you where you want to eat, I do not want to hear, "I don't know." *You've had 80 days to decide!*
- My car probably thinks I died.
- It's been a blessing being home with my partner for 10 weeks now. We've caught up on everything I've done wrong for 15 years.
- I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to Puerto Backyarda. I'm getting tired of Los Livingroom.
- If you believe that the Leafs will be playing hockey in 5 weeks, raise your right hand. Now slap yourself with it.
- Due to my isolation, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of colouring.
- Anyone else getting a tan from the light in your refrigerator?
- I ran out of toilet paper and had to start using old newspapers. Times are rough.
- So many coronavirus jokes out there, it's a pundemic.

The Port Pistons

A Group of Port Teenagers Formed a Club in the 60s and Bucky's Variety Was Their Home Base

Back in the mid 60's, a group of teenaged boys used to meet at Bucky's Variety, on Main Street in Port Dalhousie, 3 or 4 times a week after dinner. They hung out and chewed the fat about anything and everything, laughing and joking as boys that age do. They bought potato chips and pop, gum and chocolate bars, and had their own little block party. As time went by there was talk of making the group a little more official. Port Dalhousie was a small town back then, but previous generations had some very colourful characters, such as Chief Smiley, Hawkeye Henderson and Huck Berry to name a few. The Bucky's group wanted to build some kind of reputation as well. There was a desire by all to be part of a Port Dalhousie's legacy.

Two of the group, Kenny (Beaver) Baker and Russell (Dougie) Douglas, had the idea of making an official club out of the small group. So one evening it was proposed to everyone, and all were excited by the idea. Of course there had to be a name for the group, and that proved to be a chore because they could only come up with the first word ... "Port", a brilliant beginning. The second word proved elusive and was mulled over for a month with no result. But one night while at Bucky's, a few

Hell's Angels rumbled by on motorcycles, and a great idea took root. A name was needed like the Hell's Angels! After all they commanded respect, even fear.

Respect. Exactly what the group needed (even though there wasn't a Honda 50cc motorbike among us). But it would be dangerous using a biker group's name and the



1965



2020

"Port Angels" just didn't have the weight we wanted. So the group went with an auto part instead; something that started with "P", and just like that, the "Port Pistons" were born.

Sure we had a name, but what's a name without something to display it to the world. The next step was to have T-shirts made. Because a design was required, we asked a budding artist and brother of one of the group to design a logo for the shirts. The next step was to have them printed, so the group pooled

their money together for the minimum order of 10 shirts and had them printed. And guess what? It also established the number who would be in the group, 10, because we only had 10 shirts.

As the newly-formed Pistons, we all attended the rowing regattas in Beaver's backyard; his house was at the end of Ca-

nal Street right beside the finish line, next to the grandstand. And of course we consumed copious bottles of beer while doing so. We watched the Lakesides lacrosse team games at the rowdy, loud, and open-air Port Bowl, especially when River was playing. We spent time listening to Hendrix and the Doors, and played the Ouija Board at Herb's place, with spooky results. We laughed at the never-ending antics of Dougie Linton trying to water ski, failing spectacularly, and falling down the canal bank at Beaver's, not once, but twice in one afternoon.

And what about the time when Beaver, River, Dougie and some girls from school went over the river to shop in the USA, and wore their new clothes back home.

But at the border Beaver had an American price tag sticking out of his coat. The border guards said that they would be notifying the RCMP, and for quite a while all he could think of was a loudspeaker blaring at his house: "Mr. Baker, we know that you're in there. Come on out with your hands up!" In his mind this was a distinct possibility given that the RCMP motor launch always showed up at Henley Regatta back in those days.

One time, while trying to impress a couple of girls on a date, Larry and Jimmy drove off the road and Larry's car ended up in deep water in Chippawa Creek. Larry's Dad, Reggie, was not impressed when he had to rescue the car the next day. And remember the time Russ, Jimmy and Larry, after pelting cars with eggs, were surprised to learn that one of the cars held members of the dreaded Facer Street Gang? They were chased around Port for what seemed like hours.

Did we have an anthem you might ask? Yes, it was "Willie and the Poor Boys" by Creedence Clearwater Revival. If you said it fast, it sounded like, "Willie and the Port Boys" and that was good enough for us!

On behalf of the Port Pistons: Ken "Beaver" Baker, Pat "Patty" Brand, Herb Davies, Larry Holmes, Russ "Dougie" Douglas, (RIP), Paul Wing, Jimmy Jones, John "River" Swain, Dougie Linton, (RIP) and Bob Hewitt, Honorary member. ■

Yours in fond memories,

- Pat "Patty" Brand



At the Architectural Conservancy Ontario - St Catharines, our goal is to promote, protect and advocate on behalf of the unique and remarkable architectural heritage within our great city.

Our concern is not just about buildings, but also encompasses our common cultural and historical heritage, which is an integral part of the rich fabric of all of our lives.

Throughout St. Catharines and particularly in Old Port Dalhousie the threat to extensively unravel this precious fabric is constant and needs to be defended.

We are concerned, progressive citizens who advocate for sustainable commercial and residential development sensitive to the unique environment that has made Port Dalhousie a jewel in the Niagara Region and beyond.

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Join us in advocating and encouraging a new and exciting direction in the development of the town of Port Dalhousie.

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Smoking cigarettes and watching Captain

Kangaroo

Now don’t tell me I’ve nothin to do!”

- The Statler Bros

It’s amazing how much has changed since our last Issue was delivered in the first week of March. As a community that spring issue reflected that we had high expectations with respect to making Port into a real destination again. The BWC had set up a summer concert series, volunteers were working on the fixing up the garbage bins, we had set a date for our community yard sale, we were raising funds for the Trolley Shed and we were all so looking forward to being able to use the piers once again. The community calendar was set and businesses were raring to go. Then COVID 19 happened and we were forced to cancel or postpone almost everything. Many of us are suddenly wondering whether things will ever be the same again.

It may be time for us to think about what is really important in life again. Certainly we have all been affected by this and we should especially make sure that we support our local businesses so that they survive this as we also thank all those hero’s working in our schools, hospitals, grocery stores who contin-

ue to work to make sure that we can continue to live even though we can’t leave our homes.

We should reflect on whether this is teaching us anything about our consumptive lifestyles and make us a bit more humble about how much we really are in control of our lives. Perhaps enable us to reflect upon what we need rather than what we want. What can we learn about ourselves and our world? Interestingly our skies and the animal kingdom are celebrating the fact that we are not polluting our environment as much. It seems that we can do without a lot more things than we thought and we are learning ways to cope which may forever change how we do things going forward. How many of us had heard of Zoom before this? Will working from home become more of the norm? Give thanks for the invention of the internet, a privilege many in our world still don’t have.

Our closets are full of things we don’t wear, and our hair doesn’t need to be cut as often. It’s also kind of nice to

have groceries and even beer and wine delivered to your door. Home delivery will likely change the way we shop forever.

What are the wins and losses? What have we learned about balance in our lives and about importance of community and family, or will we just try go back to the way things were? It’s up to each of us to examine these things for ourselves and strive to find ways to both improve our world and to live sustainably in the future. Then we will really have spent our time in isolation wisely.

This isn’t the first time Port Dalhousie has suffered hard times. The one thing that runs commonly throughout hard times is the fact that we are not in this alone. We discover that we need each other again and that is something that we as a community ought never to forget to appreciate as we go into our future. We are better when we are working together and that’s a fact. ■

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Port Dalhousie Old Town Walking Tour

1 Port Dalhousie Piers

The piers were built as part of the construction of the Second Welland Canal in 1838, and provided a more direct entrance point to the locks than those serving the First Welland Canal which took an "L" shaped route under what is now Lakeside Park to the inner harbour. The piers are currently being reconstructed.

2 The Lighthouses

The outer lighthouse (built circa 1879) and the inner lighthouse (constructed circa 1898, to replace an earlier one which was destroyed by lightning) are both local landmarks closely associated with the development of the Welland Canals.

3 Lakeside Park

Originally this land was the marshy mouth of Twelve Mile Creek. As the canals were dredged, the fill was used to form what is now Lakeside Park. In the early part of the century until the 1950's, it served as a widely popular amusement park, complete with merry-go-round, baseball diamond, wooden water slide and dance pavilion. In the summer of 1929 alone, Lakeside Park welcomed nearly 300,000 visitors traveling aboard the long serving passenger ships "Dalhousie City" and "Northumberland."

4 Merry-Go-Round

This wooden merry-go-round was built in 1898 by the I.D. Loeff Company of Riverside, Rhode Island. It is one of few of its kind still in use and was restored in the 1970's through the efforts of local residents. When the merry-go-round was turned over to the City of St. Catharines, it was on the understanding that a ride would cost a nickel in perpetuity.

5 Port Dalhousie Jail

Built in 1845, this former jail is one of the smallest and oldest structures of its kind remaining in Canada.

6 12 Lakeport Road

The former site of the Port Mansion which was constructed in 1860 by Bernard McGrath and Nathan Pawling. Many renovations and additions over the years enhanced its prominence at this corner until it was demolished in 2012. Always used as a hotel, it was also known as Houston's Hotel and the Union House.

7 14 Lakeport Road

This building was built in 1880. A chandlery, telegraph office and pizza parlour are among former uses. The shingled projecting second storey is an interesting feature.

8 18 Lakeport Road

This building was constructed around 1880 for E.F. Dwyer and served as Dwyer's Groceries, Stationeries and Tobacco Inc. for many years. It was designed in the Italianate Style which is typified by low roofs, overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, an entrance tower, round-headed windows, large front doors topped by round transoms, arcaded porches and balustraded balconies (a balustrade is a short railing with vase-shaped supports). This style was popular at the time (a vernacular style).

9 26 Lakeport Road

Built in 1862, this is one of the oldest buildings in the core area. It once served as the Non-Such Hotel under the proprietorship of Joseph Wakerly and is reputed as being home to the first bowling alley in "Port".

10 28 Lakeport Road

Very little of the original facade of this building, constructed around 1892, remains. Tailor John Denton is thought to be the first of a number of merchants to operate a business here.

11 Murphy Building

After a series of fires on the site, Edward Murphy built this building located at the busiest corner of Port Dalhousie in 1885 and established a ship's chandlery. In the early 1900's the Back Club at Murphy's was a place where sportsmen, politicians and press people would come to discuss the news.

12 Lockhart Point Park

This is Lock One of the Second Welland Canal constructed in 1842.

13 Lincoln Fabrics (63 Lakeport Road)

This factory was built in 1900 by the Maple Leaf Rubber Company. There was originally another building of similar size across Lakeport Road which was connected to this one by an elevated annex.

14 Locktender's Shanty

This is the last remaining Locktender's Shanty of the Third Welland Canal (1887-1932). Constructed in 1887, it was used to record the number of ships passing through the canal and to collect fees.

15 Dalhousie House

This building was once part of Muir Brothers Dry Docks and Shipyard. It was built around 1850 by Alexander Muir and was a service building for the docks.

16 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta Course and Grandstand

In 1903, the first Royal Canadian Henley Regatta was held on the present course. The grandstand was built in 1931 and can seat 2000 people. The course was the site of the World Rowing Championships in 1999.

17 27 Canal Street

This two storey home, built in 1840 by William Muir, displays elements of the vernacular Georgian design. This style was typified by giant pilasters (shallow piers attached to walls resembling columns), a centre pavilion (part of a building projecting from the rest) with more pilasters and a pediment (low-pitched gable above the facade, doors or windows), and geometric composition.

18 30 Canal Street

The prominent front verandah with its wooden trellis work and gingerbread trim is a prominent feature of this house built in 1875 by Johnson Gregory, Port Dalhousie's first postmaster.

19 48 Main Street

In 1915, this building was constructed as a residence for female workers at the Maple Leaf Rubber Company.

20 50 Main Street

Constructed around 1894 in Italianate styling, Birell Merritt and other members of his family would continue to operate businesses here until 1944. Local residents remember it as Mrs. Thompson's Confectionary.

21 54 Main Street

This is possibly one of the oldest remaining buildings in Port Dalhousie. It was built around 1838 by Captain John Reid who was one of the first 13 settlers recorded to have lived in Port Dalhousie.

22 St. John's Anglican Church

Built in 1868, this is the oldest church in Port Dalhousie. The church's cemetery, located at 320 Main Street, contains the graves of many of Port Dalhousie's prominent families (Pawlings, Reids, Corbetts). There is a memorial plaque for Captain George R. Woods, who perished in the mysterious disappearance of the "Bannockburn".

23 St. Andrew's United Church

This church was built in 1894, displaying vernacular Gothic Revival style influences in the windows on the front facade. This elaborate style is associated with the pointed arches combined with towers, steep gabled roofs, and large circular "rose" windows in stained glass. The cemetery associated with the church is located at the foot of Johnson Street and contains the graves of the Muirs, Abbeyes, Martindales, and Lawrie families.

24 Star of the Sea, Roman Catholic Church

This Gothic styled church was constructed between 1872 and 1875 from stones brought from Kingston as ballast on ships. The original steeple, which was tall enough to be seen by ships on the lake, blew over during a storm on Easter morning, 1928. The current cross lights up as a remembrance to the sailors who lost their lives on the seas.

25 35 Elgin Street

Originally located at 116 Dalhousie Avenue, this building, constructed around 1870, was Port Dalhousie's second school.



26 27 Bayview Drive

Built in 1867, this is one portion of the original St John's Rectory (see also 82 Dalhousie Avenue).

27 43 Ann Street

This house was built around 1865 by William Muir, one of the founders of Muir Brothers Dry Dock and Shipyards. It was originally a small frame building but has undergone many additions and renovations over the years.

28 88 Dalhousie Avenue

This two storey brick home was built around 1865 by David Muir, another one of the part owners and operators of Muir Brothers Dry Docks and Shipyards.

29 82 Dalhousie Avenue

This is another portion of St. John's Rectory (see also 27 Bayview Drive), also built in 1867. The prominent lantern that tops the structure is known as a "widow's walk", a place where the wives of sailors would look out into the lake waiting for the return of their husbands.

30 Legion Br. 350

since demolished

31 75 Dalhousie Avenue

This "Saltbox" style home built around 1860, was originally a tailor shop on Main Street. Built by John Denton, it was moved to its present location in 1880.

32 Port Dalhousie Public Library (23 Brock St)

This structure was built by the Good Templars in 1863. The Good Templars tended to the general welfare of the community. The one storey clapboard building with a distinct cupola also served as a Town Hall for Port Dalhousie until its amalgamation with the City of St. Catharines in 1961.

33 43 Dalhousie Avenue

This Saltbox style house was built in 1841 by Alexander Muir, generally considered as one of the most successful ship builders and dry docks owners on the Welland Canal. Changes to the home have been minimal over the years. Of particular interest is the foundation, built from stone brought as ballast from Kingston on ships returning to Port Dalhousie.

34 27 Simcoe Street

The original inhabitants of this house (in 1860) were

the Tench family, who owned most of the lands on the north side of Dalhousie Avenue and all of the property on Simcoe Street.

35 30 Dalhousie Avenue

Known as "The Breakers", this Italianate style home was built in the 1880's for R.F. Foote, general manager of the Maple Leaf Rubber Factory. Molded architectural detailing can be found throughout the building.

36 10 Dalhousie Avenue

This home was built in 1870 by William Hutchinson, who owned the coal docks and lumber yard on the east or "Michigan" side of Port Dalhousie Harbour. Note the old coach step near the curb.

37 36 Lock Street

This building was constructed in 1845 as the Customs House for the Dominion Government of Canada. It was the harbour master's home. All ships passing through the canal had to stop and pay fines/duties here, day or night.

38 Lakeside Hotel

Originally known as the Austin House, this Italianate influenced building was constructed in the 1890's. Of interest on the facade are the four recessed bays which are each of different dimensions.

39 15 Lock Street

Built around 1877, this building was originally known as the Wellington House, and as with the Lakeside Hotel across the street, displays strong Italianate influences seen in the window shapes and cornice features.

40 12 Lock Street

In 1896, James Stanton constructed this building which served as a combined post office/grocery store.

41 9 Lock Street

This Neo-Classical influenced structure was built in 1907, and was used as a bank until the early 1990's.

42 Hogan's Alley

This alleyway served the shops and stores on Lakeport Road for many years. In the 1800's it was home to local roustabouts, and later it was a popular tobogganing hill for local children. More recently, it was a popular tourist area with cafes and restaurants.

GM Lands - Part Two

One might fairly ask why a community paper focused on Port Dalhousie is writing about the GM lands. It is because Port Dalhousie has been on this road before, be it on a smaller scale, and it is fascinating to watch with learned hindsight the same process occurring in a neighbouring ward in real time.

New information becomes available all the time. First a 70 million dollar urban property is sold for 12.3 million. Next a property is degraded, devalued, and stripped of assets, leaving a mess behind, and now it is up for sale for 27 million dollars. Apparently a property can be destroyed and its value increased at the same time.

Only in the grey world of land development does this happen. Why? Because in many cases, too many people are drawing salaries out of an empty lot on borrowed money. Presumably the lawyers, planners and workers are all being paid and the bankers and investors in turn insist on a return on investment monthly. It is not uncommon for the business plan of a developer to also

include significant public funding even though the cost of cleanup should already be included in the price paid for the land.

The City appears helpless in the face of it. St. Catharines recently collected 1.56 million in back taxes and will be collecting more taxes in the future because it may be close to a decade before something is finally built, increasing the value of the property.

“When you have so much land, it really limits who can bid on it and develop it.”

Since there are few, if any, services being provided by the City, wisdom would suggest that this money ought to be placed in an interest-bearing account instead of being put into the general fund because

the taxpayer is going to be targeted for clean-up in the end. So we should start saving up now.

When the bill comes due, it would be nice to have money in the bank to pay it, rather than raise everyone’s taxes across the City to pay for it. What will more likely happen is that the taxpayer will be asked to clean it up with the largest CIP grant in St. Catharines’ history. This will be seen as justification for

increasing everyone’s tax base beyond normal inflation.

We can also expect a development that exceeds our existing by-laws and demands multiple exemptions to municipal planning regulations. In antic-



ipation of more revenue, the City will likely give them what they want under the guise of densification, and we will see a wall of luxury million-dollar high-rises along the Twelve Mile Creek, all asking for tax money.

Given that it is such a large piece of property, and the potential liability is

great, would it not be better to break it up into smaller pieces? When you have so much land, it really limits who can bid on it and develop it, and leaves it in the hands of very few large out-of-town developers who have limited local con-

nections and makes developing the site very complex. Local companies may not be large enough to provide bonding and could well end up doing only subcontracting and finishing work. Smaller pieces may also be faster to develop.

The pattern continues ... taxpayer beware! ■

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In 1898, GREYHOUND was sold and taken to St. Catharines and there she was rebuilt and enlarged over the winter of 1898-99. She was renamed LINCOLN in honour of the county in which St. Catharines and much of the Niagara Peninsula is located. For the seasons of 1899 and 1900, Lincoln was used along with LAKESIDE on the Toronto – Port Dalhousie run. It was early 1899 that EMPRESS OF INDIA had been sent to Picton for a rebuild. LINCOLN was chartered, for LAKESIDE could not possibly have handled the traffic on the busy Port Dalhousie route herself.

In 1901, with the cross-lake service attracting more patronage, GARDEN CITY was brought back to Lake Ontario



The Lincoln 1888 - 1920

to run with LAKESIDE, and LINCOLN was sent to Lake Erie. She may have operated briefly on the Buffalo – Crystal Beach route, but she was soon chartered out for the Buffalo – Chippawa route. For the 1902 season, she operated on a route between the Sault and Thessalon, a small port located on the northern shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron. In 1903, LINCOLN was placed on the ferry service between the Canadian mainland on the northern shore of Lake Erie and Pelee Island. On March 9, 1904, she was holed by ice and sank at her dock in 40 feet of water. Raised without undue delay, LINCOLN was repaired and was ready to resume service at the opening of navigation. On April 6, 1905 she was severely damaged by fire at her dock at Sandwich (Windsor). LINCOLN was rebuilt over the winter of 1905-06 at Collingwood. She was then renamed PREMIER and placed back on her old Pelee Island service. In August 1906, she was placed back to the Buffalo – Crystal Beach route. In August 1909, PREMIER was sold to the St. Joe Island and Soo Line for service between the Sault and St. Joseph Island, which is located in Canadian waters.

On November 13, 1920, the 32-year-old PREMIER was totally destroyed by fire whilst lying at Bruce Mines on the North Channel of Lake Huron. ■

- Roger Bradshaw



Carlos Garcia
Councillor, Port Dalhousie Ward
City of St. Catharines




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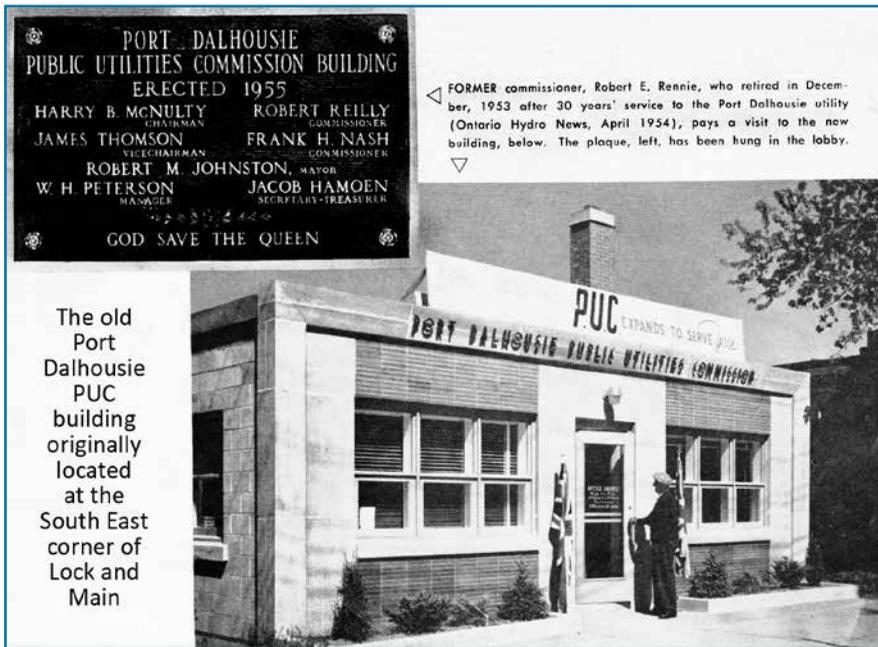




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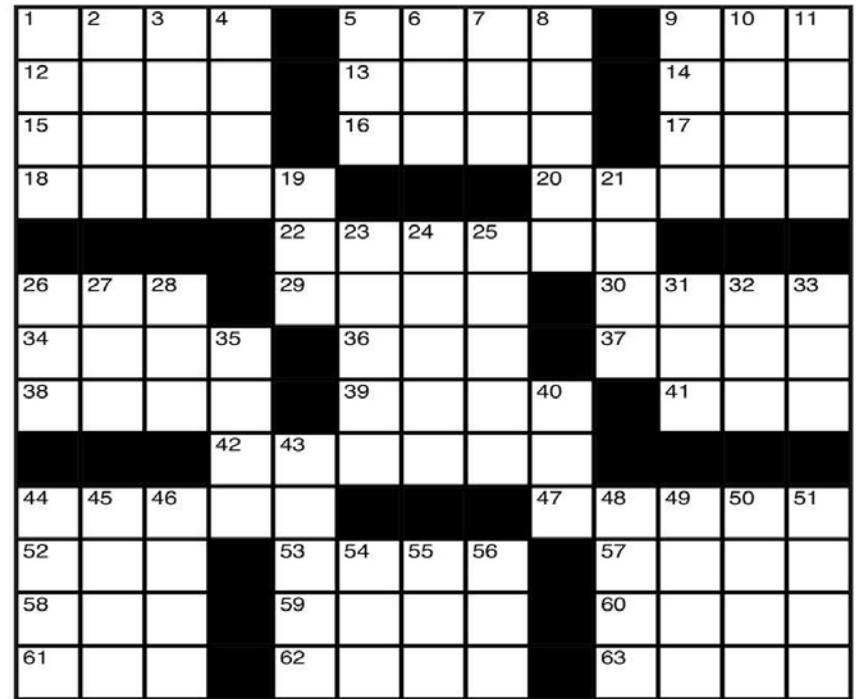
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SERVING PORT DALHOUSIE WARD SINCE 2005

www.pdconservancy.org

Quarantine Crossword



ACROSS

1. Alan or Cheryl
5. Liberal side
9. Hot dog holder
12. Carpeting calculation
13. Jane who loved Mr. Rochester
14. Son ___ gun
15. Mideast canal
16. Dresden denial
17. Go bad
18. Spread, as seed
20. "We hold ___ truths . . ."
22. Christie of mystery
26. Bell and Barker
29. Take to the sky
30. Physically fit
34. Holds the title to
36. "Is it a boy ___ girl?"
37. Rice wine
38. Boxer's cue
39. Bubbly beverage
41. Pin for hanging
42. First game of the season
44. Kindergarten adhesive
47. Furry marsupial
52. U.S./U.K. divider
53. Give this for that
57. Milky gem
58. "Let's call ___ day!"
59. Dayton's state
60. "Fourth base"
61. SSE's opposite
62. Alphabetize, e.g.
63. On ___ (without a contract)

DOWN

1. Scottish girl
2. In ___: stuck
3. Bambi's kin
4. Stun
5. Deighton or Dawson
6. Hurricane's center
7. Work wk. ender
8. Tithe amount
9. Yawn inducer
10. Tabloid fliers
11. Basketball's Archibald
19. "Now, where ___ I?"
21. They may be tossed in the ring
23. "Duck, duck" follower
24. Vice President Burr
25. Swap
26. Unruly crowd
27. Reverent respect
28. Lorne Michaels show, for short
31. Eminem's genre
32. Jack's preceder
33. Actress Tilly
35. Piggy bank opening
40. Two-by-two vessel
43. Mexican moolah
44. Ache's cousin
45. Abbr. on an envelope
46. Shredded side dish
48. ___ and aahs
49. Each, in pricing
50. ___ duck
51. Actor Baldwin
54. You-know-___
55. Televisе
56. Money on a poker table



Photo by Christine Covert

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