

THE REPORTER

VOL.19 NO. 3

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

WINTER - 2024

On Holidays, History, and the Spirit of Giving

Well, here we are again, another holiday season is just around the corner, and most of us will be busy preparing for them over the next few weeks. Here at the Reporter we have also been busy, not necessarily preparing for festivities, but coordinating production of the newspaper, confirming schedules, arranging delivery, ad sales, printing and a multitude of associated tasks that are part and parcel of getting the Reporter out to your mailboxes. It's a labour of love for the volunteers that generously spend their time so we can all enjoy this community newspaper.

But there are clouds on the horizon. The printing and distribution costs are rising at roughly the same inflationary rate as gasoline and groceries, and when you're working with a shoestring budget as we are, the increases are even more painful. That's why we are appealing to you as readers, to assist us in keeping the Reporter coming to your mail box. Check out page 5 for more information on how you can help out.

In this issue we present wide-ranging articles, from the political, to the historical and the social. Possibly the most impactful news for our community lately is the shelving of the reconstruction of Main Street by the Region. It has been a contentious issue since the plan was unveiled, and more detailed info is found in the front page story and Councillor's report.

As usual we have excellent historical articles by Nancy Cameron, Bill Stevens,

Continued on page 2

Main Street Reconstruction Shelved

The Niagara Regional Council has voted not to proceed with Staff's recommendation.

The renewal of Main Street in Port Dalhousie is long overdue, as anyone travelling down it can tell you. The Niagara Region has been working on this issue for a number of years since it is actually a responsibility of theirs, Regional Road 87. A consulting firm was tasked with doing an Environmental Assessment (EA), coming up with traffic alternatives and consulting the public. Much of this was of necessity done during Covid and a lot of it was on-line with little public debate. Having these consultations this way, on very complicated and complex designs, on a Regional thru-road through an established and geographically challenged residential Heritage district, without a lot of discussion with residents, is difficult at the best of times. Port Dalhousie also has a lot of other upgrades and potential construction plans which all affect each other, especially when they could all come at the same time.

The final preferred option narrowly won out over several others. One key component of the preferred option



If the Regional plan had been adopted, it would have resulted in the loss of 34 parking spaces in the downtown core and compromised pedestrian safety

was to change one way traffic in the Commercial Core to two way traffic down Lakeport Rd., through Lakeside Park and back up Main St., and to close Lock St. for a short Pedestrian Mall. Pedestrian Malls are usually well received; however, there are no other examples in Canada of a successful mall in such a restricted space. The price to be paid was high and would have resulted, at minimum, in the loss of 34 parking spaces in the downtown core, leaving only the Lakeside lot for parking. This would negatively affect a number of local businesses and could force a number to close. It also raises some new safety concerns and accessibility issues given the topography and anticipated sightlines.

The Port Dalhousie Conservancy has long been raising concerns on this issue, and the City of St. Catharines in March of 2024 passed a strong motion opposing the preferred option and requesting the Region to come up with a revised plan. Regional Staff, however, declined to do so and renewed their support for the so-called "preferred option."

The Conservancy supported the City of St. Catharines and the Region's own Public Works Committee motion to not proceed with this particular option, as it would be too costly for businesses and not work well in such a restricted area. The Regional staff took an all-or-nothing approach so that if there was disagreement with any portion of the proposal, then all of it was gone. Ultimately the Regional Council voted to support the Committee motion not to proceed with the preferred option.

It may well be that as a result of this decision, the Region will end up downloading responsibility for the stretch of road from Martindale to Ontario Street back to the city. This

Continued on page 2

The City Councillors' Report

The new Improved Port Library, Legion Br. #350 Grand Opening, Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Extensions, and More.

Here is an update on the key municipal issues we have worked on through October 2024.

The Port Dalhousie Cenotaph One Hundredth Anniversary

As of this month it will be 100 years that our solitary soldier has stood sentinel at Ann and Main Streets. Here is Bill Stevens' account of the events on the day it was unveiled.

"The granite monument designed and constructed by the McIntosh Granite Company of Toronto was dedicated on Sunday afternoon November 23, 1924. A huge crowd attended to witness the parade, unveiling, and dedication all conducted with full military pomp. The Lincoln Regiment formed the guard for Lieutenant-Governor Henry T. Cockshutt, who received the military salute, inspected the guard, and unveiled the monument. The 10th Field Battery, Veterans of the 1866 Fenian Invasion,

and of course many of the Great War veterans were in attendance. Port Dalhousie Reeve Robert Henry Johnston expressed regrets for those who did not return and praised all those who had enlisted. The memorial fund had started as early as 1916 after receiving word of the first casualty Harold Rooney who died on June 6, 1916. All the necessary funds were raised by donation with no tax monies being used. The cenotaph has certainly served as a reminder as every year since 1924 there has been a ceremony at the cenotaph." - Bill Stevens, The Port Dalhousie Cenotaph

Please visit the website

citizensoldiersofportdalhousie.weebly.com/the-cenotaph.html

We are currently working with representatives from Legion Branch 350 and municipal staff to arrange for a large wreath to be placed at the foot of the monument to commemorate this significant milestone.

Continued on page 2

On Holidays, History, and the Spirit of Giving ... Cont'd

Maurice Gomme and Dennis Gannon, as well as features on The Legion reopening, The BWC report, the return of the Let It Glow Festival, the holiday crossword and in this issue a special feature, the short story The Gift of The Magi by O Henry. All in all another issue jam-packed with, we hope, pleasurable reading.

On a personal note, I'd like to express my thoughts on the increasing pressure of development in our village, particularly in the downtown core. Although many of us disagree on the way forward, and massive development and construction looms on the horizon, we must maintain what little we have of our historic architectural heritage, the very places and buildings that have made Port the jewel it is. Particularly Lock and Front Streets (Lakeport Road). We have already lost the historic Port Mansion, and to lose the facades of the remaining buildings would be devastating. Some business people understand the economic value of restoration and for this we are thankful.

But these concerns must take a back seat to the upcoming holidays when we turn our attention more directly to our families and loved ones, and celebrate our good fortune. But let's not forget those who find the holidays difficult, even painful; the homeless, the people in need, the less fortunate. If you can, please reach out to them through donations to charities, food drives or however you choose. Love and peace to all, and Happy Holidays! ■

- Peter Wing



Main Street ... Continued

download, in our view, is a positive development since it places control of the Port Dalhousie rebuild closer to the people directly affected by any changes and lessens the confusion of governmental roles in Port Dalhousie. What it does NOT mean is that the City now has to pay for the rebuild since the Region cannot download it without doing the needed repairs first, which includes the rebuilding of the bridges and properly repairing and reconstructing the roads.

Now that the decision not to proceed has been made, the hard work actually begins. The Conservancy is NOT in favour of doing nothing. The upgrading work is overdue and necessary, but any changes need to actually make Port function better for residents and businesses, and respect the heritage of the district. It also does NOT mean that the EA work is wasted since a lot of good preliminary work was done and the information gathered will be valuable to any future efforts. Much of the study was simply coming up with possible alternatives, and a lot of the detailed design was left until later anyway. It may also open up exciting possibilities. For example, burying the electrical lines along Main St. and providing Heritage themed lighting in the district similar to what is done in many towns in Ontario.

Let's work together as a community to finalize the city plans for upgrading, agree on appropriate staging of construction, and get it done. With some positive discussion and compromise, we can do this, since it ultimately has to work well for everyone.

The City Councillors' Report ... Continued

Port Dalhousie Branch 350 Remembrance Ceremony

By the time this edition is distributed the Remembrance Day activities will have taken place on Sunday November 3rd., an event we both always attend. We wish to thank the organizing committee from the Legion for making sure, year after year, our veterans and those who made the supreme sacrifice are not forgotten. Commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day at Juno Beach and the Battle of Normandy make this year's remembrance even more significant. Today the rise in fascism around the world is a stark reminder for us to apply the lessons of two horrific world wars in the present context.

YMCA

We have toiled diligently, starting back in 2021, to see this terrific multi-purpose recreational facility repurposed into a municipally operated asset or have it reopened to the public in another form. If it suffers the fate of the wrecking ball it will be a shameful and dark day in our community. Good governance should focus on serving the interests of local citizens first as opposed to those of out-of-town real estate speculators. In other places civic leaders recognize the value in maintaining such a facility, here it could become an inexcusable missed opportunity that would deprive residents of a much needed community hub.

Stairs from Rennie Park to Canal Street

The existing steel stairs were assessed by a structural engineer last year and were identified as being at the end of life, requiring replacement, as the steel

members were demonstrating significant degradation making it extremely difficult to continue with annual repairs. The City is also replacing the retaining wall that supports the slope on the north side of the stairs. The retaining wall has been showing signs of failure and if the issues were not addressed, could have resulted in the retaining structure collapsing, leading to the existing slope's failure. Rankin Construction was the successful contractor for the replacement of the retaining wall and stairs. To implement the new infrastructure, some vegetation was required to be removed. This new set of steps will allow continued pedestrian access to Rennie Park from Canal Street. The replacement staircase will be much safer than the old one.

Bill Burgoyne Arena Improvements and More Holiday Ice Time

We have advocated for many years the importance of making ice time available for public skating and ice hockey rental opportunities during the school Christmas/New Year's holidays and March Break. Therefore, we are pleased to report that Bill Burgoyne Arena will be open on December 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 and January 2 and 3. It will be closed on December 24, 25, 26 and January 1. There will be 15 total public skating sessions scheduled at BBA on the 27th and 28th. On the dates leading up to Christmas and following New Year's Day, the arena is also open for regular user groups, private holiday rentals, and additional public skating sessions. Availability for private rentals on the 27th is limited due to all the public skating programming; however, there is available time on other dates (for example, December 23rd and 30th). We are also happy to

Continued on next page



The view from our chair

A one chair dental office providing care to one person at a time

Dr David Bergen



www.lakesidedental.ca • 38 Dalhousie Ave • 905-934-3837

share that considerable progress has been made in renovating the exterior of our only indoor ice pad in the north end of the city. Once the outside is complete coupled with the interior work (already or to be done?) the entire facility will have been upgraded and made more usable and efficient for the long haul.

Outdoor Concert Series in the Lock
We are pleased the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee's live musical events through the summer at the Old Lock One Stage were successful. Thanks to the efforts of committee members, City staff, and local sponsors for restarting this popular and free series.

Lock Street will not be Blocked

Blocking the well-established flow of movement at the tip of the narrow peninsula on which Port Dalhousie is situated was an unworkable idea from the outset because there are no practical alternate routes. We heard loud and clear voices from many residents that banning vehicles and bikes on Lock Street and the loss of convenient parking spaces made no practical sense and would increase the risk to public safety.

It took a great deal of coordinated effort to prevent the closure of Lock Street between Main Street and Canal Street to create a mini-pedestrian area, but ultimately we were successful. We attended the Regional Public Works Committee meeting on September 10th supported by Councillors Dawn Dodge, Bill Phillips, and some residents. Fortunately, a motion by Mayor Mat Siscoe and seconded by Regional Chair Jim Bradley to not proceed with the reconstruction of Regional Road 87 as planned was successfully passed 13-2. While we hoped this would conclude the matter and be routinely passed under

the consent agenda at the full Regional Council meeting on September 26th, a St. Catharines Regional Councillor moved the committee recommendation to be tabled at that meeting. This compelled us to delegate at that meeting in support of the two motions passed by our Council and the recommendation passed by the Public Works Committee. Several other citizens also spoke at the meeting both for and against. We endorsed all of the plans for Regional Road 87 except for closing Lock Street and ramming a two-lane road down to Lakeside Park. We want to see all other project components proceed as soon as possible as stretches of these streets are in disrepair. Unfortunately, the Region's Environmental Impact Assessment (EA) report was flawed in just this segment. However, this put us in a difficult position since the EA is an all-or-nothing proposition, therefore our only option was to have it rejected. We have faith the Region will make good on its commitment to complete the roadworks except the closure of Lock Street and the extra length of a two-lane road. We continue to work with the Region to make this happen and are grateful to the Regional Councillors who supported this decision. Thanks to this outcome we now have the opportunity of using the space saved by not putting through a wide road to consider traffic calming measures and pedestrian-oriented changes.

Niagara St. Catharines and Toronto Railway (NS&T) Trolley Shelter

We are genuinely elated to have this unique, refurbished gem in a high-profile location in our streetscape at the top of the first lock of the second Welland Canal. It represents and celebrates the hard work of the small group of volunteers, led by Port Dalhousie Conservancy President Hank Beekhuis,

to rescue and restore this symbol of our historic interurban transit system. We extend our appreciation to all who played a part in this project including municipal staff members.

Elma St. Park refurbishment

On September 4th the City celebrated the reopening of Elma Street Park with a new, multi-use court for basketball and ball hockey, an accessible walkway, a park bench, and a bicycle parking stand. We assisted Mayor Mat Siscoe in the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon.

Lions Park refurbishment

We celebrated the refurbishment of Port Dalhousie Lions Park on September 5th. The Parks Renewal Plan Project includes two new multi-use courts with new basketball and tennis nets, new dedicated ball hockey nets, and benches. Again we assisted Mayor Mat Siscoe in the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon.

Port Dalhousie Legion Branch 350 Official Grand Opening

On Saturday, October 5th Councillor Garcia had the privilege of representing the Mayor, City Council, and the citizens of St. Catharines at the official grand opening celebration of the Port Dalhousie Legion Branch 350 to celebrate their new facility. It is an outstanding establishment with the best patio in Port Dalhousie overlooking the harbour. The enjoyment

derived from the fellowship, and camaraderie of Legion members and their friends adds tremendously to the quality of life in Port Dalhousie. The ceremony started with a ribbon cutting outside and Carlos was joined by MPP Stevens and Regional Chair Bradley. Carlos thanked the Branch Executive, their great volunteers, and all our veterans. Councillor Williamson joined later after the event noted below.

Port Dalhousie Library Re-Opening

Saturday, October 5th was a busy day. Councillor Williamson had the honour of representing the Mayor, City Council, and the citizens of St. Catharines at the reopening celebration of the much-improved Port Dalhousie Library Branch. He offered these words - Sincere thanks to our library staff, board members, and community partners who have worked hard to make this day possible. Libraries, among many other things, are about storytelling. This historic building has a fascinating story to tell and if not for the resilience and tenacity of community leaders stepping up to defend it over the years it would not exist, at least not as a library. The Good Templars constructed the original building here in 1863. The Order of the Good

... Continued next page



Dr. John Gleddie, B.Sc., D.C.
905-935-2110
110A Hannover Drive, Suite 102
St Catharines, ON L2W1A4



James Vanderburgh
Sales Representative
D: 905-325-0354
O: 905-356-8558
F: 905-637-1070
E: mr.real@sympatico.ca

rightathomerealty.com Right at Home Realty Inc., Brokerage
5111 New Street
Burlington, ON L7L 1V2

Come in, Sit back, Relax & Enjoy Our Delicious Food!



25 Main Street
Port Dalhousie, ON **905-938-0479**

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 / Peter Wing	Editor/Production Peter Wing	Copy Editor Henry Knoop
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Help the Reporter thrive and grow by making a financial donation. Cheques 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. Late submissions are considered for publication at the discretion of the editorial board.

Those interested in advertising please contact our advertising coordinator, Toni Tosti 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.

The Port Reporter is a volunteer run publication. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Hank Beekhuis at editor.portreporter@gmail.com. Email contact is preferred, however if you wish to contact the Port Reporter by phone please call 905-935-1058 and leave a message. Website: www.pdconservancy.org

Disclaimer: The Reporter does not accept responsibility or legal liability, for information submitted by our advertisers. The Reporter further makes no warranty in respect of the contents of this newspaper and accepts no liability for any loss or damage whatsoever arising in respect of the content of any third party material appearing in the paper whether directly or indirectly as a result of access to and the use of this paper including without limitation, acting or failing to act in reliance on any information contained herein.

Templars was a fraternal organization for temperance or total abstinence from alcohol founded with a structure modeled on Freemasonry. This cozy building continued to serve as a meeting place but officially as the Town Hall for



Port Dalhousie from 1948 until 1961. After 1961, the building has been home to a branch of the St. Catharines Public Library. However, keeping a branch open here for the past 63 years has faced numerous challenges that have always



been met with the people of Port coming together to prevent its demise. I can attest to this through personal experience as a member of the library board while representing Port Dalhousie Ward and through what I learned from others who came before. The most serious threat came in 1983 when the City Council voted 7-6 in favour of tearing this historic structure down to make way for the fire station. But the Port Dalhousie Quorum or PDQ, a local citizens group led by Tom Challen, rose to the occasion rallying

residents and raising \$7500 through a fundraising drive, acquiring a grant from Canada Works and forcing the Council to reverse its decision. Otherwise, we would not be here today celebrating not only the reopening of this branch but also the improvements that have been made to enhance the user experience, particularly Port Plus.

This history demonstrates libraries are more than just places to borrow books; they are vital community hubs that foster learning, creativity, and connection. We are grateful that the Port Dalhousie Branch, which has always held a special place in this community, will continue to serve as a gathering space for residents of all ages and play a role in supporting lifelong learning and literacy in our community.

Councillor Garcia visited later after the Legion opening. Work on restoring the exterior of the library is still in progress.

Community Improvement Plan (CIP) Extensions

Council voted to make administrative revisions to this program. More broadly, we continue to be concerned that these incentives are not being used in ways that actually target civic benefits and largely redistribute money out of local taxpayers' pockets to developers.

Lincoln and Welland Band Motion

Along with many members of the community, we are disturbed by the ousting of the Lincoln and Welland Band from the armory. We strongly support their reinstatement as the regimental Band of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

2025/2026 Multi-Year Budget

Deliberations are well underway to hammer out how we spend property tax dollars. Councillor Garcia is again chair of the Budget Standing Committee which makes recommendations regarding Operating, Capital, and Water/Wastewater finances. Council will consider amendments on November 20th and the process should be complete by December 21st.

2029 Historic Welland Canals Interpretive Plan

We are both members of the Historic Canals Task Force and are pleased to be part of the preparations for the bicentennial of the First Welland Canal. The passing of the interpretive plan included an extension of the trail system to Port Dalhousie which only makes sense because Port is the Lake Ontario terminus of the first three canals. In addition, we support a group of local volunteers who are planning the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Port Dalhousie in 2026.

Salary Increase

At the Council meeting of October 7th, a majority of Councillors voted in favour of a recommendation from an independent task force to raise our salaries. We did not vote in favour of this increase but rather to continue following the formula that was in place.

Climate Adaptation Plan

The City of St. Catharines continues to implement a Climate Adaptation Plan. While we applaud this work, adaptation is limited to preparing for the

consequences of global warming, like extreme weather events. It is not about taking action to mitigate our collective ecological footprint. We continue to urge the need for the municipality to begin in earnest measuring our environmental impact to properly gauge our performance. The overall plan is scheduled for a formal review and update in 2026. It will analyze whether actions have either been met, need revisions, or if consideration is needed for further implementation. We will encourage an open public consultation process, hoping citizen activism will spur a stronger effort on this front. Recently seven well-motivated young people were successful at the Ontario Court of Appeal by being granted a new hearing regarding holding governments accountable for their contributions to climate change. We have asked municipal staff to monitor these matters as they proceed as they may heighten our responsibilities.

Active Transportation Plan

At the September 23rd meeting, Council unanimously approved the Active Transportation Master Plan Final Report. Active transportation focuses on promoting human-powered mobility, such as biking or walking. This progressive policy ideal is about replacing motor vehicle kilometers traveled with alternate modes which is good for the environment and improves public health. We both supported this approach and feel that more frequent Niagara Regional Transit service is an essential ingredient to improve accessibility overall.

Grantham Optimist Club 70th Anniversary

We extend our sincere best wishes to our friends who make this wonderful service club tick. Many young (and old) people have benefitted from the youth softball, hockey, Cubs, Scouts, and scholarship programs the club has offered over the years. The wonderful clubhouse and ball diamonds you share generously are terrific amenities that continue to enrich our community. We appreciate your many contributions and are grateful for your commitment to your neighbours' well-being. You truly exemplify the values that make up the Optimist Creed.

A very special thank-you to the various volunteer community organizations that do so much great work in Port Dalhousie Ward, including the Beautification and Works Committee, Legion Branch 350, Port Dalhousie Conservancy, the Port Reporter, Grantham Optimist, Port Dalhousie Lions, and the volunteers in the rowing community.

We wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year! ■
- Carlos and Bruce





team finora

Your neighbourhood REALTORS® with over 40 years experience* serving Niagara

905.687.9600
teamfinora.com



Dan Finora
Sales Representative
905.321.9265



Kate Finora
Sales Representative
905.401.8656



Jodie Finora
Sales Representative
905.329.8717

Announcing a New
**Port Dalhousie
 Historical Plaque Program**



As we approach the 200th Anniversary of Port Dalhousie, we are announcing a program to celebrate the remaining heritage homes and buildings in Port Dalhousie in the Heritage District. Our district is one of the largest and most important designated districts in the province of Ontario. Preserving that rich heritage is vitally important both for the city and local tourism. One way to ensure that we protect our heritage is to mark our Heritage Homes and Municipal assets so that the public and those visiting understand what valuable local heritage we have. A 1998 Directory from the St. Catharines Heritage Committee lists over 100 heritage properties in the District.

The Port Dalhousie Conservancy is initiating a Plaque program in which you can participate. It is our intention to start with homes/commercial businesses in the District that pre-date 1900. Having a plaque to mark your home's history is a great way to enhance the value of your heritage home and celebrate your sense of pride in it. Having one creates NO legal obligation; it is purely symbolic.

The Plaque, similar to the one above, is made of cast aluminum, gold on black, and will last a lifetime. You can have 26 letters on which to indicate a phrase that characterizes your structure. It could be as simple as "Originally erected on ____" or, if you know the historical provenance of your home/building, the name of the original family or use.

If you want to see one up close, just go to the Streetcar Shelter at Lock One Commons where a plaque has been installed. The Conservancy will order the plaque, and install it in a prominent place on your home. If there is a registered history on your home, we will also give you a copy of it. The cost is only \$250! You may even qualify for a tax receipt.

Let's celebrate our Heritage Community together.

If you are interested, please call the Conservancy at 905 935-1058 for more information.



PETER GIVEN
289-783-2764

FOR ALL YOUR HOME REPAIR
 AND HANDYMAN SERVICES
 givenhomerepair@gmail.com

THE
REPORTER

Have We Reached a Tipping Point?

Many of us still like to read newspapers rather than digital copies on computer screens. There is something pleasurable, familiar comforting and convenient with a newspaper in hand. We know many of you love reading the Port Reporter, and for that we truly appreciate your interest and support. Some of you have told us that you drive specifically into Port to pick it up when it comes out, and store owners tell us customers come in asking for it, even before it's ready.

Do you know we have 3 public pickup boxes which hold 100 copies, and each of these are filled up 3 times every issue, yet the boxes are empty before the next Reporter comes out? In total we print 8,500 copies which are also mailed out to every home and business within the Port Dalhousie Ward free of charge. All the distribution, ad sales, editorial and associated work is done by a group of dedicated, hard-working community volunteers, and talented local writers and photographers who continue to offer their creative services and products for free.

Unfortunately, despite this stellar volunteerism, there are hard costs involved in producing The Reporter, such as production, printing, delivery and mailing. But as our costs continue to spiral upward, now at over 1 dollar per copy, we are finding these cost increases unsustainable. Given this regrettable situation, we need to appeal for your help to continue to publish The Reporter. In the new year we will have to apply a rate adjustment for advertisers, but as a reader you can also help keep the free delivery of the Port Reporter coming to your mailbox.

So please consider a donation and help us continue to provide you with entertaining and enlightening articles that focus on our very special community of Port Dalhousie, past and present. All donations are appreciated for this truly grassroots, community effort, and we thank you in advance for your generous support.

In order to donate, please email us at
donate.reporter@gmail.com

**CALL THE
 HEATING
 HEROES!**

905-945-3732

Hubbard Air
 Heating and Cooling



or Visit Us at
hubbardair.com



Hank Beekhuis

From Where I Sit ...

Moving the Goalposts?

Recently *The Standard* reported that the city council decided to reduce the goal of the tree canopy from 30 to 25%. The claim is that there is not enough city owned land to plant trees to reach this goal. If you look on the internet and seek out what the ideal urban tree canopy is, it is somewhere between 30 and 40 percent. This means that our original goal was at the very low end of what is considered necessary.

The city claims to plant 3500 trees a year and that they hand out about 1,000 to the residents of the city each year. The problem is that they have no idea how many trees are actually lost each year, so we never have any idea as to whether we are making any progress at all. As I drive around the city I can see a lot of places that could use a tree. Given that trees take a long time to grow it seems that we should be planting a whole lot more, not less. The tree canopy is not just on city- owned land, it is everything and everywhere in the city.

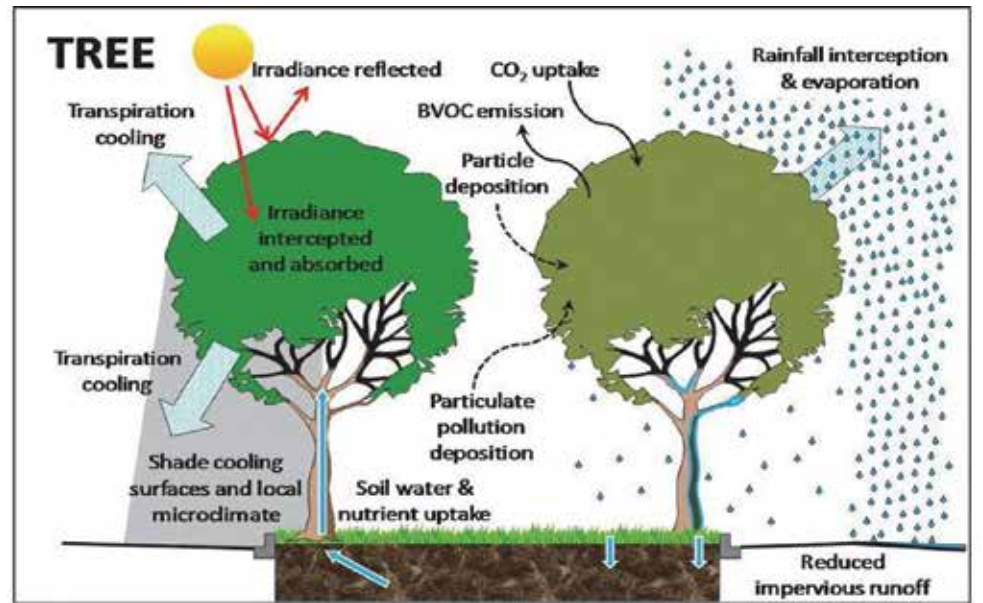
"The city claims to plant 3500 trees a year and that they hand out about 1,000 to the residents of the city each year. The problem is that they have no idea how many trees are actually lost each year."

This issue is made worse by the fact that the city has little to no control over much of the canopy, not because it is on private land but because various levels of government and several crown corporations involved also have jurisdiction over trees on their land. The St. Lawrence Seaway goes through the city and doesn't consult the city on tree cutting, nor do they replace dead ones. Alectra, which is responsible for trees around wires, does not consult. The Region is responsible for all regional roads through the city and they have their own approaches to tree trimming and removal. If you recall a number of years ago, the Region took down 35 trees in Port Dalhousie all at the same time, essentially denuding Main street.

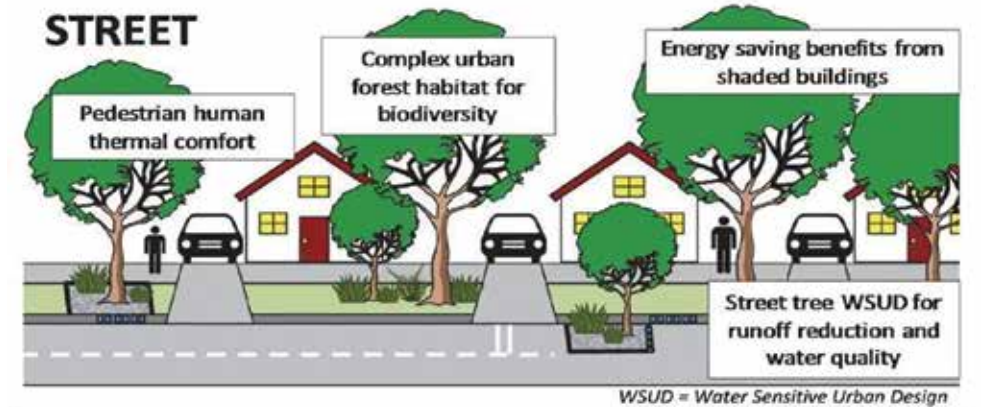
We should be much more proactive in finding places for trees, perhaps actively seeking out residents who would like another tree and give them a tax rebate after two years if they take good care of it. City staff in their travels around the city can easily

identify tree locations. Perhaps we can lean on other levels of government to do their fair share. Enforcing site plan agreements is another possibility. What is the point of nice site plan drawings if the trees that are proposed are either never installed or replaced when they

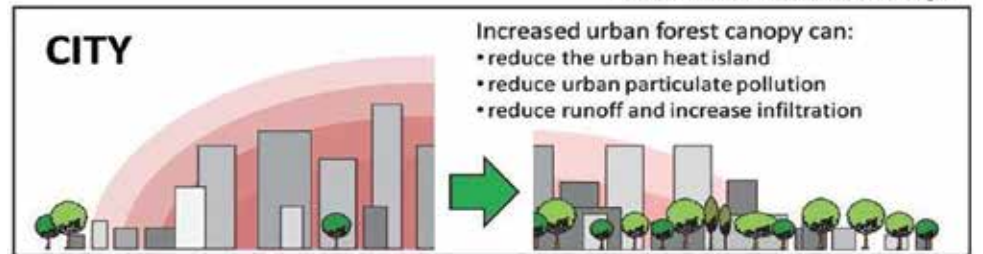

die for lack of care. Maybe our acres and acres of parking lots could have more trees planted in them instead of just a few around the edges. We should not give up so easily. Moving the goalposts is not the answer. ■



BVOC = Biological volatile organic compounds



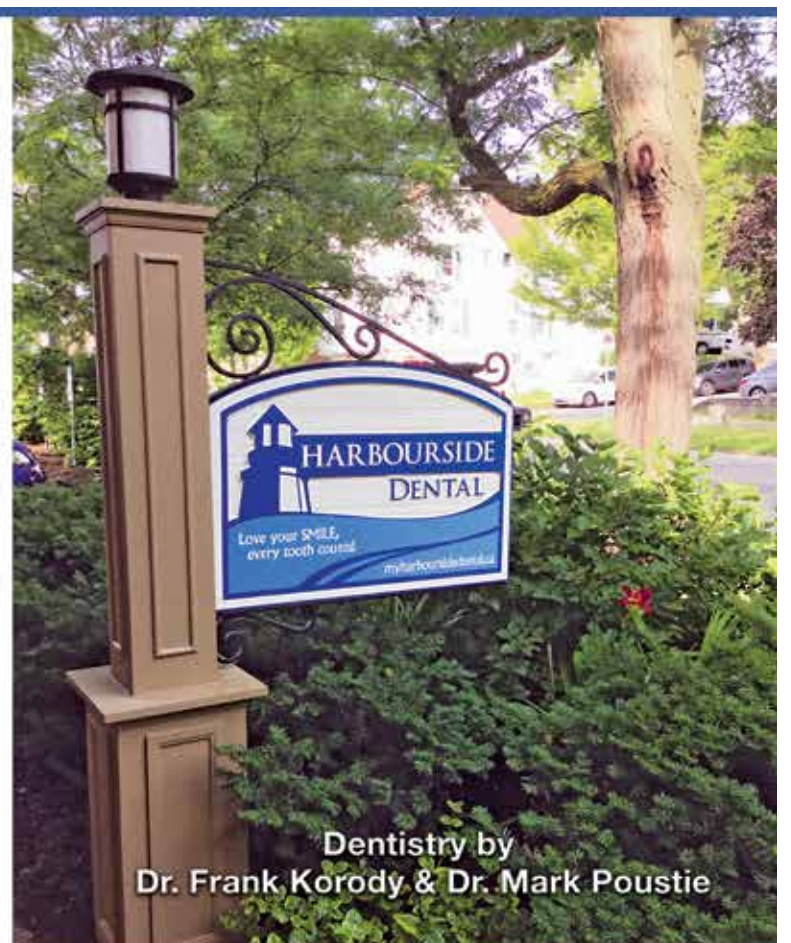
WSUD = Water Sensitive Urban Design

Our team at Harbourside Dental understands that the success of this family oriented dental practice rests on a combination of satisfied patients and exceptional services.

Doctors Mark Poustie, and Frank Korody and our team of dental professionals pride themselves on providing our patients with a good understanding of their oral health conditions and the best treatment options.

If you are new to the area or a long standing member of the community looking for a new dental home, please visit our website or Facebook page. The website contains a list of comprehensive services, photos of our modern office and the smiling, friendly faces you'll encounter when you visit Harbourside Dental. We encourage anyone who is thinking of becoming a patient to stop in and take a look around and meet our friendly staff.



Dentistry by Dr. Frank Korody & Dr. Mark Poustie

17 Lock Street, Suite 1, Port Dalhousie, ON L2N 5B6 Ph: (905) 937-1515 www.myharboursidedental.ca

Willard Beaton and the Beaton Medal

Willard Bruce Beaton was born on July 20, 1883 in Eden, Bayham Township, Elgin County, the son of John Beaton and Nancy McKnight.

Willard graduated from St. Catharines Business College. He first engaged in the fruit business and then entered the fruit and vegetable canning industry in 1911.

In 1914 he was appointed manager of the Port Dalhousie Canning Company Limited. After becoming interested in the financial end of the business, he was appointed Managing Director and Secretary Treasurer of the company.

In 1923 this company disposed of its entire plant and equipment to Canadian Cannery Limited of Hamilton. Willard stayed with the new company until 1928. He then entered the wholesale fresh fruit industry, shipping



Barb Croft, Doris Breedling and Greg Playford of McArthur School, Port Dalhousie, proud winners of the W.B. Beaton Medal.

fruits and vegetables to every province except British Columbia. Through the 1930's he was the manager of the St. Catharines Cold Storage Plant which by 1940 had become the St. Catharines Cold Storage and Forwarding Company.

In 1943 he was appointed Administrator of the City of St. Catharines' Office of Wartime Housing Limited (Federal government controlled) Later he was promoted to Supervisor of the Niagara District. He left that position on December 31, 1949, because he was over the government's age limit. He was then District Supervisor for Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. retiring

in 1953.

Willard was living in St. Catharines when he married Ethel Gertrude Colvin of Port Dalhousie on April 29, 1914 in Port Dalhousie (note: marriage licence issued in St. Catharines April 27, 1914) Anglican minister Robert H. Ferguson officiated. A reception was held at the bride's parents Captain and Mrs. Harvey Colvin residence on Queen Street (now Dalhousie Avenue). They had two daughters: Marion Gertrude Beaton (born March 29, 1915) who married Warren E. Laskey on June 28, 1941. They had two children Donna and David. Marion died in 1993 and is buried in St. John's cemetery. Willard and Ethel's second daughter Elizabeth "Betty" Colvin Beaton (born November 10 1919) was killed in an automobile accident on July 26, 1946 between Mount Forest and Ayton, Ontario. She is buried in St. John's Cemetery.

Willard's wife Ethel died on November 28, 1921 and is buried in the family plot in St. John's Cemetery.

After the passing of his first wife he married Hazel Agnes Comfort on March 29, 1924 by a Methodist minister in St. Catharines. The Marriage Licence was sworn at the Port Dalhousie Village town hall and lists Willard as a widower aged 39. Anglican, residence on Queen Street. They had no children. The last Port Dalhousie directory entry for Willard was in 1951 when he was living at 125 Main Street.

Willard died on February 1, 1965 at the St. Catharines General Hospital. He is buried in the Comfort family plot in section 'F' Victoria Lawn cemetery. Willard was living at 201 Ontario Street at the time. Hazel died on April 13, 1984 and is buried in the same family plot.

Willard was deaf in one ear but still enjoyed music and played the piano. He was a member of the Port Dalhousie Lawn Bowling Club. He was active in St. Thomas Anglican Church. He was a member of Ivy Lodge No. 115, A.F. and A.M, of Beamsville. ■

- Bill Stevens



Royal Henley



Retirement Community *by Signature*

We believe that enjoying life is what senior's living should be all about. Experience vibrant senior living with a wide array of choices, beautiful architecture, caring staff, and a variety of engaging activities and services. Book your tour today to discover the support, friendships and fun that retirement living has to offer!



CALL TODAY AND BOOK YOUR DISCOVERY TOUR! 905 935 1800

www.RoyalHenley.com

582 Ontario Street, St. Catharines

Toni Tosti
Advertising Coordinator

THE
REPORTER

Cell: 289-213-8547

Email: advertising.portreporter@gmail.com

www.pdconservancy.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM ALL OF US AT
THE PORT REPORTER AND
THE PORT DALHOUSIE
CONSERVANCY



Our Renewed Library!

On October 5th 2024 we attended the opening of the newly renovated Port Dalhousie Library. The new interior is significantly changed and has received a much needed facelift. The stacks are gone and new bookshelves installed, and everything is painted and decorated. There is also a wonderful mural of Port Dalhousie History on the back wall which outlines the significance of our community. There is a new book drop to accompany the electronic entrance that is receiving a lot of public use. Residents can now go to the library using their library card without staff present. This allows for extended hours and helps keep our Library viable.

Over the years the community has fought hard to keep the Library open. It has incredible Heritage value as it was built in 1863 for the Good Templars who were dedicated to the welfare of the community. It was built for only 400 dollars at the time, something that this renovation exceeded I'm sure. It also served as a school and the village Town Hall, as well as the police station for Port Dalhousie until amalgamation in 1961. In 1984, local citizens helped to save the building from ruin and now with the new renovations, it should serve the community well for years to come. Thanks to CEO Ken Su for his leadership in keeping our library in good shape and an asset to the community.



Nonstarters in Port

Doing regular maintenance and clean up is what makes for vibrant communities and move us all forward. If everything works and is well-developed, then everyone can enjoy our community so much more. When we see things where our maintenance is falling down on the job we should draw attention to it. So if you see things that are odd or have been neglected, or is in urgent need of work, take a picture and let us know. Here are a few that we have noticed. We can and must do better!



The Lock One Jungle?



Pedestrians have spoken. We need steps!



Come on down,



Name this Park.



Nice Picnic shelter, just bring your own table.



What a Lake View... Not!



... and the Ann St. Lookout should be called a Looknot.

A Special
Thanks to
John House
and the
Vintage
Port
Dalhousie
Facebook
Page





Tony Douvis
Financial Advisor

High Interest Savings Accounts: CAD 3.60%* USD 4.40%*

101 Lakeport Road
St. Catharines, ON L2N 7L7
Bus: 905-937-6990
Fax: 1-866-751-0759
Toll-Free: 1-877-711-0911
www.edwardjones.com
Member: Canadian Investor Protection Fund

** As of 29/10/2024 and subject to change*

Making Sense of Investing

GICs
ETFs
Stocks
Bonds
Annuities
Mutual Funds
Life Insurance

HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!



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




Northern Lights Over Port Dalhousie

Photo by Chris deLaat
Fine Art Photography Gallery, Port Colborne

SPRAGUE INTERIORS
CREATING BEAUTIFUL SPACES FOR HAPPY LIVING

FULL SERVICE DECORATING AND DESIGN
RENOVATIONS AND NEW BUILDS

 905.687.2192
2 Lake Street, St. Catharines
info@spragueinteriors.ca
www.spragueinteriors.ca

Life's better with an agent
Auto • Home • Life • Business

Contact me today.
Rob Balardo CIP, Agent
50 Lakeport Rd
Unit 201
St. Catharines ON
905-935-1511
rob.balardo@desjardins.com
robbalardo.ca



 **Desjardins**
Insurance

Desjardins Insurance refers to Certas Home and Auto Insurance Company, underwriter of automobile and property insurance or Desjardins Financial Security Life Assurance Company, underwriter of life insurance and living benefits products.

1927157 Desjardins®, Desjardins Insurance®, all trademarks containing the word Desjardins, as well as related logos are trademarks of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, used under licence

Port Dalhousie Legion Branch 350 - A History

Some Local History - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350

As soldiers returned to Port Dalhousie from their service in World War Two, they joined with veterans from past conflicts to mutually assist each other. As more veterans joined, gatherings were held in the Boy Scout Lodge on the bank of Martindale Pond at the foot of Welland Avenue, now Christie Street. Meetings shifted to the basement hall of the Austin Hotel and a more formal organization ensued when Percy Haigh became acting president in 1943.

As the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League grew, the Port Dalhousie group applied to join. On June 14, 1945 a charter was presented to the Port Dalhousie group at a meeting held in St. John's Church Parish Hall. Norman Cowell, D.C.M. (Distinguished Conduct Medal) became the charter president of the new Branch 350. Other charter members were: Rev. Charles A. Flook, J.T. Gammage, Percy Hooper, Percy Haigh, Francis A.N. Haultain, Alfred Halstead, Jack D. Hunt, Tom Jenckes, Emil Kreger, R.A. Plato, Fred Pysker, Edward "Bob" Reilly, Mel Springer, Gerald Wing, Syd Lambert, B.K. Cowell, P.W.L. Maguire and L.G. Dyke.

On August 15, 1946 a very large crowd attended the Legion meeting in the

Buffalo Room of the Austin Hotel. It was announced that a \$1000 donation had been received toward the building fund for a Memorial Hall. Plans were made to hold a "Gala Frolic" at Lakeside Park on September 14, 1946 to raise further funds. On February 7, 1947 the



annual meeting was held at the Austin Hotel and it was announced that the local Legion branch would take over the former brick gate yard building, which is the nucleus of the building you see today. The rowing people were using the building for boat storage during regattas and it was decided to

accommodate this use. Plans were quickly set in place to renovate a part of the building for the members. On March 28, 1947 the new Legion hall was officially opened and dedicated by Captain Finlayson, Legion Zone Commander. The president Charles

Fox and members of the executive and officers were all in attendance.

While not all Legion members came from Port Dalhousie (the population of Port Dalhousie in 1947 was approximately 800) the Legion had 80 members.

On June 14, 1947, the Ladies Auxiliary was granted a charter. Charter members were: E. Stockwell, Rita Fox, Marg. Hunt, Mary Wing, Francis Cotrell, M. Ross, C. Coppen, Marg. Steinmetz, Dorothy Shields, Muriel Brand, E. McLellan, Pat Wells, D. Hooper, M. Kreger, K. Haigh, K. Hassim, Ruth Rhodes, Ruth Thompson, C. Stephenson and D. Sackrider.

A visit of note to the Port Dalhousie Legion was that of Their Excellencies, Viscount and Lady Alexander of Tunis, the Governor-General while they were attending the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta on August 1, 1949.

In 1950 further improvements were made with the addition of a walk-in cooler and bar, and the lower lock gate building area was renovated into a banquet hall.

In 1951 the Federal Government, or Crown, granted the land and building to the Trustees of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350. On March 23, 1952 a dedication service of the Memorial hall was held. Four veterans of the Boer War were present: Arthur Mower, Robert H. Johnston, R. Pringle and P. Walsh. The president, Alex Ross, presided over the event.

cont'd next page



Chris Bittle

Member of Parliament - St. Catharines



Hope you have a safe and happy
Holiday Season!

Have any federal issues, reach out to my office, we would be happy to help!

Community Office www.ChrisBittleMP.ca

61 Geneva St. Unit 1, St. Catharines, ON L2R 4M6
905.934.MPMP (6767)
Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca

 @ChrisBittleMP  @BittleC  @Chris_Bittle

In July of 1960 an addition to the front was added. Also in 1960, on December 19, Queen Elizabeth granted "Royal" and the name changed to Royal Canadian Legion and the local branch quickly amended the sign.

In 1985 large windows looking out onto the harbour were installed as part of a general renovation of the facility. In 1989 the upper floor was renovated and became the "new" canteen to accommodate the over 800 members.

Some early presidents of the Legion (1943 - 1975) were: P.Haig, N. Cowell, A. Ross, C. Fox, R. Corbett, J. Hunt, W. Mackie, Alex. Sommerville, J. Bloomfield, S. Crulman, H. Kelly, R. Reilly, R. Culp, W. Richardson, M. Munroe, D. Fiskes, A.W. Berry and E. Stoppard.

Since the formation of R. C. L. Br. 350, the branch has assisted many veterans, contributed to community projects, sponsored sports teams, provided bursaries, hosted numerous groups and entertained the members and guests and of course the halls are maintained for rent.

Today the Legion welcomes new members and guests to enjoy the friendship and community that the Legion provides. As the sign on the façade says "Don't be Shy - Give the Legion a Try" ■

- Bill Stevens

The Legion's Grand Reopening

The New Facility Has Fantastic Views of the Harbour, as Well as a Large Outdoor Patio.

On October 5th the Port Dalhousie Legion Branch 350 held its official opening ceremony. The facility has been open to the public for a while already, but the Legion felt that this was when everything was finally complete. The opening ceremony was held in front of the new facility with Regional Chair Jim Bradley, MPP Jennie Stevens, Ward Councillor Carlos Garcia and President Jeff Burns cutting the official ribbon. The crowd then moved inside and heard a number of congratulatory speeches from the various levels of government as well as remarks from the President Jeff Bruns, Vice President Deborah Wong, and Second Vice President Susan Stevenson who outlined how this new facility came to be and thanked Tom Rankin particularly for his involvement and support.

The new facility is amazing and has some of the best views in the city overlooking the harbour, as well as a large outdoor patio right over the water. The Port branch of the Legion is one of the oldest and most long-standing organizations in Port Dalhousie and has been key to the community's life. With this

new facility they are significantly growing their membership, as many in the community want to be a part of the renewed Legion. The public is welcome to drop by and see the new facility, have a drink and enjoy their excellent Friday fish fry which has become such a tradition in Port. In order to understand the development of the Legion in Port we have included an article by Bill Stevens who has done a great job of outlining the Legion's colourful history. ■



Your Local Mortgage Agent Maggie Alladina

With over 20 years experience in the financial services industry, including budget planning, financial planning, insurance and mortgage lending.
Purchasing? Renewing? Refinancing?
I'm here to help.



Specializing in helping homeowners access the equity in their home!

What do you need help with?

1. Supplemental retirement income?
2. Renovations to suit changing needs?
3. Debt consolidation to reduce monthly payments and interest costs?
4. Provide adult children with an early inheritance?

647-899-3006

maggicalladina@gopineapple.com
Mortgage Agent - LV1



LAKESHORE EYE CARE CLINIC

• Optometry & Optical •

132 Lakeshore Road
St. Catharines

www.lakeshoreeyecareclinic.ca



905-935-3874

ON-SITE OPTICIAN & LAB

✓ Fast and friendly service

✓ Quality assured products

✓ Over 600+ frames to choose from

Designer Brands available

• Christian Dior • Etnia Barcelona • J.F. Rey

• Gucci • Bellinger • Saint Laurent • Bvlgari

• RayBan • MCM • Gigi • Boss • Tom Ford

• Eco • Staag • Nike and more!



Dr. J. Sassi
Optometrist

Adam Sassi
Optician

FAMILY RUN
BUSINESS

**BOOK YOUR
APPOINTMENT
TODAY!**





Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee Fall Report

Port's Old Lock One Fence is Refurbished

With the continuing efforts to improve and beautify the Port Dalhousie core, and, following the installation of the NS&T Trolley stop at the top of the Lock, it was decided that the Lock's old rusty fence was an eyesore. So, the PDBWC, along with a group of concerned citizens and local organizations, decided to carry out a complete repair and refurbishment of the 72 ft long fence.

We discussed the logistics with Hingston Fabricating and Rival Powder Coating, both of whom did such a great job of the long commemorative fence installed last May, next to the second canal and close to the Legion. And, with generous donations and loving care, the fence was refurbished and reinstalled by mid-October. Thank you to Rankin Construction, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO), The Lions Club, Port Dalhousie Legion, Paul Battaglia, Norman Koop, Jack Shoemakers, David Bergen Dental. In addition, Hank Beekhuis provided transport, Gary Bevan and Norman Koop provided the muscle, and Mike Slater coordinated the project.

Gardens in Port

Planters and gardens have never looked better in downtown Port. We had a wonderful team of planters, weeder, waterers, and donors (Schenck Farms, Spring Valley Gardens) who all worked extremely hard to keep Port beautiful for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to Sandy Slater for organizing another brilliant and colourful growing season and for all the volunteers who kept things growing strong throughout the Summer/Autumn months.

Rock On The Lock

PK Hummingbird Steel Pan Orchestra and La Fondita Musical! Those band names say it all. Our 5th and final concert, featuring these 2 incredible performances at the Old Lock One Stage, was an international music fiesta! Without the dedication of Ernie Jodoin (concert coordinator), Ed Bertoli (sound tech.), Rob Burke (MC) and their team of excellent PDBWC volunteers, the concerts couldn't happen. Thanks as well to our wonderful sponsors for this evening! The St. Catharines Twinning Association and Lakeport Dental.

Halloween Walk

On Sunday, October 27th at 11 AM, downtown Port experienced the PDBWC's 5th annual Halloween Walk for kids and families. Thank you to all the local vendors, organizations, and residents who handed out treats, to the

Lions Club members who supervised street crossings, to the CERT for their first aid presence, to Councilor Garcia for helping with costs, to Sandy Slater and her team of champion volunteers who made this happen, and to our vibrant community members who showed up by the hundreds, had fun, and gave generously to Food4Kids Niagara. A special thanks must go to Kara Kunselman who designed and hand-drew our wonderful poster this year, and thanks to mom, Kim, for the printing.

What Else is Going On?

The Port Dalhousie BWC has a new home base! We'll be "officially" located at 15 Lock St., Suite 301, St. Catharines, L2N 5B6 for mailing and meeting purposes. Thank you very much to our new landlord, Mr. Paul Battaglia for generously allocating this space and address to our group.

As well, the Port Dalhousie BWC can now issue tax receipts, through the City of St. Catharines, for donations of \$100 or more. If you'd like to make a donation and would like to discuss this option, please contact us at portdalhousie@yahoo.com.

In early September, we reached out to the property managers of the Harbour Club and the Rankin future development sites in Port asking them to please improve on several noted aspects of maintenance. Both representatives responded quickly to our concerns and requests. We thank them and their companies for helping us keep our community beautiful and appreciate their ongoing maintenance of these sites until they begin construction. On October 10th, we met with representatives of the City to discuss future plans for the area of Rennie Park that was cleared of brush and used for race viewing during the WRCs in August. We expressed our ideas, the City listened, offered feedback, and made an agreement to move forward with feasibility and community input. So please watch for more info and an opportunity to weigh-in on future plans.

Port Dalhousie BWC's AGM - Tuesday, November 19th, 7 PM at the Lion Club main hall. All are welcome.

BWC's Annual Candlelight Stroll - Saturday, December 7th evening. Special thanks to donations from Paul Battaglia (Trilogy Class Action Services) and Rob Inglis (Sarge Cup Golf Classic) for funding this event. ■

Reach out on Facebook / Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee or email us at portdalhousie@yahoo.com.

Dwyer's Grocery Store

This Port Dalhousie Historical Treasure Needs Some TLC

Located at 18 Lakeport Rd and erected in 1877 (Sourced from various St. Catharines Heritage documents)

In the 1870's shortly after Confederation this location contained the J&M Rogers Butcher Shop. The current building was built in 1877 for Dwyers Grocers, Stationers, and Tobacco which was originally established in 1873. The store served as the agent for the Montreal Telegraph Company as well as the American Express Telegraph Company. In various directories Dwyers businesses have been listed as a bookseller, exchange broker, insurance agent and office for the meteorological department (weather).

Eugene Fredrick Dwyer was one of Port's most prominent citizens. Dwyer had a long career in municipal affairs, beginning when he moved to Port and continuing until he moved to St. Catharines in 1891. He first served as postmaster, then was the elected Reeve of Port Dalhousie in 1884, a position he occupied for six years. In 1889 he was elected as Warden of Lincoln County.

Gems Café was located here from 1940 until 1957 when it became the Dominion Restaurant. From 1968 to 1971 it was

the House of Flair hairdressers. For some time the store was vacant until the Curiosity Shop, a second hand clothing store opened, followed by Windsands women's clothing store. Once properties were purchased by a developer, the store was closed and has not been reopened.

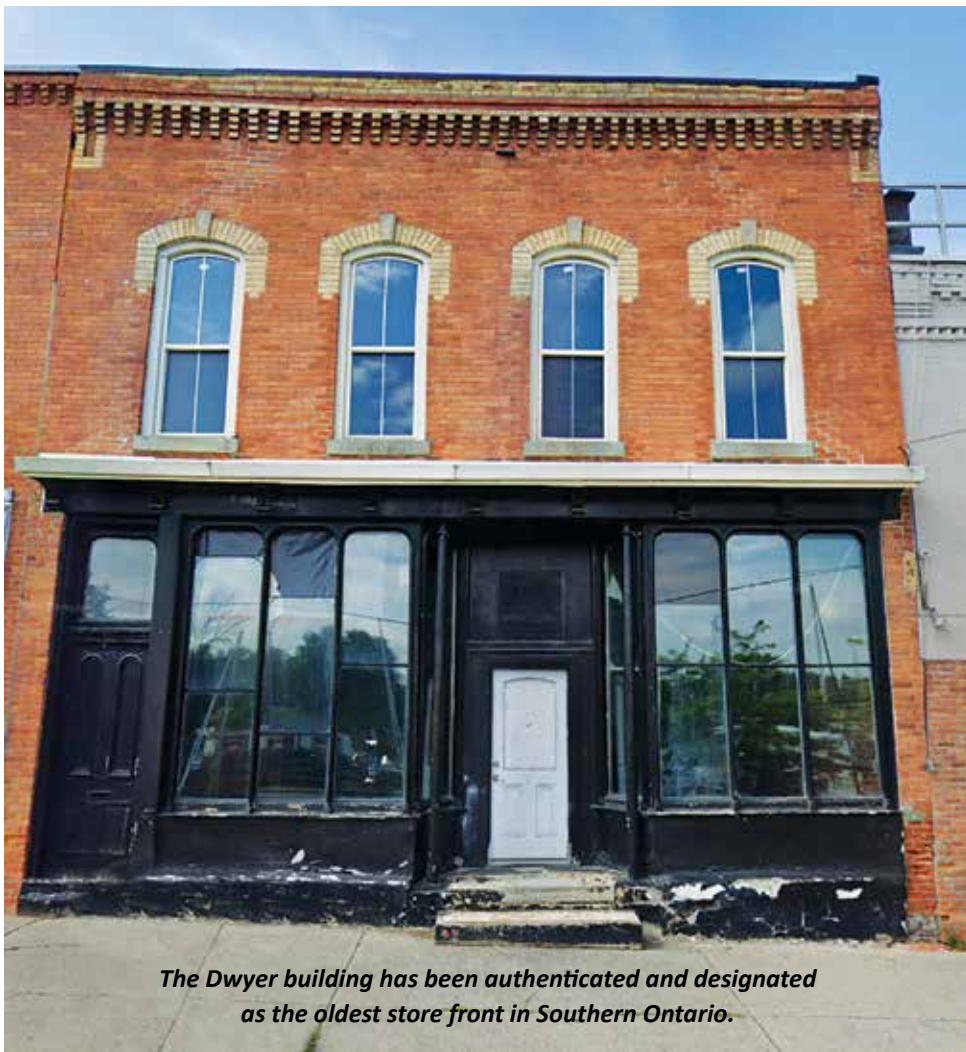
Throughout the years the two-story brick building has been minimally altered. Of Italianate vernacular influence, the façade exhibits a brick corbelled cornice at the roofline. A bracketed cosmetic cornice of wood enhances the front entrance. The fenestration of the second story is characterized by four bays of double hung windows enhanced with lighter brick voussoirs and keystones. The three bays of the first story display the original windows with rounded upper corners and iron and wooden frames. The central entrance is flanked by two structural columns and stained glass lights. The doorway serving the apartments on the upper floor has a semi-elliptical transom and shaped panels. The front façade of the building has been authenticated and designated as the oldest store front in Southern Ontario, it was designated as such in 1980 (Bylaw 80-440). The

cont'd next page

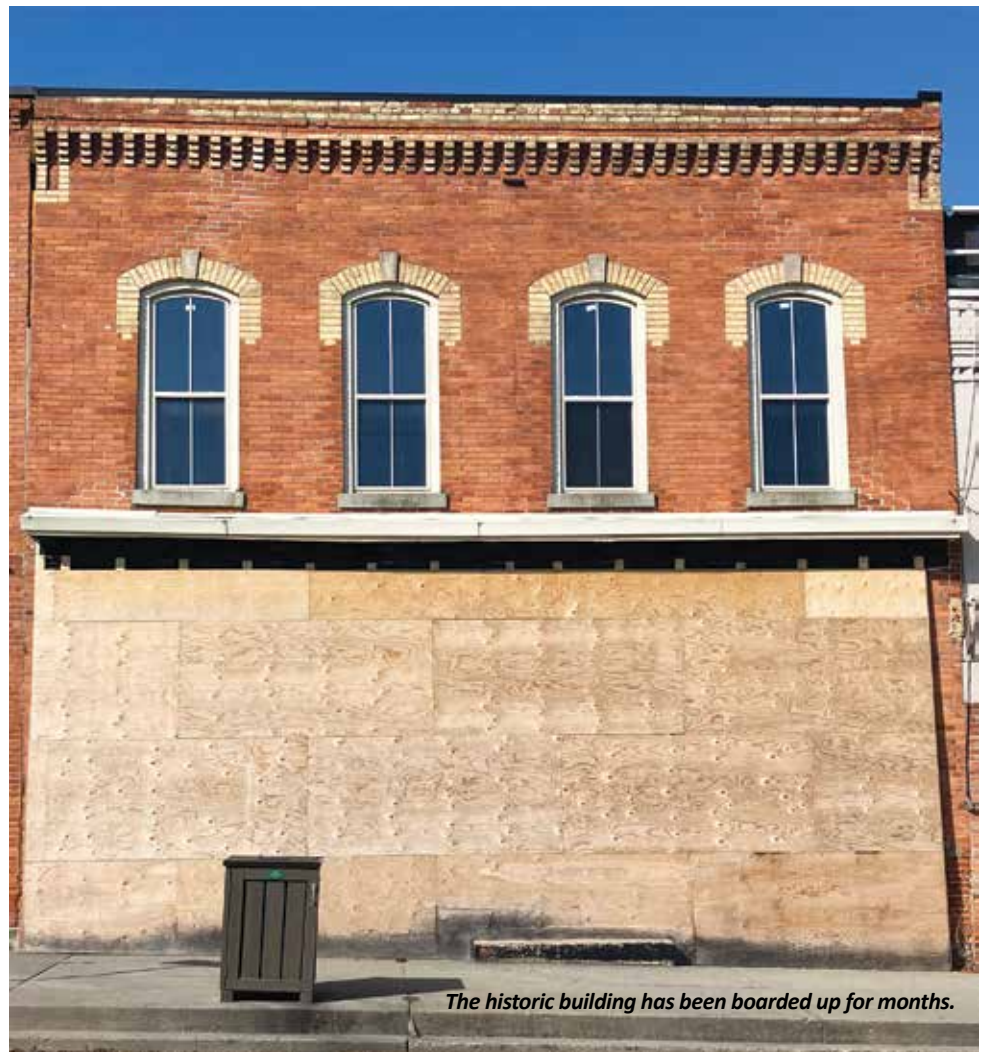
**Port Dalhousie
Candlelight Stroll**
an evening of musical
porchside entertainment

Date: **Saturday, December 7, 2024**
Start Point: **St. John's Church 80 Main Street.**
Check in: **5:30pm** Stroll Begins: **6:15pm**
Weather: **Rain, Snow, or Stars**
Parking: **Lakeside Park** Bus Route: **401/406**

Donations supporting
FOOD4KIDS
Niagara
appreciated
Candles \$4 ea.
Hot Chocolate \$1 ea.
Cash only



The Dwyer building has been authenticated and designated as the oldest store front in Southern Ontario.



The historic building has been boarded up for months.

building is currently boarded up and is owned by a real estate company. It is hoped that a building with such a storied history and significance to Port Dalhousie can be restored to its former glory. The photo at the right is of the storefront, dressed up as a movie set for an episode of the tv show *Anne With an E*, filmed in 2017. It serves only to illustrate how, with respectful treatment of its distinct historic frontage, it can be revived, adding immeasurably to the charm and attraction of the Port Dalhousie business core.



Photo by Rex Montalban

We've got a Mortgage for that!

- ✓ Purchases
- ✓ Refinancing
- ✓ Self Employed
- ✓ Transfers
- ✓ Debt Consolidation
- ✓ Good/ Poor Credit

Toni Tosti
MORTGAGE AGENT | Level 1
289-213-8547 | tonitosti@dominionlending.ca
www.mortgagesbytoni.ca

DOMINION LENDING CENTRES
BTB MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS

Dominion Lending Centres BTB Mortgage Solutions | Independently Owned & Operated | FSR04/12038

Great, affordable
Christmas GIFTS!

- ☼ Dryer Balls
- ☼ Bowl Cozies
- ☼ Hot & Cold Pack
- ☼ Mesh Produce Bags ...more!

905-682-0327

DAVE'S ZERO WASTE

Call Dave: Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday - closed

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

PORT DALHOUSIE'S FLOWER SHOP

stems etc.

101 lakeport road
st. catharines

FLOWERS, GIFTS
DÉCOR, AND MORE!
CURBSIDE PICKUP
DELIVERY
289-438-2235

Hainer's

**AUTO REPAIR • TIRES
TUNE UPS • BRAKES**

HARVEY HAINER

1198 THIRD ST. LOUTH RR#3
ST. CATHARINES, ON L2R 6P9

TEL: 905.934.2331
FAX: 905.934.5642
hainersdiscount@bellnet.ca

FOR ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS

Dave's Zero Waste

- Unpaper Towel • Reusable Wipes & Napkins
- Pure Wool Dryer Balls • Bees Wax Bags • Hot & Cold Oat Bags
- Mesh Produce Bags • Portable Straw & Cutlery Pouch
- Masks • Bowl Cozies • Coffee Cozies • Can Cozies
- Stainless Steel Straws • Tea Towels • Scrubbies
- Stainless Steel Straws Keychain

Contact Dave @ 905.682.0327

VERSLUIS BROS.

CONTRACTORS INC.

26 John Street
St. Catharines, ON L2N 4P1
Telephone: 905-646-0892
Email: versluisbrothers@bellnet.ca

CUSTOM HOMES ADDITIONS RENOVATIONS

Let It Glow... Again! *The Popular Illuminated Event Will be Returning to Rennie Park*

Rennie Park Illumination – Over 50 illuminated installations await visitors at Rennie Park, with a variety of interactive light sculptures for all to explore. These vibrant displays make for stunning photo opportunities and a magical evening experience.

Lakeside Park Fun – Opening Night Only (Nov. 23) – Wander Lakeside Park from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. to enjoy rides on the classic Lakeside Park Carousel and a Santa photo station. Complimentary hot chocolate will keep everyone cozy as they enjoy the sights and sounds of the season.



Photo by John Marshall Goodyear

City Hall Wonderland - Transformed into a holiday beacon, City Hall will shine bright with thousands of lights and a three-storey, fully lit Christmas tree. This annual display is a favourite for photos and will bring festive energy to the heart of downtown.

St. Paul Street Canopy - Take a stroll under a sparkling canopy of thousands of twinkling lights that stretches across St. Paul Street, creating a truly enchanting winter scene.

A Winter's Night in James Street Alley This cozy alleyway, connecting James Street to Garden Park, will be adorned with shimmering lights, providing a serene space for evening strolls or quiet moments during the festive season.

Glowflake at Meridian Centre's Rankin Bridge - A beautiful, giant snowflake installation awaits visitors at the Meridian Centre. Stop by for a picture with this stunning "Glowflake" for a keepsake to remember.

Photos with Santa at Market Square – Dec. 7 and 14 – On Saturdays in December, families are invited to visit Market Square for a meet-and-greet with Santa. Enjoy complimentary professional photos with Santa, perfect for holiday cards. While you're here,

explore the St. Catharines Farmers' Market for fresh, local goods and holiday gifts to support local vendors. This family-friendly event is sure to be a hit with kids and adults alike.

Mitten Tree Campaign – Starting in December, the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre brings back its annual Mitten Tree Campaign. Residents are encouraged to help local families in need by donating winter clothing at the museum. Donations will be delivered weekly to Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold and Start Me Up Niagara to support families across the community.

The Watering Can Children's Workshop – Nov. 29 – Children can channel their holiday spirit at the St. Catharines Kiwanis Aquatics Centre's "Grinch Tree" workshop. Inspired by Dr. Seuss's beloved classic, kids will create their own whimsical

holiday tree that's sure to bring a smile, even to the grinchiest guest.

New Year's Eve Public Skate at Seymour Hannah – Ring in the New Year on Dec. 31 with a free public skate from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Seymour-Hannah Sports and Entertainment Centre. With all four pads open, one featuring a glow-in-the-dark experience and glow sticks for skaters, this is a fun, festive way to welcome 2025. Character visits and a family photo booth will add extra fun to this family-friendly New Year's celebration.

Holiday Public Skating and Family Swim – Residents can take advantage of special holiday public skating and family swims. Find the schedule at stcatharines.ca.ActiveSTC.

The City invites everyone to experience the wonder of **Let it Glow: A Celebration of Light**. This free, self-guided event offers countless ways to make holiday memories and explore our city's most scenic spots, from downtown streets to neighbourhood parks.

For more details on schedules and activities, visit stcatharines.ca/LetItGlow

lovestc.ca' is at the bottom."/>

Sending best wishes
from City Council to all
Port Dalhousie residents
and businesses
for a happy,
healthy and
prosperous
New Year!



Mayor Mat Siscoe
City of St. Catharines

Instagram: @MatSiscoe Facebook: /MayorMatSiscoe
Twitter: @MatSiscoe Email: mayor@stcatharines.ca
stcatharines.ca

The Icemen: Harvesting a Lucrative Winter Crop in Port

In the Days Before Refrigeration, Natural Ice Was a Vital Commodity for Food Preservation.

Village life followed seasonal rhythms when Port Dalhousie was an important canal community and lake port. Spring was busy with preparations for the annual opening of the Welland Canal and the start of shipping in April; summer and fall saw the village hum with the activity of vessels on the canal. The close of navigation in December brought a quieter, slower pace of life through the winter months.

With the village in winter's icy grip, though, some residents saw opportunity. The wide frozen expanse of Martindale Pond and the canal presented a lucrative winter bounty: ice.

In the days before refrigeration, natural ice was a vital commodity for food preservation. The ice trade in Ontario boomed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Frozen waterways offered a valuable resource for local entrepreneurs to stock the iceboxes found in almost every home at the time.

Ice harvesting required ice-cutting and specialized storage. The cutting was a physically demanding, often back-breaking, and dangerous process using specific tools and equipment. Teams of icemen first scraped the ice surface to clear the snow, and then measured the ice depth. They marked the ice surface to indicate where blocks would be cut. The men cut the ice by hand with saws into long strips, then into smaller blocks which were hauled onto horse-drawn sleds. The icemen and horses took the laden sleds to specially constructed wooden icehouses for storage of this winter "crop." In the icehouses the men piled the ice blocks in many layers which were separated by sawdust acting as insulation.

With the coming of warmer weather, the icemen's wagons delivered these blocks of ice to local homeowners, hauled with ice tongs into kitchens for use in iceboxes. The iceman's wagon was a common sight on local streets until progress brought the widespread use of electric refrigerators by the mid-20th century.

In Port Dalhousie several businessmen engaged in the ice trade. George Powell operated a coal and ice business in the first decade of the 20th century until he sold it to his nephew W.L. Graham in 1912. R.H. Johnston, a coal merchant, branched into the ice trade in 1912 as well, operating his combined coal and ice business from the company's site on the east side of the canal.



A team of icemen harvesting ice on Martindale Pond in January, 1913.

A report in *The Standard* on Port Dalhousie news in January 1913 included an observation from a local merchant: "There's nothing doing here but ice harvesting. Everybody is busy gathering his ice crop and I may say this is the best winter we have had for ice harvesting in years." Within two decades, however, the situation had changed dramatically and ice harvesting in Port Dalhousie was ordered to cease.

When the current Welland Ship Canal began operating in 1930, local industries and municipalities used the old canal for dumping industrial waste and sewage. This foul muck made its way down the canal to Port Dalhousie and to the lake. Residents and local businesses protested this dumping and complained of its serious negative effects on their village.

In March 1934, a delegation of the Port Dalhousie village council met with

Continued next page



Retirement Canada

ANCHOR POINTE
St. Catharines | 905.938.7070

Diamond Award Winner!
Voted #1 Retirement Community
(Reader's Choice Awards)

Anchor Pointe is located across from Jaycee Gardens,
a short walk to Port Dalhousie

AtriaRetirement.ca

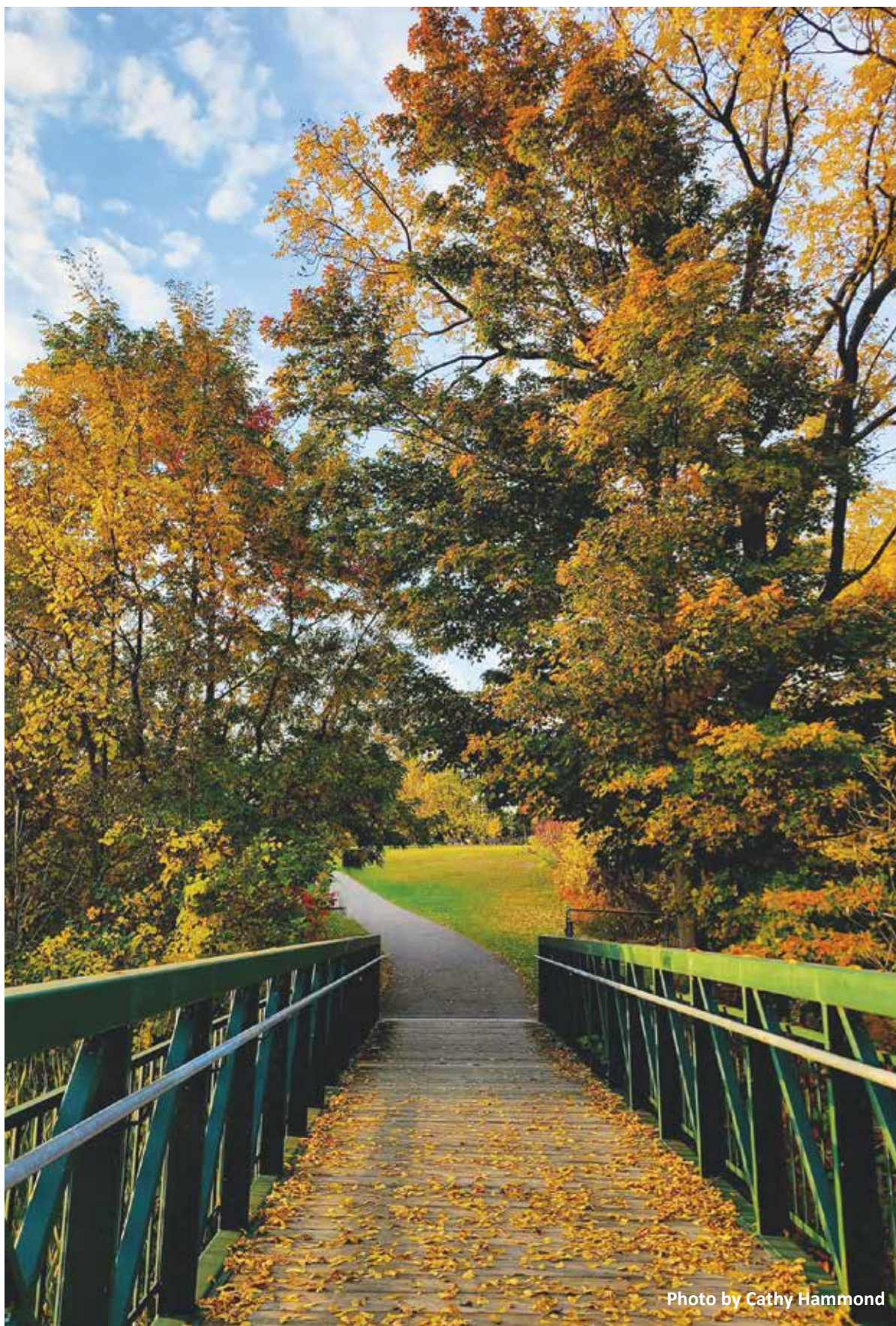


Photo by Cathy Hammond

The Icemen *Continued*

representatives of the provincial Department of Health to discuss the condition of the waters of Martindale Pond. No action was taken to improve the situation, but the Department of Health ordered that no more ice from the canal or Martindale Pond be used for human consumption or refrigeration. The next year, in March 1935, Port Dalhousie was set to start legal action against St. Catharines and the Province of Ontario unless a definite assurance was given to stop the pollution of the old canal. Four months later in July, government and industrial representatives toured the old canal and concluded that filling it in was the only solution to the complaints from Port Dalhousie that it was suffering significantly from the old waterway's filth and odours.



The harvesting of natural ice in Port Dalhousie stopped in 1934, bringing to a close a busy winter occupation for the village and changing its local winter landscape. The march of progress would have soon ended the ice harvesting in any case, as developments in refrigeration, cooling systems, and the production of manufactured ice rapidly replaced the natural ice trade; by mid-century, iceboxes and ice delivery to homes were obsolete.

In Port Dalhousie, W.L. Graham left the coal and ice business in 1937 to work in the insurance field. R.H. Johnston continued as a coal and ice merchant, switching to a modern ice manufacturing plant that promised "pure manufactured ice" and by the 1940s had a daily production capacity of 10 tons for commercial use. After his death in 1957, the business was continued by his son Robert Johnston. ■

- Nancy Cameron



LAKESHORE
CHIROPRACTIC GROUP

Innovative Health Care for YOUR Needs







Dr. Albert Scales, DC
• Clinic Director with 42 years of service in Niagara

- Comfortable Chiropractic Treatment
- Spinal Decompression
- Laser Therapy

- Shockwave Therapy
- Sports Injuries
- Custom Orthotics

- WSIB/Car Accidents
- Balance and Fall Prevention Therapy



Miranda Panas,
Osteopathic Manual Practitioner
- Taking NEW Patients
- Chronic pain issues
- Arthritis
- Acute Injury
- Digestive Issues



Dr. Brendan Macoretta,
D.C. BHSc
• Graduate of University of Western Ontario
• Chiropractic Program at D'Youville College in Buffalo NY
• Sports/Orthopedic Rehabilitation
• Kinesiotaping/Exercise Programs




Kaitlyn Ouellette,
RMT
• Deep Tissue Massage
• Sports Massage
• Injury & Rehabilitation
• Relaxation Massage
• Prenatal Massage

 Check us out on Facebook, Google and RateMD 

• 905-935-3355
• 126 Lakeshore Road, St. Catharines
• lakeshorechiropractic.ca

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!



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

Yesterday and Today

At One Time Old Martindale Road Was a Main Route into Port Dalhousie.

Early in the 19th century a farmer named John Martindale owned a large farm on the township line between Grantham and Louth townships, in the far northwest corner of Grantham Township.

As the district developed, a trail passing through his property became one of the main roads

forgotten. They left their traces behind on our maps - the above-mentioned Martindale Road and, of course, Martindale Pond.

In its early days Martindale Road essentially began at the western end of Welland Avenue, descended down to Welland Vale in the valley of Twelve Mile Creek, then rose out

Early in the 20th century, with the coming of the N.S.&T. street railway, Martindale Road was shared with the railway from Erion Road most of the way out to Port Dalhousie, until their paths diverged near the place where Richardson Creek feeds into Martindale Pond. There the rail line continued more or less straight ahead, taking a shorter, more direct route to the Lakeshore Road.

The N.S.&T.'s passenger service to Port Dalhousie ended in 1950, but it was not until the mid-1960s

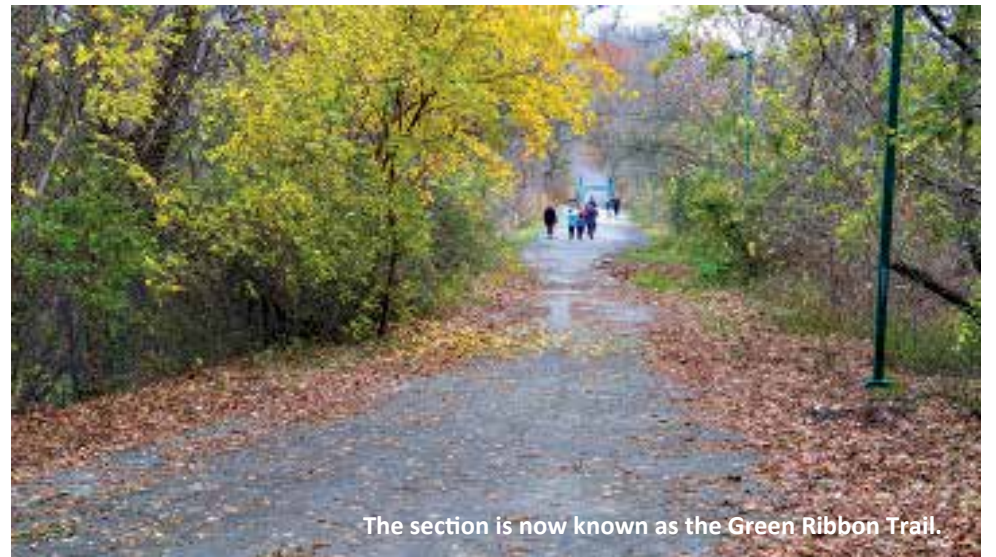
section of Martindale Road opened to traffic in October 1967.

Thenceforth, Old Martindale Road became a quiet, remote place for cyclists and bird watchers and fishermen to quietly enjoy nature. It remains that today, but it has also taken on quite a different significance.

On Sept. 26, 1996, a 529-metre-long section of Old Martindale Road through the wetland was renamed the Green Ribbon Trail, a place of quiet and contemplation dedicated



Old Martindale Road running through wetlands in 1936.



The section is now known as the Green Ribbon Trail.

between St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie. That road ultimately became known by the name of the farmer - Martindale Road.

John Martindale died in 1846, his wife Jane in 1870. Their sons ran a brewery in Port Dalhousie; one was the postmaster there in the 1860s. Ultimately the Martindale family either moved away or died out. However, they have not been

of the valley on the other side and ran northward toward Lake Ontario. It closely followed the creek until about a mile or so south of Main Street/Lakeshore Road, when it abruptly shifted to the west, going down a slope and passing through a wetland there before finally merging with Third Street Louth just south of Lakeshore Road. Our old photo this week shows what that final section looked like, sometime in the 1930s.

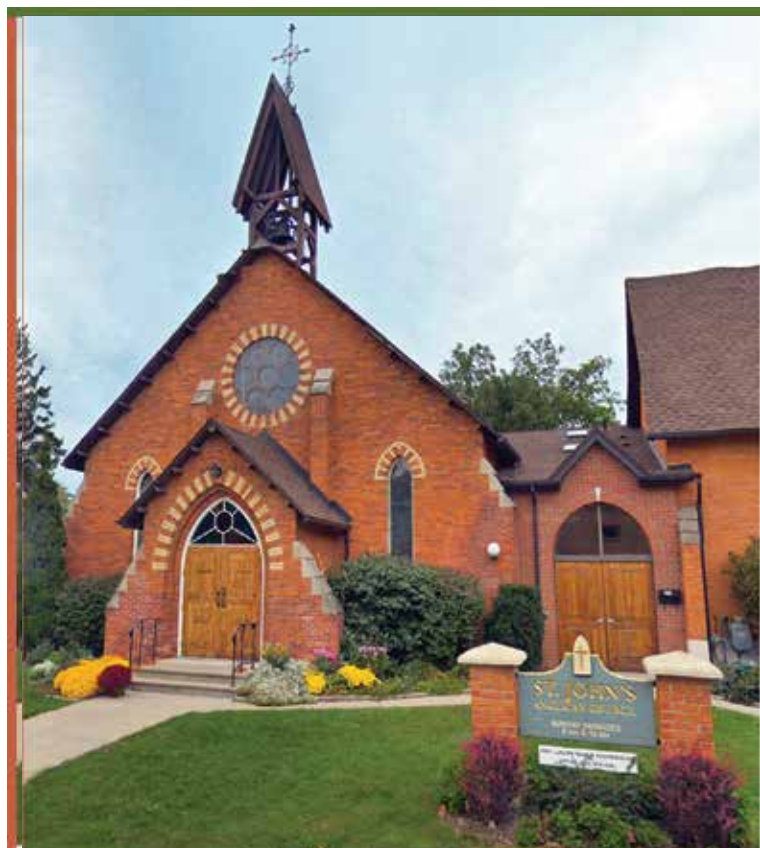
that the decision was made to have Martindale Road take over the old railway right-of-way for the last mile or so of its path to Main Street.

So it was that, starting in 1965, the old railway track was taken up, the wooden railway trestle that had taken the railway across Richardson's Creek was removed, and the concrete surface of the new road was laid down. This new

to the memory of missing children after the abduction and murder of young Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy early in the 1990s. The trail takes its name from the green ribbons that were adopted as a symbol of hope while the search was ongoing for Kristen French. ■

- Dennis Gannon

is a member of the Historical Society of St. Catharines



For More Information

Contact us at 905.935.6021 or email: stjohnschurch@cogeco.net
Church Office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

www.stjohnsportdalhousie.com

An Open Invitation to Join Us at

The Historic Church With Heart.

Sunday Worship

- 8:00 am Communion (BCP) and 10:00am Communion (BAS) and Coffee Hour
- Facebook Postings everyday except Saturday (St. John's, Port Dalhousie-Anglican).
- Hall rentals - Short and long term.

Christmas at St John's

Grace Notes String Quartet Christmas Concert - Sunday, December 1 at 2pm

Tickets \$20 at Office 905 935 6021 or Avondale Store

BWC's Candlelight Stroll begins at St John's - Saturday December 7 at 6pm

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve - Tue. December 24 at 7pm Christmas Morning - Wed. December 25 - 8am

Popular Speaker Series Continues!

"Women in Port Dalhousie History" Wednesday December 11 at 2pm

"Niagara's War of 1812" Thursday December 19 at 7pm

More speakers in early 2025! All sessions \$5

Bells of Hope Every Sunday at noon. *Sign up to ring in memory of loved ones or causes dear to you.

Save the date: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner-March 4th and "Mardi Gras Bingo"-March 8th

Historic St. John's Church, 80 Main Street, Port Dalhousie, ON L2N 4V2

In 1796, St Catharines, then known as "The Twelve" (being approximately 12 miles from the Niagara River) had only about 50 settlers. Prior to that there were few inhabitants in our area. The Native peoples had made trails through the woods and over the open land. Some of these became our first streets resulting in some of the irregular patterns of our present-day street system. In the early 1800's Paul Shipman operated a tavern at the junction of what is now St Paul and Ontario Streets, the forerunner to the increasing number of bars and restaurants in our present downtown area. The community then became known as Shipman's Corners. The conclusion of the American Revolution in 1782 brought in an influx of refugees who had remained loyal to the British Crown and they became an important element in the founding of

our community. They are known as United Empire Loyalists and some of our streets are named after them. By 1829, when the first Welland Canal opened, the name, St. Catharines, was well established as the name of the community which then had about 400 inhabitants. By 1851 the population had increased to over 4,000, and St. Catharines had officially become a town. In 1876, with a population of over 12,000, it became a city. In 1961, the amalgamation of St. Catharines with the Towns of Port Dalhousie and Merritton plus part of Grantham Township resulted in the need to change the names of one hundred streets in order to avoid duplications. Over the years other streets names have changed for a variety of reasons. As new subdivisions are created, new street names are needed and so it is a continuing process.

Abbey Avenue

This street runs north-westerly off Bayview Drive in Port Dalhousie. It was named after Robert Abbey (1788-1866), one of the most important people in the development of Port Dalhousie. A native of Leith, Scotland he came to Canada in the late 1830's and became one of Port Dalhousie's leading citizens. Upon arrival he recognized the need for a shipyard and immediately set about establishing one. His shipyard was one of the first established in Ontario. He had six sons and three daughters. Prior to amalgamation in 1961 this street was called Third Avenue.

Ann Street

Runs from Lake Ontario to Martindale Pond in Port Dalhousie. It is probably named after Ann Ingster, the second wife of William Pawling. William was a grandson of Jesse Pawling. (See Pawling Street). Ann Street is covered by Grantham Township Plan 7, Registered in 1864.

Bayview Drive

Runs south-westerly off Ann Street in Port Dalhousie. It had been known as Albert Street but was changed to Bayview Drive by St. Catharines By-Law 61-129 passed on June 19, 1961, to avoid a duplication of names resulting from the amalgamation. Presumably it was so named because of its proximity to the Lake.

Brock Street

Intersects with Main Street in Port Dalhousie. No doubt named in honour of Major-General Sir Isaac Brock who led the British, Canadian and Native forces against the American invaders in the War of 1812. He died on October 13, 1812 at the Battle of Queenston Heights, where an imposing column stands in memory of his valour. He was born on the Island of Guernsey on October 5, 1769, the eighth son of a well-to-do family.

Canal Street

Runs north-easterly from Brock Street to Lock Street and was so named because it overlooked the First, Second and Third Welland Canals. William Hamilton Merritt planned and built the first Welland Canal. It had 40 oak-wood locks, 110 feet long, 22 feet wide and 8 feet deep. Vessels were towed through the Canal by horses or mules driven by men or boys on a towpath that ran alongside the Canal. The Second Welland Canal was constructed in 1841-1845. New locks were built made of stone quarried from the Niagara Escarpment. To control water levels, a dam was built resulting in the flooding of parts of Twelve Mile Creek and the creation of Martindale Pond. By the time of Confederation the Second Welland Canal became inadequate. In 1875 work began on the construction of the Third Welland Canal. The locks were increased to 270 feet in length, 45 feet in width and 12 feet in depth, later deepened to 14 feet. The Fourth Canal began operations in 1932. Its channel is 350 in width and 30 feet in depth, and it has eight locks. The locks are 766 feet in length, 80 feet in width and each requires an average of 21,000,000 gallons of water to operate. The average fill/drain time is approximately ten minutes. Another Canal Street in Merritton existed at the time of the 1961 amalgamation. It was renamed Moffatt Street and is covered by Corporation Plan 6.

Christie Street

This street runs north-westerly off Main Street to the Lake. It is named after Neil Christie, at one time head of Port Dalhousie's Works Department. Prior to amalgamation in 1961 it was called Welland Street.

Cole Farm Boulevard

Runs from Courtleigh Road to Main Street in Port Dalhousie. This street was named after the Cole family who lived in the Louth Township area which is now part of Port Dalhousie and after whom the Cole Farm subdivision is named. Herbert S. Cole was Reeve of Louth Township in 1958-1959.

Colton Avenue

Formerly Lake Avenue, it runs more or less parallel to the shore of Lake Ontario, westerly from Shelley Avenue and to and beyond Corbett Avenue in Port Dalhousie. The name was changed to Colton Avenue by St. Catharines By-Law 61-129, passed on June 19, 1961 to avoid a duplication of names resulting from the amalgamation. It is named after Frank Colton who served on Port Dalhousie Council in the 1950's. He was also a Deputy Reeve of Port Dalhousie. He was a Sales Manager with Columbus McKinnon for whom he worked for 44 years, retiring in 1963. He was a member of the Linwell Board of Education and served as Chairman in 1959 and 1960. He served in the First World War. He was a member of Star-of-the-Sea Roman Catholic Church in Port Dalhousie but, when he died in 1983, there being no Roman Catholic Cemetery in Port Dalhousie, he was buried in St. John's Anglican Cemetery in Port Dalhousie, as was his wife, Millicent Devine Petty, who was born June 8, 1896 and died March 17, 1977. Their home was located at 50 Bayview Drive in Port Dalhousie. His brother, Clarence, was known as the 'Happy Minstrel', a gifted musician, who frequently sang on a CKTB radio program and was the organist and choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Considine Avenue

Runs north-westerly off Bayview Drive in Port Dalhousie. It is named after John Wyse Considine, a local Port Dalhousie doctor. He was the County Coroner and also served as Village Clerk for many years. He was born in Ireland in 1819. He obtained a degree from Trinity College, Dublin, graduated from the

Royal College of Surgeons in England in 1846 and was among five graduates presented to Queen Victoria, presumably because of his academic prowess. He first practiced in Ireland where he played a prominent and distinguished role in fighting the typhus epidemic that killed thousands of people and which followed the Potato Rot. He practised his profession for 60 years. A directory entry shows him as a chemist, bookseller and wallpaper dealer in addition to being a physician! In an interesting letter he sent to the Editor of the St. Catharines Standard in December of 1900 he states "I saw a statement in one of the city papers relative to my age. I am 80 years instead of 89. I would not call your attention to it, but a false report has been circulated for some time past that I have retired from practice which is not so. I am just as capable and willing to visit on all who may favour me professionally. I feel grateful when I look back and feel thankful for this support you have all given me irrespective of class or creed. I feel proud of my success in my profession and never refuse anyone my services when called upon, be he ever so poor, and never lost anything by so doing." This street had been called Sixth Avenue but was changed to Considine Avenue when amalgamation took place in 1961. ■



The St. Catharines Street Name Project was compiled by
Maurice Gomme
on Behalf of the St. Catharines Heritage Committee

The Gift of the Magi In 1905 O. Henry Wrote This Beloved Christmas Short Story

ONE DOLLAR AND eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad.

In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young." The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, the letters of "Dillingham" looked blurred, as though they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey backyard.

Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling—something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honor of being owned by Jim.

There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had

the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One flight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronie."

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della. "I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade. "Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practised hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della. Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation—as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value—the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends—a mammoth task.

... Continued on next page



Illustration by Sonja Danowski



**MARTINDALE
PHYSIOTHERAPY
& SPORTS CLINIC**

**HELPING THE COMMUNITY
MOVE FORWARD FOR OVER 30 YEARS**

We're proud to serve Port Dalhousie and the Niagara Region








- General Orthopedics
- Sports Physiotherapy
- MVA Rehabilitation
- Custom Exercise Programs
- Spinal Decompression
- Laser Therapy
- Acupuncture

CALL TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT


905.646.2894


7-600 Ontario Street
St. Catharines, ON, L2N 7H8

martindalephysiotherapy.com




TEAM TRAINING
LIFE CHANGING





Call to book your FREE week trial now

FUNCTIONAL 45 MIN HIIT WORKOUTS

2X COACHES EACH CLASS

ALL AGES & ABILITIES

395 ONTARIO STREET

905 394 0500

The Gift of the Magi

... Continued

Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically.

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl. But what could I do—oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying-pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit for saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two—and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

Jim stopped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again—you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim,

laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent fact yet even after the hardest mental labor.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

Jim looked about the room curiously.

"You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idiocy.

"You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you—sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs of my head were numbered," she went on with sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops on, Jim?"

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded his Della. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year—what is the difference? A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The magi brought valuable gifts, but that was not among them. This dark assertion will be illuminated later on.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Dell," he said, "about me. I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.

For there lay The Combs—the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshipped long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jewelled rims—just the shade to wear in the beautiful

vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone.

But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: "My hair grows so fast, Jim!"

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!"

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

"Isn't it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of

his head and smiled.

"Dell," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The magi, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish young people in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest.

They are the magi. ■

Chris de Laat
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY
GALLERY
THURSDAY 430-7PM
FRIDAY NOON-7PM
SAT/SUN NOON-5PM
AND ALSO BY APPT.
CALL 905-736-9381
CHRISDELAAT.COM

Discover the Beauty of Niagara at 50 Clarence Street
Port Colborne

QR code and social media icons (Facebook, Instagram) are also present.

The Rennie
Seniors Apartments *by Signature*

INDEPENDENT SENIORS APARTMENTS

- 700 - 1000+ sq ft • 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- 48 Seniors Apartments
- Full Kitchens • 5 Appliances
- Fitness Room & Multi-Purpose Hub

CALL TODAY 905 935 1800

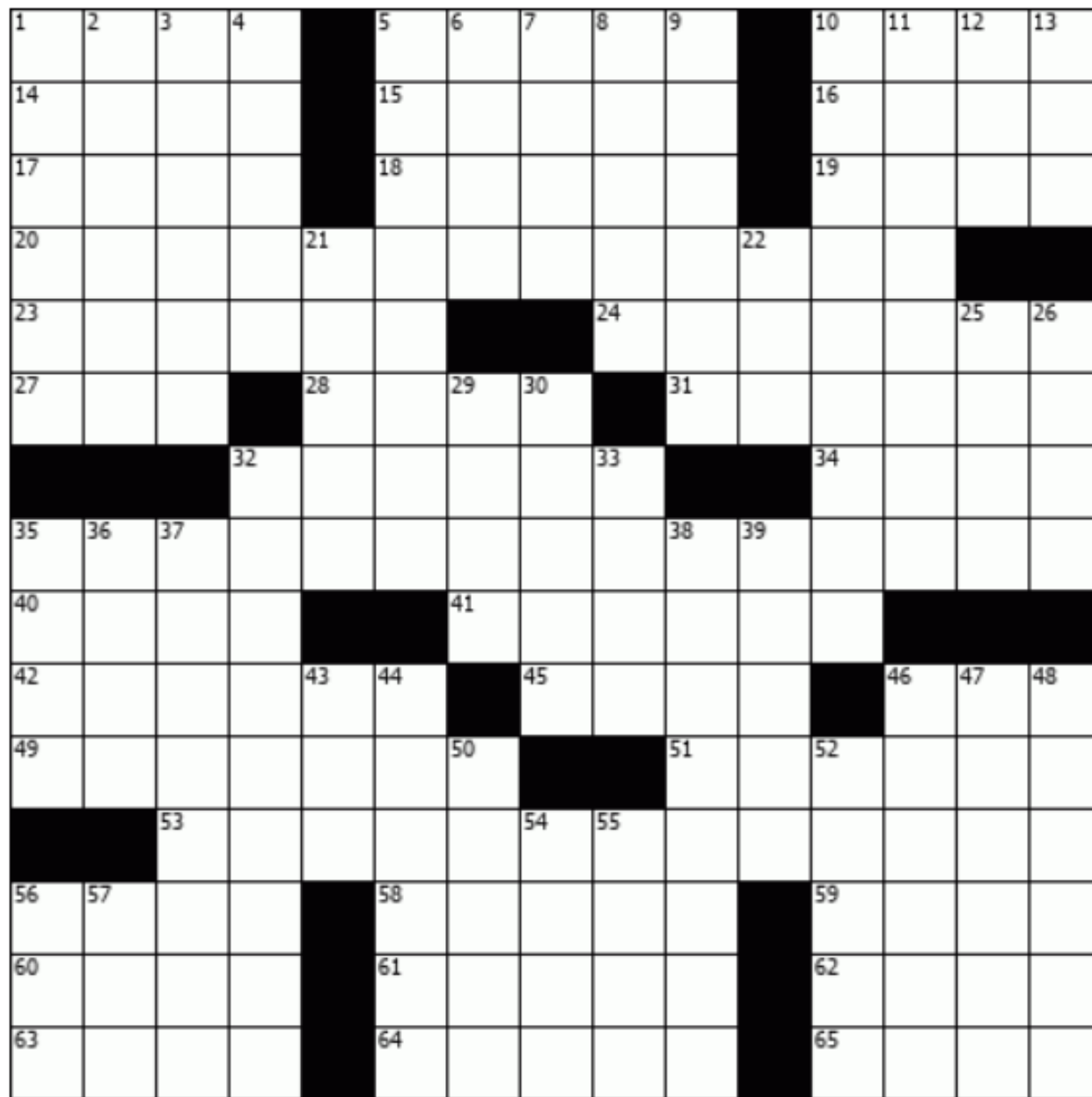
584 ONTARIO STREET, ST. CATHARINES WWW.RENNIEAPARTMENTS.COM

Facebook icon is also present.

WINTER CROSSWORD

Across

1. Partners of zigs
5. Some eastern Europeans
10. CODs, e.g.
14. Earthen pot
15. Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"
16. "The Haj" author Leon
17. Oil of ___
18. Without ___ in the world
19. Bundle of hay
20. Insomniac's repast
23. Roo's donkey friend
24. One in a contest
27. Cavity filler's title: Abbr.
28. Armory supply
31. Hindu incarnation
32. Catch some Zs
34. Sported
35. "Don't be so hard on the guy!"
40. Lotion additive
41. Slinks
42. Do business with
45. Scots Gaelic
46. Doctors' org.
49. "I"-minded?
51. Like dusk
53. Hit the ceiling
56. Trendy cuisine
58. "Christ Stopped at ___"
59. Cross inscription
60. Spongy ball material
61. Gamete producer
62. Shortly
63. Wall St. letters
64. "___ Mio"
65. Intimate stopovers



Down

1. Closed (in on), as for a photo
2. Like friendly nations
3. Knight with Pips
4. Refuse to give permission
5. Child actor's chauffeur
6. Lomond or Ness
7. Amo, amas, ___
8. Poem part
9. "Burnt" color
10. Journeys from bar to bar
11. Island west of Java,
12. Actor Bellows
13. Opposite of NNW
21. Tehran resident
22. Off-road transport, for short
25. Pusher chaser
26. Taxing trip
29. Rolling stone's lack
30. Damaged layer
32. Product expiration date factor
33. The "E" in EMT: Abbr.
35. Mama of pop
36. Peter Fonda role
37. Turnpike gates
38. Manhattan area
39. Distorts
43. South-of-the-border uncle
44. Lake Ontario port
46. Support group for families of drinkers
47. Millionth of a meter
48. Diet maven
50. Vagrants
52. Formal response to "Who's there?"
54. It's forbidden
55. Israeli flier
56. Former "Grand Ole Opry Live" network
57. Attention getter





Pickup Hockey on Martindale Pond

\$1000. \$100,000.
 Biker. Baptist.
 Renegade. Royalty.
 Garden. Church.
 Whiskey. Weeping.
 Stories. Silence.
 Three hours. Three days.
 Refreshments. Feast.
 Iggy. Mozart.
 Party. Procession.

The only thing a funeral absolutely *has*
 to be is whatever you want it to be

GEORGE DARTE
Funeral Chapel Inc

585 CARLTON STREET · ST. CATHARINES
 (905) 937-4444 · www.dartefuneralhome.com
St. Catharines' only locally-owned funeral home.

©2006 Frontrunner Professional

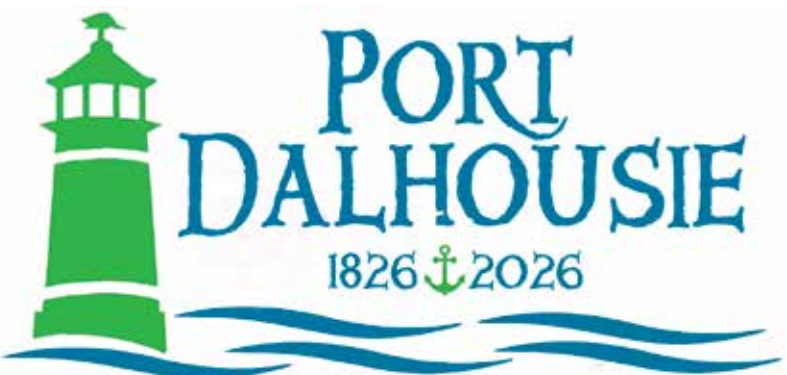
CALL for VOLUNTEERS
 Port Dalhousie Conservancy **Join Us Today!**
and
 the Port Reporter

There are numerous volunteer opportunities in your community, especially for those with administrative and organizing skills. Contact us today to find out how you can get involved. Exciting things are happening. Join us and make a difference!

Email: editor.portreporter@gmail.com

Z	A	G	S		S	L	A	V	S		P	K	G	S
O	L	L	A		T	O	M	E	I		U	R	I	S
O	L	A	Y		A	C	A	R	E		B	A	L	E
M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T	S	N	A	C	K		
E	E	Y	O	R	E			E	N	T	R	A	N	T
D	D	S		A	M	M	O		A	V	A	T	A	R
				S	N	O	O	Z	E		W	O	R	E
C	U	T	H	I	M	S	O	M	E	S	L	A	C	K
A	L	O	E			S	N	E	A	K	S			
S	E	L	L	T	O		E	R	S	E		A	M	A
S	E	L	F	I	S	H			T	W	I	L	I	T
		B	L	O	W	O	N	E	S	S	T	A	C	K
T	H	A	I		E	B	O	L	I		I	N	R	I
N	E	R	F		G	O	N	A	D		S	O	O	N
N	Y	S	E		O	S	O	L	E		I	N	N	S

The Port Dalhousie Bicentennial



pd200.ca

or visit us on Facebook & Instagram

❄️ Decorating ❄️
Safety Tips
..... Wrapping Up the Holidays



1 **Avoid** leaving holiday decorations up for an extended period of time. Doing so can decrease their shelf life & increase the risk of electrical hazards.

2 **Unplug** cords using the gripping area to avoid damaging the wires.

3 **Inspect** holiday decorations and dispose of any with frayed or cracked wiring.

4 **Dispose** of your Christmas tree early in the year. Live trees dry out with time, making them more flammable.

5 **Label** and store outdoor and indoor decorations separately so you won't get them mixed up next year.

6 **Keep** electrical holiday decorations in a dry area and out of reach of pets and children.

It's Not Too Late to Help

On September 12th, Port Dalhousie awoke to the news that arson had taken place at Castillo Shawarma in the down town core. This horrible event was even more shocking, considering the village's reputation as a laid back, enjoyment-filled family destination.

Shadi and Kays Alkhannous relocated here 8 years ago with their family after fleeing the war in Syria, and established the popular restaurant in hopes of making a living. It didn't take long for them to realize there were many customers who appreciated and enjoyed their delicious food, as well as the friendly rapport and service.

But their dream of establishing a successful business came crashing down on that fateful night. Around 3 am on the morning of the 12th, three black-clad arsonists drove into town and parked on Dalhousie Avenue close to Lock Street. Two of them walked down Lock Street to Castillo Shawarma, one held a jerry can. Within minutes a fire burst out in the restaurant and security cameras caught the pair running from the scene, back up Lock Street to the car waiting on Dalhousie.

The Alkhannous brothers said they don't know why their business was attacked, and so far, the arsonists have not been apprehended. But the good news is that the community has rallied in support, and over \$20,000 has been raised to help their families, whose income had depended upon the restaurant.

Although the online fundraising event has closed, anyone who would like to donate can visit the Niagara United Bridges of Hope Facebook page for information on how to help. ■

www.facebook.com/niagaraunitedbridgesofhope



Dennis Gannon



Provincial concerns?

My office is **here to help**

St. Catharines Community Office

🏠 209 Carlton St, Unit B
St. Catharines, ON, L2R 1S1

☎️ 905-935-0018

📠 905-935-0191

✉️ JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca

🌐 JENNIESTEVENNS.CA



Jennie Stevens
MPP FOR ST. CATHARINES



Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS

Photo by Bill Salton

PHARMASAVE®

*Canada's
community pharmacy*

Port Health Pharmacy

101 Lakeport Road
St. Catharines, Ontario
(905) 646-3335



*Try Our Convenient
Drive-Through!*



**David Costiniuk &
Jennifer Nitsopoulos-Bruder**
Your Community Pharmacists.

www.pharmasave.com