

THE REPORTER

VOL.15 NO.1

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

SPRING 2020

The Peerless People of Port

Over the years certain Port Dalhousie citizens have had a positive influence on the quality of life in our community. They have been beacons of excellence in the fields of education, culture, politics, sports or commercial enterprise.

In this issue of The Reporter we will shine some light on just a few of these exceptional individuals who have made Port Dalhousie a better place to live. We proudly present biographical profiles and features of Neil Peart, Alice Gilleland, Dennis Tourbin, Gertrud Liho and Chief Smiley (via the remembrance of Sid Brookson). *Continued on page 3*



Morgan Macdonald working on his sculpture of Neil Peart

Neil Peart: They Broke the Mold

Many fans around the world were shocked when they learned Neil Peart had died. The outpouring of grief and heart-felt adulation from millions of people attests to his greatness as a masterful drummer, songwriter and author. The profound effect of his music and lyrics on fans and indeed the world of music, will continue to resonate for many years to come, but to some of us he will always be a "Port boy". Here at The Reporter we wondered how we could add our voice of condolence and respect to the massive media tsunami that took place in the wake of his passing. We think we have found a unique way to express our feelings; through the art of Morgan Macdonald, a sculptor from Newfoundland and a huge fan of Neil and the music of Rush. He kindly agreed to answer a few of our questions.

What made you decide to create a sculpture of Neil Peart?

My brother has been a lifelong fan of Rush ever since I can remember. He heard about a news story regarding a dedicated group of fans hoping to honour Neil with a bronze statue at Lakeside Park. I know how deeply my brother - who is also a musician and philosopher - cares about their music, and we were quite shocked and saddened to hear of the news of Neil's passing. I guess it was kind of a natural response being a sculptor and knowing the influence that the band's music has had on

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The Hermit of Henley and Marksman Extraordinaire

Sid Brookson Remembers James "Chief" Smiley

"Everybody believed that Chief Smiley was a true Indian, but he was in fact an Irishman. I think he liked people to think he was an Indian and he encouraged this by his dress. He always wore high heeled cowboy boots, a leather jacket and a Stetson and on many occasions he had a gun belt slung around his waist.

He was a very learned man, self-taught, he could quote passages from the Bible usually quoting chapter and verse. He could also quote from Shakespeare for hours without repeating himself and was well versed in the history of Egyptian dynasties. What he was famous for however, was his marksmanship. Many times I would get him to ride the Aerial Swings with someone in the plane ahead of him who would throw clay balls into the air and Chief Smiley would shoot then down, he never missed one that I was aware of at any time. But he never worked for Lakeside Park as an employee; he only volunteered as an advertising attraction.

I had boxing matches at the Park and erected a boxing ring on the ball diamond. Between bouts, Chief Smiley would invite anyone from the audience to come up and he would get them to hold a match in their hand in front of a box filled with sandbags and he would shoot his guns to light the match. He would then get them to put a cigarette in their mouths and he would shoot

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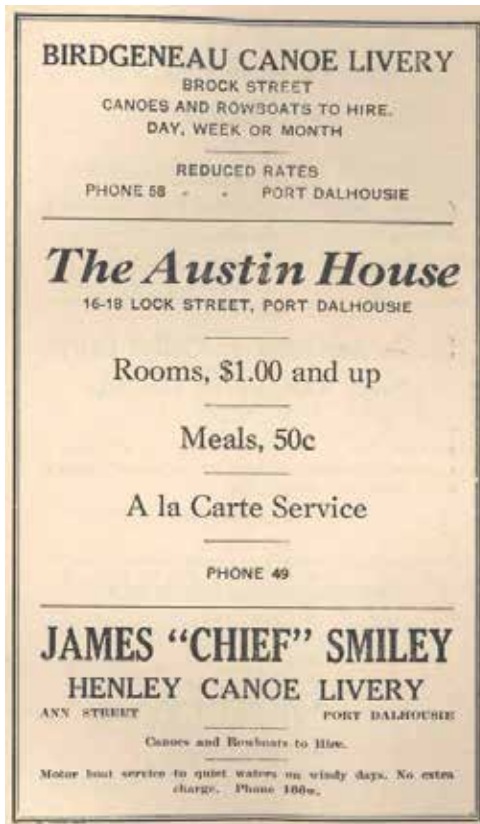
The Hermit of Henley

Continued from front page

it in half. He would also tie a thread of cotton across the box from the opposite corner of the ring standing backwards and looking through a mirror he would cut the thread in two by firing his guns, he never missed. He never asked me for more than \$5.00 for any of these exhibitions.

Chief Smiley was at one time the night policeman in Port Dalhousie and he always had his guns with him. One night in particular he was having a lot of trouble with several drunks from the boats so, to set an example, he took one of them – who was not too drunk – out into the street and told him to dance. When he hesitated, Chief Smiley pulled out his guns and started firing at the man's feet. He started dancing in a hurry! The Chief's problems ended right there and word got around that you don't fool with the Chief. I was not around for this but several people confirmed to me that it did happen.

Chief Smiley, being Irish, celebrated St. Patrick's Day in his way on March 17th, 1948. He celebrated so hard that he set fire to the shack where he lived and died. On the 18th of March Chief Smiley, his guns and his books were burned beyond recognition. That was the end of a Port Dalhousie legend." ■



Ad placed by Chief Smiley in the 1935 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta program

Neil Peart: They Broke the Mold

Cont'd from front page

all of us. I don't think you realize these things until you are a bit older where you can be in a place to reflect back about growing up with their music. It has permeated who I have become creatively as an artist. They were always "THE BAND" and in our minds the pinnacle of musical and artistic excellence. I guess you take for granted that the creative geniuses behind the music will always be with us and it hurts to see our heroes getting older and disappearing. I am a sculptor, so it was a natural reaction in responding to the reality that without Neil Peart we have been deprived of one of the greatest masters of our time.

Are you a fan of Rush?

In one word, yes! The word "fan" doesn't really encapsulate the depth of the band's influence on me and my family. I can't remember a time when Rush wasn't part of life. I have always deferred good musical taste to my brother who is a guitarist and philosopher, and it's through him that I know their music. When I think about it, their creative influence over the years has framed the way I approach my own work.

Are you familiar with Port Dalhousie and Lakeside Park?

"Lakeside Park, Midway lights, Shining stars, On summer nights..." Of course, it is forever made famous in the song Lakeside Park on the album Caress of Steel. I myself have never set foot in the park, but from the album, I hear it is a pretty cool place! We were vacationing in the Niagara region a few years back after having created a statue of William Lyon Mackenzie King up at Castle Killbride in Baden, close to Kitchener. We wanted to come down to the Niagara region and visit the area while we had a chance. It is definitely one of the most beautiful areas in Canada.

Continued on next page



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For your reading enjoyment we also offer features on the importance of trees in our environment, the new businesses in Port, a delightful poem by Norm Patterson, and our regular features From Where I Sit, the BWC Report, Councillor Garcia's report and the Community Calendar.

We also focus on heritage and parking issues that are of prime importance in the ongoing development of Port Dalhousie. There is no question that the future holds not only great promise, but also some very real concerns.

Please keep your eyes open for Public Meetings on the reconstruction of Main Street from Corbett Avenue to Ontario Street by the Region. Make plans to attend the meeting as there are multiple options being proposed. As an example, one proposal is to allow two-way traffic to continue from Main Street (northbound) down the hill to Lakeside Park, behind the proposed core condo development (which some jokingly refer to as the street to nowhere) and up Front Street to connect with Lakeport Road at Lock Street. Issues such as bicycle lanes, sidewalks, parking spaces, crosswalks, streetscaping and traffic flow will all be under consideration. Your voices must be heard loud and clear.

It is sad news to hear that the City has decided not to assist (as they have for some years) the all-volunteer Port Beautification and Works Committee in watering the planters and pots that are distributed throughout the old town. They plan on watering two gardens only. As well, they have denied BWC the use of the empty and idle Lockmaster's Shanty for storing some of their supplies and tools. But they would consider RENTING it to them at the cost of \$5000 per year! Hank Beekhuis has more to say on these issues in his column.

Great news to hear of the development and renewal of Murphy's Restaurant into the new Portside Restaurant. We also notice that two other properties on Front Street have gone up for sale and can only hope that the new owners are sensitive to the heritage value of this unique streetscape, one of the last remaining vestiges of architectural heritage in the core. Let's not forget the tragic and irresponsible demolition of the Port Mansion.

Things are moving along at a brisk clip in the development of our town, so please stay engaged in these ongoing issues as your voices are paramount in ensuring that Port Dalhousie's growth and design reflects the desires of it's citizens. Other than that, we hope you enjoy this issue! ■



It was a packed house at The Armenian Centre as Conservancy supporters rubbed elbows with seasoned trivia buffs and had a great time vying for all the prizes. Even though the volunteers behind the bar don't look very busy in the photo, we caught them at a rare idle moment. Make sure you attend next year's event, you'll be happy you did!



Painting by George Balbar

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.

Editorial Board Hank Beekhuis / Deborah Kehler/ Peter Wing

Editor/Production Peter Wing

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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.

Those interested in advertising please contact our advertising coordinator, Allison Beekhuis at advertising.portreporter@gmail.com. Print ready ads in CMYK colour profile, accepted formats: JPEG, PDF, PNG. Ad design service available; additional art work fee will apply.

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Neil Peart

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Do you plan on creating any more memorial sculptures of Rush?

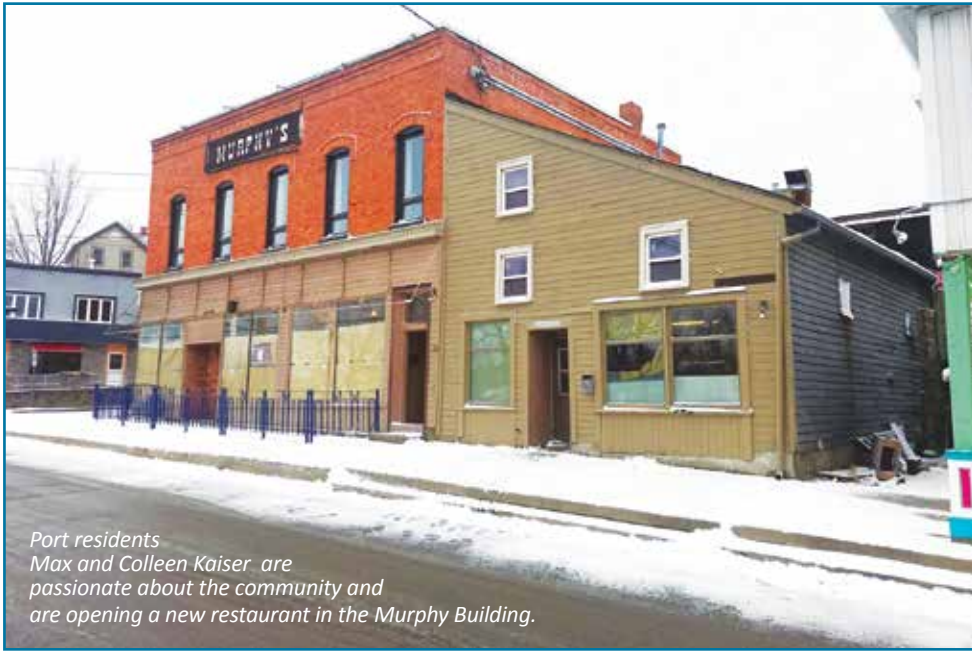
This would be a dream of mine. The whole band belongs together. I always find it sad that the people we honour and celebrate never get a chance to truly appreciate how they have influenced our lives. A bronze work of art in the form of a statue is one of the greatest gestures of respect, honour and recognition that the community can create to show how loved and deeply appreciated someone is. Unfortunately, the initiative to create these things tends to only materialize after the person has passed. To me, it is a very special thing for these individuals to see the piece while they are still with us. ■



www.TheArtofMorganMacDonald.com

Exciting New Businesses Opening Soon in Port!

Port Dalhousie Businesses Have Faith They Will Succeed, It's Just a Matter of Time.



Port residents Max and Colleen Kaiser are passionate about the community and are opening a new restaurant in the Murphy Building.

It looks like the small business people in Port are finally starting to take back the community, and working hard to rebuild the rundown commercial district. The redevelopment of the Murphy's block is soon going to radically change as it becomes home to three new and distinct

businesses. The first is the new restaurant which will be located in the old Murphy's restaurant; the second is a new boutique hotel upstairs; and last but not least, is the renewed Kaiser Haus Wine and Bistro bar in the adjacent outbuilding attached to Murphy's.

The Port Reporter recently sat down with Max Kaiser, who along with his wife Colleen are the owners of the old Kaiser Haus Bistro (formerly on Lock Street, now Chz-Plz, who I understand makes great hors d'oeuvres). It seems the old location was too small for their growing business and he sees this move as the next step in developing their brand in Port Dalhousie.

Max has a background in marketing and design and currently runs a design shop for many wineries in the area. He comes from a family of winemakers and has been deeply involved with a number of restaurants, including the revitalization of the Anchorage Restaurant in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Colleen and Max are enthusiastic Port residents who, along with their three children, live on Dalhousie Ave. They are all passionate about the community and see the vast potential of the area. The new Bistro will be a larger but intimate 25-seat restaurant

and wine bar serving boutique VQA wines. Their goal is to provide good home-cooked quality meals, locally sourced and based on family recipes, passed down from Max's Austrian parents and grandparents and updated and perfected by Colleen. Max fondly remembers the batches of home cooked schnitzel that he experienced as a child and wants to bring that at-home feeling for everyone in Port and beyond. He sees this as a family effort. His son will be returning from training as a chef at a winery restaurant in Kelowna BC to assist his mother Colleen in the new restaurant. Max understands the current challenges of opening up in Port but sees this as something his family really wants to do.

Max describes himself as an eternal optimist and is just focusing on doing this one piece at a time. He is saddened by the rundown condition of the street and hopes to turn that around and encourage new owners to join him in

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Dr. Brendan Macoretta, D.C. BHSc
Dr. Macoretta is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and the chiropractic program at O'Yorville College in Buffalo, N.Y. He is proficient in sports/orthopedic rehabilitation, including soft tissue work, kinesiotaping and developing exercise programs.

Dr. Kewei Ma, Ph.D., M.D., N.D.
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343 Glendale Ave. (Mountain Locks Plaza next to Sobey's) (905) 641-1199

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65 Main St. E. (across from Pioneer Gas) (905) 945-3344

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Gertrud Liho

A Port Dalhousie Child Care Legend

Port Dalhousie residents who had young children in the 70s, 80s, and 90s were likely to know Mrs. Liho. Many of those children, now in their 30s or 40s, still hold a special place in their hearts for Mrs. Liho and the daycare or nursery school she had in her home on Dalhousie Avenue. Readers of the parenting column Gertrud Liho wrote for the Standard for 14 years, as well as those who attended her parenting classes across the region, know her influence reached beyond Port Dalhousie.

Gertrud did not anticipate or plan any of this to happen in her life. But, looking back, she believes she was prepared for and was led to the path she followed. She describes her first ten years of life as ideal for any child: carefree as she roamed her father's estate in Estonia, able to play and explore as she wished. She didn't attend school until age eight and feels this was good because she was then finished playing and ready for it. When she was 10, the Russians invaded Estonia and her family escaped to Germany so they wouldn't be sent to Siberia. The next years were "the hardest of her life" and then, the "Russians caught them again." They were imprisoned for two years in a camp and had to deny being Estonian so that they wouldn't be sent back. Once the war was finished, they were sent to West-Germany. Gertrud's father wanted to live at a greater distance from Communism and researched the best possible places to go. He concluded Canada was the country with the greatest future and applied for immigration. However, he was not accepted because a spot which turned out to be TB was found during his physical, and only the oldest daughter in the family immigrated in 1948. Gertrud and another sister joined her in St. Catharines in 1950. She reports that she and her sisters had to sign papers agreeing they would never see their father again in order to be allowed to enter Canada. Her mother and younger brother stayed with their father until he died in 1951, at which time they also came to St. Catharines.



Gertrud's first job in Canada was a seasonal one at Niagara Gladiola's Gardens, located where the Fairview Mall is now. When this ended, she worked briefly as a maid for a nursery owner in NOTL, but acknowledges, she was not good at it and neither side was happy. She then briefly worked as a translator in the nursery's office to help with their French sales to Quebec but was paid so little she couldn't pay the bus fares to get there. She then started work peeling peaches at the canning factory but was in tears by the end of the first day from all the cuts on her hand. When she got back to her sister's home, she was told that the NuBone Corset Company in Port Dalhousie was advertising for help and she went to work there, first as a file clerk, then mail clerk, and then, after a course, doing bookkeeping. She still lived with her sister in St. Catharines and biked to Port, but after her mother and brother arrived, she felt she needed to find another place to live. A co-worker, Mrs. Hemphill, told her about a widow, Mrs. Hand, who rented the house next door and perhaps needed a boarder to help with the rent. This led to Gertrud moving into the house on Dalhousie Avenue in which she still resides. But within 6 months, Mrs. Hand decided to live with her children and suggested Gertrud keep renting the house. Gertrude's mother and brother moved in with her to help with the rent and Mrs. Hand sold all the furniture in the house to them for \$200, which they paid for in instalments. Gertrud continued working at the corset factory, and her mother worked as a nurses' aide at the hospital.

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From Where I Sit ...



Hank Beekhuis

Beaurocracy vs Innovation

I have to confess that I am a person who tends to push the parameters of the rules, as my wife often reminds me. I can easily be caught not coming to a full stop at a stop sign or traveling just a bit too fast. My high school class's motto was "A mountain that can't be climbed can always be tunnelled" so I guess I come by it honestly. Yet I appreciate that having rules and policies is essential to the functioning of a secure, democratic society. In fact, most individuals probably don't like being reined in by rules and

regulations. However, we simply don't live on this planet by ourselves so we have to care about what effect we are having on our neighbours and our planet. Individuals have rights, but so do communities.

Government bureaucracy is the means by which rules are enforced and those rules can sometimes appear frustrating. The key is to have laws that are actively enforced but fairly and intelligently so. I fully understand that if one goes 5 km over the speed limit, they may have to pay a fine but I also know, that if they go 60 km over the limit, they may well lose their licence and car.

Besides laws, we have by-laws and they are also made to protect the community.

By-laws need to be enforced fairly, but with flexibility, particularly when conditions that were unanticipated, unintended, or minor are encountered.

Newton's first law of motion, sometimes referred to as the law of inertia, where an object at rest tends to remain at rest and a moving object tends to keep moving, seems applicable in a figurative sense as well. The weight of a bureaucracy can be a force that resists new ideas. This is natural, but also dangerous because it

has a tendency to stay with the status quo. It is always easier just to find the right policy, check what was done previously and duplicate it without thinking about the consequences. In doing so, one may easily become the enemy of any kind of innovation. But it doesn't have to be that way. If we want to innovate or try new things, we need to be willing to be flexible. Let us remember that even failure is an opportunity

to learn and improve.

Let me give you three recent examples of bureaucratic inertia in Port:

The first is our Lock Tender's Shanty. It

The BWC requested that the city allow them to use the Lock Tender's Shanty for some minor storage of their equipment.

The city agreed! A few weeks later they received a contract in the mail requesting that they pay \$5,000 annually in rent.

performs a significant role as a historical centerpiece of Howe's Park. In fact, without it the park would consist largely of just a grassy area and a sidewalk. The Shanty is currently empty and has no other function than just standing there as a historical artifact. Recently the all-volunteer Beautification and Works Committee of Port Dalhousie requested that the city allow them to use the building for some minor storage of their equipment. The city agreed! A few weeks later they received a contract in the mail requesting that they pay \$5,000 annually in rent and provide adequate insurance. This amount was likely close to half their tiny budget. According to the rules, they fit into the non-profit category, but they were still required to pay a per square-foot cost for storage in a building that was not being used and was only a drain on the city treasury. Required to pay (yes sir!), notwithstanding the fact that the building is in essence already owned by those same citizens. The BWC doesn't have that kind of money and the building therefore remains empty.

The second is the unfortunate demise of the Port Dalhousie Business Association. The Association is a creature of the city

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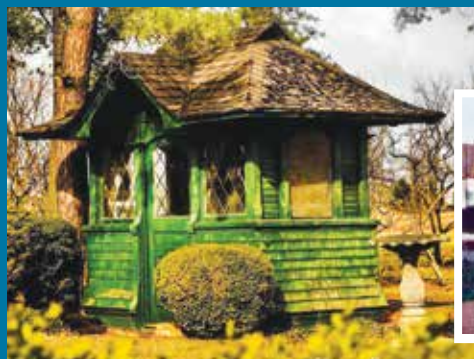
Save the Last Trolley Stop!

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,

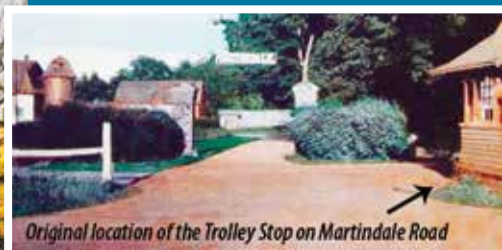
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Original location of the Trolley Stop on Martindale Road

New Businesses Opening Soon *Continued...*

rebuilding Port's main heritage street. He agrees that some previous business owners did not invest in the buildings themselves, but rather just took what they could get out of them during the summer season. New businesses often find themselves between a rock and a hard place with high rents, high taxes and overpriced properties that require a huge investment to bring up to current standards. The landlords have in his opinion been very supportive in making this new venture viable. We need people to be willing to invest for the long term, not just rent and leave when the season is over. Ownership is important in order to have the ability to save Heritage buildings for the future. The Murphy's building is currently undergoing extensive renovation

and upgrading for all three new businesses. Fixing up the old Murphy's kitchen that he is taking over was a challenge in that he found it in very poor condition and badly in need of modernization. The current owners of the block are doing a lot of work to make this possible. He hopes to maintain the same heritage streetscape that exists, using heritage colours etc., on the outside, but the new restaurant will be open concept, with a contemporary rustic design. They hope to apply for a liquor licence soon, so that they will be ready for opening in May. His family also has future plans for a wine garden in the rear on Hogan's Alley but a lot depends on what happens to the rest of the alley. It is good to see small business taking on the area in such a big way. We need more of them! ■

COVID-19 Bulletin

- Wash your hands frequently for a min. of 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face.
- When sneezing or coughing cover your mouth and nose.
- Clean and disinfect your home.
- Avoid crowds and maintain a 2 metre distance from people.
- Do not shake hands with anyone.
- Check the status of any events you plan on attending.

run by volunteer business people and, therefore, it has the right to collect agreed-upon contributions from local businesses within its jurisdiction. Obviously, the list of businesses today is pretty small due to ongoing construction and the uncertainty around future development. The city however insisted that they must use the city's insurance company and the city's auditors for their operation. This ate up almost half their budget. These are good rules but not suitable to the situation and again no discretion or common sense was applied. The end result is that this organization too has now folded. Many good things seem to fail due to an inert city bureaucracy.

The third is Dalhousie House. There have been proposals for its use that have not even been responded to. One use was for a small local business to use it temporarily for storage. They would pay for the heat and hydro and maintenance but couldn't afford square footage rent. The city currently pays about 3,500 dollars a year to maintain it, but it seems they would rather keep it empty than having it used even on a temporary basis. The 3500 dollars therefore remains on the city budget.

I strongly believe in the virtues of accountability, transparency, safety and protection of our environment. But these virtues do not have to be lost simply because we can't make the reasonable compromises that suit the situation and could accomplish the same ends. We must retain the ability to engage with responsible citizens and allow volunteers the ability to contribute to the well-being of the community. I have spoken with too many volunteers who are so frustrated that they don't want to volunteer anymore. This cannot be allowed to happen! There is always a way to accommodate if only we have the will to exercise the good judgment to do it. We need to be able to look at a situation and find the win/win solutions that work for everyone. In the future we will need all the volunteers we can get.

If we want to grow as a city, we need to engage our citizens and respect them enough to allow them to try new things. Our city's bureaucratic structure would benefit from being more flexible and creative in working to improve these areas we all love and care about. The rules are there to protect us, but there aren't always neat categories for everything. ■



The Henley Island Helpers, known as HIH, was established in 1963 by a group of women [calling themselves rowing widows] to raise money for the St. Catharines Rowing club by selling hot dogs and drinks from the clerk's booth during competitions. The group also spruced up the clubhouse with curtains, dishes and furniture and raised money through a variety of other events as well. The name "Henley Island Helpers" was a contest and the winner won a tea cup and saucer.

The Henley Island Helpers still administer and staff both the Henley Grandstand and Henley Island Snack Bar located on the island. The whole operation of HIH is strictly volunteer. The season starts with Early Bird, end of April and continues through to the end of the season with the University regatta in October. The booth at the island is open during the season for all regattas, while the grandstand concession is open for just the major regattas.

The monies raised are used to assist our St. Catharines rowing community with equipment purchases, upkeep and building renovations. As a strictly volunteer group, we support the St. Catharines Rowing Club, the Canadian Henley Rowing Corporation, the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni, the Canadian Secondary School Rowing Association as well as Brock University Rowing and Ridley Graduate Boat Club as well assist in purchases to support medical services on the Island. Donations from HIH over the years have included cost sharing of shells, oars, boat trailers, boat motors, medical equipment, renovations at the Alumni building, portable radios and pins for athletes who have won their first gold at Henley. Well over \$100,000 has been given back to rowing through the efforts of this volunteer group.

Today we have about 50 members and we still sell the world famous HIH hot dogs. This year, 2020, we will see a few changes to our group, we now have men who have joined us plus we are going to try serving some breakfast items and opening up earlier in the morning to feed those hungry athlete and other rowing volunteers on our brand-new patio. Whether you row or not, come down to support our rowing community.

These past presidents are definitely worthy of honorable mentions as they have kept this organization running over the past 57 years: Sheila Fronk, Joan McLelland, Beverly Plata, Ann Baker, June Prytula, Bonnie Manoogian, Elaine Bennett, Joan Dick, Shirley Partington, Carole Price, Nancy Anderson, Lore Dick, Sherrill Hollick, Gail Turner, Bernice Sharik, June Prytula, Emily Felesko, Lynn Warner, Sue Morrison, Cindi Ratkovsky, Dianne Stevenson and Sharon Ralph. ■

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In 1953, Gertrud married, and her husband Endel, also from Estonia, moved in with them. She continued working at the factory, even after her daughter was born, because her husband worked for McKinnon's (GM), and often was out of work due to layoffs or strikes. Mr. Liho then went to Ryerson College to qualify for a better job, but when he finished, he was considered "too old" to be hired and had to go to Toronto to find work (for Northern Electric, later Nortel). This led to him having to work "all over Canada" so that Gertrud often felt like a single mother to her daughter and son.

The Liho family continued renting the house from Mrs. Dowdel, and at one point, Mrs. Dowdel, who was widowed and had no children, said she wanted to sell the house to Gertrud because of how well she took care of it. She was asking \$6,000 which Gertrud considered very fair because the house was probably worth at least \$8,000. However, she knew she couldn't afford it. But Mrs. Dowdel said she could increase the rent just a bit and continue paying monthly until the agreed upon amount was paid. Six months later, Mrs. Dowdel passed away, and all Gertrud had to do for the house to become hers, was to make the monthly payments to the Catholic Church since that was what Mrs. Dowdel's had stated in her will. All of this was done just by oral agreement.

Gertrud sees all of this as something having been provided for her. The house was built the year she was born, and she felt it sat waiting for her until she was led to it and it became hers in ways that happened without her choosing it or seeking it out.

When Gertrud's son Mark was a preschooler, she wanted him to get prepared for attending school and had him go to a co-op nursery school being held at the Lion's Club in Port. When Mark left for regular school, the co-op hired her for \$2 an afternoon, realising she had a knack for working with children. Soon, a parent of one of the children there who had twins in daycare, asked Gertrud to take care of the twins at her home. This led to other parents asking her to provide childcare. Gertrud then did ECE classes at Niagara College so that her daycare and nursery school could be licensed.

Remembering the freedom she had as a young child, Gertrud gave the children full run of her house and deep yard full of gardens, with only son Mark's room being off limits. She added an upstairs room with full windows across

the front to give the children a good place to play and learn. Soon her day care grew so that she needed to hire assistants. Then parents requested she continue to let their children stay with her for kindergarten. She took parenting classes (based on Rudolf Dreikurs' Children: The Challenge) and a psychology course at the

Adler Institute in Toronto. She also began teaching the parents of the children in her day care. She did not believe in punishment or rewards, but in consequences to help the children learn responsibility. She felt her experiences as a young child helped her understand children, both their need for learning through play, but also, from her difficult years in Germany, the effects of being restricted and an outsider. This

deep understanding is what made her able to relate to children as well as she did.

Gertrud Liho acknowledges she didn't make much money through her day care and nursery school. When working from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ten months of the year, she made perhaps \$7,000 annually. Some of the parents couldn't afford much, so she charged according

to their ability, and to be fair, ended up charging everyone the same low fee. She did it for the love of children, and their parents, not for the money.

When the nursery school was starting to close due to changing demographics in Port, the Standard sent a reporter to interview the parents in her classes. The interview didn't go well because the parents didn't really want to open up, but the meeting led to the Standard requesting a parenting column, which Gertrud then wrote for the next 14 years. Her parenting courses also expanded, to various locations in St. Catharines, Grimsby, NOTL, and Welland, and Brock's Parenting Conference asked her to participate.

Reflecting back, Gertrud notes that she never pursued any of this. She never advertised, she never planned to do the things she did. All of it came to her, because people asked her to do something, and in all of it, she did it for the "pure love of it."

As we talked in her cozy kitchen, Gertrud looked around her lovely home and gardens, and reflected that in the end all things will disappear, but what will linger is the relationships she has had with people over the years. She is thankful for the opportunities to serve as she felt led. She is now retired but continues to be presented with opportunities to interact meaningfully with people in various circumstances. She is filled with gratitude for all of it. ■

She felt her experiences as a young child helped her understand children, both their need for learning through play, but also, from her difficult years in Germany.

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Bruce Williamson

Councillor,

Port Dalhousie Ward

City of St. Catharines



Report from Councillor Carlos Garcia Port Dalhousie Ward

The following is a report on my work on behalf of the residents of Port Dalhousie Ward and all of St. Catharines as your representative at City Council over the period from mid-July 2019 through mid-February 2020.

Renaming of IceDogs Way.

At the July 15, 2019, we unanimously approved a motion to consider renaming Icedogs Way after the late David S. Howse. Mr. Howse, former owner of Lincoln Fabrics, was a former Chair of Brock University and served as Chair of the Committee that relocated Brock University's School of Fine and Performing Arts to downtown St. Catharines becoming the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts. The renaming was approved at the next Council meeting, following the required process.

Concerns About Coyotes in Urban Areas.

We had heard from many residents about coyote sightings and fear for pets and, potentially, humans. On August 12 we heard a presentation from wildlife experts emphasizing coyotes are more visible due to encroachment on their territory and more education is needed. Council passed my motion that staff work with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), along with any other organizations that may have appropriate expertise and urge them to take immediate action that will mitigate the threat to residents without harming the wildlife population.

Rental of Public Space to Community Organizations.

In September 2019, Council passed my

motion requesting a report evaluating the creation of a new rental category to be added to our policy with regards to the use of vacant and unused City properties. The new category, for which rental fees could be waived in total, would be Community-based Volunteer Groups that, despite being incorporated as not-for-profits, do not have paid staff and have only minor assets. These groups, which contribute greatly to our city, would still have to carry proper insurance, be prepared to help with maintenance and not use the property for any commercial purpose. Still awaiting that report as I write.

Additional Members for Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Board.

Councillor Townsend and I represent Council on the new board which was established with a mandate to promote, develop and encourage the performing arts in the City of St. Catharines. The new board Chair had requested approval of additional members to provide expertise currently lacking among members. On October 7, we passed my motion to add two more members to the board.

2024 World Rowing Championships.

On October 21 we passed a motion by Councillor Williamson (seconded by me) that Council approve an Events and Rights Agreement (ERA) with the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron, relating to the 2024 World Rowing Senior, Under 23 and Junior Championships. The 2024 championships, to be held at the Henley course in Port Dalhousie, will be a great event for our City and Region.

CIP Funds for Lincoln Fabrics Luxury Condos Project.

There was a motion on the November 4 agenda to reconsider the previous rejection by Council of Community Improvement Program funds for this project. This was narrowly rejected again with Councillor Williamson and I voting not to approve. I believe these funds should only be there to assist appropriate developments with heavy remediation costs which would otherwise NOT be built – not luxury condos which can be built without taxpayer subsidies.

Continued on page 11

Chris Bittle
Member of Parliament - St. Catharines

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The Steamer Garden City

In 1892, a brand new vessel appeared on the Port Dalhousie route. This new vessel was the sidewheeler *Garden City*, named in honour of the City of St. Catharines. She was built in Toronto at the Bathurst Street yard. She had a steel hull and wooden superstructure. She was 177.9 feet in length, 26.0 feet in the beam and 10.0 feet in depth. *Garden City* was constructed for \$75,000 and had accommodation for 600 passengers.

The *Garden City* entered service for the St. Catharines, Grimsby and Toronto Navigation Company on the Toronto–Port Dalhousie route on June 20, 1892. The Niagara, St. Catharines & Toronto Railway (NS&T) was officially incorporated in 1899 and eventually took over the various other local electric lines, running a route through to Port Dalhousie docks in April 1900. This offered rail transportation into downtown St. Catharines and, as the electric railways expanded, to Thorold, Niagara Falls, Welland and Port Colborne.

The Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Navigation Company ran *Garden City* and *Lakeside* very successfully on the Toronto – Port Dalhousie route through the first decade of the twentieth century. It would appear that *Garden*

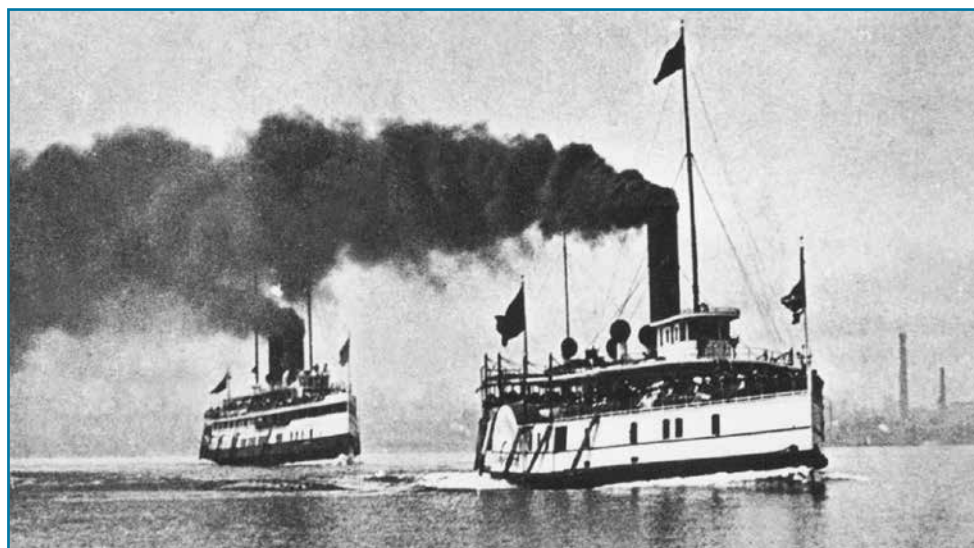
City's last year of operation on the Port Dalhousie route was 1917, after which, no longer needed, she was laid up in Muir's Pond above Lock One of the Third Canal. Following the end of World War One, business on the route

began to pick up. *Dalhousie City* by herself was unable to handle the trade. *Garden City* was not reactivated. In her place they brought to Lake Ontario the 1891 built Northumberland and *Garden City* lay idle in Muir's Pond until, on May 2, 1922, she was sold to Joseph Rinfret, of Montreal, for service to that city's King Edward Park. She was refurbished at Muir Brothers shipyard at Port Dalhousie before she left, and soon entered service on her new day excursion route.

During the 1929 season, *Garden City* reportedly lay idle in Montreal's Bickerdike Basin. There she sat until 1936, when she was towed to a Sorel, Quebec shipyard and broken up there.

It was an ignominious end for a steamer that had brought so much pleasure to excursionists on Lake Ontario for so many years. ■

- Roger Bradshaw



In a race for Toronto Harbour's Eastern Gap, and Lake Ontario, the Garden City is seen running flat out with the Cayuga of the Niagara Navigation Company in hot pursuit. Within the confines of the harbour the Garden City could hold its own, especially the short distance to the gap, but on the open lake the paddle wheeler was no match for the powerful propeller of the Cayuga. Fortunately for the Garden City, the two would go their separate ways once on the lake.

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Councillor's Report *Cont'd from page 9*

Operating Budget for 2020 Passed.

At the December 16 meeting Council passed the operating budget for 2020. The proposed increase in expenditures was significantly above the rate of inflation and I was the only Councillor to vote against this. Our City has a very large population of seniors on fixed incomes and we had previously committed in our Strategic Plan to hold increases to the rate of inflation.

Recognizing the Late Neil Peart.

The great Rush drummer Neil Peart, who grew up in Port Dalhousie, recently passed away. Councillor Williamson had already been working on local recognition for Neil for over a year and then on January 27, 2020, Council passed a motion to start the public process to potentially name the Lakeside Park Pavilion after him or some other form of appropriate recognition of his great talent. Neil was the main lyricist for Rush and wrote the famous song about Lakeside Park.

GM Lands Clean Up.

Also on January 27th we passed a motion to, among other measures, hire an external legal firm to advise the City on what legal mechanisms are available to allow for clean up on private property. This site is a major blight on our City and an eyesore so I strongly support efforts to improve the situation although I did argue that we should be relying on our own legal staff rather than spending money on outside lawyers.

Deterring Graffiti Motion.

I am extremely concerned about a significant increase in graffiti which is a serious problem: It detracts from the City's image; it can impact the value of affected properties and it is costly to clean up. My motion requesting: specific recommendations on actions the City can take better to control the problem and immediately contacting the police for better enforcement, as well as the Ministry of the Attorney General asking for more severe penalties to deter graffiti. The motion was not heard on January 27th as we ran out of time. However, staff incorporated my recommendations in a report presented to Council on February 10.

Commercial Cannabis Growing Near Residential Areas.

Numerous residents are concerned about agricultural land adjacent to residential areas being converted to commercial cannabis growing operations.



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These are known to have a detrimental impact on nearby properties because of the strong, unpleasant smell affecting the neighbours' quality of life and, therefore, potentially devaluing their properties. On February 10, 2020 Council passed my motion to conduct a study about the land use implications of cannabis production facilities, such as odour, noise, light trespass, minimum distance separations, and ancillary uses in Agricultural and Employment Zones, and make recommendations as to how cannabis production facilities should be regulated. Council narrowly rejected my request for an Interim Control By-Law to prohibit cannabis production facilities pending the results of the study and appropriate regulations.

Dalhousie Avenue Stairs to Lakeside Park Finally Open.

These stairs were closed for over 3 years thus inconveniencing thousands of visitors and residents. They are on public land and were closed because of the construction of the condo at the end of Dalhousie Ave. and damaged in the process. Councillor Williamson and I had hundreds of complaints and kept pushing for the re-opening. Finally, the reconstructed stairs were opened to the public in January of 2020.

Port Dalhousie Business Association Board of Directors.

I had worked as Council's representative on the PDBA Board for over 5 years, relying on my extensive business-planning experience to provide all possible assistance to strengthen the existing businesses and revitalize Port. However, we are facing a very challenging period for Port's businesses because of the disruptions caused by the work on the Piers and construction of approved condo projects. In 2019, the Board voted to dissolve the port Dalhousie Business Improvement Area (BIA) and this direction was approved by Council.

Supporting Community Organizations.

Along with Councillor Williamson, I continue to work closely with the volunteers at the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee (BWC) and other community organizations in Port Dalhousie Ward. In addition to the BWC, we support the volunteers at the Port Dalhousie Conservancy, the Grantham Optimist Club, the Port Dalhousie Lions, St. Catharines Kiwanis, the St. Catharines Rowing Club and the Henley Regatta, which held its 137th annual event last year.

As always, a very special thank-you to my fellow Port Dalhousie Ward Councillor Bruce Williamson for his invaluable advice and support. ■



Port Dalhousie Harbour, 1929

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RE: SITE PLAN APPROVALS FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF FORMER LEGION LANDS AND FORMER LINCOLN FABRICS LANDS.

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Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020

Time: 6 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: Port Dalhousie Lions Club
201 Main Street, Port Dalhousie

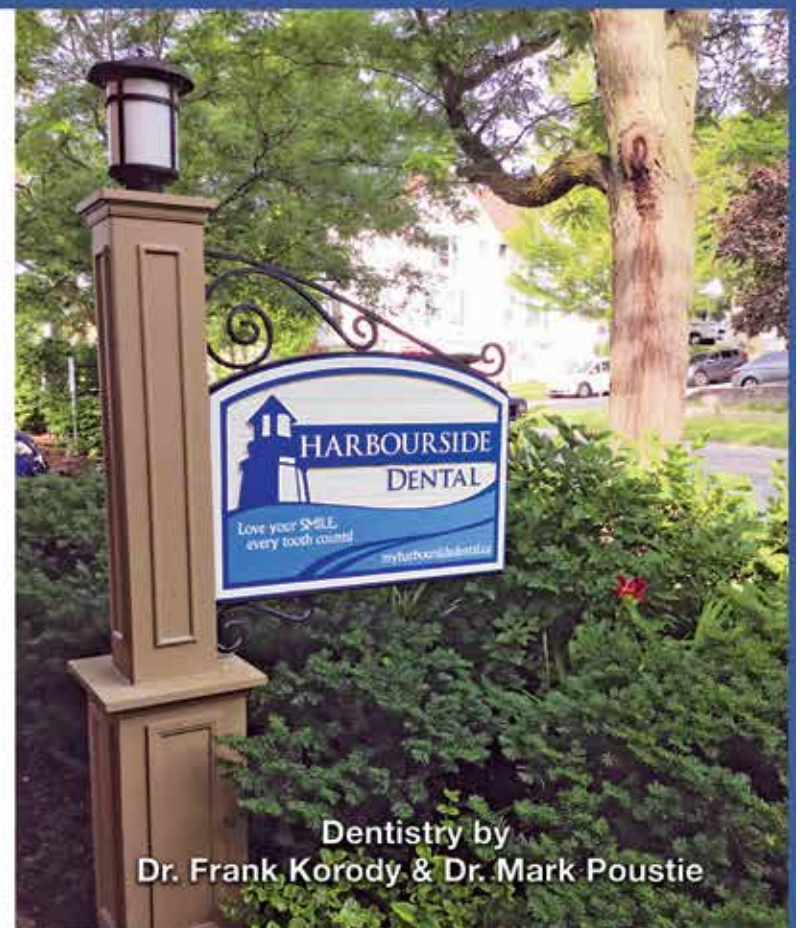
NOTE: At the time of printing this event has not been cancelled. Please verify with the City (905-688-5600) to confirm the session is still being presented.



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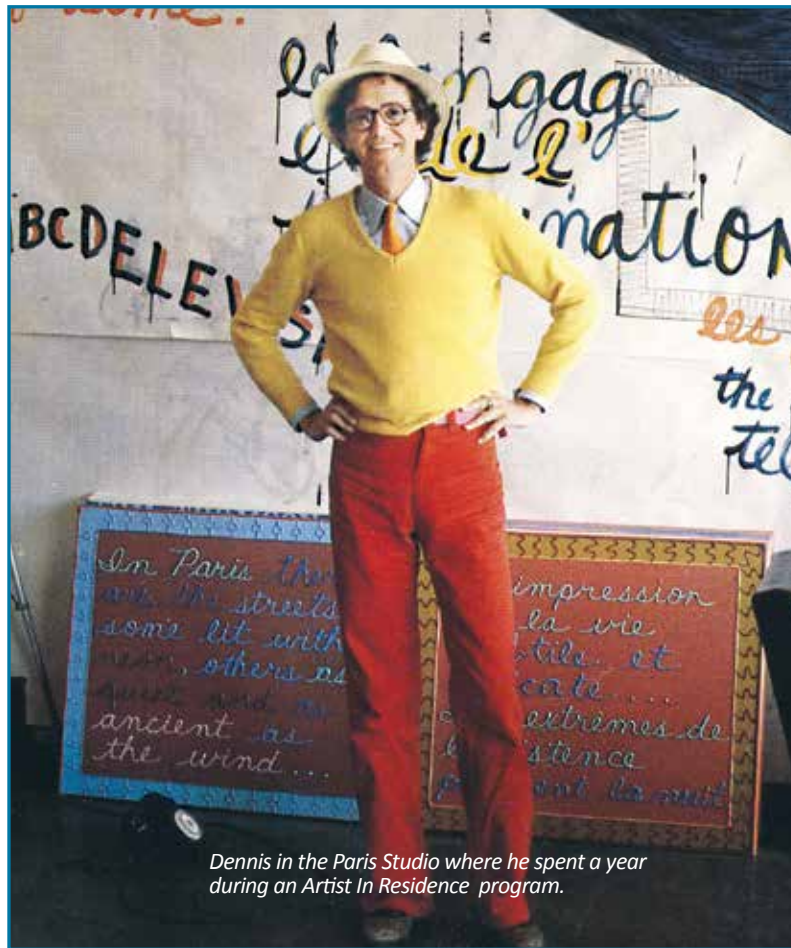
Dennis Tourbin - A Port Boy's Story

The Author of The Port Dalhousie Stories was a Multi-Faceted, Creative Dynamo

Dennis Tourbin spent his formative years growing up on Elgin Street in Port Dalhousie. He was one of a group of adventurous friends who roamed the streets of the village and Lakeside Park through the 1960s and many of his teenage exploits are hilariously depicted in his book *The Port Dalhousie Stories*.

As the publisher notes: "*The Port Dalhousie Stories is a rollicking and rambunctious collection of stories centered around the town of Port Dalhousie near St. Catharines and dealing with the rousing sensibilities of a teenaged boy and his pals. The Port Dalhousie Stories recalls a time between youth and adulthood when summers were long and free, and the future did not yet loom uncertainly ahead. Masterfully told by Dennis Tourbin and abetted by John Boyle's wicked and witty illustrations.*"

Aside from his authorship of this acknowledged coming-of-age Canadian classic, he was also a self-taught painter, writer, poet and musician. He joined the St. Catharines band The Evil as their drummer, and along with Terry Walsh, Jim Bryson, Eddy "Dippy" Zielski and John Libera became a local legend as regulars at The Castle, a teenage night club located on



Dennis in the Paris Studio where he spent a year during an Artist In Residence program.

James Street in the 60s. He eventually moved to Peterborough where he was instrumental - along with painter David Bierk and others - in establishing Artspace, an innovative artist-run gallery. While in Peterborough he also published an arts magazine, *Parachute* and produced *The Poetry Box*, an outside display case that showcased poets' works from around Canada.

Tourbin however never really left Port Dalhousie and St. Catharines behind, and over the years he continued to be active in the development of the arts here through friendships and associations. He was a founding member of Niagara Artists' Cooperative (now Niagara Artists Centre) and has a gallery named in his honour. In Paris, where he held an Artist-in-Residency for a year, he gave readings of the *Port Dalhousie Stories* as well as in Buffalo at Hallwalls Gallery, Toronto, Peterborough and London. He also read them here in Port in 1977 at the sadly missed Port Hotel, at the Lion Tavern in the early 80s, and to an exuberant, packed house at the Port Dalhousie Legion Branch 350 in 1993.

His paintings have been widely exhibited in solo and group exhibitions throughout Canada

Continued on page 15



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Dennis Tourbin

Continued from page 9



Finally! After over two years, Port residents and others will be able to take the Dalhousie Avenue stairway shortcut to Lakeside Park. The new stairs are wider and definitely less worn, although the old staircase had a certain patina of sentiment applied by the myriad number of walkers that have used it over the years.

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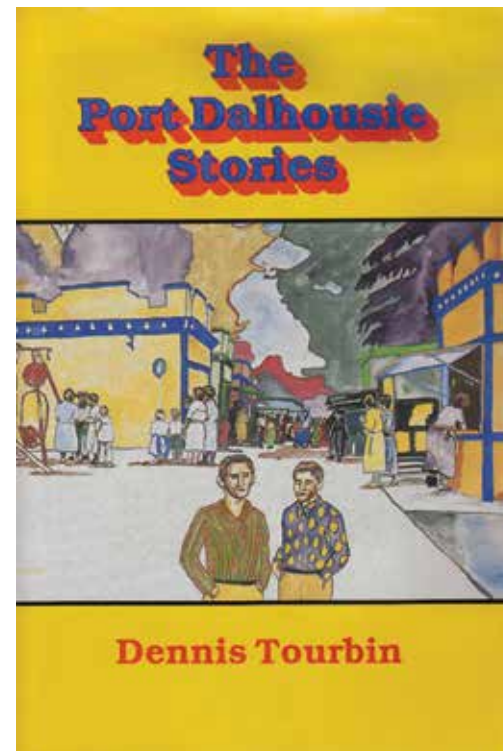
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and in Europe and are represented in major Canadian institutions and galleries. In fact, he was embroiled in a scandalous episode when the National Gallery made a commitment to him for an exhibition of his works and then suddenly retracted it. It seems that the suite of his paintings to be exhibited was based on a notorious incident called the October Crisis – when members of the Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ) kidnapped the provincial Deputy Premier Pierre Laporte and British diplomat James Cross in 1970. This was unfortunate timing as the exhibition coincided with the Quebec independence referendum held that autumn in 1995. The gallery, fearing the artwork could have inflamed passions during the campaign, cancelled it. Tourbin, ever the promoter and not easily deterred, turned this unfortunate occurrence into a promotional windfall when he supplied the national press with a taped phone conversation he had with the Director of the National Gallery in which she admitted it was a politically motivated decision. “Censorship and political duplicity!” cried the media.

“The affront to the artist was a Möbius strip for media attention. The work became celebrated not because it was displayed in the National Gallery but because it was NOT displayed in the National Gallery.

There it was, gone. Dennis Tourbin: the show he never gave.”

- Paul Gessell, The Artful Blogger



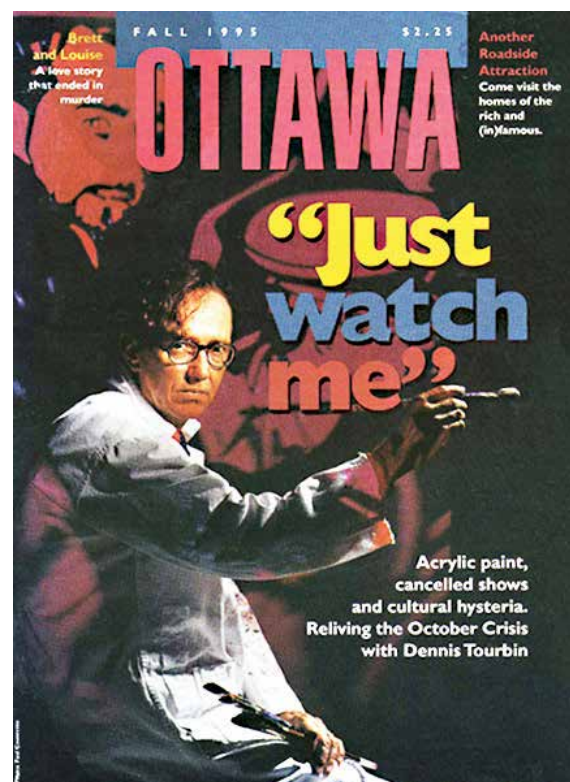
Dennis also loved fishing and throughout his life always found time to cast a line. From fishing at Jackson Flats on Twelve Mile Creek, to Baxter Creek in Millbrook and Gannon’s Narrows near Buckhorn, he maintained this passion for fishing with as much gusto as he pursued his creative projects. In fact, he completed many paintings, poems and drawings on the subject including The Lure Series of paintings, and the book: The Complete TV Angler (vol. 1 and 2, Penumbra Press, 1995, 1996).

Sadly, he passed away in 1998 but his rich cultural legacy lives on. You might notice his street banner sprinkled throughout the city’s downtown along with various other hometown luminaries such as Neil Peart, Linda Evangelista, Harriet Tubman and Howard Engel, among others.

I feel privileged to have had Dennis as a friend. We shared many experiences in our carefree youth - I was one of his buddies who roamed the streets of Port and Lakeside Park back in the 60s - as well as in later years when we resumed our friendship through art-related activities and our mutual love of fishing. I still miss him and his infectious

enthusiasm. Cheers my friend. ■

- Peter Wing



Trees Need Protection

*They Provide Important Benefits to Us
and our Environment*

Trees are a major influence on our streetscapes, contributing significantly to the appearance and value of properties. Why would urban developers market their new properties with lush tree-lined boulevards to entice buyers if they weren't such important beautification factors? Trees provide shade and privacy for humans and structures, habitat and shelter for wildlife and in urban areas act as wildlife corridors. Trees reduce the effects of pollution, humidity, glare, soil erosion, improve water quality. Simply put they are an essential part of our living environment. As many on the planet are realizing, we are at a pivotal point in the climate change crisis, and it's time to have a serious conversation about the impact of urban trees in our towns and cities. When trees are damaged they start rotting and this too negatively impacts the environment with emissions contributing to climate change.

Recently I bore witness to magnificent 80 ft cedars, taking decades to grow and housing multiple species of birds and wildlife, cut down in a matter of minutes for the "future" development of housing. This brutal act was performed before the developer took legal possession of the property, by-passing the process. How ironic that their development plan was approved "pending a tree preservation plan". ironic because they have already removed the trees. This de-



velopment isn't going to be large-scale, nor necessarily insensitive to the character of the street, yet the damage was done because it's easier and less expensive for developers to work on a "blank canvas" rather than build around trees. St Catharines Council, are in the minority of other Ontario municipalities as they don't have a tree by-law. Accordingly, they do not have any grounds to prevent, stop or discourage tree cutting by developers or private property owners. In truth, it's not their business, or is it?

But let's consider that policy. Most large mature trees were in situ before many land or house owners assumed ownership of their property. Should we not be custodians of these great trees and ultimately the health of our common environment, held accountable to the greater good that trees have on the environment and society?

I respect the opinion of "this is my land, its no one's business." But many other by-laws exist that impact what you are able to do on your land, within the boundaries of being a member of a community, and how your behaviour affects your neighbours. Parking a commercial vehicle in your driveway is forbidden as well as letting your front yard become overgrown are not allowed, so why don't we have a reasonable by-law about trees, something that positively impacts all of us? Take a look at Toronto's tree by-law; a tree is measured four foot from the ground and if the circumference is 7 inches in diameter an assessment is required before it can be cut down. Do trees still get cut down? Sure they do, but the process is regulated and only in the best interest of the community. If tree felling occurs outside of this process the city can collect up to \$100,000 in fines. Surely that should whet the appetites of a City Council who are desperate for revenue.

In conclusion, when they're gone, they're gone, and planting saplings doesn't offset the impact to air quality, wildlife protection and the beauty of this planet. Reasonable policy needs to be adopted where the process is outlined and assessments are made, not for bureaucratic reasons, but because thinking twice and acting once is needed. All of us have a responsibility to sustain and be respectful of our planet's life cycle. Earth is burning and we are all custodians of its future. Let's do all we can in this climate change crisis. ■

- Lesley Hirst

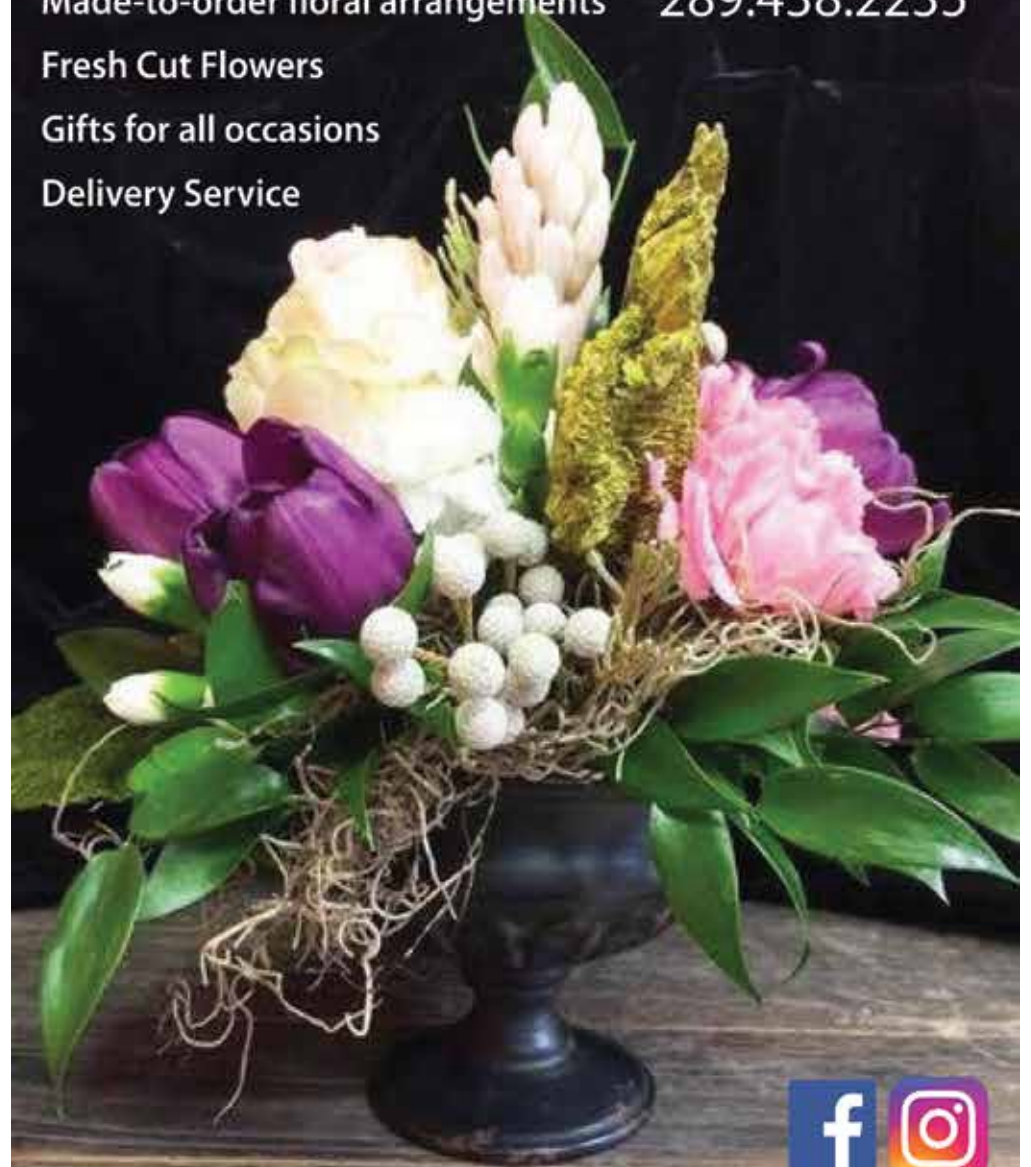
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The Port Dalhousie Conservancy www.pdconservancy.org

The Carousel *by Norm Patterson*

Some say it's Port Dalhousie's heart,
The history is hard to chart.
Today it's still alive and well,
The Port Dalhousie Carousel.

From Hanlan's Point by boat she came,
To Lakeside Park to seek her fame.
With all the reassembly done,
She went to work in twenty-one.

Horses going round and round,
Horses that go up and down.
A Lion with it's head to the side,
Even a Giraffe to ride.

All made by hand and carved with pride,
By Mr. Loofe of Riverside.
That's in Rhode Island, USA,
A hundred years ago they say.

It offered chariots as well,
And a noisy starting bell.
Animated dancers who,
Looked like they were watching you.

Drums and cymbals kept the beat,
The organ made the sound complete.
The music you could even hear,
Clear but faintly on the pier.

There's nothing in the world compares,
With carousels for melting cares.
One of life's simple pleasures this,
A very special form of bliss.

All ages rode the Carousel,
Children, Moms and Dads as well,
Grandma, Grandpa, Auntie too,
Thought it quite the thing to do.

Just climb upon your charging steed,
Hold the fluted pole and speed,
Gently round as cymbals clang,
Dancers dance and drums go bang.

In 1970 I am told,
Everything was sold.
Lakeside Park had seen its day,
They took those grand old rides away.

Oh yes they even tried to sell,
Our dearly treasured Carousel.
As one Historian relates,
It would have wound up in the States.

Then Mrs. Crabtree led the cause,
To keep this treasure where it was.
She formed a group of volunteers,
Who kept it from the auctioneers.

If not for Dorothy Crabtree's grit,
There would be nothing left of it.
And she can say and say with pride,
It's going still, at five cents a ride.

Sid Brookson also did his part,
And showed he had a kindly heart.
His asking price he neatly shaved,
To match the sum the group had saved.

The Carousel has many friends,
Their kind attention never ends.
Unseen they blithely work away,
With children's smiles their only pay.

In looking back it does occur,
That someone's looking after her,
Surviving floods, neglect and fire,
And wooing of a U.S. buyer.

A monument to simpler times,
Like ones you find in nursery rhymes.
Long may the horses gently bound,
And carry happy people round.

Alice Gilleland *A Port Dalhousie Educator Respected and Admired by Students and Parents*

Every community contains its own unique mix of residents, ranging from the rich and famous to the eccentrics. Fortunately, there are just as many ordinary, everyday people, all of whom contribute in one way or another to the overall character of the area. But they all have interesting tales to tell. One such local family is that of Gilleland.

The Gilleland family originated in Northern Ireland where three brothers – John, Thomas, and James – were born between ca. 1799 and 1809. The eldest of the siblings, John, arrived in Upper Canada sometime around 1824 and was married in March 1825 to Sarah Hostetter (DUE) of Grantham. John was a prosperous farmer who later moved to Thorold where he operated a water-powered sawmill. His brother Thomas may have accompanied him to Upper Canada since he also settled in Grantham. Thomas was married in January 1829 to Sarah's sister, Deborah Hostetter. Both men served in the Lincoln Militia during the 1820s and '30s, and were involved

in local, municipal affairs. Thomas served as a constable in Grantham, but on at least one occasion he ended up on the wrong side of the law. In July 1833, he participated in a riot in downtown St. Catharines which resulted in the near destruction by fire of Luther Dyer's tavern. And what was the cause of the melee? It was that one of the patrons in the bar had casually observed that it was July 4th and that it was customary to have a "glass of punch" in the United States. Blacksmith William Henry Sanderson, who was in the tavern, claimed that he would "have no Yankee Independence and swore he'd whip any person who would." Sanderson, Gilleland, and several others tried to force their way back into Dyer's establishment after dark, and in an effort to force the occupants out of the building, began to hurl "balls of combustible matter" onto the roof and gallery of the building. Fortunately, there were no casualties or major loss of property that night.

James, the youngest brother, settled in St. Catharines around 1830 where he soon found employment as a mason. He was married in May 1834 to Charlotte Beamer (ca. 1810-1860) with whom he had several



Alice Gilleland as a member of the Collegiate Girls' Club, 1928.

the United States. He moved to the United States in 1887 and established an architectural practice in Cleveland specializing in church architecture. Some of Badgley's commissions included: the Oille Fountain outside the old courthouse, the Welland Avenue Methodist Church, the old Carnegie library, and Massey Hall in Toronto.

William Beamer Gilleland (1844-1899) was the son of James and Charlotte Beamer Gilleland. He studied law and entered into partnership in a firm known as McClive & Gilleland. He was elected to serve as a school trustee and city councillor and served as a two-term mayor of St. Catharines in 1897-98. He was married to Annie Isabelle, the daughter of Moses Cook, and they raised a family of several children including Frederick Beamer Gilleland (1882-1954.) Fred settled just outside Port Dalhousie in Louth Township where many older residents will remember him as a grower of quality fruits. He was active in the affairs of St. Paul Methodist Church as a trustee and as a member of the Board of Stewards. Fred was a founding member of the Hi-Field Tennis Club, and a member of the I.O.O.F.

He was married in March 1911 at Cleveland, Ohio, to Dagmar Ruis Glidden (1882-1970.) After her marriage, Dagmar became an active member of the Louth

children. One of their daughters, Charlotte Jane (1849-1917) was married to the prominent architect, Sidney Rose Badgley (1850-1917.) Badgley studied architecture in Toronto and designed many notable buildings in Canada and



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.

We are *not* anti-development. We are *not* NIMBY. We are *not* stuck in the past.

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

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Women's Institute and the Athanaeum Reading Group. She was a Sunday School teacher at the St. Paul Street United Church (Silver Spire) and a member of the Women's Missionary Society.

F.B. Gilleland and his wife had two children: Alice Catherine (June 11, 1912-Jan. 27, 2005) and Allen Beamer (1915- August 4, 2000.) Allen stayed at home and continued to work the farm with his father. Alice received her primary school education at Woodland and then attended the St. Catharines Collegiate and Vocational School. While at the Collegiate, Alice was a member of the Girls' Club and served as its secretary in 1928. The Collegiate "Vox" yearbook for 1929 contained a tongue-in-cheek column called "Last Will and Testaments" which highlighted the various senior students. There we read, "I, Alice Gilleland, do will and bequeath my giggles in algebra class to anyone who can imitate them perfectly."

Alice graduated from the Collegiate in 1930 and then enrolled at the Hamilton Normal School where she obtained her 1st class teaching certificate in 1931. Her first teaching job was at the Port Dalhousie School (McArthur School) where she received a starting salary of \$1,000 per annum. Alice taught grade 2 for several years, and many of her former pupils fondly remembered her as a good teacher. Some remember that Alice



Sod turning event for Gracefield School in 1954. Miss Gilleland (2nd from left) stands beside R.A. Douglas, who was one of the longest serving members of the Port Dalhousie school board

had a few personal quirks, among them not wishing to pose with her pupils when class photos were being taken. Alice was a very private individual and records referring to her personal life were scant and difficult to find.

Nevertheless, Miss Gilleland demonstrated her abilities not only as a teacher but also as an administrator. She reached the pinnacle of her career in 1954 when she was appointed to serve as the first principal at Gracefield School. She was one of the few female school principals in the district at that time.

Alice retired from teaching in 1972 after a career that spanned just over four decades. She was active during her retirement serving on various committees at St. Paul United Church. She built a new house for herself on Lakeshore Road, west of Port Dalhousie, and near the original family homestead. She lived there with her long-time friend and fellow teacher Elizabeth Jenner. Miss Jenner originally taught kindergarten at McArthur School, and then grade 1 at Gracefield.

Alice died on January 27, 2005 and was survived by a niece in Manitoba and several cousins in Ontario. As per her wishes, Alice was cremated and her ashes were interred in the family plot at Victoria Lawn Cemetery. ■

- Brian Narhi

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Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee Report

"B.W.C."

Working together for a better Port Dalhousie

We would like to introduce ourselves, or reintroduce ourselves to you all. There are a lot of new faces in Port since our little organization started six years ago, and we welcome you, isn't this a great place to live, we are so lucky.

Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee, (B.W.C.) is an organization that relies on volunteers, and here's where we blow our own trumpet!

Over the years our volunteers have been instrumental in the following projects:

- Improvements to Henley Grandstand Entrance and gardens for Pan Am Games
- Pollinator Gardens
- Retaining Wall replacement at Lock and Main
- Repurposing of the Old Lock One
- Wooden Garbage Cans and Planter Benches around Port
- Flowers and Planters on the railings at Lock and Lakeport
- Creating and maintaining the gardens at the Old Port Mansion Site
- Our Annual Christmas Stroll, Bike Swap and Earth Day Cleanup
- Tree lighting along the footpath on Lakeport and Homestead Plaza

All of this takes much effort by our dedicated volunteers, but as we chat with people around Port it is obvious we are not as well known as we'd like to be. We hope this helps you understand a little of what we do: When you see the boxes on the railings at Lakeport and Lock, and the railings by Lock One Stage filled with beautiful flowers in the summer, or the trees opposite Murphy's illuminated and decorated for Christmas or Valentines Day, it is our BWC volunteers who have done all of this, **NOT the City of St. Catharines!**

We ask you to please come out and give us all the support you can.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Saturday, April 25th Earth Day Clean-up

Saturday, May 9th our second annual Bike Swap and Sale

JUNE 27th

OUR MAJOR

FUND RAISING EVENT

A poster for a fundraising event featuring the band Jonesy. The poster includes the text: 'BWC PRESENTS \$25 JONESY PORT DALHOUSIE BEAUTIFICATION & WORKS COMMITTEE FUNDRAISER'. At the bottom, it says 'TICKET PRICE INCLUDES BBQ' and 'SATURDAY JUNE 27 2020 AT 6PM'. There is also a small photo of the band members.

and...

Back by Popular demand **Lock 1 Concert Series**


July 1st **Abra-Cana-Dabra**
Celebrating the magic of Canada

July 15th **Procrastinators**

July 29th **Elton Lammie**

August 12th TBA

August 26th TBA

 Check us out on Facebook at
Port Dalhousie Beautification and
Works Committee

Your BWC has much to announce in this edition. Despite the dreadful weather, the Annual Christmas Candlelight stroll was held on December 14th. It was decided that we would have a different format this time. We would start at St John's Church with music and singing in the prior to distributing the candles and Carol Sheets.

The "Real Santa" (a.k.a. Derry Robinson) magically appeared, and was there to meet with the children. The group then set off on a route visiting a number of residents who had decorated and lit their front porches for various players and singers to perform. Thank you! We even had an Elvis! The group returned to the Church Hall where hot chocolate and cookies were served, all kindly donated. It was accompanied by more Christmas music and photo-ops with Santa. It was a great couple of hours, but the weather put off many families and so the BWC was not able to make its financial donation to a local charity as in the past. However, we did collect quite a lot of warm clothing for "The Salvation Army".

The BWC is finalizing the details of its major fundraiser for 2020. A **Summer BBQ** will be held on June 27th at the Henley Island Clubhouse featuring entertainment by Niagara's own *Jonesy*, regarded as one of southern Ontario's premiere pop/rock bands. Covering bands like Maroon 5 to Fleetwood Mac, and Imagine Dragons to the Police, *Jonesy* plays the biggest hits from the most popular artists, pleasing virtually everyone in the crowd. The ticket price of \$25 includes a BBQ, the Band, Door Prizes, etc. There will also be a cash bar. Our fundraising efforts rely on your generous support. Your contributions will help us, the BWC, to provide the Flower Planters, Christmas Decorations, lights, concerts and many other initiatives.

We are also in the early stages of planning an "Old Lock One Commons" **Concert Series**. You will recall that the two free concerts held last year were a great success, so this year, with the help of a small arts grant from the City, which will help towards our commitment to the following performances:

July 1st – Abra-Cana-Dabra
Celebrating the Magic of Canada

Created and performed by renowned Canadian magician Rick Rossini, this amazing production combines magic, music and comedy that's perfect for the whole family. We have two shows scheduled at 11.00 am and 2.00 pm

July 15th - Rock on the Water
with The Procrastinators

Enjoy an evening of classic rock by St. Catharines' own The Procrastinators. It is a group of five local gentlemen who came

together after performing with numerous bands over the past several decades. Those included Hush with legend Neil Peart in the early 70's before he left the band to join Rush. Their experience of playing classic rock has aged this band like a fine wine. Their passion for the classics from the 60's and 70's, include, Wilson Pickett, Santana, and Steppenwolf just to name a few. Don't put this off! Get your groove on at Old Lock One with The Procrastinators.

July 29th - From the Opry to the Opera
A return performance with Niagara's own Elton Lammie.

Originally inspired by the passions of traditional country music, Elton has also made a name for himself with his astonishing transformation into an emotionally inspiring operatic tenor. After several years as a touring country singer and recording artist, Elton decided to challenge himself by entering Bravo TV's So You Want to Be An Opera Star: Bathroom Divas 2006 contest, and won the crown as Canada's next opera star. Since then he's developed a unique concert career, performing music from Country and Rock to Broadway and Opera.

Please join us for an evening of music including songs of Roy Orbison, the Everly Brothers, Puccini, and much much, more.

We are working on another date in August and also a youth concert that will showcase some local young talent. All of these events will be free to the community, but we will rely on generous donations to be collected at the event.

We have also embarked on a "Bird House" program, in which local elementary students will learn about local wildlife through the assembly of suitable birdhouse designs. These birdhouses will then be installed in the various pollinator gardens nearby the Lock Tender's Shanty, as well as around Rennie Island. There will be a call out for volunteers to help with the planting of our numerous planters that can be found around Port and In the Lock.

The "Earth Day Clean Up" which is always well attended, will be held on Saturday April 25th Bring the kids to help out.

Lastly, after the success of last year's **Bike Swap** event, we are planning the second. It will be held at the Lions Club car park on Saturday May 9th 2020. ■

The BWC is a volunteer, citizen-driven organization dedicated to the beautification, preservation and enhancement of Port Dalhousie.

St. John's Church Dignity Kit Program Teams up With Socks For Change

St. John's Dignity Kit initiative has a new local partner. In the winter months, thanks to Socks For Change, our Dignity Kits will now offer warm, durable, wool blend socks and neck warmers for men and women in need along with the regular hygiene and grooming items and underwear that go into our kits.

The Dignity Kit program began in September, 2017 as a collaboration among the parishes of St. Barnabas, St. Columba, and St. John's, Port Dalhousie. After St. Columba formed their own group in 2018, in May of 2019 the sorting sessions were transferred to St. John's. Our parishioners along with some volunteers from St. Barnabas, enthusiastically support this ministry with generous donations and we have a dedicated team of volunteers who gather, sort, and knit items monthly.

Last year, chair Carol Lahey delivered over 250 individual kits along with bags of hand knit tuques and gloves as well as larger shower and grooming supplies for the Start Me Up Niagara (SMUN) drop in centre. SMUN clients line up eagerly each month to receive these kits. This January, 18 womens and 12 mens kits were created. Our kits are packaged in practical hand sewn cloth bags that recipients enjoy. The bags are made by Connie Elkin, sister-in-law of Dignity Kit team member Marilyn

Kanak and wife of Anglican priest Bob Elkin, based in Thessalon, Ontario.

At the end of November, St. John's Mission Strategy Committee recommended that the parish focus its Outreach initiatives and resources on local agencies that serve the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in our city. This includes Out of the Cold, Start Me Up Niagara and the Resource Association for Teens (RAFT). A parish council member, Colin Johnston, suggested we speak with Port Dalhousie entrepreneur, Sam Baio, who began "Socks for Change" a couple of years ago. Sam's connections with clothing manufacturers allowed him to source out quality, military grade socks, costing a mere \$2 per pair. These would be perfect for our kits. And a new partnership was formed! St. John's donated \$500 to Socks for Change and we received 250 pairs of socks for our kits on January 23rd.

Socks for Change is sponsored by Pen Financial Credit Union and Wise Guys Charities. 50 000 pairs of socks and accessories have been distributed across the entire Niagara Peninsula in every community among sixty charities, Niagara Regional Police cars, all EMS vehicles, women's centres, refugee and migrant worker centres, and in the schools of all four Niagara school boards!

The people of St. John's hope that this is just the beginning of a long partnership with Socks for Change where we can maximize the usefulness of our Dignity Kits for those who use them, especially in the cold or damp months of our Canadian winters. ■

Visit the Socks For Change website www.socksforchange.com.

Right:
Dignity Kit chair Carol Lahey hands Sam Baio of Socks for Change a cheque for \$500 from St John's Port Dalhousie



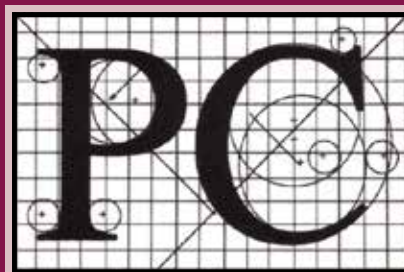
Left:
St John's Dignity Kit team members: Kathryn Dymczak, Marilyn Kanak, Helen Keene, Violet Priddle, Carol Lahey. Socks for Change founder Sam Baio



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Parking in the Port Dalhousie Heritage District *Part Three*

According to the experts, Port Dalhousie was acutely short of Parking in 2008! That is, of course, no news to those of us who have lived here a long time. Some will say it's not a problem at all or there is no solution anyway so just ignore it. If you tell me there is no problem today, you are probably right. There is no beach, no pier, no business and it's cold outside, so no problem. But we all know that if everything were functioning as it has in the past, we would be woefully short of parking space.

Now that so many spaces are taken up by construction, our businesses are certainly experiencing that shortage. In fact, to run or begin a business in Port today is extremely difficult under the current circumstances. Port businesses depend on public parking for their survival.

This is not just a problem for business, but it will also be a problem for residents as we all hope that Port comes alive again. It depends on what decisions the Region makes with respect to their redoing of Main Street and how much the City will defend the community from the loss of existing spaces and a willingness to maximise existing areas by reviewing existing hydrant and corner set backs, marking available spaces and time-limiting them appropriately.

In 2008 during the OMB hearing, expert consultants for the developer and the City both calculated that the existing shortage at that time especially between May-October was about 140 spaces. Their estimate at the time was that with the development of 80 condos, a hotel and a 415 seat theatre, and the new proposed commercial uses, the shortage would increase to about 340 spaces. Now that we have multiple condo developments and



Photo: SCG Niagara

when the small stuff is what really makes things work for residents.

We live in a car-centric society. We can resist that (and we should), but in the process we often place expectations on others with which we ourselves are not prepared to live up to. When I challenged City Council at a public meeting at the PAC, in 2018, for instance, not one of them had taken that to "others". There is a reason that 80% of St. Catharines Transit is subsidized by the taxpayer, not the ridership. We don't live in Toronto. We can borrow their parking standards but then we have to borrow their infrastructure as well. We can't blindly do one without the other.

Not all parking is equal either. If we, for example, define "A" level parking as being within 100 meters of the corner of Lock & Lakeport, we would cover a significant area and this can be considered an easily walkable distance for most. This area is also the most important premium parking for local businesses who need their customers close at hand. "B" level

parking could include street parking on Main or Dalhousie and the far reaches of Lakeside Park up to 250 meters and this makes different venues accessible. "C" level parking would exist across the water in Jaycee Park or on the east side of the channel.

This parking – without public transit – is barely useful except for special events like fireworks or when people utilize the area for recreation and exercise. The City is currently advertising these areas as alternate parking for Port. However, at an approximate distance of 1.6 km, they do not support businesses and they are too far from Lakeside Park to be useful. Adding spaces in those remote areas doesn't resolve parking issues.

Parking spaces have a dollar value. We are told that it costs about 15-20 thousand dollars to create a surface parking space. Unfortunately, when existing spaces are lost due to development or municipal planning and are not replaced, we lose them, and nobody pays the aforementioned price. So we pretend that they are free and that they are not community assets. Removing these spaces is a costly affair and should be paid for especially in a community with such significant parking challenges. You take one out, you agree to replace it with a similar type of space or pay money in lieu so that it can be used to improve Port's functioning.

Any approach to parking use also has to be comprehensive and include private spaces used by business, churches/organizations or private residents. Having some spots empty while other areas are full is not helpful. If businesses want to keep their spaces exclusively for their own use, they should not be able to use public parking either. As long as it's a walkable distance it shouldn't matter. Park once and walk is the best for everyone as long as "A" level parking has a robust reserve of accessible spaces. Even these could perhaps be creatively combined with 15-minute timed spaces to maximize their use.

A parking app. could be created to open up all the possible places to park in Port as we bring our parking into the 21st century. We could hire a Port-focused by-law enforcement officer or an Auxiliary policeman to be stationed in Port during the May to Oct. season. That officer could control illegal parking, walk or cycle the beat as part of community policing. Maybe even use the old Jail as a municipal office, first aide station and municipal liaison for residents and visitors alike. We need to be free to experiment and sometimes make new again what once was old. We can do it, but we have to work together. ■

St. Catharines needs to start investing in parking now; not when everything is built. We know we have a problem. As a community we also need to be prepared to experiment and innovate.

one can only surmise that parking will be even worse. We all know that Port was much busier before this development and construction started.

St. Catharines needs to start investing in parking now; not when everything is built. We know we have a problem! As a community we also need to be prepared to experiment and innovate. The citizens know how parking and traffic work in Port and we don't need to waste money on more experts. We cannot just focus on the big stuff



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



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Community Events Spring Calendar 2020

* Due to the COVID-19 crisis, please check the status of all listed events

April



*Blossom Sunday, 1932
Outside Port Dalhousie*

Saturday, April 25th

Spring Community Clean Up Day

Join BWC in cleaning up YOUR community on Earth Day! In the past three years we have collected about 50 large garbage bags which are dropped off at pre arranged pick up points for the City to collect. Check out their FB page for more details.

Saturday-Sunday April 25-26th

Lawn Bowling Club

Huge indoor garage sale Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 24 Verdun Avenue off Main Street, Port Dalhousie
Inside clubhouse., Something for everybody. Lots of books available! 8 am to 4 pm Rain or shine

Sunday April 26th 2020

Early Bird Regatta

Henley Island cssra.ca/events/

Sat April 4 - Sat June 6

45th Annual Spring Salmon Derby

St. Catharines Games and Fish Association. For more information on tickets, early bird prices, prizes and more check out their website at scgfa.ca/event/spring-derby/

May

Saturday May 2nd

Lawn Bowling Club Open House

10:00am-1:00pm

Here's your chance to try lawn bowling. Come see what it's all about!

Sunday, 3rd

Mandarin MS Walk

Port Dalhousie Lions Club

Join us at the 2020 Mandarin MS Walk – St. Catharines-Thorold, Welland, and Niagara Falls on Sunday, May 3, 2020 to raise funds and awareness for our community members affected by multiple sclerosis. All three walks begins at 10am. Snacks and lunch are provided! Participants can walk up to 5km on the fully accessible routes. St. Catharines-Thorold start location is Port Dalhousie Lions Club, Niagara Falls start location is the Gale Centre, and Welland start location is Notre Dame College School. For more information, contact: Amy Lloyd: amy.lloyd@mssociety.ca | 1(905) 937-7772 x3522 or register at their website by searching ms walk 2020 st. catharines-thorold.

Sunday, May 3rd

Canadian Federation of University Women's 46th Annual House Tour

CFUW's House Tour in St. Catharines .. a one-of-a-kind, once in a lifetime offering. These are the homes that you have always wanted to step inside! The LaPierre masterpiece on Wood Dale, the Italianate style residence on Norris Place, the 70's Retro on Riverview and more. Some of our city's finest and all for a great cause! The Tour of 5 homes is a major fundraiser for CFUW's Registered Charity, providing young women with Post Secondary Scholarships and supporting local agencies that help women and children in our community. Gather your friends for an afternoon you will not forget! Tickets are only \$25 and will be available mid March online at www.eventbrite.com or at Outlets listed at www.cfuwstcatharines.org.

Tuesday, May 5 at 6 pm

Lawn Bowling Club Potluck

Saturday May 9th

Lawn Bowling Club Open House 10:00am-1:00pm

Here's your chance to try lawn bowling. Come see what it's all about! - Verdun Avenue

Saturday, May 9th

Port Dalhousie Bike Swap

Port Dalhousie Lion's Club

7:00am - noon.

An event for people who want to buy, sell, trade, or donate a bike!

To save people money on buying new bikes, clean out garages, and help get people biking! If you have a bike to sell, drop it off between 7:00 - 10:00 am. Sales begin at 9:00am.

For more information: Visit the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee Facebook Page or contact pd bikeswap@gmail.com.

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day Regatta

Henley Island cssra.ca/events/

Tuesday, May 12

Lawn Bowling Commences

Ongoing, bowling is Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 6:30 pm - Verdun Avenue

No need to join a league. No actual teams... teams are made nightly. Bowls are provided for the first year. Reasonable membership required Please wear flat shoes. Great fun and great exercise....enjoy the fresh air.

Contact Carolyn Thompson 289-213-1202 for more information.

Sat May 16-Mon May 18

2020 Port Dalhousie 3x3 Classic

The St Catharines Game & Fish Association is proud to announce that the 2020 Port Dalhousie 3x3 Salmon Classic is back.

Check out their website for more details.

scgfa.ca/event/the-port-dalhousie3x3-salmon-classic/

Sat May 23 - Sunday June 28

Members Memorial Salmon Slam

scgfa.ca/event/scgfa-members-memorial-salmon-slam/

Saturday, May 30th

Port Dalhousie Wide Yard Sale

Check out the Port Dalhousie Conservancy website for more details around mid-April.

June

June 5 to 7

Canadian Schoolboy Regatta Henley Island cssra.ca/events/

Saturday June 20, 2020

23rd annual Summer Solstice, Drumming Down the Sun & Yoga on the Beach

Lakeside Park Beach, Port Dalhousie

(If it is closed by the City of St. Catharines due to flooding, the alternative location will be Westcliff Park, St. Catharines, overlooking the east pier and Lake Ont)

7pm – 7:45pm Yoga on the Beach by donation
8pm – 9:30pm Drumming Down the Sun by donation

Watch our website for updates and further information: www.niagaranaturetours.ca/niagara-summer-solstice.asp
www.facebook.com/Summer-Solstice-Drumming-Down-the-Sun-Yoga-on-the-Beach

Saturday, June 27th

BWC Fundraising BBQ

Henley Island Alumni Clubhouse

Check out BWC's ad in this issue and their Facebook page for more details

Ongoing

Summer Concert Series

Free family events hosted by BWC at Old Lock One Stage

Check out their FB page for more details.

July 1st Old Lock One stage . Abra-Cana-

Dabra Magic show

July 15th Old Lock One stage. Rock on the Water with the "Procrastinators"

July 29th Old Lock One stage. Elton Lammie

August 12th Old Lock One stage. TBA

August 26th Old Lock One stage. TBA

FULL MOON GHOST WALKS

Take an eerie stroll through Downtown St.

Catharines and explore history and haunted tales under the magic of the full moon. Tickets

are \$10 each; advance purchase is required.

April 29, May 29, June 28, July 27, August 26,

September 24, October 18 – 20 & 24 – 27.

Check out the city website for more details.

905.685.8424

Port Dalhousie Lions

Spaghetti Dinner: The Port Dalhousie Lions Club are having a Spaghetti Dinner the first Wednesday of each month to raise money for local charities within the Niagara Region. It's \$10.00 dollars for Adults, and \$4.00 for Children for all you can eat salad, spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, coffee, tea, and dessert. The dates include: Wednesday April 1st, Wednesday May 6th, and Wednesday June 3rd. Come join us every first Wednesday of the month starting at 5pm-7pm. June will be our last Spaghetti Dinner until we start up again in September.



The Port Reporter provides free listings for any Port Dalhousie (or vicinity) area events that benefit local charities or community organizations and would be of interest to Port residents, vendors and visitors. It is at the discretion of the editorial team to include or exclude submitted events. Readers are strongly encouraged to check directly with the organizers prior to the event as details do change because of weather etc. Submissions are due by the 1st of the month prior to publication and can be sent to : advertising.portreporter@gmail.com.



The steamer Garden City, docked at the bottom of Front Street, Port Dalhousie, 1898

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