

# THE REPORTER

VOL.16 NO. 4

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

WINTER 2021

## The Holiday Season and Goodbye 2021, Glad to See You Go.

As another year approaches, Port Dalhousie and its residents have managed to not only survive the pandemic but seem to have risen above the dark clouds of fear and dread that accompanied it. If this past summer season is any indication, residents and visitors from far and wide have enjoyed Port's special character as multitudes enjoyed the beach, patios, businesses and other attractions of the village. This certainly bodes well for the a bright and hopeful future.

In this issue we have attempted to provide an engaging mix of interesting articles as well as holiday features, and of course our ongoing regular commentary and historical profiles. The decision of the proposed conversion of Lock Street into a pedestrian mall is pending, and should be addressed sooner than later by residents. Charity, although a year-round pursuit, is more prominent during the holiday season and the Stockings of Love project is

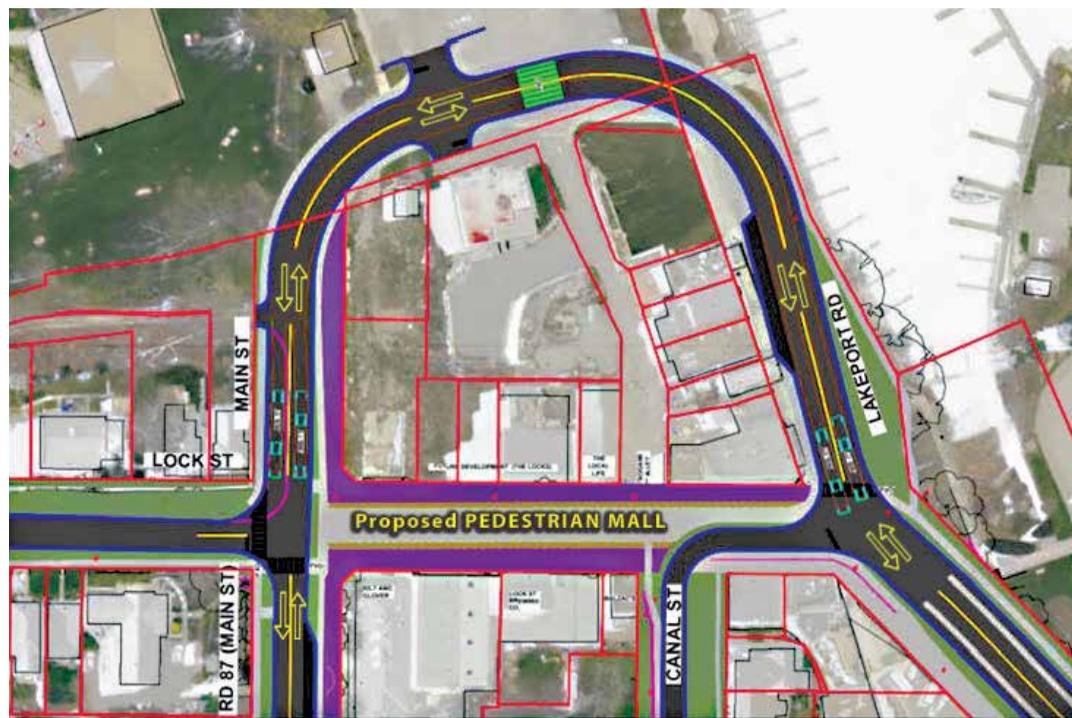
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## Should Lock Street be Closed to Vehicles?

*Converting it to a Pedestrian Mall is Presently Being Discussed by the Region.*

In the next little while, a decision has to be made regarding the Regional proposal to close Lock St. and make it into a pedestrian mall. These types of walkable streets can be found in Calgary, Ottawa and Halifax and St. John's. They can be very enjoyable and with some significant public investment are great for street side commercial activities. The question is whether this style of pedestrian mall will work well in Port Dalhousie. All of the above examples are located in the middle of a grid shaped cityscape where there are multiple access points, excellent public transit and significant public parking. There is no precedent in Canada for a pedestrian mall in a peninsula with only one road going through it, minimal public transit, and limited parking.

The preferred proposal will massively change the way Port Dalhousie functions, and comes with sig-



Site map from Niagara Region Traffic Study

nificant cost to the existing public realm. What it will mean is that the vast majority of public parking will be outside of the core and will either push vehicle parking into the Lake-side parking lot or onto community side streets. We don't feel it too bad-

ly at present because there is very little economic activity and only one of the many proposed projects are completed. The question we have to be prepared to answer is how will it all work when everything that is projected is done compared to how it

*Continued on page 2*

## Stockings of Love - 2021

Hello friends. Well, it has been a bit of a ride this year getting the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Stockings of Love into gear – but I am thrilled to announce we are well underway and looking forward to the best Year yet! Created to provide the aged in Nursing Homes a Christmas gift that says 'we care', Stockings of Love has been lovingly received by both recipients and donors alike.

Due to health circumstances, this season I have handed over the reins to the very capable and caring Catherine Ursini of Port. Though I am still involved behind the scenes, it is Catherine and her local 'Team of Elves' who are leading the way. I am forever grateful to their overwhelming response in



*You Can Help Make Christmas Merry This Year for the Aged in Nursing Homes*

keeping this important charity alive.

Initially a homegrown project, I am proud to say Stockings of Love has evolved into a successful campaign that serves not only 7 Long Term Residence Homes but people within our St. Catharines' community. Last year we saw approximately 600 Stockings distributed. Partnered with Meals on Wheels, we were also able to target individual neighbours in need. With the assistance of local Churches and you, the community, my hope is to expand on the outreach portion of this program. Make it your business to find a lonely senior or aging couple on your street, and I guarantee you receiving a Stocking of Love will brighten their Christmas.

*Continued on page 3*

worthy of your donations. Mysterious artefacts of Lakeside Amusement Park have surfaced, and we introduce Welcome to the Neighbourhood a feature that will profile new residents of our village. Also tips for enjoying outdoor winter activities (and staying safe), as well as a piece on a truly community project are presented.

Along with our regular features the Councillor's Report, the BWC report, the From Were I Sit column, and our popular crossword puzzle, we have sprinkled in holiday stories and diversions to add some Christmas spice for your reading pleasure. So sit back in your chair or favourite reading spot with a glass of eggnog and enjoy.

As this challenging year approaches its end we volunteers here at the Conservancy and the Reporter wish you, as well as your friends, family and loved ones, a safe, happy, festive season and a prosperous New Year.

Let's make 2022 a year of healing and positive energy. Cheers! ■

used to be when Port was fully functioning before.

It means that all traffic will be two-way through the Park and around tall structures that will largely block views of Lakeside Park, the beach and parking lot. This includes all truck and bus traffic as well as any commercial traffic not just cars and boat trailers, etc. Furthermore it assumes that some 35 parking spaces on Main, Lock and Lakeport will be eliminated. In dollar terms this is a \$700,000 value to the community that would be lost.

Will it improve traffic? That remains to be seen, however once the change is made it will be too late. The removal of a stop sign at Lock St. will allow traffic to proceed down the hill, into the park; however, traffic likely will be stalled by

all the new laneways and pedestrian crossings, as well as service and delivery vehicles, causing more back-ups. There will be no improvement, just more vehicles to accommodate.



Outside traffic experts have not experienced the functioning of Port Dalhousie traffic, the residents have. What works well on the drafting table doesn't always work well on the ground.

There are significant business questions to be asked as well. What will happen to businesses who count

on curbside pickup or a very short term customer base? Will the loss of the Lock Street parking spaces affect the flow of customers? Will folks want to walk uphill to get a coffee at Balzac's or 416 Coffee from the Lakeside lot? It may work in the busy summer season, however, what about the off seasons? How will it affect the ability of Lakeport (Front St) businesses who would like to take advantage of a wider sidewalk presence and the views and vista overlooking the harbour? What will be

the customer experience? What other alternatives are there and can it be made better? These are questions everyone should be encouraged to think about and if there are public meetings, by all means have your say. This conversation has to be held now. ■



*The view from our chair*

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

*Dr David Bergen*



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## Stockings of Love Cont'd from front page

This holiday season, please buy a Stocking and stuff it with gifts and goodies for our aged, or donate to:

[stockingsoflove2021@gmail.com](mailto:stockingsoflove2021@gmail.com) and we will purchase a stocking on your behalf and our Port Dalhousie Elves will stuff it with love.

Merry Christmas!  
Sincerely, Janice Ford Spencer

## Working Together To Protect Our Lighthouse

Port Dalhousie's famous lighthouse was once surrounded by a cheap, derelict chain link fence. Fortunately a number of residents worked together to make sure a nice decorative fence replaced it when the piers were getting redone. It comes with a good story.

A long time ago the Beautification and Works Committee (BWC) had some leftover decorative aluminum security fence donated by the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority. It was placed in the St. Catharines Yard on Geneva St. and it sat there for years without a use. In the meantime the City informed the BWC that they were selling the property and it either had to be moved or they would scrap it. Rather than allowing it to

be scrapped, volunteers from the Port Dalhousie Conservancy and BWC spent a couple of Saturday mornings moving the sections of fencing by hand onto a trailer loaned by Versluis Bros, and moving it out to Jeffery's Greenhouses who had generously agreed to store the fencing on their property. In the meantime, members of the St. Catharines Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) got the idea of raising the necessary funds to eventually help restore and upgrade the lighthouse, but also using decorative security fencing to surround the lighthouse to keep it safe. With the generous cooperation of Bronte Construction, the contractor for the rehabilitation of the piers, it was finally installed in April, 2021 and will protect our Iconic lighthouse for years to come.

It took many volunteers to make this happen and shows what can be done when we all work together. There are currently on-going discussions in the community to upgrade the lighthouse so that it can be made into a useful and functional asset for everyone, and be attractive for the community and local tourism. ■



**Stockings of Love 2021**  
**"for our aged"**  
**November 21st to December 21st**

This Christmas make a **Stocking of Love** to be delivered to **Local Long-term Care Homes and to Seniors "in need" who are home alone in our community**

**How you can help:**

- Buy a stocking at your local Dollar Store
- Have fun filling the stocking with gifts & goodies for our elders (see list of suggested items)
- Drop the stocking off to one of our convenient locations
- Please mark stockings either **HIS** or **HERS** or **UNISEX**

*If you can't get out to shop consider a financial **DONATION** and our elves will personally shop and stuff a stocking on your behalf! Donations can be sent by E-Transfer to [Janice Ford Spencer stockingsoflove2021@gmail.com](mailto:JaniceFordSpencer@stockingsoflove2021@gmail.com)*

**Drop off locations:**

- No Frills:** 581 Lake St., St. Catharines
- Avondale Store:** 359 Main St. Port Dalhousie
- Avondale Store:** 260 Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines
- Your Boutique:** 25 Main St, Port Dalhousie

 [www.facebook.com/stockingsoflove.seniorsaloneatchristmas](https://www.facebook.com/stockingsoflove.seniorsaloneatchristmas)

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- Slippers
- Lotion
- Puzzle books
- Playing cards
- Games
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- Hospital socks with non-slip soles
- Hand warmers
- Ink pens
- Writing pads
- Magnifying glass
- Toothbrush
- Wrapped candy/chocolates
- Snacks
- Gloves
- Winter hats
- Scarves
- Magic markers/crayons
- Adult colouring books
- Body spray
- After shave
- Nail polish sets
- Manicure tools
- Change purse
- Stress balls
- Coasters
- Wallet
- Shoelaces
- Hand sanitizer
- Word games
- Dice
- Extra memory cards
- Calculator
- Flower seeds
- Small flashlight

## THE REPORTER

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

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

**Editorial Board** Hank Beekhuis / Deborah Kehler/ Peter Wing **Editor/Production** Peter Wing **Copy Editors** Bram Hoff/Deborah Kehler Henry Knoop

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

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

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

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

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## Report from Councillor Bruce Williamson Port Dalhousie Ward



### A Personal Note of Thanks

On September 22 my wife, Melody, fell and suffered a fractured tibia which is the bigger bone below the knee, and injured her right hand and wrist. Unfortunately, these are painful injuries and require lengthy healing processes including no weight-bearing on the affected leg. We are enormously grateful to the medical professionals including the nursing team at the NHS St. Catharines site. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to Dr. Nour in the Emergency Room and orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Chris Robert and his colleagues for their exquisite care and compassion. We also want to express appreciation to family and friends who have helped us through a challenging time. I also must sincerely thank Councillor Carlos Garcia for going the extra mile through this patch. As the old maxim goes, expect the unexpected.

### The Planet

The seminal issue of our time, beyond any doubt, is climate change. As I compose this column the COP26 is taking place in Glasgow, Scotland. COP stands for "Conference of the Parties" and it is a meeting hosted by the United Nations which brings representatives from countries together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. While these meetings have been taking place since 1995 and have made some progress, the difference the actions coming out of these sessions have accomplished to slow the alarming rate of global warming is negligible. It has been opined by many that, "This is the last best chance" to prevent catastrophic consequences. However, responsibility for the condition of the human species and the health of our biosphere is not the exclusive purview of the leaders at this international meeting, but one shared by everyone, including local government. It is clear incremental or small steps are not going to be enough to keep global average temperature increase to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In April 2019 City Council unanimously declared a climate emergency based

on a motion I put forward. Living up to this commitment and to deal effectively with this overarching challenge requires a significant change in the way decision-making takes place. While strides have been made, much more needs to be done. Before each Council meeting a Land Acknowledgment is read. It is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. It is a small act in the ongoing process of reconciliation. To me, it is also a reminder to do our best in learning from and following the ancient ways of our First Peoples as described in David Suzuki's book "Sacred Balance" and in other works. The Indigenous people know and appreciate that humans are part of the interconnected web of life and that we depend on Mother Earth for our survival. As Tom B.K. Goldtooth puts it, "Our sacred responsibility is to safeguard and protect this world. Human beings are not separate from the natural world but were created to live in an integral relationship with it." Therefore, special care needs to be taken with the little remaining natural lands we share.

### Pathways

One area where we recently did not employ thoughtful environmental stewardship is in our approach to constructing new and maintaining existing pathways and trails in greenspaces. As it stands we suffer from a considerable deficit in recreational infrastructure. Some examples include the many stone dust trails which need maintenance, another specific one is the poor condition of the tennis court by the Port pool and the fact much of the playground equipment across the city does not meet current standards. It is therefore imperative we expend our resources practically and sensibly and do so in a way that does not diminish the ecological benefits of natural areas. It is often the case that the most constructive investments are good from both green and fiscal perspectives. So, when I see 3 metre (10 foot) wide asphalt lanes on top of substantial gravel bases in non-essential locations like some of the new sections in the former Niagara College Horticultural School's Arboretum in what is now Pearson Park, I am disheartened. The usefulness of expenditures and environmental impacts on natural areas must be factored into deciding where paths should be built. This is even more relevant in the case where a parallel existing main path in need of improvement was not renewed. Accessibility is important but the reality is we cannot afford oversized paved pathways everywhere. We need to take a balanced approach when we build or fix trails and pathways and do so at an appropriate scale where they

serve a demonstrated need and make necessary connections in our active transportation network. We must serve practical purposes with our infrastructure investments, and we must prevent doing harm to natural lands in the process. We need to build back better and smarter.

### Public Transit

For 60 years the St. Catharines Transit Commission has strived to provide a quality public transportation system to the people of St. Catharines. It has been local citizens who have contributed to the building of our transit infrastructure and operation. Even in this the largest and best-suited municipality in Niagara for intra-city transit, it has been a challenge to succeed in providing the level of coverage in terms of routes and frequency of service. Yet through a combination of strong management and the hard work of bus operators and staff, along with a history of overall good relations with union members of the ATU Local 486, our commission has weathered difficult conditions. The demographic in our community who use this essential system are often not the well-to-do. These are residents who rely on dependable local transit as a necessity of life. It is a critical service that adds to the liveability and sustainability of our community for young people, new immigrants and for folks who chose not to or cannot afford to own, operate, and insure a personally owned vehicle. As representatives of the people who elected us in this city, it is your interests we are obligated to look out for

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# Report from Councillor - Cont'd

and to whom we are accountable. Naturally it is in our collective best interests to serve this community first and foremost while also working cooperatively with the Region and other local tier municipalities to ensure we are getting the highest quality and most affordable service. However, it will be unacceptable to forfeit assets local citizens have paid for and sacrifice the autonomy to decide for ourselves the kind of public transit we desire, only to become part of a larger system where we will have far less say in what happens within our own boundaries. There can be no blind leap of faith to shut down our made-in-St. Catharines Transit Commission simply to become part of a regionalized system. Councillor Garcia and I are both dedicated to maintaining a public system which is focussed on delivering the best possible level of service to the people of St. Catharines.

## Remembrance Day

This year's commemoration of remembrance, which has traditionally been held on the Sunday before November 11<sup>th</sup>, has been made more special and meaningful thanks to the installation of banners honouring the twenty boys from Port Dalhousie who paid the supreme sacrifice in laying their lives down in service of our country. Many thanks to those involved in making this happen. Of course, sincere credit to the members of Royal Canadian Branch 350 for organizing and executing what will undoubtedly have been another important gathering at our cenotaph in honour of those who served.

## Working to Replace Masefield Stairs

In 2020 Council approved a major shoreline rehabilitation project on City-owned lakefront on Lake Ontario in the Abbey Mews/Considine area of Port Dalhousie due to a collapsing bank and, since the project was considered an emergency, staff were unable to prevent the closing of the stairs and lake access at Masefield Ave. The closed metal stairs, and its wooden predecessors,

have provided lake access for residents from Port Dalhousie and throughout the City for at least 60 years and Council received numerous objecting emails when the closing was announced.

Councillor Garcia and I strongly support public access to the water and in July, 2020, Council passed a motion by Councillor Garcia, which I seconded, directing City staff to review and recommend how to reinstate the removed public access and to identify potential alternatives and associated costs. Staff then conducted a study which was finalized in October this year. Accordingly, Councillor Garcia and I made a motion at the October 19 council meeting on the 2022 budgets calling for funds for replacing the public stairs/access to Lake Ontario at or near Masefield Ave. to be included in the Draft 2022 Capital Budget. Once again, we received numerous emails from concerned residents in support of our motion. However, another Councillor made a motion to refer this back to staff for more information on the potential costs. This referral motion passed over our objections. Councillor Garcia's original motion, with more information, was up for debate again at the November 3 Council meeting.

*As always, a very special thank-you to my fellow Port Dalhousie Ward Councillor Carlos Garcia for his invaluable advice and support.*

*Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy 2022! ■*

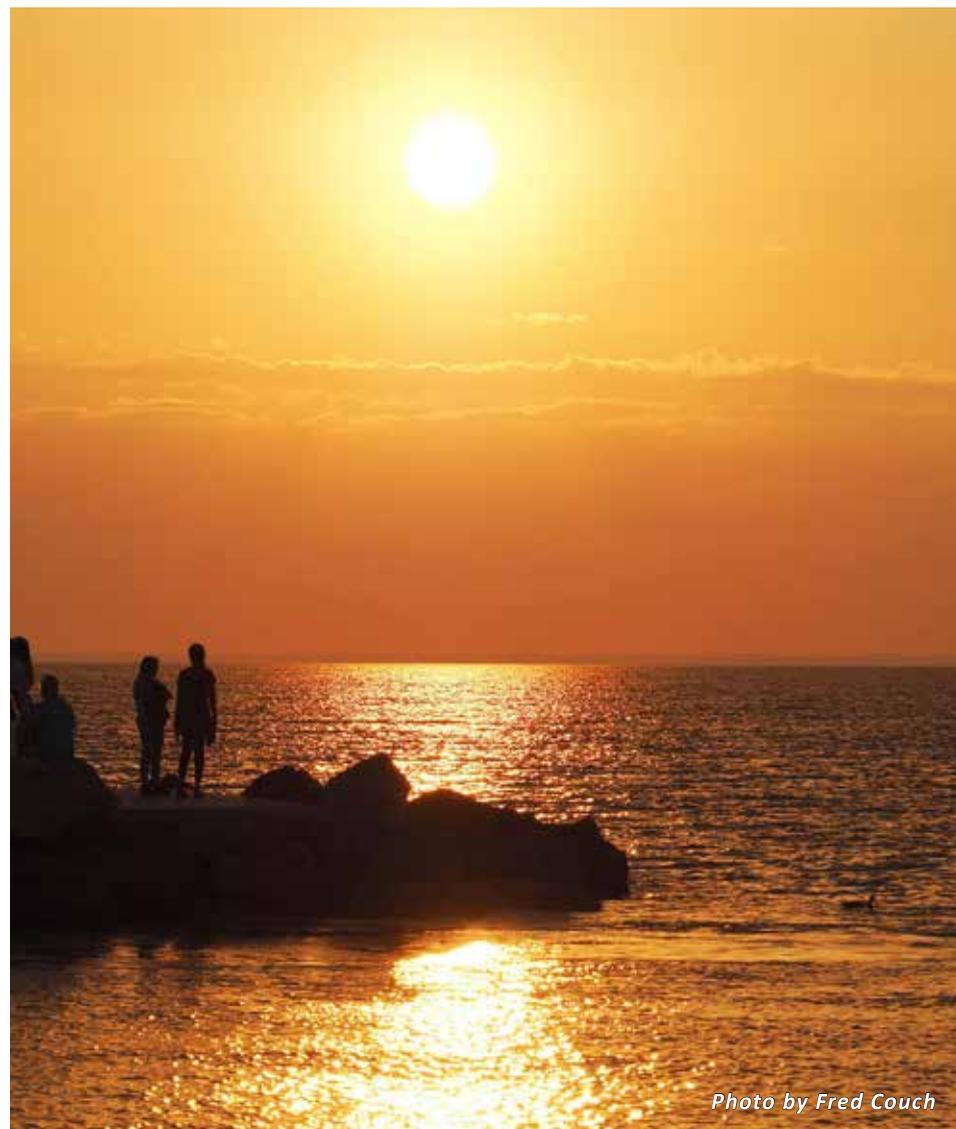


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# Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee Winter Report

Firstly, I think that you will all agree that the BWC flowers and planters were spectacular this year and, for that, we thank our group of dedicated watering and weeding volunteers.



A special thanks goes out to Jeremy of Spring Valley Nurseries, our supplier, for his expert advice.

There is little to report other than the usual gardening activity, but one of our volunteers suggested we cre-

ate a "Thankful Tree" by turning the blue spruce, opposite the Portside Social, into a "deciduous" tree. We asked passers-by to fill out a fall maple-leaf card with a message of thanks, and all donations were for the benefit of "Out of the Cold". It was so successful that



we raised over \$1700!

This not only coincided with Thanksgiving, but also the "Riders on the Storm-Doors" concert held on Friday evening the 8<sup>th</sup> Oct. This was a huge success thanks to PortFolio Realty's sponsorship. Of course it rained heavily, and the show

was eventually held the following Sunday afternoon accompanied by a little sunshine.

On the subject of fundraising, Andy has persevered with the bottle and can drive, which started early in 2020, and by this year alone we should have raised about \$2000. Well done Andy, and many thanks to all of you donors, so keep on imbibing! As always, bottles and cans can be dropped off at Andy's home at 50 Dalhousie Ave.

We have struggled in the past to find enough Christmas greenery for the season, so, our volunteers decid-



ed to change the Christmas decoration theme for the many planters that the BWC maintain. They have been very busy making and painting more than 120 colourful Christmas trees and we look forward to you all experiencing the new and unique Christmas theme.

However, we still welcome any spruce, pine or cedar that can be donated to fill out the planters.

We also welcomed Tristan Alexander back to "Old Port's Lock One Stage" for a final concert of the season. Of course it rained heavily again, and the show was eventually held on the following Sunday afternoon accompanied by a little sunshine. Thank you Tristan for entertaining us on many occasions in the Lock and brightening an otherwise quiet summer.

Last year there was a last-minute decision to organize a small Hallow-



een parade, especially for the very little ones who may not go out "Trick or Treating" in the evenings. This was appreciated by the young parents and the business community who were more than generous pitching in with treats. So, we did it again this year, and

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the response from the community and the businesses was almost overwhelming. While there was not a formal headcount, it was felt that we had a couple of hundred small children along with their parents. There were a few emergency trips to candy stores to replenish the rapidly dwindling supply.

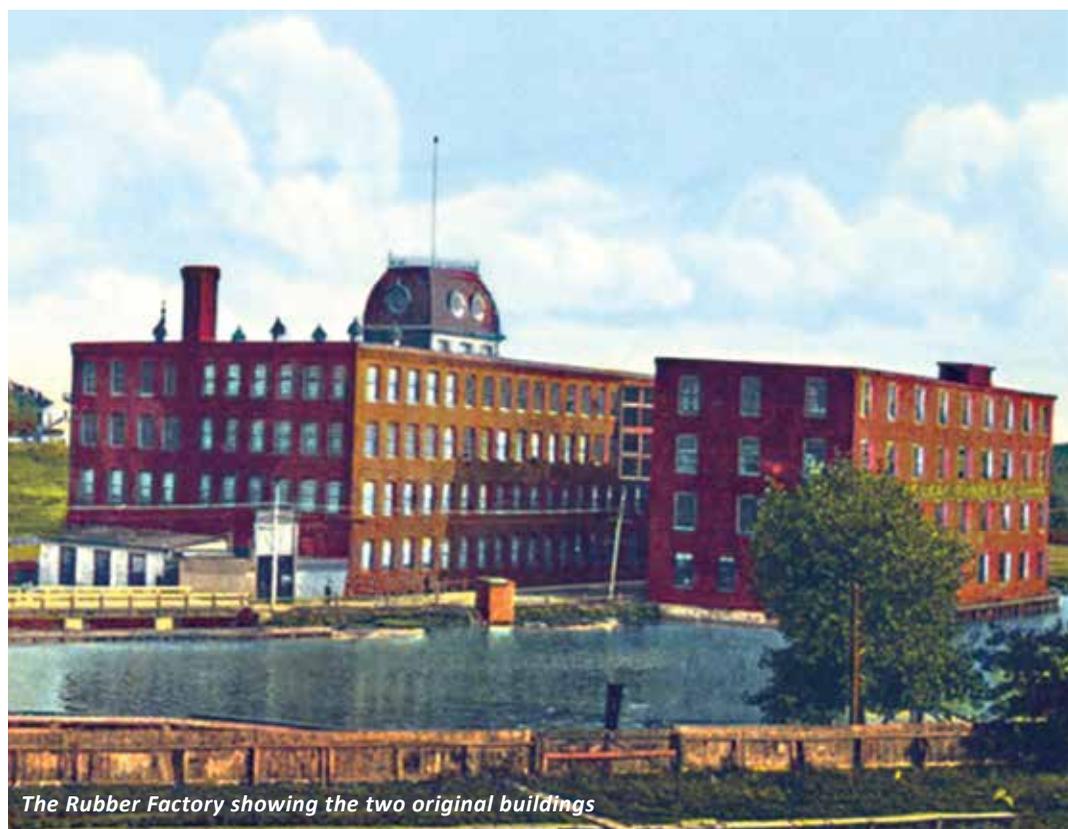
A special thanks to all of the parents who put in a great effort with costumes for themselves and their children.

It was great to see such community spirit.

We felt we did not have much to report, but we did, didn't we! ■



“We used to call it Ontario Street, but I guess it's Lakeport Road now,” remembers Mr. Fred Wright who was born on the East side of Port in 1896. (Michigan side) He lived there until 1926. “Every day we'd get up in the morning, have breakfast and rush down to the canal. We had an old raft there and we'd swim all morning, sunbathe and rush home for lunch then back down again until supper time. Some nights we would go back down and swim until dark. I remember in the wintertime going to school when it was real cold to get to school. And other times when we couldn't cross the ice we had to go through the rubber works and it was like a funnel on a windy day. You could almost lean right on the wind to get through. Sometimes it was so windy we had to cut through the old gate yard. That's where the Rowing Club stored its boats. They used to come and build the gates for the locks there. We'd walk up



The Rubber Factory showing the two original buildings

the pier to old Lock One which didn't get much wind. See the factory was on both sides of the road and the wind would blow through there around 60 miles an hour. In one building they stored all the finished

products, and on the east side the road they made all the rubbers and boots.” ■

Excerpt from “A History Outline of Port Dalhousie” by [Christine Robertson](#)



Member of Parliament  
**CHRIS BITTLE**  
St. Catharines



Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Please be sure to continue following local health guidelines this winter

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Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca  @ChrisBittleMP  @BittleC  @Chris\_Bittle

# Artefacts of Lakeside Amusement Park and The Chief's Barber Chair

*A Collection of Port Dalhousie Objects That Some Readers Will Recognize.*

**I**t was a dark and stormy October evening when the phone rang. I answered, fully expecting a call hawking a duct cleaning service or maybe Diabetes Canada asking for donations. Instead there was a pause on the other end of the line, then a voice broke the silence. "I have some Lakeside Park artefacts your readers might be interested in." My curiosity was piqued. I found out the mysterious caller indeed had some rare objects in their possession, and I made arrangements to have images sent to me. Although the caller didn't reveal their identity, the images and the stories around them appeared in my inbox the next morning.

## The Chief's Barber Chair



Chief Smiley rented out canoes on Martindale Pond and at some point in his life did barbering to support himself. Chris the barber in Port knew Chief Smiley, and when he opened his own shop, Chief Smiley was no longer doing cuts so he gave him his chair, a barber pole, waste basket and maybe other barbering equipment. When Chris the barber was closing his shop some years later, he told me he had tried to get rid of the chair but no one wanted it because it was so old and heavy. I thought it would be a neat addition to our rec room and something fun for all the kids that hung out here to enjoy, so I offered to buy it, but Chris the barber gave it to me along with the pole and the waste basket, just to get them out of the shop. Moving it was a huge job because it is super heavy and had to remain upwards at all times so the hydraulic fluid wouldn't drain out. The chair still raises up and down. I'm not

sure where Chris's shop was but for some reason I think it was in Mrs. Anderson's building at the bottom of the stairs at the end of Canal Street, where that Spanish/Mexican restaurant is now.

## The Watchman's Clock

At the Park there were keypads on the back of the dance hall, the bath house, the Merry-go-Round, the little refreshment stand, and at the side, the wash-room building and the office. There may have been others. The watchman,



who came to work at 8 PM, wore the clock over his shoulder and keyed in the time as he did his rounds, which recorded the time he arrived at each keypad. The keypads were in little rectangular boxes about 2"x4". Over the years there were several watchmen, usually older people, who were retired and worked to supplement their income. During the summer of 1959, about 6 in the morning, there were a lot of shuffling sounds

and whispering voices coming out of the office over the sound system, which was left on all night as an addition to the security system. It was after one of the big picnics and whoever was breaking in knew the watchman had gone home and knew the safe would be full of money. BUT they didn't know about the sound system. Mr. Brookson called the police and took off in his car across the field and, of course, when the burglars saw him coming they took off and ran down the midway, up Gary Road and up the hill. When the police came, they found the safe locks were filled with nitroglycerin, apparently enough to blow up the whole park. They were worried the burglars may have still had some with them when they ran and may have dropped some while running up the midway and up the hill, so they had us all evacuate our cottages, which were all in the Park backed up to Gary Road, and sit out in the field on the picnic tables while they searched the midway and the hill. No more was found. After all the excitement was over the police said that if the burglars had set off the nitroglycerin, it would have blown the robbers and much of the surrounding area to Kingdom Come... amateur burglars.

## The Cash Register

We had a large cash register in the middle of the Big Refreshment Stand that we all used every day, but on busy days



the little one that is shown, was brought out and used by the girls at the east end

of the stand. That way we didn't have to wait a long time to ring in sales. During the week there were usually two of us working, but on weekends and busy days, there were two or three others that were regular extras.

## The Ticket Collectors

The small one with the handle was originally used to collect fares on the NS&T



street cars and later used to collect the nickels on the Merry-go-round.

The tall one with the glass window was used to collect fares on the Hey Dey and the Airplane Ride. There were several of them because on busy days they were



used by the help to collect fares on the Merry-Go-Round as well. These collectors also came from the NS&T street cars when they were decommissioned.

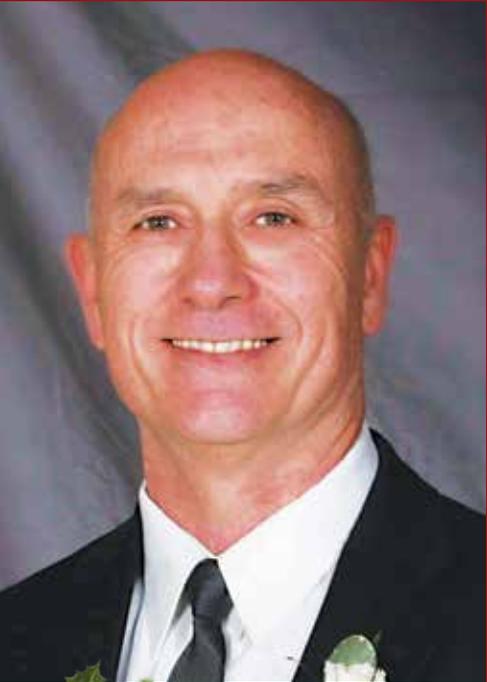
## The Coke Machine

The Coke machine was in the big refreshment stand. When I first started working in the stand for Mr. McLean, we had blocks of ice delivered by Johnson's Ice and Coal; they weighed 50 pounds and had to be hoisted over the counter and into an ice bin which was under the shelves at the east end of the stand. The soft drinks that we sold were in bottles that we put into large tub-like containers full of water, where we put in pieces of the ice and then chopped it into bits with ice picks. On busy days keeping the water cold was difficult because



of the in and out of the bottles. On hot days the pop, which was stored in crates in the back of the stand, would get hot, and when they were popped into the cold water some of them would explode and glass would fly. The water in the tubs would have to be changed at the end of the day. Every Monday we had to sort all the empty pop bottles, which were stored in an enclosure at the west end of the stand, into the appropriate cases: Coke, Niagara Dry, Moran's, Orange Crush, Hires Root Beer etc. Then for the rest of the week the trucks came, dropped off drinks, and picked up empties. After several years of doing that, getting ice became difficult so it was decided to install the Coke machine and just sell Coke products. The machine was installed along with the hoses that delivered the drinks from the big cans in the back of the stand. This was much easier, much safer, but on busy days it wasn't as fast as popping bottles out of the tubs, decapping them and serving them. We had to get the cups, wait for the machine to fill them, and get them to the counter. It did save a lot of grunt work like getting the ice in, lifting the pop cases up and down, and sorting bottles. When the park closed, Mr. Brookson thought it would be a nice addition to our bar, so along with the little cash register and the milk cooler from the Hot Water Stand, he brought them over. ■

- Anonymous

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Councillor,  
Port Dalhousie Ward  
City of St. Catharines



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# Winter Activities in Port

*Some Tips to Make Your Winter Season Safe and Enjoyable*

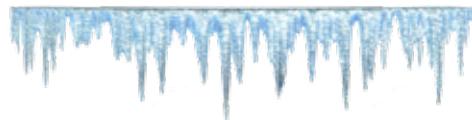
In spite of the cold, the slush, and the shovelling, let's acknowledge that winter is, indeed, beautiful. And, on top of that, it provides unique recreational pursuit - and all the dangers that go along with it.

Those beautiful snow cones that form on the beach (sometimes called volcanoes because they form in similar fashion) pose a hidden hazard. They are hollow and if you climb on one there is the danger of breaking through and falling



*A telephoto snapshot taken from the west pier with the escarpment in the background and featuring those deceptively captivating ice cones luring one toward danger.*

For one, you can fall through the ice into deep water and drown. Just ask the lady leaning on the fence in the accompanying photo. She chased after her dog onto the ice on 12 Mile Creek and ended up over her head, but survived to write a song about it.



into deep cold water from which you can't escape without help.

The Martindale Pond basin often freezes solid enough to venture onto, and ice-fishers and skaters often do. For several years the pond hosted the annual chicken chuckin' event, but only when the ice was thick enough. 4" (10cm) seems to be the consensus. The chan-



*Richardson's Creek at the Green Ribbon Trail is a safe and enjoyable place for skating.*

nel never freezes solid enough to cross.

Richardson's Creek at the Green Ribbon Trail is less dangerous since the water is shallow, but beware of the creek's section between Henley Island and the nearby shore. The current moves faster making for thinner ice and the water is deeper.

outdoor exercise, but not for those with heart and blood pressure issues. Hire someone.

Walking, for the most part, is safe but beware of slippery sections, particularly where runoff from sump pumps is directed across sidewalks, or where overhangs may dripwater onto walkways.

Shovelling your driveway and sidewalk may seem like a safer way to get your

*Continued on page 13*



*Quite a maw on the snow cone waiting to swallow you.*

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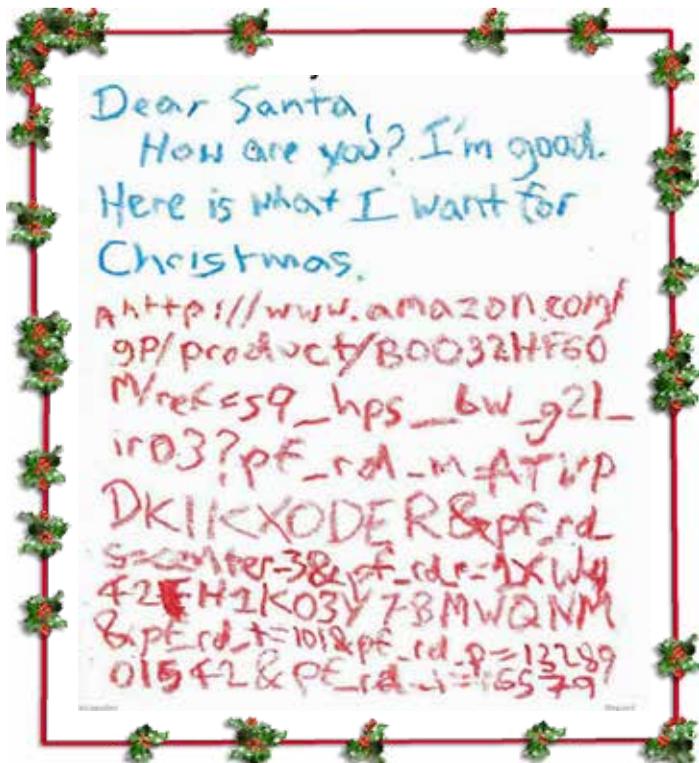
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## Veteran's Banners a Community Project

On Thursday, October 21, 2021 there was a ceremony that took place in front of the Cenotaph in Port Dalhousie. It was to dedicate the twenty banners that had just been hung along Lakeport Road, Lock and Main Street, honoring the twenty men from Port Dalhousie who fought and died in WWI, and whose names are on the Cenotaph. Paul Molnar and Reverend Towler from St. John's Church presided over the event. During the ceremony the bell at St. John's Church tolled as each of the 20 names was read aloud, creating a very moving and sombre atmosphere. A few family members of the soldiers were on hand, as well as the students who created the artwork for the banners. This was the culmination of a project that started almost 12 months prior, and which ultimately became a true community project that the town can be proud of. Let's go back and see how this all transpired and progressed on a very organic level:

- Ex-Port Boy Herb Davies was always intrigued with the names etched on the monument, and set out to try to discover who they were, where they came from, what they did while living in Port, and how and where they died. In other words, he wanted to tell their stories, and bring their names to life. He conducted extensive research, and even visited some of their graves in Europe. But all he had at that point was reams of paper.

- Another ex-Port Boy, Pat Brand, offered to help Herb put his work online by means of a web page, which meant

it could be shared, literally, with the world! And so the site "The Citizen Soldiers of Port Dalhousie" was born.

- A few years ago a teacher at St. Ann School in Port Dalhousie, Beth Hulan, started to use the site as a teaching tool for her students around Remembrance Day, since it contained a wealth of information and detail about soldiers from their town. In 2020, she got the students to create an art piece dedicated to each one of the twenty men,

- Upon seeing the beautiful pieces, ex-Port Girl, Dorene Inglis, who is a relative of one of the twenty men, William Inglis, commented to Pat that they would make beautiful banners,

- Upon hearing that, Pat decided to see if that could become a reality. Beth put him in contact with a Vet who lives in Port Dalhousie, Paul Molnar, and very soon the ball was rolling.

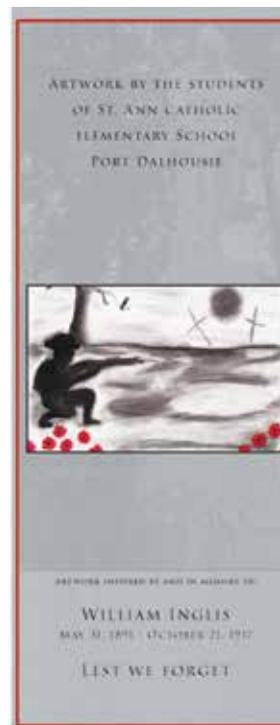
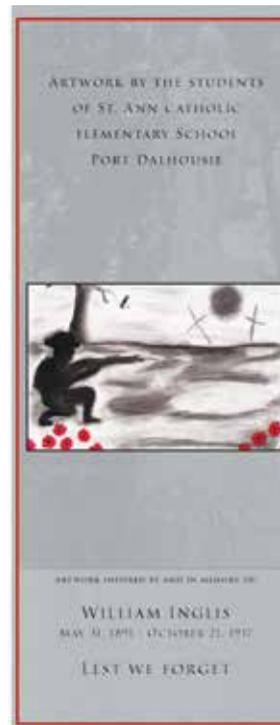
In order to make it actually happen, funds would be necessary to print, mount, store, and maintain the twenty banners. So a fundraising initiative was started, culminating in a GoFundMe campaign.

- Jeff Mackie jumped on board to provide guidance with the fundraising, and raise the profile of the project with the local community. And the community has responded big-time to the project, and at last count is very near the goal of \$10,000 to cover all expected expenses,

- Dave Robinson donated his time by taking the students' artwork, and creating the banners which are now flying high in the town!

So, as you can see, this truly was a community-based project, that so many in the community can be very proud of and witness as they drive through town. The banners will be put up annually for three weeks prior to, and one week after, Remembrance Day. To complete the project, there will be a QR code plaque on the pole that each banner is attached to, which when scanned, will provide the details of that individual, truly bringing them to life once more! We should look up to those men, and now we literally all can! ■

- Pat Brand



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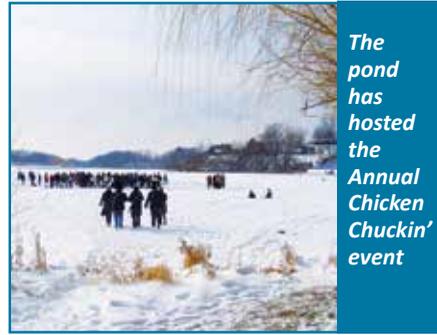
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Keep in mind that outdoor recreation in winter is generally safe as long as you are aware of the dangers posed by the mercurial nature of ice. And socializing outdoors is, for the time being, safer than indoors, so enjoy your winter. ■

- David Serafino

Captioned photos courtesy of David Serafino. Photo ebooks are available for free at Smashwords.com



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Private residence addresses will remain confidential. Business addresses will be promoted.

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Let's make this fun and festive!



happy holidays



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

# From Where I Sit... *A Pyrrhic victory at Lincoln Fabrics*



**Hank  
Beekhuis**

“In 279 BC, Pyrrhus of Epirus defeated the Romans at the Battle of Asculum. Unfortunately it came at such an appalling cost that he was forced to end his campaign. His victory has become synonymous with a victory that takes such a heavy toll that it negates any sense of achievement and damages long term progress.”

The Lincoln Fabrics luxury condo project is now finally ready to go! Now that the Community Improvement Program has been approved for the Harbour Club development and the public subsidies are finalized, we should expect some building activity to start once the final demolition permits are issued. Is this a Pyrrhic victory for St. Catharines?

Now is the time to examine the history of this site and review the costs to the community: a battle damage assess-

ment if you will.

In 1991 the city sold .85 acres of land to a Harbour Development Corp. for a price of \$20,000 at a time when they were leasing it to the same people for \$8,000 annually. Not a bad deal even for that time! This was done in order to spur development in the area and make it possible for the group to obtain a proper site plan for what they promised to develop. Those development plans, however, were never completed. A condition of sale was the provision of 23 public parking spaces adjacent to the building in an area chronically short of parking spaces and which in today's dollars is worth about \$400,000. This is a valuable community asset.

In 2017 Lincoln Fabrics decided to move out of the building and sold the entire combined 1.13 acres to Harbour Club Developments for 6 million dollars. Not a bad gain on land appreciation. Certainly it was far more than many homeowners achieved during the same period. Somewhere along the line, the public parking condition also appears to have been lost.

During these past 25 years, multiple planning studies have been done on this area, using up considerable staff time, consultants, planners and urban design gurus etc. It would not be a stretch of the imagination to estimate that over the years at least 1 million dollars of public funds has been spent on this area. Each successive plan was for low rise development and attempted to animate the Harbour lands for commercial and public use. Once Harbour Club purchased the property, however, a new round of planning took place. Public meetings were held (which many attended) and the consensus was that the existing 3 storey height limit could be increased to 6 storeys. The consultant faithfully translated that public desire in their draft report, however when the final report came out it was 8 storeys. How and why it was changed is still a mystery to the public.

Negotiations then took place with the city and a number of new concessions were granted, including the sale of pieces of public land and the granting of an extra driveway access onto

an already busy street. In addition the current Traffic study for Lakeport Rd. is recommending that the Region acquire part of Rennie Park because the approved development is now too close to the road for the expanded lanes they wish to install. This is another quiet accommodation and a violation of the City's Heritage Guidelines. In addition two extra storeys were allowed on top of the existing heritage building, and the 8 storey limit was waived for the new back addition which was higher than the original (even after the added two storeys). The new secondary plan however is not even in effect yet due to an outstanding appeal, so legally the limit is still 3 storeys. The developer was also granted the right to demolish about 30% of the building: the historical back addition and the front more recent addition. The remainder will be a parking garage which means that most of the views and vistas to the water protected by the Planning Act will be lost. In fact, one will be hard-pressed to see the harbour from Lakeport Rd. as the high addition and parking garage will cover the current parking lot.

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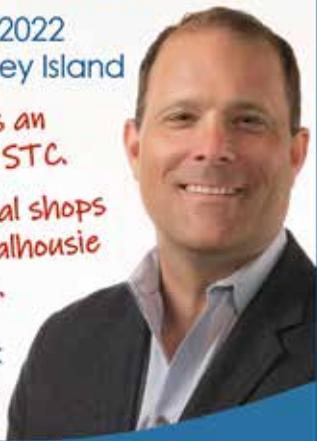
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Mayor Walter Sendzik  
City of St. Catharines



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## The Trolley Stop Restoration Nears Completion



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In 2019 Harbour Club requested a city grant under the Community Improvement Program (CIP). After two failed attempts at City Council for a 3.4 million dollar grant, they finally succeeded in 2021 for a 3.57 million dollar one. Unbeknownst to most of the public this is matched by the Region for a total of just over 7.13 million of taxpayer's cash money paid out over a 10-year period. This is ostensibly to pay for Brownfield remediation and the adaptive reuse of the heritage building. The best number that the developer has come up with in terms of brownfield remediation is only 1.3 million. The cost of adaptive reuse is unknown, however; you also have to factor in the savings given the considerable assets of the existing structure to determine the real net cost.

On the plus side, the Harbour Club has agreed to provide a public parkette at the base of the pedestrian bridge, (on the footprint of PIER 61) with a sidewalk between the Royal Port condo and their parking garage. To be fair, they are providing 13 public parking spaces; however with the recent reduction of the parking ratio for condos to 1:1 it is highly likely that most of these spaces will be taken up by residents and guests and not be of any use to the community. There will also be bike storage in the basement for resi-

dents, something that should be in the building code anyway.

In gross dollar terms the developer is already way ahead of the game. Given how far they have taken the development process and the current booming real estate market they could, if they wished, flip the whole project for 10

*“The current CIP program is heavily biased toward large development and the point system is far too rigid. If you achieve 51 points out of 100, you get 100% of the subsidy whether you need it or not.”*

million or more as a turn key operation without moving a brick. We hope they don't. I lay no blame for this on the developer who is only doing what they have been allowed to do and what he has been told he is eligible for. They have been friendly to the local community and I have no issue with them.

Sales are going well and this development is almost sold out. Let us hope they actually deliver what they have promised.

However, when the public subsidy is more than the cost of the original purchase price and the brownfield clean up is completely paid for by the taxpayer, at what point is it no longer an incentive but simply a waste of taxpayer funds? The current CIP program has significant systemic flaws in it which still need to be fixed. We thought that the recent review had improved the plan but that seems not to be the case. The current CIP program is heavily biased toward large development and the point system is far too rigid. If you achieve 51 points out of a hundred, you get 100% of the subsidy whether you need it or not. In education terms all you need is a D- to qualify. The recent addition of affordable housing and heritage preservation is great but it is not where the points are. All you have to do is spend a lot of money, build a lot of units, and project an expanded tax base 10 years from now, throw in a park bench and a bicycle rack and you are over the hill. The CIP will never succeed in creating affordable housing or much adaptive reuse if it is so easy to get over the threshold without it. We have to keep in mind that all the public services for

these residents need to be paid for today and end up on the current taxpayer's bill. Using this same formula going forward is not only unnecessary in this booming market but when it is blindly administered in a formulaic way, it is nothing short of corporate welfare. In North America corporate welfare greatly outstrips individual human welfare, and with fewer strings attached. There is no demonstrated need for doing it here, and is an unnecessary use of public funds.

There is a 30-storey condo proposed adjacent to City Hall next year. Looking at their plan they already qualify for CIP so be prepared for much more tax subsidy for luxury condos. We are repeatedly told by the city that there is no money for small business, community projects, beautification or fixing our tree canopy, not to mention aging infrastructure. The question being asked is; how many of these types of Pyrrhic victories can the taxpayer afford? Politicians will point to the fact that a large part comes from the region. This makes little difference because it is simply taking it out of another pocket of the same taxpayer as St. Catharines' taxpayers fund 40% of the Region. Port Dalhousie businesses and residents are already among the highest taxed in the area. We have to do better. ■

From all of us, we wish you a safe and MERRY CHRISTMAS !



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# Pepper's Last Gift

*"Dogs' lives are too short. Their only fault, really." - Agnes Sligh Turnbull*

Whatever life threw at us each year, come Christmas our family had one constant tradition: our dog Pepper opened our presents for us. When our beloved Black Lab mix had been a gangly adolescent puppy, we had only given her unbreakable gifts to unwrap—things like pajamas and steering wheel covers. She proved to be so careful that we soon gave her any gift that wasn't edible. Every time, Pepper found the seam in the wrapping paper with her snout and held the present down gingerly with her forepaws. Her front teeth pried up the lip of paper with the utmost care. Then she removed every inch of wrapping paper before stepping back to lie in the midst of our gathering. She never bit or scratched the gifts themselves.

Friends and relatives who joined our family celebrations never believed Pepper could be so delicate until they witnessed her talents. Watching our sweet dog unwrap gifts always warmed the holiday, which was often a little bittersweet because college, studying abroad, or work commitments often kept my two sisters and me away.

One year, everyone made it home for a Christmas together. I was back from Ireland, Kaci flew in from Arizona, and Kara visited from college. Mom's jubilation kept her busy baking cookies for us all. Our Christmas season should have been perfect.

It couldn't feel perfect, though, because Pepper's health was deteriorating. Her life had already been longer than we expected—she was fourteen—and yet her mind was still sharp. Her enthusiasm for life made us feel better. But her body could not keep up with her spirit. She'd already shown the usual signs of deafness and stiffness. That year, her hips and back legs started giving out on her. We knew we would soon have to make a difficult decision.

It was likely Pepper's last Christmas, so we decided to make sure she enjoyed it. On Christmas Eve, we gathered around the tree to open an early present. We each took a turn and then called Pepper to open one more. But her tangled legs could not navigate the boxes and shredded wrapping paper on the floor. She stumbled over the ob-

stacles, and soon she disappeared into the next room. She crumpled back to the floor, as out of the way as she could get.



We were heartbroken. Could Pepper even participate in her last Christmas?

Pepper stayed on the periphery of all our holiday activities. Throughout the day, we gave gifts but did not feel very giving. We shared stories over cinnamon rolls that tasted bland. We played games by the tree whose twinkles had dimmed.

That evening, Kaci said what we'd all been thinking: "I wish Pepper could have helped open presents this year."

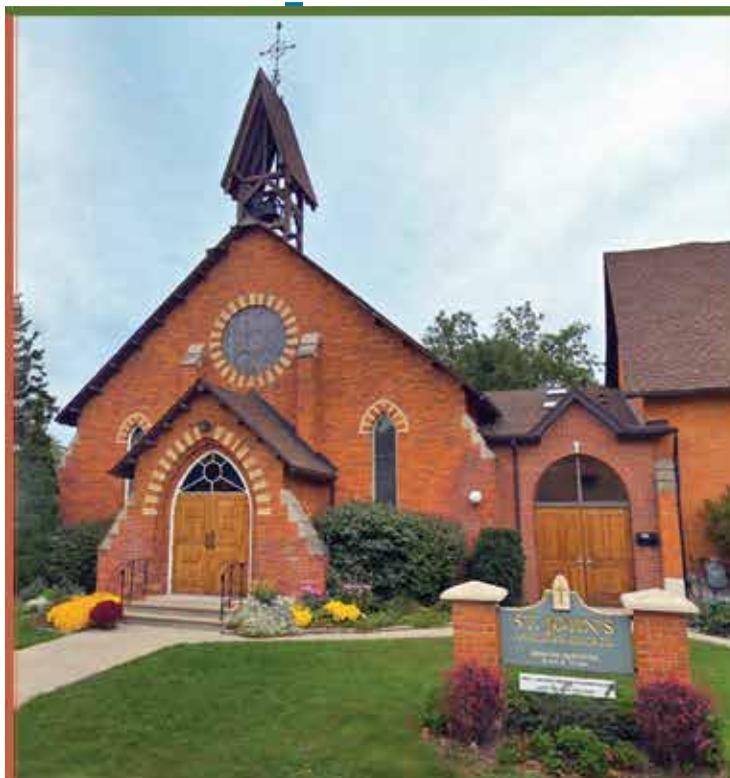
We all put down our mugs of spiced tea. "Maybe she still could," Kara said.

"But there's none left," Mom reminded her.

Kara jumped up and left the room. We heard her opening drawers and cabinets in the kitchen. She returned with a box of dog biscuits, scissors, and a roll of tape.

"Hand me that green paper," Kara told me, pointing at a large sheet at my feet. She cut a small section from the paper and wrapped a single dog treat in it. She held it up as if she had

*Continued on page 27*



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# 33 Lock Street

One of the Most Prominent Buildings in Port is Slated for Redevelopment

Of the many heritage structures in Port Dalhousie, one particularly stands out due to its prominent location at the intersection of Lock and Main Streets. The house is number 33 Lock, a large, white frame building that sits on top of the hill. The yard is noteworthy on account of the rubble stone retaining wall which was undoubtedly constructed long ago and provides a level space around the house.

This house was not built in any specific architectural style, and it has clearly been enlarged at various times throughout the years. The core structure was probably built sometime after 1850. The 1887 *God's Fire Insurance* plan (revised 1905) showed that the original building was a two-storey frame structure with a one-storey rear ell. There was a smaller, one and one-half storey separate structure of unspecified use in the yard to the rear of the main house.

The *Vernon's Directories* for the city show that this house had been subdivided into seven apartment units sometime before 1961.

The land that the house sits upon



was originally part Lot 21 Concession 1 in Grantham, was patented by the Crown to Captain Peter TenBroeck (UE), a former member of Butler's Rangers, in 1796. Following his death, the property was inherited by his son, Jacob TenBroeck, who sold it in 1821 to Henry Pawling. Pawling immediately transferred ownership of the lot to his son, Nathan Pawling. Pawling had his land surveyed into a plan of subdivision for a village which was to be named "Dalhousie." After the construction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Welland Canal the place was renamed as "Port Dalhousie."

The corner of Lock and Main Streets was surveyed and known as "old Lot" 17 on the village plan. In 1838, Pawling sold Lot 17, which contained ¾ acre, to innkeeper Thomas Read (1800-1853) for £52.10.0. In 1857, ownership of this land was acquired by the St. Catharines barrister, Richard Miller. In 1858 he sold this lot to James Tufts who was a native of New York State and engaged in the lumber trade.

In 1859, Tufts sold the property to Owen McMahon for \$600. McMahon (1818- 1872) was a resident of Port Dalhousie who was a farmer

and the owner of a livery stable. His home and business, known as the "Welland Canal Towing Line," was located on Main Street in Port. He was married in 1854 to Jane Read (1830- 1898), the daughter of Thomas Read, and they raised a family of eight children. At the time of his death, the newspapers referred to him as "Esquire," an indication of his status within the local community. McMahon may have resided on this property, and the core of the existing house was constructed either by him or his father-in-law. McMahon is believed to be buried at Victoria Lawn Cemetery. His widow died in Niagara Falls from a "liver complaint" and was interred at St. Catharines.

McMahon had also purchased property that extended along Main Street between Lock and Gertrude. In 1863, he mortgaged his property for \$3,000. Payments under this mortgage may have fallen into default because in 1873 the sheriff for Lincoln County sold this land to Edward McArdle. McArdle (1828-1909). The 1861 census described him as a baker in St. Catharines. He died unmarried at his King Street residence

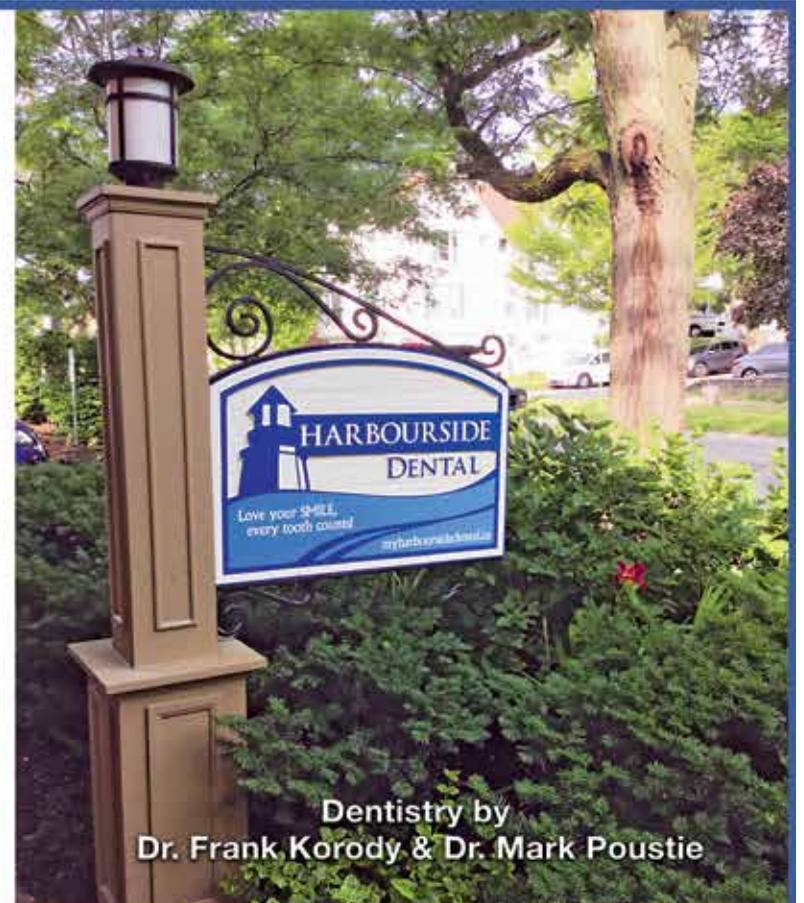
*Continued on next page*



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Map Detail of Lock & Main 1850

and was interred at Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

In 1874, McArdle sold the property back to the widow Jane McMahon. Mrs. McMahon may have resided on this property until she sold it to George Joseph Howe in 1886.

Howe was a native of St. Catharines and the son of John and Mary Howe. His father was a native of Kilmacduane, Co. Clare, on the west coast of Ireland; his mother was from Kilrush, a coastal town at the mouth of the River Shannon. Howe may have settled in St. Catharines during the construction of the Second Welland Canal when labour was plentiful. He was married in St. Catharines in early 1855. He and his wife raised a family of eight children.

By 1865 they had returned to Port where John was employed as an assistant lock tender on the canal. His address was listed as "the west beach" in Port. Records show that in 1872 he was paid \$34 per month during the navigation season, and \$30 per month during the winter.

Howe purchased Lots 104 and 105 from Nathan Pawling in 1877 for \$250. John Howe died as the result of "old age," and his widow succumbed to bronchitis and cardiac failure.

His son George Howe, was hired by the Dominion government as early as 1871 to work as a lock tender. By 1875 his salary had risen to \$45 per month. In 1884, Howe was married to Margaret C. Harrigan (1862-1932) and they raised a family of five children. In addition to the house at 33 Lock Street, George purchased parts of three additional lots within the block between 1891 and 1914. George died from unknown causes in 1919, and the 1921 census showed that his widow continued to reside

on Lock Street.

In 1933, ownership of the 33 Lock Street property passed to Mary Loretto McLaren. She was the daughter of George J. and Margaret Howe and was born in Port Dalhousie in 1891. In 1914 she was married to William Charles McLaren who was a captain of a vessel. He and Mary had a family of at least two daughters. Mary died at a young age, from "acute nephritis" in 1935. She was interred at Victoria Lawn.

The property was mortgaged by Mrs. McLaren in 1933 for \$1,200, but payments fell into default and in 1937 the premises were foreclosed upon. In 1938, Julia Carr contracted to purchase this property for \$2,300 and she took title in 1942. Carr then flipped the property to Joseph Pilletteri who then immediately sold it to Harold Berry. In 1971 Berry sold the property to the "Dick & Andre Ltd." (Dick, Andre, and Abram Kok.)

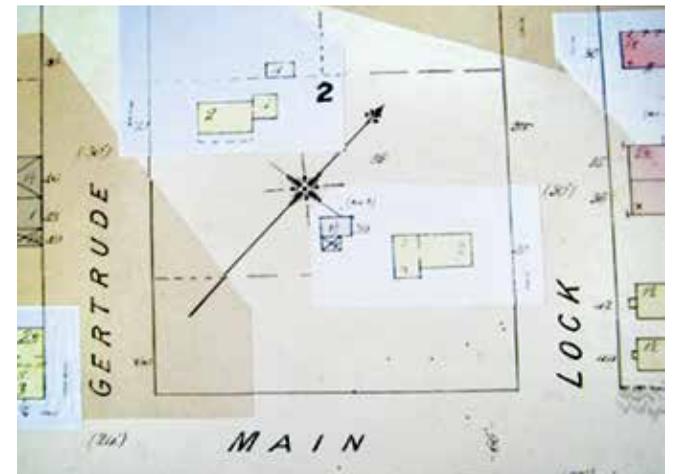
The 1929 *Goad's Fire Insurance* plan showed that additional structures had been built on Gertrude Street, but that

the main house at 33 Lock retained its original footprint. The additions to the house therefore appear to post-date this later plan and may have been built during the period when Harold Berry owned the property.

Subsequent owners of the property were: Wilson W. Hunter (1973), Luciano Conte and Alberto Martinelli (1974), and Luciano Conte (1979.)

Longfellow, in his poem "*Haunted Houses*," noted that all dwellings retain the memories of their prior inhabitants: houses have their own 'genealogy' of ownership and a story to tell. What tales belong to your house? ■

- Brian Narhi



1887 Goad's Insurance Plan



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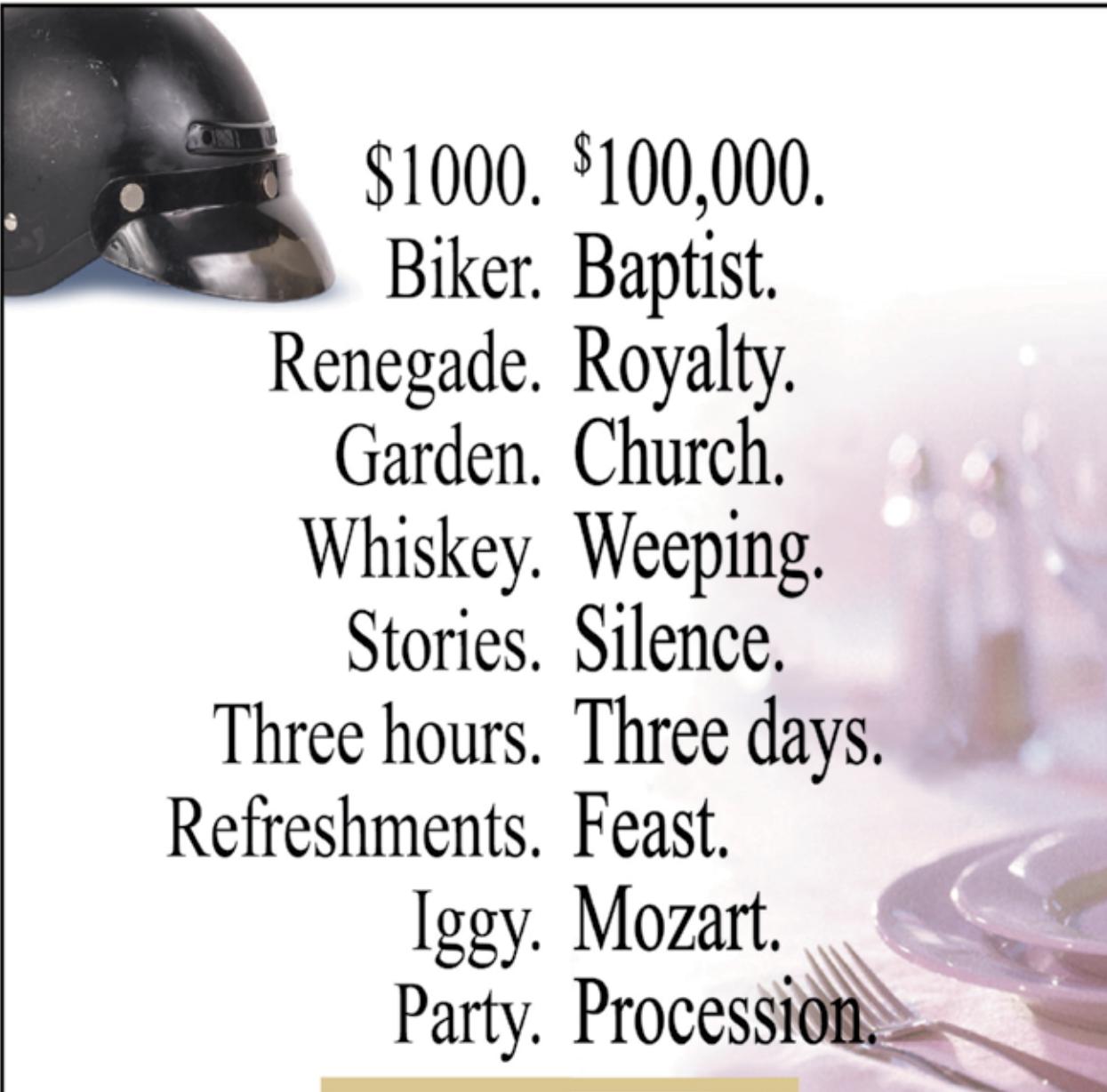
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As always, a special thanks to John House and the Vintage Port Dalhousie Facebook Page



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Garden. Church.  
Whiskey. Weeping.  
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Iggy. Mozart.  
Party. Procession.

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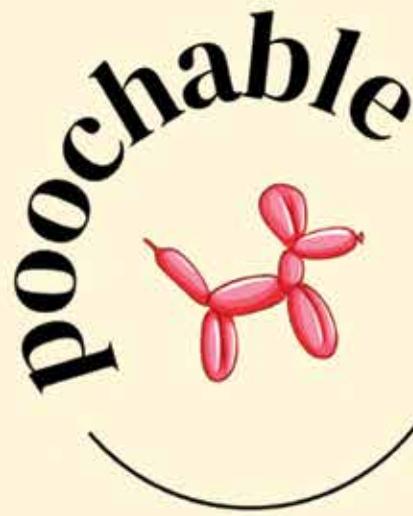
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# Welcome to the Neighbourhood!

*There has been lots of moving activity in Port Dalhousie! This column was a suggestion submitted by the reader's survey available in this issue, and will present new Port residents and what they love about the area. Thank you to Ashton Hendriks from the Portfolio Realty Group for this submission. If you would like to submit a contribution (either for yourself or a new neighbour!) for a future issue please email your submission to: editor.portreporter@gmail.com.*

Our beautiful Port Dalhousie--what a place to live and play! I feel lucky every day to be a part of this little community by the Lake. Seeing more & more young families moving into their forever homes and putting down roots here is a wonderful thing. My friends, Tashawna and Joel, met in Port 11 years ago, at the old Jailhouse Bar, previously run by my friend, Scott Sweitzer. They recently moved to Port Master Drive after being lifelong Niagara residents, and enjoyed their first summer here. They just celebrated their one year anniversary being married, and have a baby on the way! So far, Port life has been treating them extremely well. You can catch them having beers and enjoying a game at Scorecard Harrys, walking the pier, kayaking on Martindale Pond or watching those killer beach sunsets! I often run into them at Henley Island with their dogs, Henry and King, enjoying the cool summer nights. The neighbourhood has welcomed them with open arms, but beware Tash & Joel, forget to mow the lawn for a few weeks, and that may change, haha!

## **What are your full names?**

Tashawna and Joel Waszynski

## **Where did you grow up?**

Tashawna – Grimsby

Joel- North end St. Catharines

## **How long have you been married?**

Just celebrated our one year anniversary

## **Do you have any kids or dogs?**

We are currently expecting our first child due in March and we have two large dogs, King and Henry

## **When did you first discover Port?**

Tashawna-- I used to go to Port Dalhousie growing up. My parents and I would go for dinner at Murphys, ride the carousel and then bring bread to feed the ducks after. Joel – When I was a kid, we used to go for dinner down in Port.

## **What was the draw to move to Port?**

Joel and I met at Jailhouse bar over 11 years ago in Port Dalhousie and got engaged in Port as well. We have very strong ties to Port Dalhousie and have always envisioned raising a family in Port. We love the atmosphere and its quaintness. It seems to bring people together. Everyone loves Port!

## **Will you plant roots here?**

Without a doubt – have already started doing so in our short time here. We moved into our forever home in June and are so happy to create so many memories here together.

## **What do you love about the community?**

Everyone is so lovely! Our neighbours are truly amazing and everywhere you go around Port people are always smiling, waving or stopping for conversation. Everyone around loves taking advantage of the good weather and enjoying all the Port has to offer.

## **Have you been welcomed?**

Very much so. I cannot say enough about the hospitable people of Port Dalhousie. Young and old, they are all very proud to be living in Port



Dalhousie. We found most, if not all, have been in the area a very long time or, if they have recently moved, they plan on staying.

## **What is your favourite spot in Port?**

We love Henley Island. The park up top is great for the dogs to get some exercise. We also kayak so we frequently use the dock at Henley Island to explore Martindale pond. During the summer months, we would walk to the Henley for live music, food and drinks offered from Thursday – Saturday for a good time and to support the local rowing organization.

## **What is your favourite restaurant?**

Port offers many great restaurants but we most frequently visit Scorecard Harrys as it fits our vibe of a low-key, laid-back sports bar with great pizza and wings.

## **Where is the best place to see the sunset?**

The pier. We would love walking down to catch the sunset and watch the sky illuminate above the water.

## **Where is the best place to walk the dogs?**

Henley Island! We also walk the dogs throughout different subdivisions in the area or down Dalhousie Ave to the stairs leading down to the beach.

## **Are you a part of any groups in Port?**

We are both in the Port Dalhousie neighbour-

hood facebook group, which is up to date with locals bringing forward heartwarming gestures or experiences, local events taking place, and overall just friendly news happening in Port Dalhousie.

## **Do you plan to live here for a while?**

We plan to raise our family here and have our kids attend the local schools. We love the area and the people. We have zero plans to look to move, and plan to stay for a very long time.

## **What is your favourite street?**

Am I biased if I say our street? The homes that back onto the Henley are gorgeous and even the cute streetlights that go with them, although there are many streets and homes in Port that deserve the limelight.

## **What is your favourite season in Port**

We have yet to experience a winter or early spring but we love Fall so far. The tree-lined streets come to life and because it's been so mild, we love seeing all the restaurants and bars in Port still taking advantage of patio season.

## **Do you boat or sail?**

We do not. We have kayaks and have taken full advantage of our close proximity to Martindale Pond this summer by using them on warm summer evenings or on a weekend afternoon.

## **What are your typical Friday night plans?**

If we're not hosting our friends by the pool, you can find us at one of the restaurants filling up on amazing food, walking off some of the calories on the pier, and listening to the live music when offered at the old lock in Port Dalhousie. ■

- Ashton Hendriks

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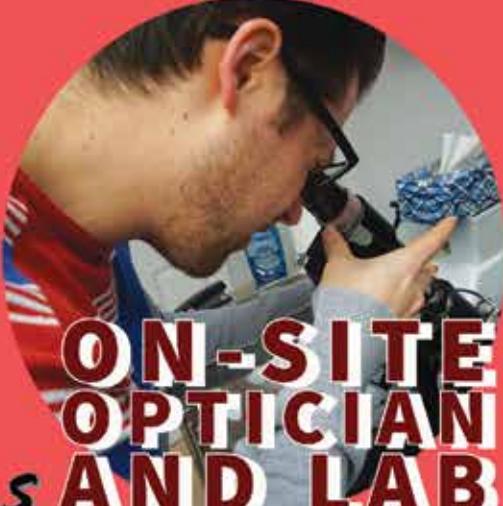
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## Remembering Brian “Jaybee” Leyden

Port Dalhousie lost our great friend James Brian Leyden on October 22, 2021. Originally from Nottingham, England, Brian made his home in the Niagara Region for more than 60 years. He loved the area - taking special pride in showing the world its beauty, historical significance, and places of interest as part of his personal and professional life. Brian packed so much life into his 92 years. His interests and passions ranged from sport, to music, books, wine, long walks, good conversation and being an active caretaker of his community and family. In his younger days, Brian was a dedicated and skilled athlete. He was a member of the West St. Catharines Cricket Club, loved his table tennis tournaments and always made time to watch British football and cricket. Most of all, Brian loved people. He drew so many wonderful people to him with his incredible smile, British charm, and his uncommon way of just making people feel special and supported.



He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marion Josephine (Jo) Leyden (nee McGowan), whom he loved dearly and who, with him, started their great Canadian adventure. After Jo's passing, he married his second love, Lorraine Margaret Leyden (nee Hayes). They were true partners in every sense of the word and were known for their philanthropy and community involvement and also for hosting an endless series of blowout parties at their home in St. Catharines! Brian and Lorraine knew how to have fun - and they had a lot of it! Sadly, Brian lost Lorraine to cancer in 2015. Brian's legacy of love carries on through his family that brought him endless pride and joy - his two daughters, Myra, and Anne (Michael Meyers), stepson, Christopher Himes, his three granddaughters who loved and adored him, Katie, Haley, and Camille (Michael Hampton-Leyden), and his many nieces and nephews and their children. He was known to them for his storytelling, his endless optimism and could always be counted on as a friend, confidante, problem-solver, defender and cheerleader.

Over the years, Port Dalhousie and the whole Niagara region benefitted greatly from Brian's professional work and dedication to service. During his storied career in Public Relations, he significantly advanced the profile of the area's grape growers and wine industry. Under his stewardship, the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival furthered the area's reputation as a tourist destination attracting major dignitaries, celebrities and top talent from across North America. His work also included the twinning of St. Catharines with Port of Spain, Trinidad and working behind-the-scenes with the Canadian government as they crafted NAFTA. He was a stalwart supporter of the business community at large through his leadership roles with the St. Catharines Rotary and the Public Relations Society of Canada. His counsel to leaders in business and government continued well into his retirement years.

In particular, Brian provided years of his sage advice to the Port Dalhousie Conservancy and was a member of their Executive Committee for many years. He also was heavily involved in supporting and mentoring local citizen Ed Smith when he was being sued by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for bringing to light and publicizing very disturbing facts about the agency's management. Brian had a profound sense of the right and the wrong of the situation and was invaluable in providing support and advise.

His fundraising efforts were known to always deliver more than expected - raising millions of dollars for the Niagara Children's Centre, St. John's Church in Port Dalhousie, The Salem Chapel BME Church in St. Catharines and countless others causes that improved the lives of so many.

The family will hold a celebration of Brian's life in the spring of 2022 and an announcement with the date and place will be made in March of 2022. On Sunday October 31, 2021, Ed Smith and volunteers from the Conservancy rang the bell at St. John's church 92 times in honour of his 92 years. It is a great loss for Port Dalhousie but, he will not be forgotten. ■

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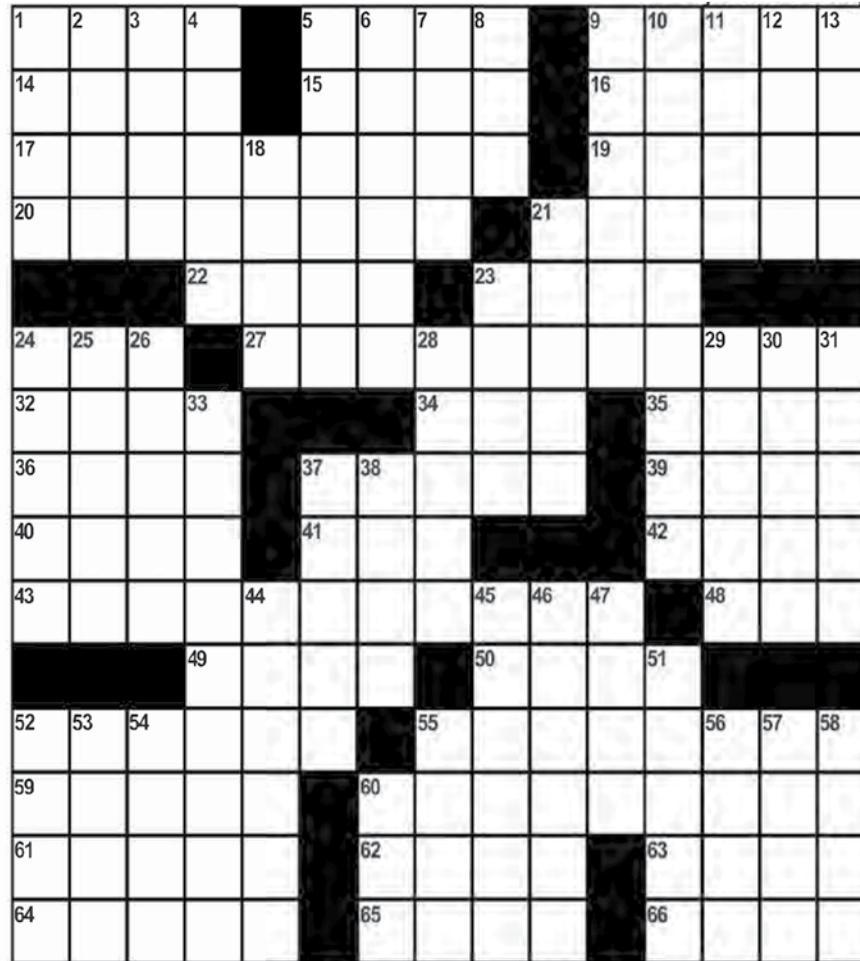
# WINTER CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1) Nut center
- 5) Bring up
- 9) Ekberg of "La Dolce Vita"
- 14) "\_\_\_ Angel" (Mae West movie)
- 15) Director Kazan
- 16) French red wine
- 17) In shape for Waikiki?
- 19) For all to see
- 20) Full scholarship, informally
- 21) Hall of Famers
- 22) Ancient Iranian
- 23) Take wing
- 24) Spray graffiti on, say
- 27) Curative vegetation?
- 32) Part of UAR
- 34) Feedbag morsel
- 35) "A," in NATO code
- 36) Lower-class, to Brits
- 37) Gridiron series
- 39) Minor complaints
- 40) Knot or watt
- 41) First lady McKinley
- 42) Pub missile
- 43) Stolen indoor ball?
- 48) Carrier to Bergen
- 49) Red-\_\_\_ (wieners)
- 50) Lo or chow follower
- 52) Some Millrose Games runners
- 55) Shimmer iridescently
- 59) Warnings of gas leaks
- 60) Lawbreaking abandoned child?
- 61) Charity recipient
- 62) Cruel dude
- 63) Coup d'\_\_\_
- 64) Toys with runners
- 65) Applied henna to
- 66) Speed Wagons of autodom

## DOWN

- 1) Offend a bit
- 2) Kuwaiti bigwig
- 3) One chip, perhaps
- 4) Tribal carving
- 5) Dwell
- 6) Slipped past
- 7) River of Leeds
- 8) UK fliers
- 9) Indifferent to ethics
- 10) Peter Pan's home
- 11) Creative spark
- 12) Grounds for a suit
- 13) Takes measures
- 18) City near Provo
- 21) Petting zoo animals
- 23) Read the UPC of
- 24) Show some backbone, slang
- 25) Quaker's Rice-\_\_\_
- 26) Took to the clink
- 28) Dubuque native
- 29) Disney's middle name
- 30) TV workers' union
- 31) Goes hungry
- 33) Totally ruined
- 37) Loses on purpose?
- 38) Bookie's concern
- 44) Carousel units
- 45) Roman or Ottoman
- 46) Chewed out
- 47) Nail salon need
- 51) Not as stale
- 52) Stylish Brits of the '60s
- 53) One on a pedestal
- 54) Like a hermit
- 55) Wild party
- 56) Fill to the gills
- 57) "See ya"
- 58) Direct deposits, e.g. (Abt)
- 60) Oft-fried fish



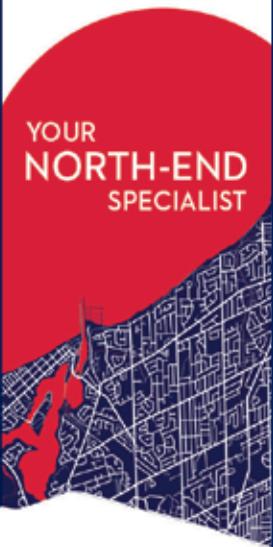
Answers on page 27



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## Lights, Camera, Action!

*Yet Another Film Production Was Shot In Port This Past Summer.*

The 1960's Era Meets Today's World in a BYOTA (Be Your Own Travel Agent) production shot in Port Dalhousie. Trends follow many familiar waves and the way BYOTA approaches them is completely brand new.

Canadian producer Joseph Kenneth Gerard and Turkish director Erdem Calis chose Port Dalhousie as the setting for their latest SONY Cinematic Film Production.

Calis told the Port Reporter that the reason Port Dalhousie was chosen is because of its friendly and welcoming atmosphere. It has a marvelous landscape and architecture to match, where the waterfront and beach are still a popular place to view the awesome, beautiful, one-of-a-kind sunsets.

In keeping with the 'local' theme, most of the cast members are from the surrounding Niagara Region in Ontario, including Niagara Falls, St-Catharines, and Port Dalhousie.

Jack Blanchette, from Goodwood, Ontario (Schitt's Creek), plays Jacques, a private caretaker to the islands and a masseur who falls in love with Emme, a Culture Cookie writer, played by Robyn Haslam. A perfect modern day love match?

The 1960's character Cast:

- Bridget Gaines plays Mini, a food stylist.
- Joel Pouli plays Mod, a travel writer who writes in his yellow notebook, carries his 60's camera, and his 60's transistor radio.
- Model Mikayla Bunn plays a food critic using the pseudonym Shift.
- Lorpu Karsor plays Bold, a social activist who loves her Harvey Wall-Bangers, follows the latest trends, and takes a



- stand on getting the word out, regardless of the media used!
- Marijo Finn plays GoGo, a 1960's fashion designer who loves shopping. After all, "These [GoGo] boots were made for walking
  - Kristine Kotaly, who loves kickboxing, plays Mod's mother.
  - Stephiny Okeke is wonderful in her Tiki-Bar dance renditions.
  - Jean-Luc Martel plays his own, unique character with his own, unique style.

*Continued on page 27*

# How To Have A Green Christmas

*How to Show Extra Care for the Environment During the Season of Celebration.*

Christmas doesn't have to be a burden on the planet. With a little effort and imagination, we can reduce the environmental impact of the holiday season. Here are some ideas to help celebrate the season while caring for the earth.

## Buy Less

Some holiday gifts fill a practical need and need to be bought new. But many gifts are really gestures of thoughtfulness. You can give more while spending less.

## Not All Gifts Have to Be Store-Bought

You can give more while spending less by giving gifts that are personal and unique. While young children may favor the bright, shiny store-bought item, most adults appreciate anything that shows thoughtfulness.

## Simplify the 'Gift-Go-Round'

Feeling overwhelmed by a gift list that's just too long? Here's an idea to help shorten your list and simplify the family gift-giving ritual. We tried this in our own family last year and it was appreciated by all.

- Before the holiday season begins (Thanksgiving is a good time because the extended family is often together), put the names of all adult family members on separate slips of paper and put the slips in a hat.
- Take turns picking one name per adult: the name you pick is your gift recipient. Keep your chosen pick a secret, to help maintain an element of surprise.
- Your gift list for the adults in your family has just been shortened to one! You can now focus on a special gift for the person whose name you picked, without the difficulty and expense of finding just the right gift for everyone.

If the family's not together on Thanksgiving, ask Grandma or someone else in the family to pick the names from the hat for everyone, by proxy. It works just as well. An agreed on spending limit will also help everyone from feeling they have to go overboard with a fabulous gift for the person whose name they chose.

## Look for Locally Made Gifts

Many gifts in today's marketplace come from halfway around the world, and the impact of transportation contributes significantly to greenhouse emissions and

global warming. Local craft fairs and artisan shops are a good source for gifts that come without the added costs of transportation. And gifts made locally often have a story which goes with the

dren bring toys into the shelter I worked at year after year – it was a wonderful experience for everyone!"



gift, since the artisan and the origin of the gift are known.

"A great way to teach children the spirit of giving (and simplifying) during the holidays is to ask them to pick three toys that they don't play with very much, and donate them to a homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, etc. I saw chil-

## Choose Gifts Made From Recycled Sources

Many individuals and small businesses have developed great products using recycled materials. Supporting these businesses helps reduce the waste stream while promoting the concept of making best use of available materials.

## Give 'Battery-Free' Gifts

According to the EPA, about 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Discarded batteries are an environmental hazard. Even rechargeable batteries find their way into the waste stream eventually.

## Avoid Children's Toys That Promote Violence

There is too much violence in the world, and the new wave of video games for children is disturbing. Remember the theme of Christmas is "Peace on Earth." There are many toys and games that are fun, and nurture children's creativity and sense of active play

## 'Re-gifting' is Okay

There's always discussion about the etiquette behind the trend to 're-gift', that is, to pass on a gift you received but do not need. What's to discuss? Re-gifting makes perfect sense. If you receive something you really don't need, look for ways you can reuse this gift by passing it on to someone who can use it. Of course, re-gifting needs to be done with care so as not to offend the original giver, but keeping a gift you don't need is wasteful. ■

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# Pepper's Last Gift

Continued

just struck gold. "Now there's a present for her!"

I knelt on the floor next to Kara and wrapped another dog treat. Kaci and Mom joined in, too. Soon, we had four elegantly wrapped dog biscuits in a row on the floor. We cleared the floor of discarded wrapping paper. We tucked our legs under us as we perched out of the way on the furniture.

"Go get Pepper," we urged Mom. We all bounced like eager children.

Mom went into the next room. "You want to open a present, girl?" she coaxed. In a moment, Pepper stuck her head into the room. Her ears were fully perked with anticipation and curiosity.

She skidded on stilted legs to the row of presents. She sniffed all four in order, and looked back and forth between them. She'd never had such a wide choice of gifts before.

Soon, Pepper selected her first Christmas gift. She nimbly turned the present with her forepaw, just like she was a spry young dog once more. She tugged every last scrap of paper off the dog treat before she chewed it with her customary grace.

Our family swelled with glee.

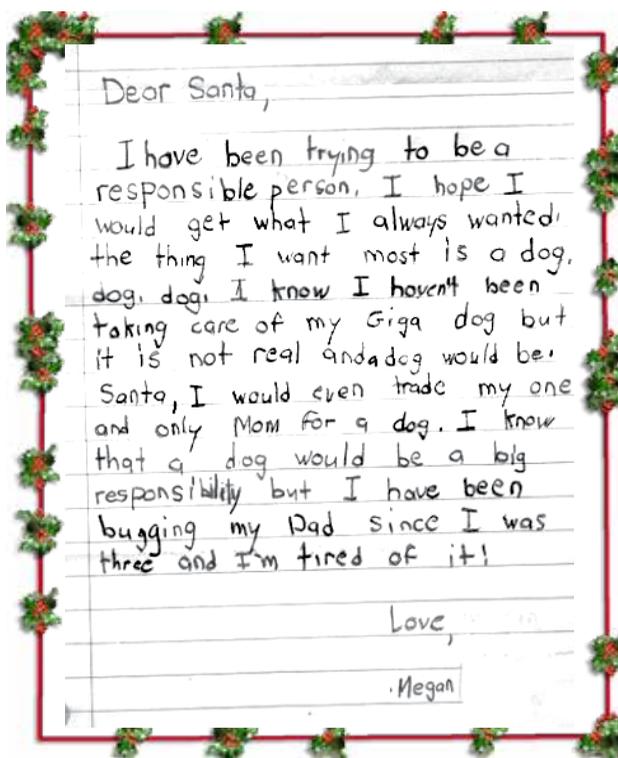
Pepper licked the last crumb from the floor. She eyed the remaining three presents, then turned to Mom as if asking, "May I please open another?"

"Go ahead, girl!" Mom encouraged.

For the next few minutes, Pepper opened each of her Christmas presents. While she did, she reminded us of the sheer joy of being together. Our family felt whole - not because we were in the same room, city, or country, but because our love bonded us together.

In the new year, Pepper let us know it was time to call the veterinarian. Her passing, while tearful, was peaceful. In its own way, her passing was also a celebration of life, because she gave my family so much love and laughter. ■

- Zach Hively



1	M	E	A	T	5	R	E	A	R	9	A	N	I	T	A				
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48	M	I	L	E	49	S			50	O	P	A	L	E	51	S	C	E	
52	O	D	O	R	S	53	C	R	54	I	M	E	55	W	A	I	F		
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59	S	L	E	D	S	60	D	Y	61	E	D	62	R	E	O	S			

Crossword Answers

# Lights, Camera, Action!

Continued

Many local businesses also chipped in to help:

- Glitzy Jools & Antiques was the largest provider of 60's props and 60's jewelry.
- The Twisted Pig was the official supplier of food for the team. Their rooftop patio and the dining room were used for the tiki-bar, dance, dining, hairdresser, and spa scenes.
- The Thistle Bookshop and Café was the fashion studio set.
- The Hair Shop on Main Street was where the hair and make-up departments were located.

Next door, in the BG Holdings and Niagara Jazz Festival office, was where Anna KARLOVA managed amazing wardrobes and wardrobe changes.

Producer Joseph Kenneth Gerard, who himself resides in Port Dalhousie says, "This is an incredible, talented cast; a fun group of people. I was truly, pleasantly surprised with everyone who worked with us to make this venture happen."

*Ed Note: BYOTA (Be Your Own Travel Agent) is a traveler's on-demand platform which connects all the lifestyles. It provides a booking site with connections to travelers who share their experiences and discoveries. This past Summer BYOTA shot a film production in Port. ■*

- Petra Bucek



Photo by David Stephen

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