

THE REPORTER



VOL.12 NO.3

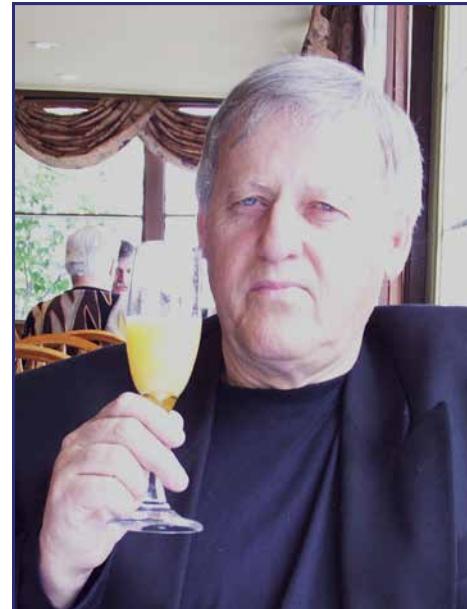
SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

SPRING 2017

Remembering Port Reporter Editor and Publisher TED GOULD An Outstanding Community Volunteer

As many of our readers know, the 2016 Fall and Holiday editions of the Port Reporter were not published because Ted Gould, who published and edited the paper since its inception, was very ill. Most unfortunately, we lost Ted on October 31, 2016. A group of other volunteers have taken up where Ted left off and this is the first edition of the paper without him. However, Ted will never be forgotten and we wanted to share some of his many accomplishments with you.

Ted was born in Toronto but had a close connection to Port Dalhousie from an early age because his family travelled to Port on the cross-lake steamers and spent summers here. Through his long career with the North York Board of Education, Ted was an enormously influential, innovative and inspiring leader, championing new programs decades before they became more universally accepted. As a school principal in the 1970s, and assistant superintendent in the '80s, he initiated progressive policies such as child care in schools, providing additional resources to students from disadvantaged



Church on Main St. and wrote and published an extensive history of the congregation from its 19th century beginnings. Then, in late 2004, as the community's battle to save the historic Commercial Core was gathering steam, he

approached members of the Port Dalhousie Conservancy (initially known as PROUD Port Dalhousie). The volunteers at the Conservancy had worked with the City for years and finally secured approval of Provincial Heritage Designation for Port in late 2003. They were then shocked by a developer's proposal for a 33 storey condo

neighbourhoods, and "community schools" policies which conceived of schools as neighbourhood hubs that should be open for community-based activity well outside of regular school hours. As an adviser to several directors of education, Ted influenced school policies across the province.

Eventually, he moved to Port Dalhousie with his wife Gloria in 1990 and promptly became heavily involved with issues affecting our community. He volunteered for many causes. In particular, he was a leading member of St. Andrews United

'Ted moved to Port Dalhousie with his wife Gloria in 1990 and promptly became heavily involved with issues affecting our community.'

tower in the historic, low-rise Commercial Core in early 2004. Ted felt Port Dalhousie needed a newspaper that gave the public community perspective about the proposed development and offered to start the newspaper.

Thus, the Port Reporter was born and the first issue was published in early 2005.

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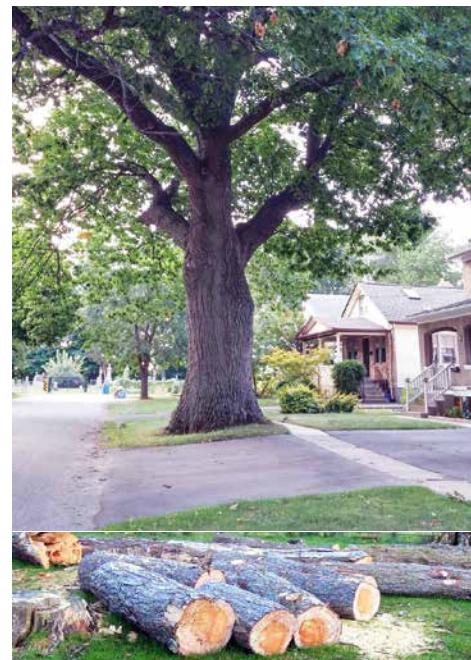
Developer Withdraws Demolition Permit for Historic Home at 333 Main St.

On the morning of Thursday, January 12, 2017, I received a frantic phone call from a friend: "They are cutting all the trees down at 333 Main St." I immediately reached Port Dalhousie Councillor Carlos Garcia who said he would look into it right away.

Later that day, Councillor Garcia confirmed that, not only was the property outside the Heritage District, which ends at Corbett but, it was not individually designated as heritage and therefore had no protection. In addition, he found out the property was not subject to a temporary prohibition on infill development passed by the City because pre-consultation had occurred prior to that prohibition being enacted.

Since the house appeared to have significant heritage value, Councillor Garcia made a motion at the January 16 Council meeting requesting the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee consider the designation of the existing building as soon as possible and

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To Tree or Not to Tree...

Who among us hasn't sought the shade of a tree on a hot summer day? Enjoyed a peaceful moment of reflection, a family picnic, read a good book, sipped a refreshing beverage, or sought protection from a sudden rainstorm under its canopy?

It seems that in the company of a tree, we humans enjoy not only protection from nature's elements, but sometimes from the buffeting gusts of unforeseen turmoil in our own lives. In some magical and mysterious way, trees provide not only physical shelter for us, but solace for our souls. Trees are beautiful living things in all seasons, symbolizing hope, regeneration and strength.

Trees also offer us many practical

Continued on page 4



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Mayor's Message



On behalf of the City of St. Catharines, I am pleased to see the Port Reporter continue to bring news and information to the residents of Old Port after the passing of Ted Gould last fall. Ted's dedication and leadership will be greatly missed by the entire community. Thank you to the new team of publishers who are taking up Ted's work.

This will be a special year as we recognize Canada's 150th birthday with many new projects across the city, culminating at an extra-special Canada Day celebration on July 1st at Rennie Park. Stay tuned to www.stcatharines.ca for details and please join in the community celebrations.

In development news, city staff are continuing work on the secondary plan for Port Dalhousie which will address heritage conservation, built form, public space, transportation and parking. This will also include an update of heritage district guidelines. There will be another public meeting this spring to discuss draft recommendations with the public before the report comes to Council for final approval. Public meeting details will be announced soon.

Work is progressing on the repairs of the east wall of the piers in front of the Dalhousie Yacht Club and City staff are working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on a plan to repair the piers. At this time it is clear that the piers will remain closed this summer for public safety. Repairing and reopening the piers remains a top priority for City Council and staff and we are working closely with St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle to make sure that the federal government understands the importance of the piers to our community. We expect an update to the community in March or April.

Last year was a productive year for volunteers and community groups like the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee, making improvements to parks and streetscaping in Port. The City is proud to partner with many community groups to get involved and make a difference. Another great example is the Kiwanis Club project to restore old lock one at Lakeport Rd. into a gathering space which honours the heritage of the old Welland canal

With a light winter, construction is moving along at Lakeside Park and we expect to open a new pavilion, new bandshell, playground and accessibility improvements in time for the summer season. Another community group - the Rotary Club of St. Catharines - recently came forward to support this project and Council has agreed to recognize this contribution by naming the new Lakeside Park bandshell the 'Rotary Bandshell.'

With so many dedicated groups and individuals taking action, it is clear to see why Port Dalhousie and the city of St. Catharines is a great place to be. There is a lot of good work taking place across the city which will shape the future of our community's growth – important projects and initiatives which I appreciate the opportunity to share with you.

I look forward to connecting with you:

Walter Sendzik
Mayor

mayor@stcatharines.ca 905-688-5601 ext. 1540 Facebook: /MayorSendzik
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Welcome to our New and Improved Issue of the Port Reporter

As most of you are aware, Ted Gould, our long time editor, passed away last fall. Ted did an incredible job and he left us with huge shoes to fill. The Port Dalhousie Conservancy has spent the last number of months assembling a new team of volunteers who come with fresh ideas and are eager to continue his legacy. We are excited about the new energy that has already been shown by our many new volunteers who really want to keep this important and vital communication tool available for all the residents and businesses in Old Port.

It is our intention to modernize our production, update the way we do things and make it possible for us to continue this great little community paper well into the future. We are updating our advertising, digitizing as much as possible, so that we can expand our distribution into the greater community and include more of Port Dalhousie ward. We intend to create a calendar of all the events taking place in Port. Our focus will remain on our beloved Port Dalhousie as we celebrate and educate regarding our incredibly rich history as well as keeping you up-to-date on the many events in this happening community.

We encourage all of you to participate and support this renewed effort. If you are interested in helping with this initiative, feel free to contact us. We hope to be able to continue to publish 4 times a year and distribute to over 2500 households in the area as well as having them available in local Stores and business.

Thank you for your support.



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 currently published quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. Normally 2,500 copies are delivered to homes in Old Port and surrounding area in Port Dalhousie ward. It can also be found at Avondale, City Hall, public libraries and in various local business establishments.

Editorial Board

Hank Beekhuis / Deborah Kehler/ Peter Wing

Design/Layout

Peter Wing

Copy Editor

Bram Hoff

Help the Reporter thrive and grow by making a financial donation. Checks can be made out to the Port Dalhousie Conservancy. With regret, Tax Receipts are not available. Please send contributions to: editor.portreporter@gmail.com
Ph: 289-438-9155

Deadline for posting of community events and advertising for the next issue is May 15th, 2017

Advertising information should be sent to: Advertising.portreporter@gmail.com to the attention of Marty Mako. All those interested in contributing to the publication of this newspaper are asked to contact our Volunteer Coordinator Allison Beekhuis who can be reached at 289-438-9155.

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To Tree or Not to Tree Continued from front page

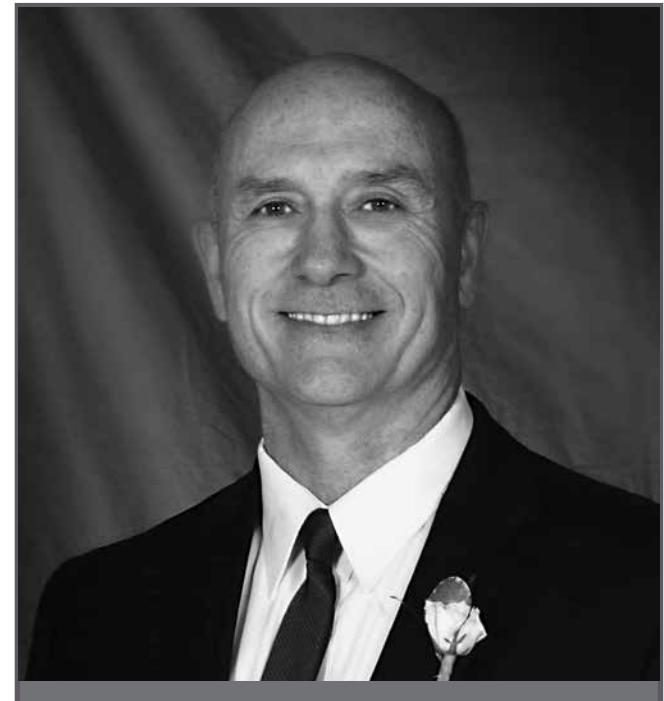
benefits, aside from the obvious resource of providing us with building materials and paper products.

- Fruit and nut trees can yield up to 10-20 bushels per year and can be planted on the tiniest urban lot. Aside from fruit for humans, trees provide food and shelter for birds and wildlife.
- They help combat climate change, absorbing CO₂, removing and storing the carbon while releasing oxygen back into the air. Trees cool cities by up to 10°F, by shading our homes and streets, breaking up urban “heat islands” and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves.
- Their canopies break rainfall thus allowing the water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree. This helps prevent storm water from allowing pollutants to enter the water table.
- It is proven that three trees placed strategically around a single-family home can cut summer air conditioning needs by up to 50 percent.
- Neighborhoods and homes that are devoid of trees are shown to have a greater incidence of violence in and out of the home. Trees and landscaping also help to reduce the level of anxiety and fear.
- The beauty of a well-planted property and its surrounding street and neighborhood can raise property values by as much as 15 percent.
- Studies show that the more trees and landscaping a business district has, the more business will flow in. A tree-lined street will also slow traffic – enough to allow the drivers to look at the store fronts instead of whizzing by unnoticed.
- Studies have even shown that patients with views of trees outside their windows heal faster and with fewer complications.

So are they worthy of protection? Many Ontario municipalities think so and have adopted by-laws that afford just such protection. The cities of Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Calgary, London, Oakville, Hamilton, Windsor and Guelph among others, have drafted and passed what are known as Private Tree Protection Bylaws that basically state that all distinctive trees (30-50 cm in diameter) on private property must apply for a municipal permit for removal. Dangerously old and diseased trees are exempt, but healthy trees are not. It has become a common practice for developers to clear cut trees before construction, so is it time for St. Catharines to consider just such a bylaw? You be the judge.

Peter Wing ■

For more information:
www.treepeople.com



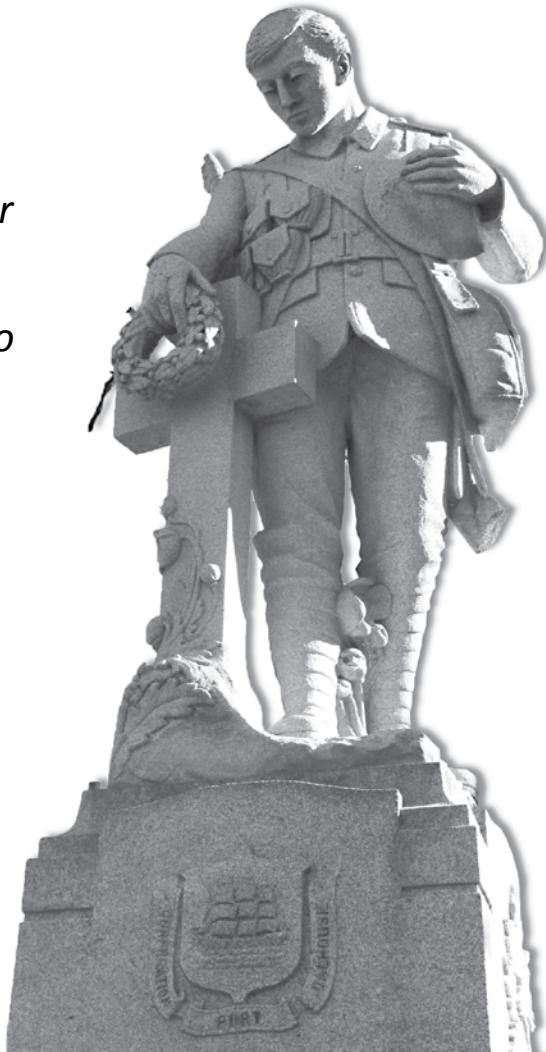
Bruce Williamson
Councillor,
Port Dalhousie Ward
City of St. Catharines

A Summer stroll
on the West Pier



Who were these men, what were their lives like before the war, what did they do while living in Port, how did they die, and where were they interred?

Herb Davies and Pat Brand are determined to find out.



The Citizen Soldiers of Port Dalhousie

citizensofportdalhousie.weebly.com/

As a young boy in Port, Herb Davies became intrigued by the impressive granite cenotaph in the centre of Port Dalhousie. Particularly fascinating to him were the names of the 20 men from Port who had made the ultimate sacrifice in the first world war. Who were these men, what were their lives like before the war, what did they do while living in Port, how did they die, and where were they interred?

So, a few years ago Herb embarked on a research project to answer those questions. He combed through archives and libraries, searched on the Internet and ultimately travelled abroad numerous times to visit and document the information at military gravesites throughout Europe.

In order to share his work with others, he enlisted fellow Port boy, Pat Brand, to build a website. Herb hoped that by spreading this information further afield, others might have details that could be added to these stories, and enrich the project even more. And so "The Citizen Soldiers of Port Dalhousie" website was born.

Sure enough, as others had the opportunity to view it, Herb and Pat were contacted by numerous folks, not only from the Niagara Region but from all over Canada, who had names and details to add. As well, to their great excitement last fall, they found that a local teacher was actually using it as a cornerstone in her Remembrance Day curriculum. She said it was amazing to be able to have a local resource like this to bring these stories to life for her students. It made it so much more relevant and meaningful.

The site continues to be a work in progress. Herb and Pat expanded the scope to include more information about Port Dalhousie at that time as well. Port Dalhousie was a small, but bustling town at the beginning of the last century. Although 20 men went and didn't return, many more from the town served in our armed forces. Thus, while being assisted by Richard Hirst from The Mayholme History Research Centre of St. Catharines, Herb and Pat were able to flesh out a listing of the more than 100 men from Port Dalhousie who enlisted and served in WWI. One can imagine that the departure of large numbers of young vibrant industrious males must have had a significant impact on life in general in this and many other small Canadian towns.

We would love to have you visit the website, and use their comment link if you have anything to add. You can also simply send them a comment.

Pat Brand ■

citizensofportdalhousie.weebly.com/



Jim Bradley, MPP

St. Catharines

I am honoured to represent the people of St. Catharines.



Constituency Office:

2 Secord Drive, Unit 2
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Initially, it was just a photocopied, black and white information sheet. Gradually, it grew into more pages and to cover a variety of issues of interest to Port, the City and Region. It also covered the ongoing battle against the 33-story tower proposal and the second 20-story proposal that eventually received Ontario Municipal Board approval. The paper evolved and, more recently, it was a colour newspaper with 16 plus pages published quarterly. While many volunteers contributed to the paper, Ted did the bulk of the work. He researched many of the stories, helped design some of the ads and would fit all this information into a format that could be sent to the printer. As each deadline approached, he would spend countless hours, working late into the night to assemble and edit the paper. He then would deliver the files in a memory stick to the printer (then in Grimsby) and would go back to pick up the finished copies for delivery to the public.

He continued to do all this work even as his health was failing and he had difficulty walking. He also found time to do other volunteer work for other charities and continued to work hard for St. Andrews until the church closed a few years back. Although a mild-mannered friendly person, he had an incredible sense of social justice that was an inspiration for many. He was an amazing volunteer who will be missed by all those whose lives he touched. ■

asking the owners to make every effort to preserve the house and incorporate it into their development plans. The motion passed unanimously.

Since then, we have learned much about the property through Mr. Tony Blaikie, who contacted Councillor Garcia after reading articles about the situation in the newspaper.

The house was built in 1914, for St Catharines banker Francis Blaikie (Tony's grandfather), on 40 acres of land purchased from the Read family in 1904. It was named Hollydean Farm after "Holy Dean" the Blaikie family homestead in Scotland built 300 years ago in Bowden Scotland. Port Dalhousie is the third Hollydean. A second "Hollydean" was built in Toronto in 1879 by Francis Blaikie's father, John Lang Blaikie and is now part of Branksome Hall girls' school. Hollydean was eventually sold to F. C. McCordick who owned a tannery on Oakdale Ave. in St. Catharines. The third owner was George Newman, owner of Newman Brothers Construction.

Then, on Thursday February 9th, I was informed that the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee met to consider the issue of heritage designation. At the meeting, developer Leo DiFabio and his associate Glenn Barr presented some initial illustrations for a development



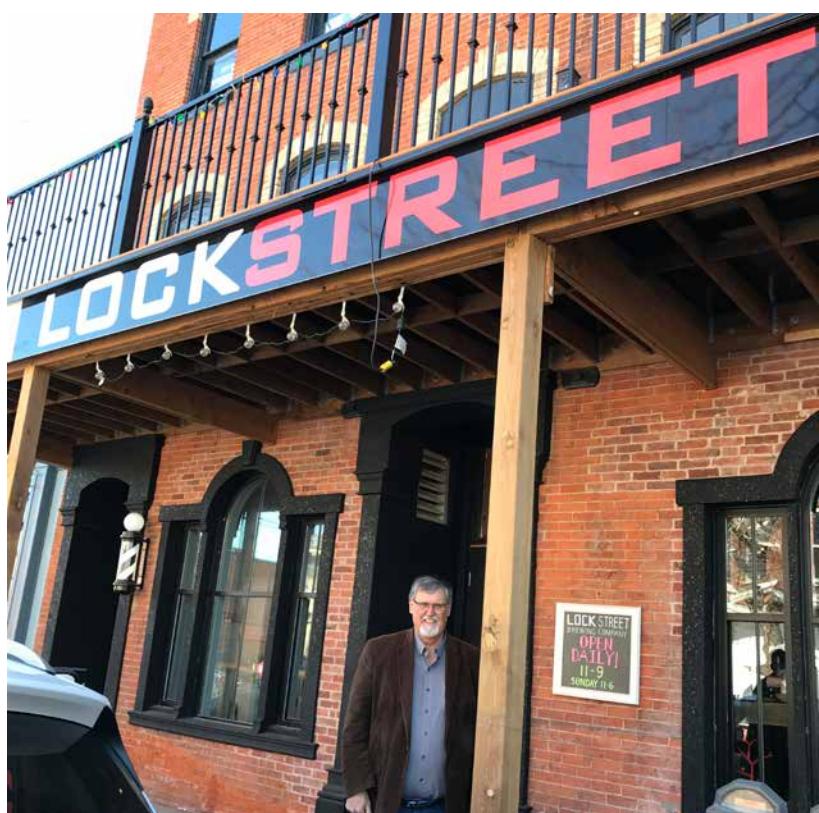
**"The house
was built in 1914,
for St Catharines banker
Francis Blaikie"**

that would incorporate the historic Blaikie homestead. They reiterated they wanted to preserve the house - even though they had applied for and received a demolition permit - and did not object to the property being designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

I also was informed that Committee Co-Chair Brian Nahri gave a verbal report of his research thus far that indicated the property had significant heritage value. He committed to having his full report ready for the next Committee meeting in March, at which time the Committee will decide on a recommendation to Council regarding designation. Then, I learned that at the request of Councillors Kushner, Williamson and Garcia, who were also in attendance, Mr. DiFabio agreed to withdraw the demolition permit he had obtained to show his good faith and intentions.

I would like to extend congratulations on behalf of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. (ACO), to the St. Catharines City Council and developer Mr. DiFabio for preserving the Hollydean house. ■

Colin Johnston
President, Architectural
Conservancy of Ontario,
St. Catharines Branch



Hangover at Lock Street Brewery

Conservancy Supports Lock One Brewery

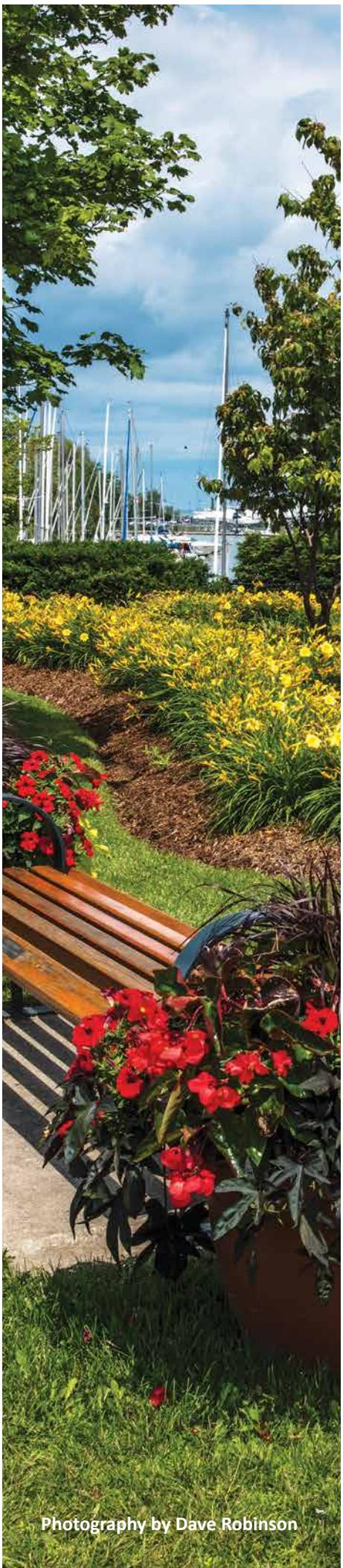
Most of the Port Community is pleased with the new and improved Wellington House, except, it appears, the Niagara Region. You see, the renovators had the temerity to replace the old rotten balcony with a restored new one, and the Region has now discovered that the balcony encroaches on Lock Street which is now a regional road. In order to encroach on a regional road, you have to ask permission, and that comes with a fee of somewhere between \$500 and \$2000 a year.

Up until now, no fees have ever been charged; however, because it was rebuilt, it needs not only to meet the building code, but also the new rules. This is a very discouraging approach to Heritage preservation. Heritage preservation is a difficult task at the best of times and this sort of bureaucratic nonsense is exactly what makes preservation so difficult.

Heritage structures have a great deal of leniency when it comes to the building code; however that is all subject to interpretation and common sense which, as we know, isn't very common. The balcony on the Wellington House has existed since 1877, long before there was any thought of regional government. It seems odd that now the Region sees it as an opportunity to make some money.

One of the unique and iconic features of Port Dalhousie is its balconies and porches. If owners have to pay to keep them, even if they are simply restoring them to their previous condition, then they will likely disappear as there will be a significant and ongoing cost to keep them. The Conservancy calls on the Region to waive these fees for any existing porch or balcony in the Heritage District that maintains the current streetscape, especially if they are part of a Heritage restoration.

Hank Beekhuis ■



Photography by Dave Robinson



Report from Councillor Carlos Garcia Port Dalhousie Ward

Here is my report on my work at City Council on behalf of the residents of Port Dalhousie Ward and all of St. Catharines over the period from mid-June 2016 to early February 2017.

First Annual Wing Fest in Port.

On July 11, 2016, I moved that Council waive 50% of the park fees for this time only. The reason for this was that the net proceeds from Wing Fest were to go to Community Care and the event would be fun for Port Dalhousie residents. Moreover, it would bring visitors to Port and benefit Port businesses. The event was held last August and was very successful. The second Wing Fest is planned for August 2017.

Review of Infill and Intensification Policies

On September 12, 2016 Council passed a motion to review the City's Official Plan policy and Zoning by-law standards for infill development within neighbourhoods and consider criteria to evaluate severance applications. The key objective was to ensure that infill development is sensitive to established neighbourhoods and compatible with neighbouring properties. Then on December 5, 2016, we passed Staff's recommendation for an Interim Control By-law, prohibiting multi-unit development and new lot creation on all properties zoned "Low Density Residential – Suburban Neighbourhood (R1)" to make possible the Council-directed review of residential infill and intensification development policy. This review is to be completed by the last meeting in March, 2017. Staff will also be reviewing R2 properties which are common in Port Dalhousie.

Support for Plans to Restore and Enhance Lock 1 of the Second Canal

Also on September 12, Council unanimously passed my motion to fully support and endorse the proposal for restoration and improvements to Lock 1 of the Second Canal (across from Murphy's). The motion also directed staff to work with the Kiwanis and BWC to complete and submit an application to the "This Place Matters" funding program by National Trust. The Kiwanis and BWC subsequently won the \$40,000 prize from the National Trust for the project and fundraising continues. Target is to complete as much as possible by Canada Day 2017 in time for Canada 150 celebrations.

questions raised about the financial and human resource management of the NPCA and its ability to carry out its conservation mandate. Our motion led to similar motions by at least 8 other municipalities served by the NPCA and culminated in the Authority's Board agreeing to a 3rd party independent audit at its January 18, 2017 Board meeting.

Potential Heritage Designation of 333 Main St

On January 16, 2017, Council unanimously supported my motion to request the St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee to consider the designation of the existing building as soon as possible and ask the owners to make every effort to preserve the existing building and incorporate it into their development plan. This motion was in response to concerns about mature trees being cut down on the historic Blaikie homestead and numerous calls from residents concerned that the building would be demolished. At the Heritage Committee Meeting of February 9, 2017, the developer – to show his good faith and intentions – agreed to withdraw the demolition permit he had obtained while he awaits a decision on designation.

Port Dalhousie Business Association Board of Directors

I continue to work as Council's representative on the PDBA Board and use my business experience to provide all possible assistance to strengthen the existing businesses and revitalize Port. It is always my pleasure to participate in the opening of new businesses anywhere in the City, and particularly in Port Dalhousie.

Port Place and Fortress Properties

I continue to keep in contact with Fortress representatives as they decide how to proceed with the Port Place site and I met with the new project manager in early February, 2017. We still keep hoping to have revised initial concepts for the tower site in the near future. In the meantime, they continue to have the properties they own outside the tower site (on Lock and Lakeport) up for lease and have leased 28 Lakeport to Mackie's Harbourfront Market.

Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee (BWC)

Along with Councillor Williamson, I continue to work closely with the volunteers at the BWC. I work to facilitate the its work where City Staff are involved and attend all meetings between BWC volunteers and the City. The BWC has spearheaded a number of great projects including flower planters, garbage enclosures and the restoration of Lock 1 of the Second Canal.

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



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Lakeside Park –a Concise History

We are all familiar with our famous Lakeside Park, but read on and learn even more...

P receding the development of a permanent amusement park in Port Dalhousie, many travelled here to enjoy the sandy beach, clean water and travelling carnivals. In the 1860's the side-wheel steamer "Silver Spray" was one of the first to regularly travel between Port Dalhousie and Toronto. Later other steamers such as the "Enterprise", "Empress of India" "Garden City", "Northumberland" and "Lakeside", brought visitors.

Shortly after being incorporated as a village in 1862, Port Dalhousie council passed a bylaw upholding Victorian mores on the impropriety of public bathing. "Persons caught walking on the streets of this village in bathing costume will be prosecuted according to the law." Popularity grew each year after the N.S. & T. (Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto) Railway (1901) acquired the land, laid tracks and developed Lakeside Park (1902). The tracks ran down Main Street, across the beach to where the steamers would soon dock. The N. S. & T.'s subsidiary, N.S. & T. Navigation Company began making trips across the lake. People came by the thousands from Southern Ontario and Western New York via automobile, streetcar, railway and steamship—7 days a week. By 1903, over 200,000 had visited Lakeside Park and 90 % of them were brought by N.S. & T. transportation.

With the help of Bertrand Spencer-Pitt, President of the Toronto chapter of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), the Emancipation Day picnics at Lakeside Park became very successful.

For a few years prior to 1921, Lakeside Park was jointly operated by Canada Railway News, and Canadian National Railways (N.S. & T. Railway Division). J. R. Empringham, manager of Parks and Marine, unsatisfied with the joint operation, arranged for C.N.R. to be the sole operator. Many changes took place between 1921 and 1926 when the Park was 'rehabilitated'. C.N.R.'s standards became very strict and concession licenses to those vendors who didn't meet these standards were not renewed. All tent concessions were replaced with wooden buildings having a similar design. In the early 1920's a great deal of Lakeside Park was marshy and there was a problem with low land in the southwest area of the park. The CNR brought fill in from Fonthill by rail, at night, and by 1922, the area of the Park doubled to 12 acres.

For those of us who are 'older', one cannot think of Lakeside Park without Sid Brookson coming to mind. He worked for the N. S. & T. Railway and in 1928 was sent to help the manager of the Park, H. B. Singleton. In 1932 he became resident manager of the Park from April through September and for the rest of the year he would return to his job as General

Clerk in the Accounting Department. In 1934, his title was changed to Resident Manager Lakeside Park and Traffic Solicitor. He did this for the next 15 years and the main focus was attracting people to visit via their railway and steamship lines. In October, November and December, he would solicit traffic in St. Catharines. In January, February and March he'd book picnic parties from Hamilton and Toronto through Dofasco, Firestone, Goodyear, & Rexall Drug. These large picnics were mainly on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Smaller companies, church groups and local organizations also took advantage of all the

The carousel was built by Charles Looff of Riverside, Rhode Island around 1900. There were 2 chariots, 42 jumping and 32 stationary hand carved wooden horses, lions, giraffes, goats. The fare, a nickel a ride hasn't changed. Each season the 24' high waterslide was towed into the lake by a team of Belgian horses and then pulled out and onto the beach for the winter. It was an essential duty of the Lifeguard to pour water down it before it was to be used. Needless to say the injuries from the slide kept the nurse, Miss Hannah, busy all summer. After the annual spring inspection in 1950, it became evident that the structure was

began hosting the annual Emancipation Day picnic celebrations on the first Thursday of August. People came from Hamilton, Toronto, Niagara Falls, N.Y. State and some Southern States. With the help of Bertrand Spencer-Pitt, President of the Toronto chapter of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), the picnics at Lakeside Park became very successful. At its peak, an estimated 6000 to 8000 people turned out to participate in all the Park had to offer—often bringing their own barbecues and music. The last Emancipation Day Picnic was held in 1951. Spencer-Pitt returned to Barbados to retire



Park had to offer. According to Brookson, in those early days of his management, the locals who didn't have running water in their homes drank water out of the lake.

Among the attractions over the years: a carousel, amusement rides, games, concession stands, bath house with suit and lockers rentals, giant wooden waterslide with stairway and wheels, a dancehall with live music (destroyed by fire in 1974), baseball diamond with open bleachers, 3000 seating covered pavilion, a roped off sports area for races of all kinds and a public address system. Each week an Amateur Hour run by Ken Sobel was held at the bandstand which was a very popular event. Winners received \$10.00, \$5.00 & \$2.00 as well as an appearance on Mr. Sobel's radio program. CNR ran the Lakeside Inn Restaurant like one of their fine dining cars with a maître d', hostess, white linen tablecloths and sterling silverware.

deteriorating and Brookson had it dismantled.

Cottages began springing up and it soon became one of the most successful resort parks on the Lakes. By 1929, attendance by ferry alone, rose to 290,000. After the stock market crash, followed by the 1930's depression, passenger travel slumped. Other turn of the century parks such as Frontier Amusement, Scarborough and Hanlan's Point Park closed after their popularity diminished, while Lakeside expanded and flourished. Its success was credited to the effective management of the Park.

When the British Government passed the Act of Imperial Parliament on August 28th, 1833 abolishing slavery in the Empire, it was a very significant milestone. In 1835 the first Emancipation Day parade and church service was held here. Throughout the 19th century these celebrations became increasingly popular in Ontario. In 1924, Lakeside Park

in 1950 leaving no one who had the ability to organize the picnic to the degree that he had and therefore it just faded out. The tradition continued each year but on a smaller scale developing into more of a family reunion

Brookson went from manager (1928), to owner (1950) and on New Year's Eve 1970 transferred ownership to the City of St. Catharines. The concession stands closed, the rides disappeared and today the only remaining feature from that era is the carousel. The discontinuation of the cross lake ferries, the dilapidated buildings and high bacteria levels in the lake all contributed to the demise of the Park.

Christine Robertson ■

For current information on Lakeside Park, visit www.stcatharines.ca/en/playin/lakesidepark.asp
Thanks to Vintage Port Dalhousie Facebook page

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SUMMARY of RESULTS

The Port Dalhousie Conservancy Survey

Port Dalhousie Conservancy volunteers have now been working for the community for 18 years. They spearheaded heritage designation for the district and have raised the funds for heritage street and gateway signs and other projects. Last Summer, the Conservancy conducted a survey to get feedback on the role it should play in Port Dalhousie's future. The survey closed at the end of July 2016 and 130 individuals responded, either online or via hard copies distributed in the Port Reporter. This is a very high percentage of responses compared to typical surveys and we thank you.

Age Groups

Close to 70% were in the 31-55 group.

Residing Where

Approximately 80% were Port Dalhousie residents and roughly half of those have lived there more than 15 years.

Important Issues

The Tower Development and Pier Repair received by far the most «Critical» ratings at 46% and 63%, respectively. In terms of overall importance to the community, the Tower Development was ranked as the most important by 32%, followed by the Piers at 24%.

Height of New Developments

The top Strongly Agree rating was for Height being no higher than the 17 storeys of the original Port Place proposal. This was followed by Height being no higher than Lincoln Fabrics. In addition, "The preservation of Port Dalhousie's natural and built heritage and "village feel" are the most important factors when considering any proposed development" received very high ratings.

Focus of the Conservancy

50% or more of respondents felt the Conservancy should focus on "Conserving and enhancing Port's built and natural heritage" and "Ensuring new developments are compatible with existing buildings."

Future of the Conservancy

Fully 91% felt "The Conservancy is relevant to the future of Port Dalhousie."

Lawn Bowling

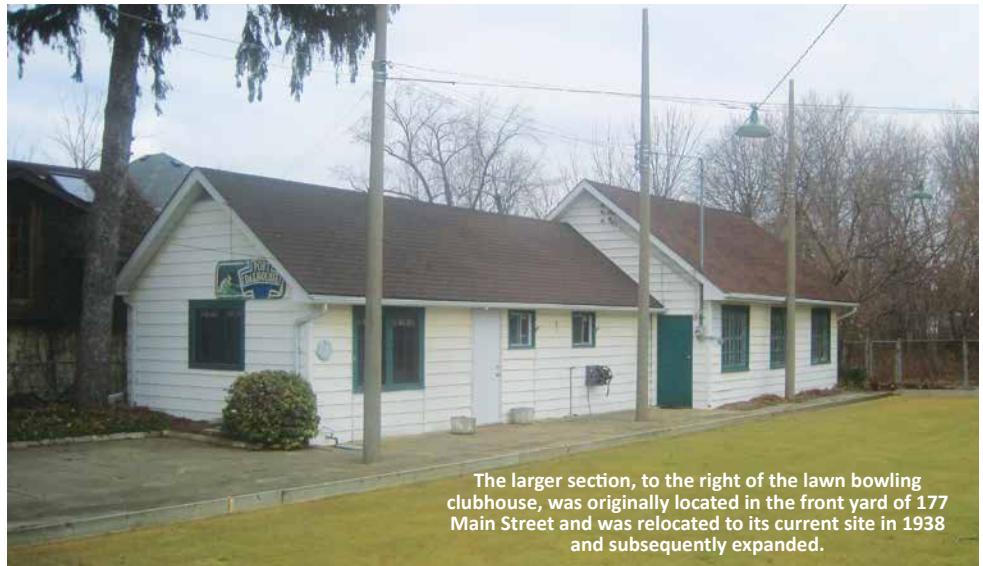
It's Time To Get Active Outdoors!

Lawn Bowling is one of the 150 activities listed in Canada's 150th Birthday List encouraging Canadians to get active. So why not consider the local lawn bowling club on Verdun Avenue as your fitness destination this year? For many Port residents it is within walking distance, another suggested activity. Of course those living further afield can still drive to the parking lot on site. The cost to join the Port Dalhousie club is very reasonable ... instructions are free and the short term loan of the bowls means you can become a talented bowler in no time and start enjoying your exercise time on the green. Fees are split between the local club and the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association, which provides for regional, provincial and national championship organization. The Port Dalhousie club established 92 years

ago, way back in 1925, is one of the oldest members of the provincial organization. It is also one of the oldest continuous organizations in Port Dalhousie.

Many of the members have a long term relationship with the club, while several newbies to the sport have found the skills to get as close to the "kitty" as the more experienced members. It is a sport that has no age limitations, no restrictions as to height, weight or sex and the bowl's weight is not overpowering. There are teams made up of those in attendance with each night's outing for the Jitneys (I love that word). There may be traveling to other clubs to compete, but such is not mandatory. It still certainly counts as a benefit of membership.

On its natural manicured turf, the local club hosts Jitneys for its members and tournaments on which many out



The larger section, to the right of the lawn bowling clubhouse, was originally located in the front yard of 177 Main Street and was relocated to its current site in 1938 and subsequently expanded.

of town teams love to come and play. Just as much, they come to enjoy the hospitality of the Port club members and the ambiance of the setting. So there you have it: A wonderful activity close to home! So, this spring, get up off your comfy chair and come over and take a test bowl! You might surprise yourself at the lawn bowling talent you have; lawn bowling might just be the thing for you!

As we get ready for the new season, we will be holding a garage sale on

Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23 from 8 in the morning till 4 p.m. at the clubhouse. Donations are always welcome... This will be followed by an open house and complimentary bowling on May 6. Consider this your invitation to attend these activities.

Contact Carolyn at [218-213-1202](tel:218-213-1202) for further information on either the garage sale or the open house.

Bill Stevens ■

Fundraiser For Ed Smith

Ed Smith, a highly-respected former member of the Canadian Forces and concerned Niagara citizen, worked diligently to bring transparency to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. In response, the NPCA filed a lawsuit against Ed in an attempt to muzzle him.

Though Ed is receiving some pro bono representation, he still has significant legal fees to cover. Because of this, some of Ed's local supporters have gotten together to host a fundraiser for his legal defence fund.

Please join us for an afternoon of music, drinks and a silent auction in support of Ed and his activism.

Sunday March 12, 1pm - 6pm
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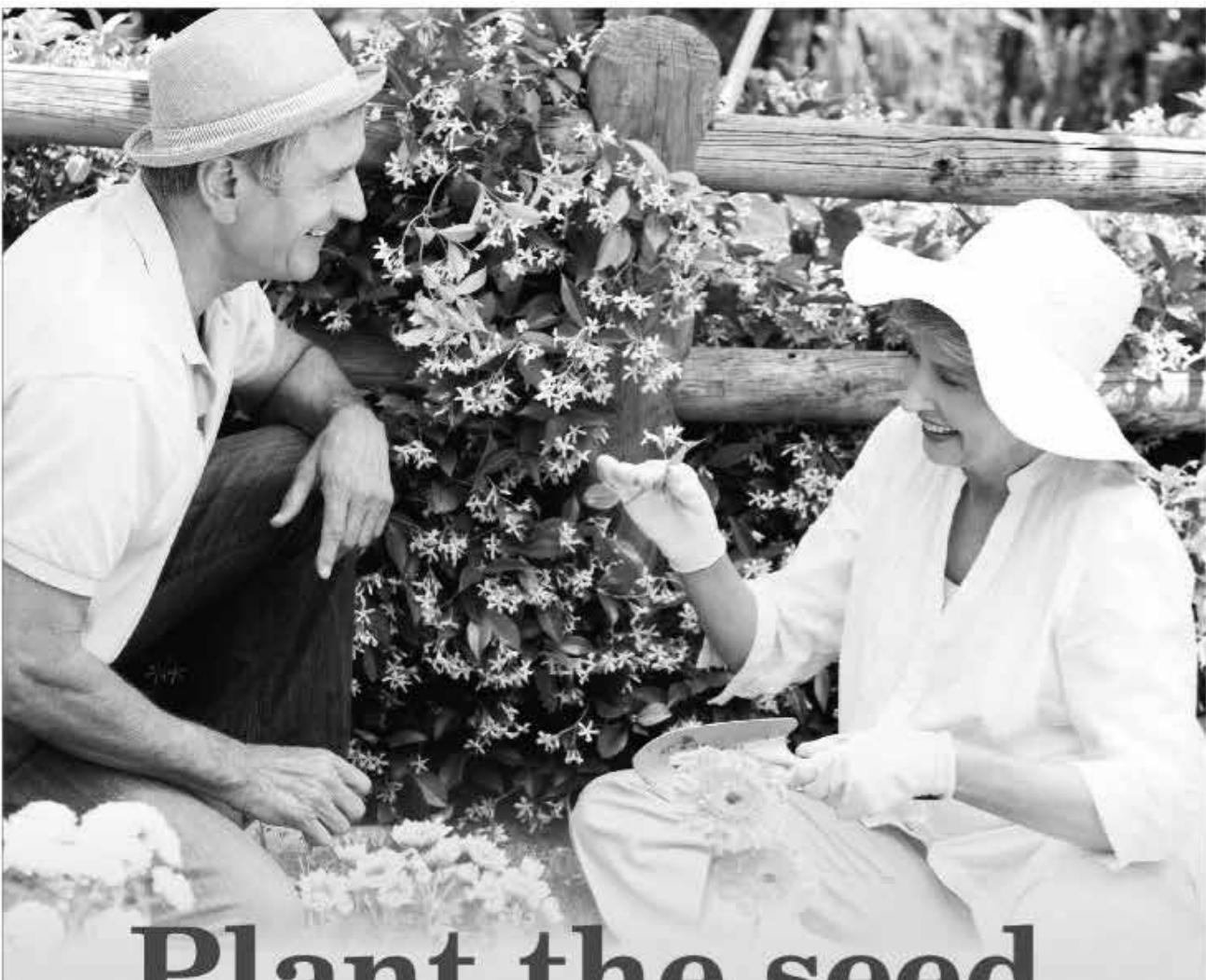
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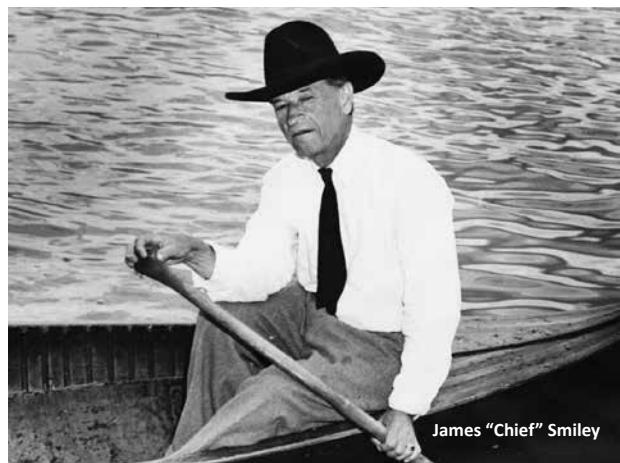
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Memories of the Chief



James "Chief" Smiley

These memories of Chief Smiley go back some 70 years. I was ten years old at the time I worked with the Chief, and because of my age, I was a secondary "hanger-on" as the younger boys were called.

What I remember with clarity though is a huge colourful Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show poster on the wall of the 2nd floor of his small house. The house sat on the south shore of Martindale Pond at the end of Ann Street. One of the older boys told me that, at one point, the Chief had performed as a sharp shooter with Buffalo Bill. Here on that 2nd floor was also the room where he loaded his cartridges and made his target balls.

He ran a canoe livery and rental there and if you were lucky, the Chief would allow you to clean the canoes when they were returned and in payment let you paddle around in one as long as you stayed close to the dock. As he was standing on the dock, he gave us instructions on how to manoeuvre the canoes.

One time he asked me to go and get him some "trouble buttons". I had no idea what he meant, but found out it was his name for aspirin.

He hated the "one eyed monsters", the streetcars that at the time rumbled back and forth on Main Street. It was his name for them due to the single huge headlight they had. The story goes that he would go down to the Austin House Hotel with his companion Angus the Indian (a term used back in the day, that would be politically incorrect today), who lived in a one-room shanty abutting St. John's Cemetery. They would get drunk and saunter slowly home in the centre of the track in front of the streetcar. The tram drivers would just tell the passengers to be patient that it was only the Chief and he would turn off at Ann Street.

One time the local cop was asked by the authorities to disarm the Chief. The Chief told the officer to stand where he was, walked 10 paces or so then turned and flipped his coat back revealing his pistol. He told the cop he could draw first. The cop left without the Chief's revolver.

Another story was that the Chief caught a guy trying to break into his place and as he was running away the Chief shot off the heels of his boots.

Unless you witnessed his extraordinary marksmanship you would have a hard time believing it. One time at the Henley Regatta, the Chief fixed an axe head to a board with the blade facing forward, and attached two balloons on either side. He then stood astride the gunwales of a canoe with his back to the target. Using a .22 calibre rifle over his shoulder and a mirror, he hit the axe blade with the bullet, which split the lead and broke both balloons. This from around 40 feet away! I can see it as if it happened yesterday.

The Chief was very religious and read his good book daily. I remember being told that after the fire that consumed his house and tragically took the Chief's life in 1948, they found the only thing untouched by the fire was a crucifix that hung on the wall on the third floor room, where no one was allowed.

Some of the above anecdotes were told to me by others who witnessed the incidents. There are many stories about Chief James Smiley and these are just a few personal recollections I thought you the reader might enjoy. I urge you to do some of your own research into his life story.

Lawrence Wing ■

Alumni Celebrating Sixty Years of Rowing Support

Alumni Association Established in 1957

The St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Association is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary in 2017. Port resident Bill "Smitty" Smith was a charter member and the first president serving in that capacity for three terms (1957-1959). The alumni provide a forum to maintain contact with other rowing alumni and those of the rowing community at large. The alumni also support the sport of rowing in general and the St. Catharines Rowing Club in particular. This support comes in many ways allowing, for example, free use of alumni facilities for regatta activities during regattas, purchase of equipment and hosting rowing associated meetings. Besides all this, many members volunteer to assist at various rowing events.

The alumni own and maintain a clubhouse on Henley Island overlooking the world famous Royal Canadian Henley Regatta course on Martindale Pond. The clubhouse capacity is for 167 persons, but fewer if set up for a formal dinner. There is additional capacity when the patio and grounds are utilized. Many members and local citizens have rented the facility for family birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, but big events such as the Port Dalhousie Reunions, have also taken place. (For rental inquiries: 905-646-0808)

Annual membership dues are a mere \$25.00 -for both regular and social members and the club boasts approximately 200 active members. If you wish to support rowing and join, simply come on over to the clubhouse at 7 p.m. on the second Friday of any month when meetings are held, get a member to nominate you and pay your dues! Meetings are followed by a social and this year some special anniversary events are planned, including a Henley reunion night on Friday, August 11.

Bill Stevens ■

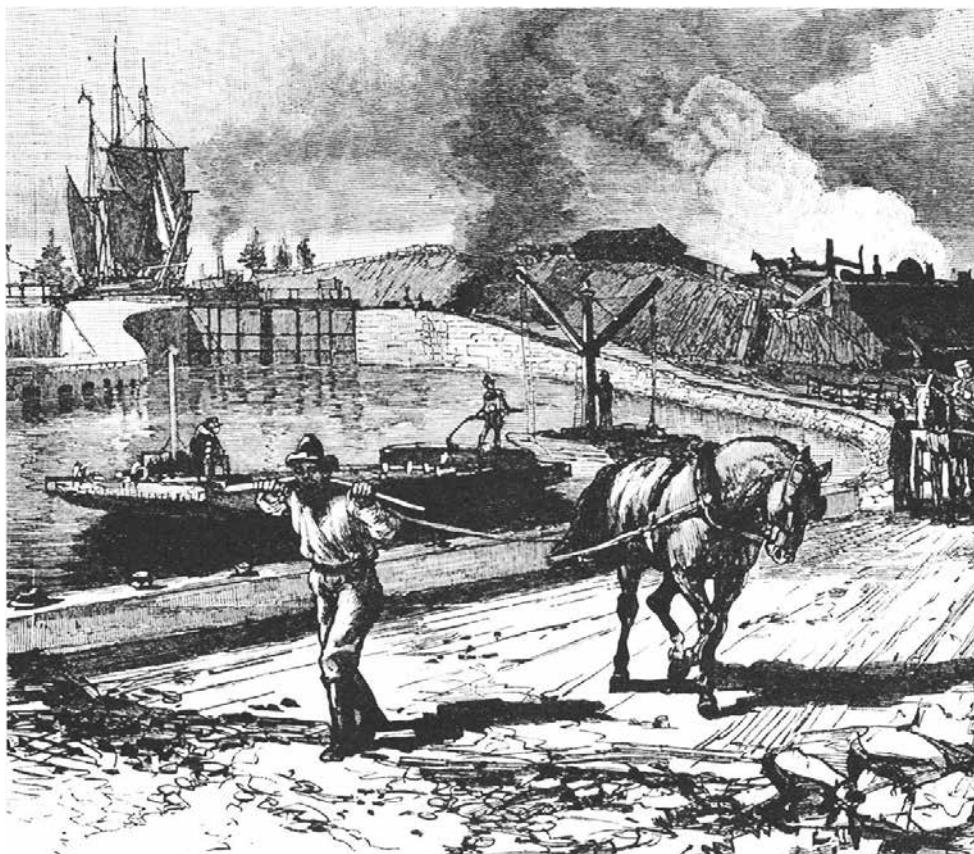


Photo: Bill Stevens

The St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Clubhouse, Henley Island

Canal Tow Horses

A life of Service and Suffering



Until the invention of the modern steam engine, sailing was the only way to ship goods anywhere in the world. The first two Welland Canals were servicing mostly sail boats that were towed by horses since the ships were not allowed nor often able to use their sails. At one time over 150 teams of horses were stabled in Port Dalhousie for the sole purpose of towing the vessels up the stairway of the canal and into and out of the many locks. The horses' lives were miserable at best and hundreds were worked basically to their deaths. Towing along a towpath was very unnatural for horses as they had to pull sideways against the rudder of the boat. Thus it was not unusual for a horse to be pulled into the canal as it struggled against the traces.

Barlow Cumberland in his book "A Century of Sail and Steam on the Niagara River" paints a bleak picture of their difficult life as demonstrated by the following quotes:

"The canal band and towpaths were a sticky mush, which in those autumn months was churned and stamped into a continuous condition of soft red mud and splashing pools. From two to six double teams were employed to haul each passing vessel, dependent upon whether it was light or loaded, but in either case there was the same dull, heavy continuous pull against the slow moving mass, a hopeless constant tug into the collars, bringing raw and calloused shoulders."

"Poor beasts! There was every description of horse, pony or mule forced into service of staring unkempt coats, gradually approaching a colour as the red mud dried upon their hides. Rest! They had in their traces when mercifully for a few moments the vessel was in the lock, or when awaiting their turn at night, they lay out on the bank where she happened to stop. It was the rest of despair."

"The poor devils of 'drivers' boys or men who tramped along the canal bank behind each tottering gang, were little better off than their beasts. Heavy footed, wearied with lifting their boots out of the sucking slush, they trudged along, staggering and half asleep, until aroused by the sounds of the sagging tow line, with quickened stride and volley of hot-shot expletives; they closed upon their luckless four-footed companions. What an electric wince went through the piteous brutes as the stinging whips left welts on their sides. A sudden forward motion brought up by the twang of the towline as it came taut, sweeping them off their legs, until they settled down once more into the sidling crablike movement caused by the angle of the hawser from the bow to the towpath."

These are the horses that will be commemorated by the proposed sculptures at the revitalization of Lock one. May we consider this a fitting tribute to their difficult lives and sacrifice; a story that needs to be told. Without them the supplies needed to open up the west would not have arrived there.

A fine legacy indeed!

Hank Beekhuis ■



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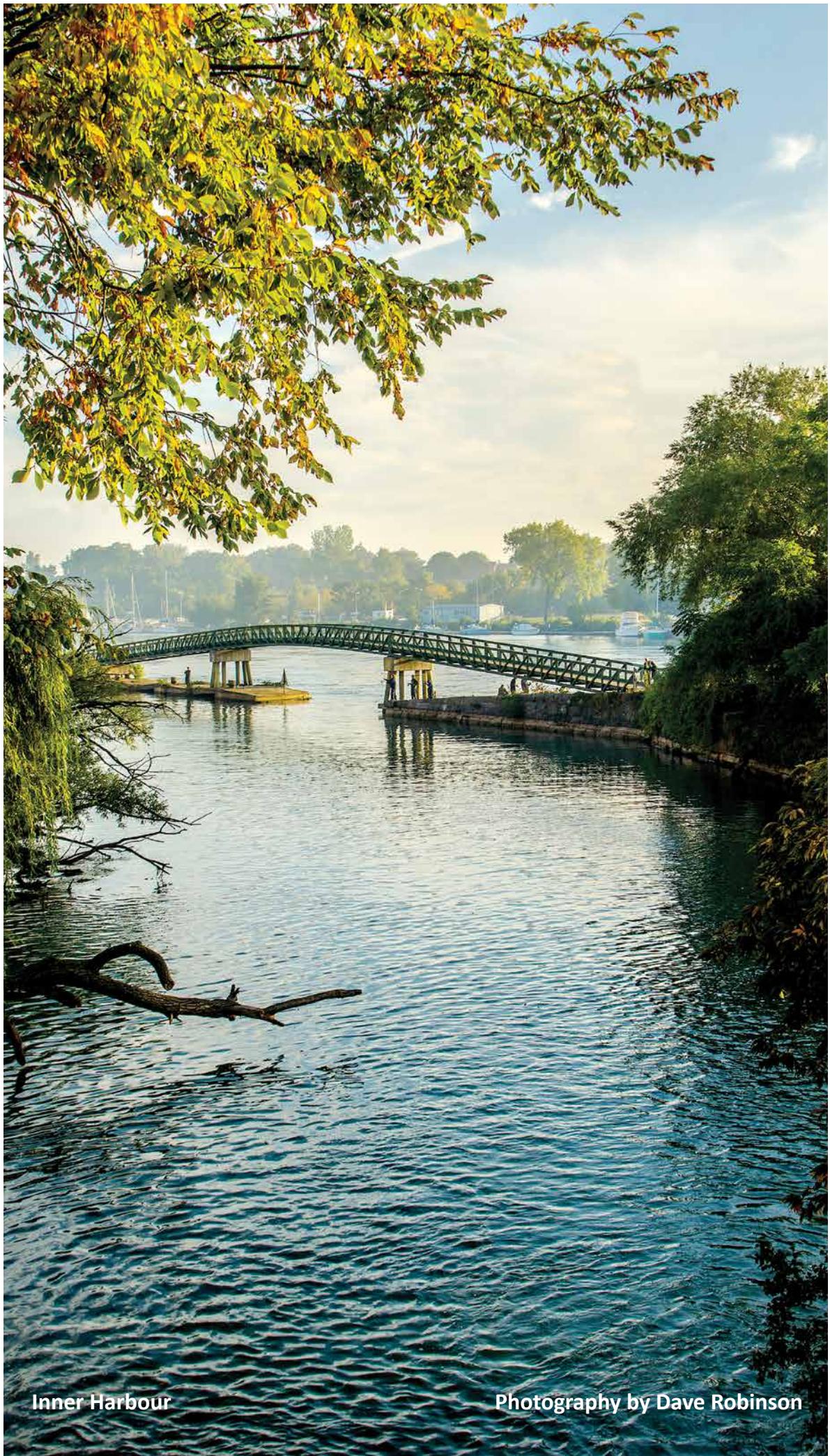
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Photography by Dave Robinson



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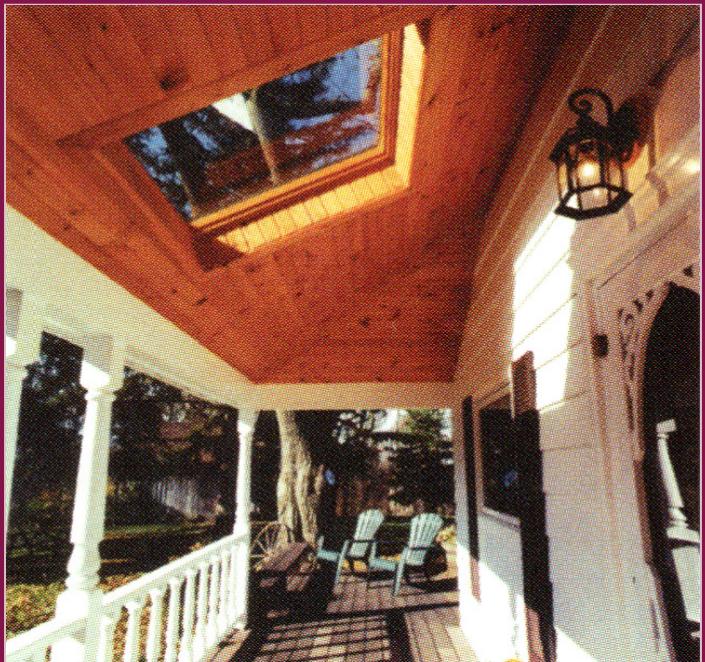
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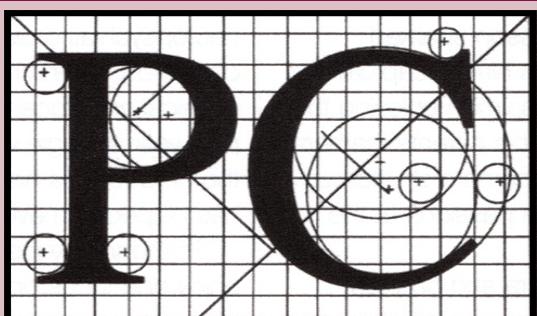


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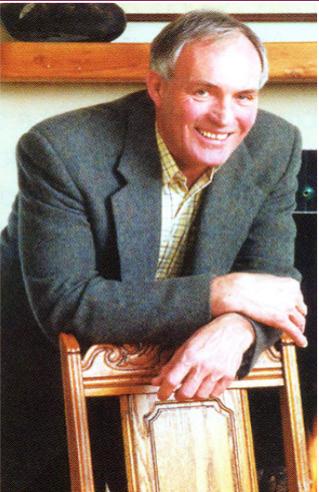
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