

THE REPORTER

VOL.16 NO. 3

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

FALL 2021

Hot Weather and Hot Topics as the Fall Season Approaches

Greetings, I hope this finds you and yours safe and sound. Well, it looks as if we are still under the shadow of COVID so I will remind everyone to continue following those protocols. We're going to beat this thing yet!

This issue has many intriguing articles and photographs which we hope you will enjoy. Ed Smith kicks things off with a pertinent article on the forthcoming Main Street reconstruction, and Hank Beekhuis has much to say about Municipalities and the perceived housing crisis. Brian Narhi and Christine Robertson have submitted entertaining articles on Port's colourful past. Peter Wing has written an article on the importance of "old buildings", and Councillor Carlos Garcia offers his City Council report. Adam Cooke reviews Scorecard Harry's, a favourite meeting place and pub and Gertrud Liho offers an impassioned article in support of the "Gentle Giants". We also present "It

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A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity

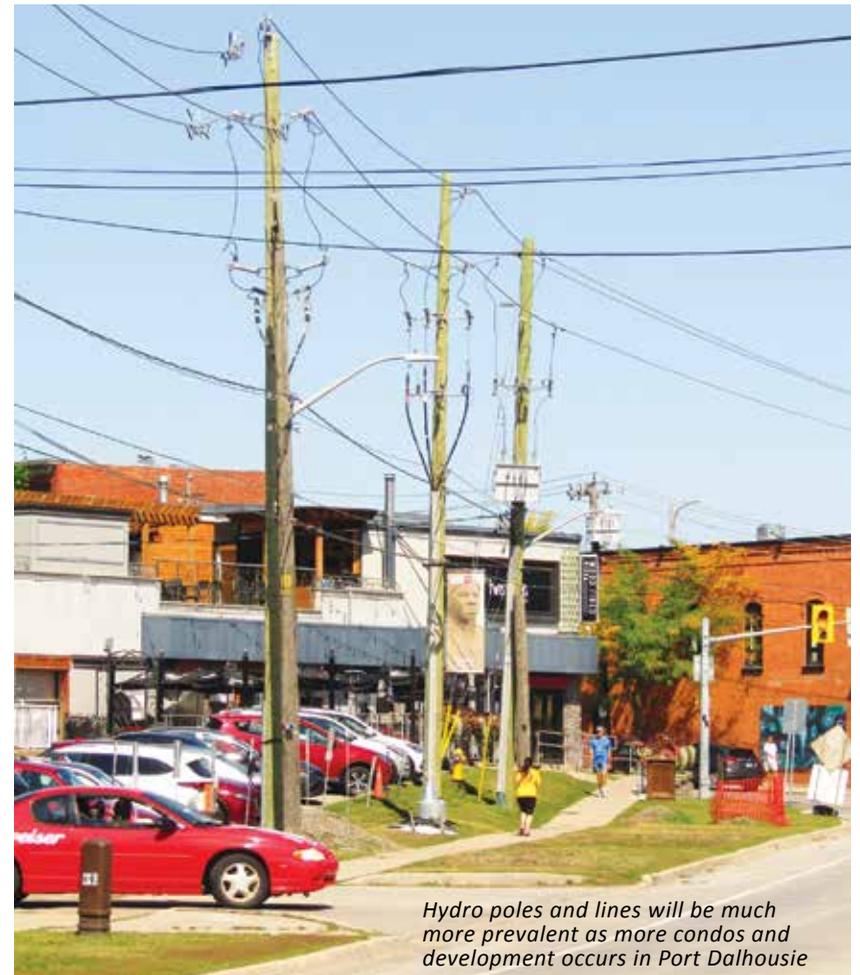
Much of Port Dalhousie's tree canopy has been lost in order to accommodate overhead hydro lines.

If things go according to schedule, elected officials at the Region will be approving a plan for the reconstruction of Main St, Lock St and Lakeport Rd this fall.

To date the project has gone through public consultations-- which were defined as an opportunity to "identify the needs and opportunities for improvements" along these regional roads. That process is now complete and we can expect preliminary designs to be made public soon (hopefully).

The plan may include things like bike lanes, traffic calming measures, parking, accessibility, yet there may be one important aspect left out. Overhead hydro lines. Much of the mature tree canopy of Port Dalhousie, and every other community in St Catharines, has been lost or severely altered in order to accommodate overhead hydro lines. When the great old giants are taken down, the city has a policy of replacing them with trees that will not grow nearly as large in order to accommodate the overhead lines. But there is another solution-- bury the lines underground.

The benefits of buried power lines are numerous and include:



Hydro poles and lines will be much more prevalent as more condos and development occurs in Port Dalhousie

Hot Times in the Old Town *During the 19th century multiple fires plagued Port's business district.*



In 1877 the following establishments were in the downtown core of Port Dalhousie: 5 blacksmiths, 2 merchant tailors, 4 grocers, 2 grocer/bakers, 4 shoe and bootmakers, 3 dry goods stores, 3 booksellers, 1 stationer, 2 butchers, 1 barber, 1 chemist/druggist a physician/coroner, 1 coal merchant, 2 shipbuilders, 1 livery stable, 1 sail maker, 1 veterinary surgeon, 4 ship chandlers, 1 tug office, 1 Post Office as well as The Wood House Hotel (Proprietor Richard Long), Union Hotel (Proprietor Capt. Alex Read), Runchey's Hotel (Proprietor William Runchey), Wellington House (Proprietor R. Dixon), Pat Harrigan's Tavern, Temperance

Hotel, Orange Hall, Masonic Hall, Runchey Hall (to rent for entertainment), Niagara House, Dominion Telegraph Company, American Express Company, the Village Hall, and the Pound and Lockup.

"There were five hotels and I never saw anyone drunk." said one long-time resident of Port in 1972. "Even though the canal was running through, there were no bad people. Men went in and stood with their foot on the railing and ordered a 5-cent whiskey. They could get a 10-cent whiskey, but they mostly drank the 5 cent ones."

Continued on page 3

Takes a Village”, a reader’s online survey that will enable us to move forward into the future with the production of The Reporter. Your opinions mean a great deal to us so please check it out and participate. Among other articles of interest, we have our regular features as well as some spectacular photos by local photographers. Oh, and did you know Star of the Sea church is celebrating its 150th anniversary?

A special thanks to all of our hard-working volunteers who have offered their vital services throughout the pandemic, and of course our faithful advertisers, without whom you wouldn’t be reading the newspaper you have in your hands.

So as we move through this Fall season and into the Winter, let’s give thanks to the fact that we are able to enjoy the beauty, entertainment and culinary delights that Port Dalhousie has to offer, and hope that we will continue to do so for years to come. Best wishes everyone, and stay safe out there! ■

Reduced maintenance: Undergrounding eliminates weather-related power outages and provides more reliable service.

Aesthetics: Overhead wires can mask the beauty and unique traits of different communities.

Safety: Burying lines eliminates fire hazards, accidents, safety risks, and power outages due to downed lines, and improves road safety by lessening the chance of striking a pole.

Economic Development: Revitalization experts agree that investments surrounding the visual improvement of commercial areas is one of the best ways to attract new business and stimulate economic development. By focusing on the cleanliness and beauty of retail and commercial spaces, communities can become more successful.

Tree canopy: The UN has just declared a “code red for humanity” regarding the climate change crisis; trees are a definite part of the solution. They need to be given room to grow within our ur-

ban environment and should not suffer the indignity of death of a thousand cuts to accommodate power lines.

To be sure there are reasons not to bury power lines, foremost among them being the cost. But many other communities around Niagara are making the transition to underground, including Niagara-on-the-Lake.

If the discussion is not held now and this road reconstruction goes ahead without considering the burying of the lines, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will have been lost. We need our city council and community leaders to insist that the burying of the lines is given full consideration, and that it becomes a normal part of reconstructing roads throughout the city, especially in key historical districts. ■

- Ed Smith

For More Information on the Road Reconstruction Please Visit

niagararegion.ca/projects/regional-road-87/



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Hot Time in the Old Town Continued from front page



Mrs. Thomson, 1972

Fire plagued many of the establishments in Port Dalhousie and the business district had to be rebuilt on several occasions. In September 1869, a fire broke out in the back kitchen attached to Sam Cole's hotel on Front Street. It was believed that burning soot fell from the chimney which ignited the woodwork and caused the fire. Valiant efforts to keep the fire from spreading to the connected houses and businesses were futile. Although the village owned a fire engine it was inoperative at the time.

Within moments Mr. Martindale's dry goods store, McGrath's Hotel, Walkerly's Hotel, Wood's grocery store and Denton's Tailor Shop were engulfed in flames. Bewildered, terrified and hysterical, the tenants and residents began heaving crockery, clothing, bureaux, tables, bedsteads, bedding and other possessions from the windows amid the roar and rage of the fire. Frightened and confused horses were reluctantly removed from the Walkerly stables. The tolling of the church bell beckoned crowds of anxious people who watched the conflagration that threatened to destroy the entire block.

With the aid of the tug "James Norris" the fire was extinguished at the other end of the block and the block below escaped ruination. Insult was added to injury with the discovery that many of the possessions that had been rescued from the fire had been stolen.

"Bewildered, terrified and hysterical, the tenants and residents began heaving crockery, clothing, bureaux, tables, bedsteads, bedding and other possessions from the windows amid the roar and rage of the fire."

The following year in August another fire broke out consuming numerous businesses. Fortunately a Hook and Ladder Company had been formed in the spring, otherwise the business section would have been reduced to ashes once more. Then on December 7th, 1884 a fire erupted in the reading room of the Wood House Hotel and soon spread to the adjoining McNulty

"Oh, I remember when it burned very well. It started where they mixed the benzine. There's a lot of benzine in the cement to thin it out before it was used to make the soles stick to the shoes and boots. The flour mill caught fire from the rubber factory and burned down at the same time. My Uncle Bob was the miller there. It was located somewhere between the Legion and the rubber factory. Mr. Foote our next-door neighbour owned it before it burned down and he rebuilt it later. I remember Mrs. Foote opening her window and crying across to mother, "The rubber factory's burning!"

The rubber factory buildings were joined by an enclosed walkway over what is now Lakeport Road. Boots, shoes, rubbers and boxes were made in the building which still stands. A track was built and the finished products were wheeled across the walkway to the stock room where they were stored and awaited shipment to domestic and international markets. It was ideally located to enable ships to load right at the factory.

Wilf Murphy remembered those days.

"Nearly everyone in town worked at the rubber plant. Port Dalhousie used to have the reputation of having the best dressed young fellows in Canada around 1902 and 1903. All the kids got a job as soon as they left school, and it was a sad day for the village when it closed down."

But Port Dalhousie rebounded. It was in a period of peak growth and reaching maximum development. Business establishments grand and small were thriving and there was an abundance of food, security in employment and considerable means of entertainment that bordered on excess and decadence. The farms were flourishing and fruit, vegetables, fish and grains were plentiful. Thankfully the suffering, starving, desperation, degradation and hopelessness of the early settlement was virtually non-existent. ■

- Christine Robertson

Excerpt from "The History Outline of Port Dalhousie"

THE REPORTER

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

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

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Report from Councillor Carlos Garcia Port Dalhousie Ward



The following is a report on my work on behalf of the residents of Port Dalhousie Ward and all of St. Catharines as your representative at City Council over the period from Mid-April 2021 through Mid-August 2021.

Plans for Upgrading Regional Rd. 87 (Main St., Lock St. and Lakeport Rd.)

The Region has hired consultants to do a detailed Environmental Assessment and a virtual Public Information Centre was held at the end of April. We have had many emails and comments with excellent suggestions about improved access for cyclists, burying of utility lines and managing traffic flow in the Commercial Core among others. The consultants have a controversial recommendation regarding making Lock St. between Main and Lakeport a pedestrian walking area. This plan would prohibit the passage of motor vehicles and bicycles on Lock Street, instead forcing them all to travel a longer dis-

tance up and down the slope and to go along the often-congested Lakeside Park parking lot. Therefore, Councillor Williamson and I are very concerned about the traffic logjams that could be created with their recommendation to make Lakeport and Main two-way around the Core. Already we experience delays getting into and out of Port Dalhousie at peak times and this will exacerbate the situation. Also, this proposal will result in the removal of 35 parking spots currently on the three streets in the Commercial Core and this could have a major negative impact on our businesses.

Transportation Master Plan.

At the April 12, 2021 Council meeting we passed the new TMP which emphasizes active transportation and “complete” streets that can accommodate cyclists and pedestrians as well as vehicles. We made several key amendments to the consultants’ recommen-

dation. In particular, we rejected their recommendation for a vehicular link from Fairview Mall to Scott St. through John Page Park -something Councillor Williamson and I strongly opposed. The park will now remain as green space for all residents to enjoy.

New Chief Administrative Officer.

In May, we approved the appointment of Mr. David Oakes as the new CAO replacing retiring CAO Shelley Chemnitz. This is the City’s most senior staff person and Council is pleased to appoint a CAO that has relationships and experience within the corporation and therefore able to provide continuity going forward. David has been a part of the City for many years and has worked in various roles and departments.

Beaches Strategy for 2021.

On May 10, we approved the Beaches strategy for this Summer which followed extensive discussions by a group composed of City staff and all four Councillors from the two Wards (Grantham and Port) that have beaches. The key policy approved was to provide free parking at the beaches for all residents of the City while charging non-residents. We also approved increased

penalties for parking violations. Following some early growing pains, the strategy has worked smoothly and, in Port Dalhousie, visitors really appreciate the newly-repaved and repainted parking lot. Hopefully, this will be the last Summer season under pandemic conditions.

Short Term Rentals Licencing By-Law.

Also at the May 10 meeting we had a staff presentation on their proposed Licencing By-Law for STR’s. Although most residents did not seem to be aware, STRs (rentals for less than 28 days) such as those through Airbnb and Vrbo, are currently illegal in our City. Following extensive discussion and debate, Council eventually approved a By-Law that will require renewable licences and will include application and other fees. The new By-Law, to become effective January of 2022, will allow for much better enforcement and penalties.

Equity and Inclusion Education and Training.

Special Council meetings were held on May 3 and 26, 2021 for the purpose of educating and training Council on Equity and Inclusion. The meetings were



Jennie Stevens
MPP FOR ST. CATHARINES

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Report from Councillor - Cont'd

facilitated by consultant Leela Madhava Rau from Brock University, who did an outstanding job in fleshing out key issues in this all-important area and advising us on how to deal with them.

GM Lands Clean Up Update.

At our June 28 meeting, we received another presentation from Kim Groomsbridge, Manager, Niagara District Office, Drinking Water and Environmental Compliance Division, Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks. Ms. Groomsbridge outlined the Canada-Ontario agreement as it pertains to PCBs, the MOECP's abatement role and process, the potential for exposure of residents to PCBs and the input from Public Health. Following the meeting, we were provided with a draft work plan from Peter's Construction, a company retained by the property owners, to locate and stop the PCB discharge originating from the 282-285 Ontario Street site. We are all extremely concerned about highly-toxic PCBs (which have been banned in Canada for many years) being discharged into Twelve Mile Creek and from there into Martindale Pond and Lake Ontario.

Additional Benches for Newly-Reconstructed Port Dalhousie Piers.

As Council's representative on the task force that met regularly with Federal government representatives monitoring the work on the piers, I was very concerned that there were no benches beyond the area opposite the Pavilion. The piers finally reopened June 2nd, and the west pier is approximately 1 km long. We at the City strive for an accessible community, and many residents and visitors, some of them with mobility concerns or limitations, come to walk the Piers. Yet there are no benches at the end or halfway for resting and enjoying the view.

Accordingly, on July 12, Council passed my motion that: "staff be directed to install at least six benches at the end and six halfway on the West Pier and that the benches be permanent and not be removed and, that staff be directed to develop a plan to address any bench needs on the east pier."

Saving the St. Catharines YMCA.

I have strongly supported Councillor Williamson's efforts to save the Y as we are both very concerned about the loss of all the services it provides and its excellent indoor pool and gymnasium. Council previously passed 2 motions from Councillor Williamson asking City staff to explore partnerships and other ways to work with the Y and keep it open. There is also a group of citizens who have made great efforts to work with their board. However, the Y's board continues with the process to sell the facility and as I write, we have been informed that they are conducting due diligence on an offer they have. Given this pressing situation, at the August 9, 2021 meeting, Council passed Councillor Williamson's motion that: "the Mayor be directed to immediately inform the YMCA of Niagara Board of the City of St. Catharines' serious interest in investing in the Walker Family YMCA to keep it open to serve the public. Further, that staff provide Council with detailed alternatives either through a partnership involving

joint ownership or an operating grant. If these are not workable then provide an estimate of an offer to purchase the facility."

The City's Climate Change Adaptation strategy and simply a good environmental sustainability policy have not been considered through this process, nor has the cost to the municipal taxpayer of an indoor aquatics centre, estimated to be in the \$20 million range. This funding would be needed if the Walker Family YMCA is closed.

Consolidation of Public Transit Across Niagara.

Also on August 9th, we were given a presentation by the Region on the proposed Consolidation. Once again, there were many questions from Council, particularly about ensuring that St. Catharines is properly represented in the governance of such a consolidated system, and that our taxpayers do not end up unfairly subsidizing the larger system. The region has improved our City's representation on the governing body but it is still not enough for Councillor Williamson and me. Another meeting will likely be held in September.



Keeping Our Outdoor Swimming Pools Open.

Following extensive discussion, on August 9th, we passed Councillor Miller's motion regarding the future of the City's Aquatics Facilities that: "Council adopt a modified BALANCED strategic direction within the Aquatics Facilities Strategy for use as a framework to ensure the long-term operating sustainability and health of the City's aquatics system, that renews or replaces and retains all three existing outdoor pools, and recognizes that splash pads, outdoor pools and indoor pools are all necessary elements of a comprehensive Strategy." The bolded words were my amendment to ensure the Port Dalhousie pool and others will be kept open. We had many emails from residents opposed to closing the pools emphasizing their extensive value to the community and, particularly, the fact that you can't learn how to swim in a splash pad. ■

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

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Make Room for the Gentle Giants

I was glad to read the article about trees in the last Reporter.

These 'gentle giants' have been abused and ignored for far too long! It is time that we recognize their importance and contribution to our and nature's well-being. I have lived in Port Dalhousie since 1952 and have watched these trees struggle to survive in a world of paved roads, construction, electric wires, groomed lawns and gardens. I have wondered how they were able to exist in spite of the mistreatment and still clean the air every night so that we and any other living things can continue to breathe and exist.

Over the years, I have learned to respect their contribution to life and my backyard is no longer a garden, it is a forest. There is no lawn, just ground cover, bushes and large trees and paths to a few benches. A patio is attached to the house, where I can sit and watch nature unfold during all seasons, discover the birds and small animals that have found a sanctuary in the middle of the city and many insects and butterflies that share this place with me.

It is a place to breathe and a place to observe life in all its forms and beauty. And so I would like to share some of my experiences with the trees, with the hope that some of your readers may look at trees from now on not only as more work in the fall, but as an important part of our lives.

The latest "miracle" happened just a week ago. A friend and I were sitting on the patio one evening. It was getting dark and I suddenly saw a light flickering in the ferns. It was a firefly. Within couple of minutes there were more and in no time the whole garden was full of fireflies. It was a display of "fireworks" that was beyond words! There were no fireflies in the neighbors' yards, which have beautiful, groomed gardens, so I assumed that these fireflies had spent their 2-year larva stage in my "forest".

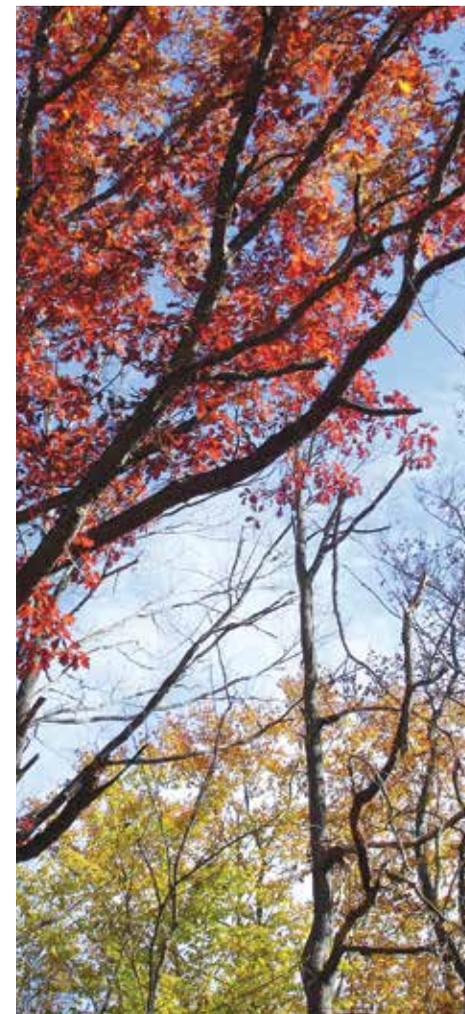
A similar thing happened 2 years ago. I had just returned from the cottage after spending 2 months away. My garden more or less, takes care of itself, but after the whole summer it needs some attention. Half way to

the shed in the back of the garden, I discovered hundreds of Monarch butterflies resting in the trees. They were just fluttering I guess, taking a rest from their migration south. They did not stay long, but I would have never seen this without the trees.

A couple of years ago a pair of hawks made their nest in one of the fir trees and I had a chance to observe them close by. One morning I saw an owl with 2 young ones sitting in the birdbath. Beside birds, squirrels, there are rabbits, once a coyote walked along the path and then climbed the neighbor's fence. Last couple of years, a fox passes through the garden and once in a while I can smell a skunk. Who knows how many animals I don't see?

With more and more houses being built in Port Dalhousie, there is little room left for these animals and insects to survive, but they too have the right to live! As individuals, we may not be able to stop "the progress," but surely, we can learn to share the space that is left. ■

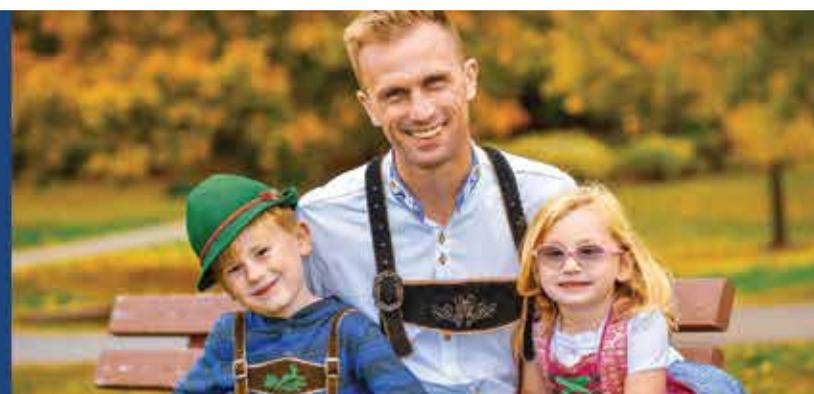
- Gertrud Liho



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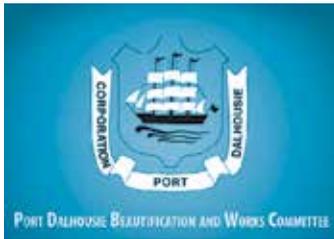
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Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee Summer Report

Well, it seems like only yesterday we were informing everyone of the early summer updates. Time flies! Since the Summer 2021 issue of the *Port Reporter*, the BWC has continued our “Weeding Wednesdays” and the daily watering of the railing planter boxes, the Lock 1 planters, and sidewalk pots. This is all done by volunteers, many of whom go well above and beyond. A special thank you to our “newbies”, and a reminder that new volunteers are always welcome! Volunteering, especially outside on a nice day, is fun and many of us have made new friendships in the process of beautifying our Port and it looks so nice when out strolling, whether with a local coffee, ice cream, or going out to enjoy a patio!! We love it when we hear so many great compliments as people wander by, when we are

working on the planters. Also – a big thanks to Canadian Tire for donating the hanging planters, which really adds to the ambience, and to the City for watering them. Has anyone spotted the little vegetable and herb garden? There are lots of bees in the pollinator garden, which is great!

It has been so nice to see all the businesses back in action and a lot more activity in Port. Although not a BWC show, if you get a chance, try to catch Tristan Alexander for one of his pop-up concerts at the Lock 1 stage area. Stay tuned for other artists in that space as well.

By the way, we continue to collect any vessels that once contained alcohol! (Bottles, cans, those 4 and more litre plastic bags from the boxes that have been so popular during

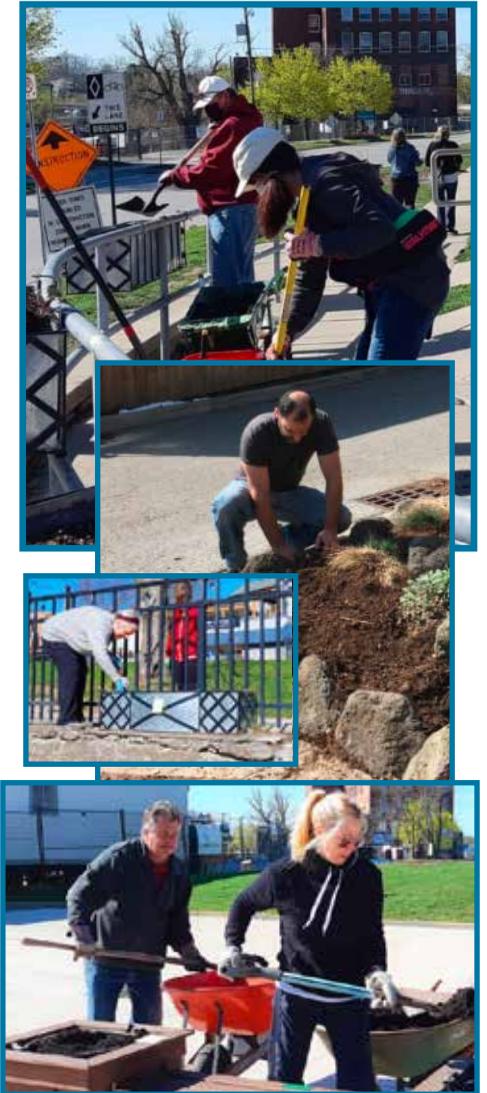
lockdown). To date, this venture has raised over \$1,200. If anyone has such containers and would like to donate them so that Port Dalhousie can continue to have beautiful planters, please call or text Andy at 289 213-9500. He’ll be pleased to swing by and pick’ em up ... and give you a lovely vintage BWC postcard as thanks!

We are all hoping that we can return to doing the enjoyable, sometimes crazy, well-attended fund-raising events like we had in the past, but in the meantime, the bottle drive is providing a steady stream of cash to support the BWC. Kudos to Kathy Stapleton for suggesting it last year. And hoping Mike and Sandy are enjoying a well-deserved holiday as this is written.

Onward and Upward. Thanks so much and check us out on Facebook.

Looking forward to showing off our lovely Port Dalhousie next year at the 2022 Canada Games! ■

- Your BWC



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Do We Really Need These Old Buildings?

An Argument for The Preservation and Adaptive Reuse of Legacy Buildings

When the Welland House in downtown St. Catharines was recently razed by a fire, there was a public outpouring of shock, anguish and finally, anger. How could such a historically important building and cornerstone of St Catharines' downtown architecture be destroyed, cried many citizens. Were there no protections in place? Why was it left abandoned and boarded up only to burn to the ground a mere two days before it would have received a Heritage Designation from the city?

There is an inherent charm and magnetism legacy buildings possess that appeals to something acutely humane and nostalgic in the human character.

These are pertinent questions which might never be satisfactorily answered, but at the very least it has brought attention to the importance of protecting, restoring and repurposing historic

buildings to the forefront. I can almost hear the series of yawns and see the shrug of shoulders when I mention the words historic, architecture or heritage, but read on and consider some different viewpoints.

A heritage designation recognizes the importance of a property to the local community. It protects the property's cultural heritage value and encourages good stewardship and conservation. It also promotes knowledge of the living history of the property as well

as establishing legal protections to maintain its integrity. If there is such a thing as the soul of a city, these historic buildings and cultural spaces are its beating heart.

There is an inherent charm and magnetism that legacy buildings possess that appeals to something acutely humane and nostalgic in the human character. These buildings and spaces add depth and meaning to urban life. Perhaps they harken back to simpler, less complicated times. Maybe the appeal is through their carefully designed and built exteriors and interiors that reflect the unhurried craftsmanship that much of today's architecture lacks, with its preponderance of cold steel and aluminum, walls of faceless glass, utilitarian lines and carbon-copy brickwork. There are many examples of cities and towns that have made the effort to protect their architectural heritage and offer tax and other incentives to developers and owners to adopt the preservation, restoration and adaptive reuse of these precious buildings. In doing so they have created vibrant and aesthetically



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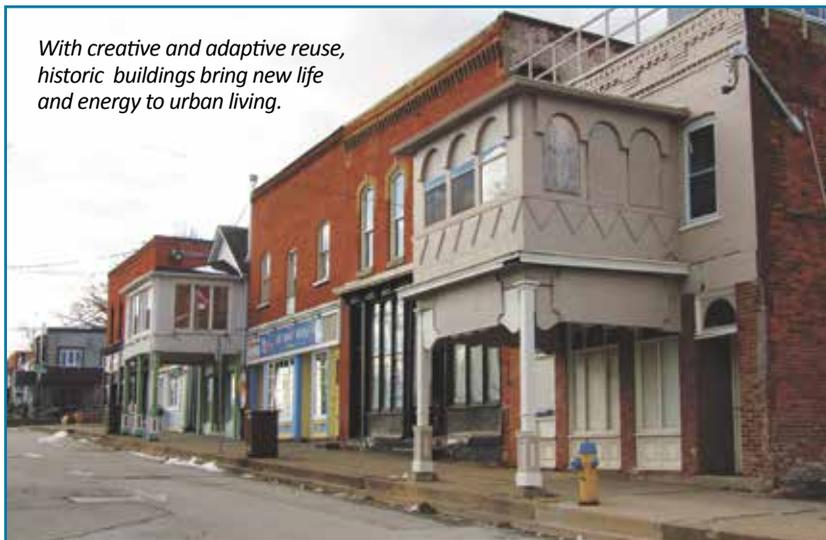
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City of St. Catharines

appealing places on a human scale that attract businesses and a multitude of visitors (read: consumers), all of which equate to thriving business districts and healthy profits for all involved.

Unfortunately for many developers and property owners, old buildings seem to be nothing but a headache, forlorn examples of a faded past that stand in the way of so-called progress and profits, especially if the buildings occupy prime real estate locations. When buildings are left unprotected, absent of custodial bylaws or heritage designation, it is much easier and cost-effective to demolish them and build anew. Unfortunately, this knock-down and build up mentality is prevalent in today's cities and towns as developers try to maximize their investors' profits and in doing so, in many cases, miss an opportunity to not only create profitable projects, but to cultivate public goodwill and cooperation as good corporate citizens. Call me old fashioned, but I still believe in the importance of these values and civic responsibilities. With a measure of creativity and a willingness to go the extra mile, developers and property owners can not only preserve the richness of our historic architecture for future generations, but also create profitability and economic success. ■

- Peter Wing

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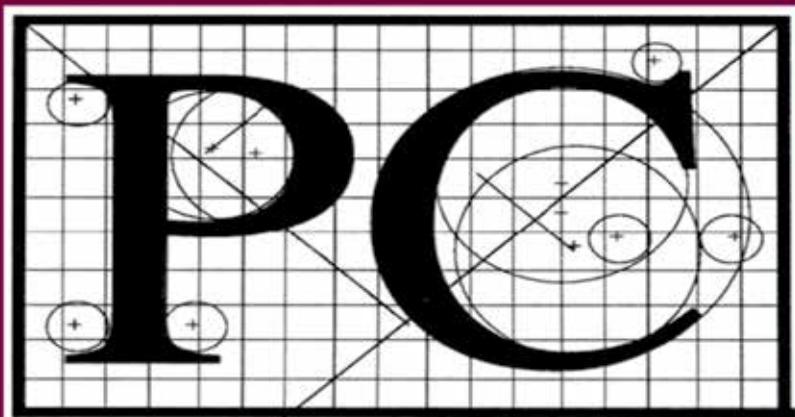
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Scorecard Harry's: A Long-Serving Gem on Main Street

Over the past couple of years the culinary landscape of Port Dalhousie has finally seen a much needed modernization, exploding with creativity, freshened-up flavours, and well-executed themes. Out with the old drab joints, and in with hip, progressive restaurateurs who are building a vibrant community, drawing together all demographics.

Among the customers being drawn to a Port Dalhousie patio on a sunny Friday afternoon is my friend Ryan, who I have been meeting on Port patios for many years since he moved to Canada from Ireland. We stroll down Main Street and end up walking into Scorecard Harry's. It's hard not to stop in after a warm greeting from the owner, Mike, who is a constant presence and is one of few who are capable of keeping up with the banter of my Irish counterpart.

Sitting at our table on the patio, I glance into the building and I'm reminded of many fond nights of playing the arcade

machines or darts or catching a game on the TV while enjoying consistently great food in a fantastic, relaxed atmosphere. Our conversation drifts to the new restaurants and the amazing change that is taking place in the community. Ryan, an ever positive force, blurts out his famous line, one that he has repeated many times over the years: "Newer is always better!". I fully agree with Ryan, before I am excited as the wings and pizza arrive to high fives at the table. This is what we've been waiting for all week.

I should explain that the 33 year-old beer mugs at Scorecard Harry's were certainly showing their age that night as they seemed to have a mysterious leak in them. Fortunately, Mike and his team were right on top of the issue and kept them filled up each time they emptied themselves and all the while they provided great laughs as we happily put back a whole pizza and a pile of wings.

Before we could square up, we noticed our long-time baseball coach. Coach Kathryn is heading back from the Marina along with Assistant Coach Melissa and our Team Captain Frank who join us on the patio. After being out on



the boat all day, Frank lets us know that he feels like eating a platter of nachos, just as in old times. We talk about post-game trips to Scorecard Harry's and watching key moments in Blue Jays'

history right in this very sports bar when Ryan lets us know that better days for the Jays are ahead, and even better memories to go with them, because of course, "Newer is always better!". We break out into frenzied laughter just as Mike delivers our team's favourite dish: a platter of nachos for all of us to dig into.

After a perfect Port Dalhousie afternoon, we're standing on the sidewalk to depart and, despite a few leaky mugs we had enjoyed on the patio, a light went on in my mind! While other long-time restaurants may have become drab before being refreshed or changed altogether, this long serving gem of Main Street had never suffered that fate. It has always been a vibrant community builder, welcoming all customers and making you feel like you're family. Here, they play the hits and even Ryan, who is always on the lookout for something new, would be the first to tell you that all of Scorecard Harry's hits have been out of the park for 33 straight years. Next Friday the Blue Jays can open the dome and peer enviously across the lake, as my team returns to create memories yet again, because as Ryan has always told me, "Newer is always better!". ■

★★★★★ out of 5
Runners Batted In
- Adam Cooke

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Port Dalhousie is an amazing part of St. Catharines. I am proud of the people working together - supporting local business, believing in community and building our future together.



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It Takes a Village *Please scan the QR code and complete our online survey*

“It takes a village” is an idiom popularized in the West in the 1990s. There are ongoing debates as to whether it comes from an old African or Native American proverb. Or perhaps “some sort of pseudo-African mix of Hallmark and folk sentiments.” Regardless of its origins, the intent of the saying -- it takes many people’s help or involvement to achieve a goal or project -- is a fitting phrase for many community projects, including one such as the *Port Reporter*. The *Port Reporter* has a long history in Port Dalhousie. Currently in its 16th year, this community newspaper has been published under the umbrella of the Port Dalhousie Conservancy since

2005.

The *Reporter* has always been a non-profit, volunteer-driven, community-focused publication. Countless volunteer hours have been put into its creation, sometimes with people working until the wee hours of the morning, going over every detail. Many talents are required for its production, from editing, writing, proofing, administration, book-keeping, in-design, graphic art and photography. Costs for publication and delivery come from advertising and donations, and

sometimes even the volunteers’ own pockets when sales targets are not met! This spring alone, the cost of paper has increased three times. That means the cost for printing 8,000 copies has skyrocketed. It truly is a selfless, dedicated labour of love. An ongoing, treasured gift to the citizens of Port Dalhousie, St. Catharines and beyond!

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The current core volunteer editorial team of five has been collaborating together on the *Port Reporter* since the previous editor, Ted Gould, passed away in 2016. However some of those

five have been involved even well before that and worked with Ted even as far back as 2005! While some are retired (whether fully or partially), we also have many who contribute even as they work part or full-time jobs through this global pandemic. The last five years, these volunteers have been so dedicated that they have continued contributing even while going through health issues, family trials, on their travels (whether logging in from a campsite or traveling the world) to ensure the issue gets published. And none of them have been paid a dime. In spite of continued and firm support of the vision of the *Port Reporter*, [delete] many are experiencing real burnout as well. We are currently reviewing the format that will enable us to continue in a realistic way so that our volunteers can manage. Bottom line, IF it is to continue, fresh faces and new helping hands are needed.

Please take a few moments to do two things. First, complete the Reader’s Survey and let us know your thoughts about your community newspaper. Your feedback is treasured and valued. And secondly, give some serious consideration as to how you can offer both your time and talent to ensure the future of this paper. And if you don’t feel you have the necessary skills, you can STILL assist by recommending it to someone who does, or even letting a business owner know about the benefits of advertising.

There are many benefits to volunteering. Research shows that people who volunteer aren’t just helping the communities they serve; they actually experience a boost in their mental health, good news at a time when many Canadians report feeling symptoms of anxiety or depression. As the saying goes, many hands make light work, so please give some careful thought to joining, in some capacity, the *Port Reporter* volunteer team. It takes a village to appreciate a community paper and it takes a village to publish one! ■



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From Where I Sit... *There is no Housing Crisis!*



Hank
Beekhuis

We have to stop talking about a housing crisis. Talking about a housing crisis makes it appear to the public that there are not enough roofs over heads and that EVERYONE is at risk of being homeless and living in tents because we are not building housing fast enough to accommodate the multitude of people coming to Niagara. This is a completely false construct. There is more than enough shelter for everyone and the public will not be asked to live in tents. Blowing this horn is great fodder to boost the economy at the top, but does little to nothing where growth is needed most, namely at the growing bottom of our society.

The real crisis is one of growing inequality and greed. What needs to change is our perspective and attitude. Growing up I read books like *Small is Beautiful* by Schumacher and *The Limits to Growth* by the Club of Rome that encouraged us to do more with less. They clearly predicted this crisis. Yet all these 50 years later there is apparently little that we have learned. It is in fact only getting worse.

There is indeed a severe shortage of affordable housing, very little of which is being seriously dealt with. As we continue to build million dollar condos and multi-million dollar homes at an incredible pace, because of a so-called housing crisis, none of that will have any effect on the real crisis.

As a Society, we have to come to grips with the fact that we are all getting a

bit greedy. We are proud of the ever-increasing values of our homes, as if we have done something to deserve it. Many of us live with a sense of entitlement to it and continue to strive to upgrade our accommodations, not so much for living in but for investment purposes. Buy it, and build it, and flip it, seems to be the watchword regardless of those left behind.

I have never been able to figure out why people insist on living in huge homes that are too large for them to even clean and then only live in a fraction of the space.

Where are the private builders who could build small affordable cookie cutter homes of 500-750 square feet on small lots? If the city is going to give away land then these types of builders should have a clear priority.

This was how affordable housing was built during and after the war. We need many more housing options.

We can't look solely toward the government to build all the affordable housing; they can't do anything inexpensively anyway. Building new apartments that lease for 2000 dollars a month or more does little to nothing for affordable housing when the average salary is 50,000 dollars. Spending half one's income on housing is not sustainable for people to be able to participate fully in our society, or being able to get ahead. It just makes landlords rich and allows them to flip houses to the next owner once they decide to take profit out of it.

I feel a particular sadness for those who simply cannot afford to either rent or buy. Some landlords are currently using every opportunity via "renovictions," or failure to maintain, so that they can re-invest in their rental properties and increase rents. In this way, even more

"The real crisis is one of growing inequality and greed. What needs to change is our perspective and attitude."

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From Where I Sit...

housing is driven out of reach.

What can we do? There is a lot that can be done but it requires a thorough and honest review of our zoning standards, regulations, policies and the appropriate use of public lands that focuses solely on affordable housing of all kinds and a willingness to experiment with the private sector. We need to identify and remove the barriers that currently stand in the way.

Waiting for federal/provincial housing grants so that we can keep doing exactly as we are now without having to change any current policies is not an honest way of dealing with the affordable housing situation. Then we will always remain behind the housing eight ball. ■

- Hank Beekhuis



Update: Dorothy Gildea (UE, 1784-1850)

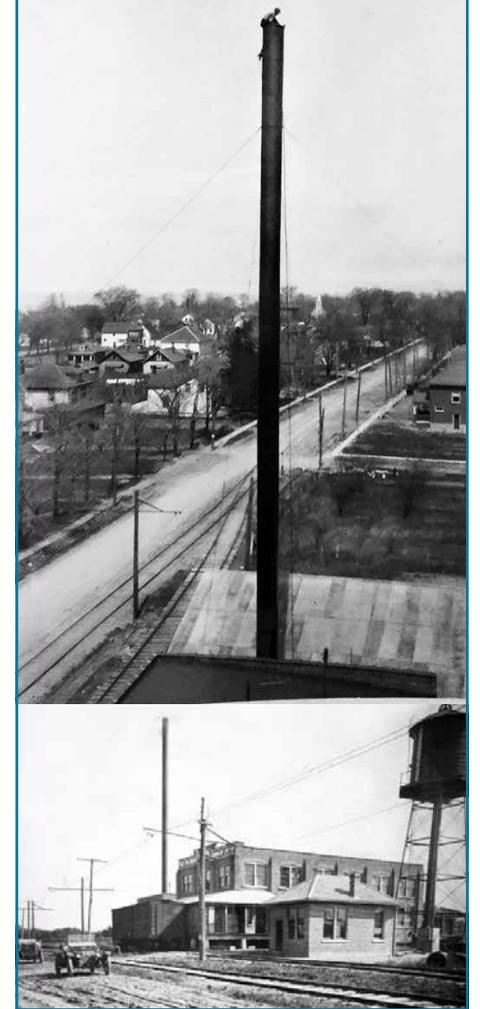
In my last article for the *Port Reporter*, I outlined some events in the life of Dorothy Gildea (UE, 1784-1850) but noted that her tombstone could not be found at St. John's Cemetery. Good news! On a subsequent visit to the site in early June, I visited her grave once again and found that the marker was indeed still there. It had been broken off just above ground level, but the top had sunk into the ground and was nearly completely covered by sod. I could barely glimpse a bit of white marble through the grass, which would have been invisible when the ground was covered in snow in February. I cleared



the grass off the stone, took a photo of it, and made a paper rubbing of the inscription. The effect of acid rain on the porous marble is plainly evident, and the lettering has started to weather away. This stone was in very good condition when I first saw it some forty or more years ago, with a crisp, incised text. According to Corlene Taylor, when she returned to this area as a widow, Dorothy resided in a small house located at the south-east corner of the intersection of Ontario-Lakeshore-Lakeport, behind what is now the Benjamin Moore paint and wallpaper store. ■

- Brian Narhi

Cleaning the smokestack of the Canning Factory on Main Street sometime in the 1920s. The Port Dalhousie Canning Factory was located where the Lions Club is today.



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*Source: Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) - Niagara, 2020-2021 Annual Report

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Star of the Sea Church Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary

The Star of the Sea church on Elgin Street is a cherished place of worship in Port Dalhousie. It was built in 1871 on land purchased from Owen McMahon and is made of Kingston stone previously used as ballast for canal-bound ships. The loads were dropped off at Lock One and Catholic and Protestants alike joined in the common cause of transporting the stone to the church's building site. Concerning the origin of the church, legend has it that a group of sailors caught in a sudden violent

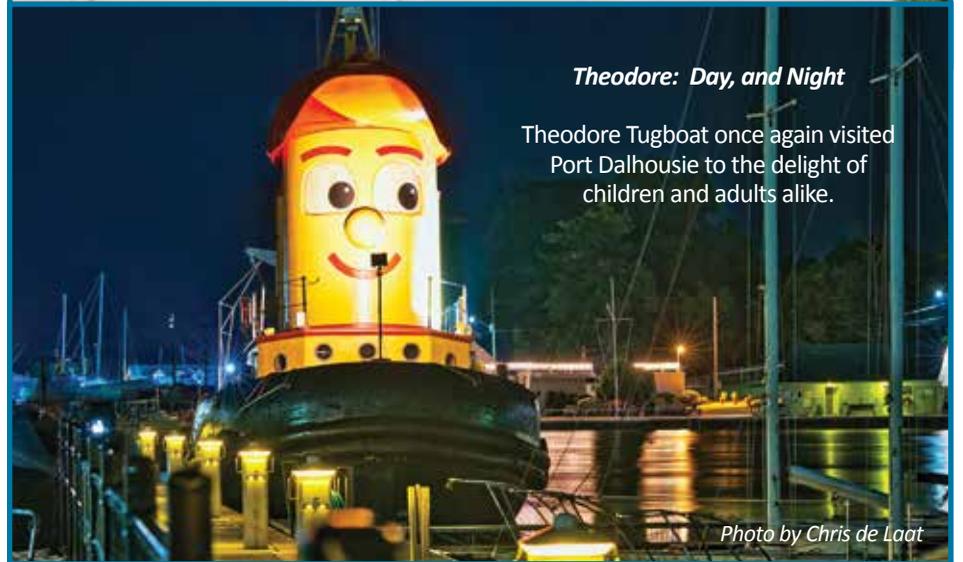


storm promised in prayer they would build a church if they safely arrived ashore. Their prayers were answered and they kept their promise when they landed in Port Dalhousie. The original steeple was built tall enough to be seen from the middle of the lake and it was used as a navigational guide to vessels. It was blown over in a storm around 1928.

The Star of the Sea has welcomed its parishioners for 150 years and hopefully will do so for another 150! ■



Photo by Laurie Damon Boese



Theodore: Day, and Night

Theodore Tugboat once again visited Port Dalhousie to the delight of children and adults alike.

Photo by Chris de Laat

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What Are the Most Popular Sports in Canada?

You will be surprised to know that almost one-third of Canadians watch sports every day

Canada is a sports enthusiast nation. Whether it is professional or amateur sports, Canadians always find interest in any kind of sport. That is why the study found that around 77% of Canadians, which is more than three-quarters of the population, follow professional sports.

Usually, Canadian sports fans are more educated than any other sports-loving nation in the world. They also come from socially engaging, high economic cultural values. You will be surprised to know that almost one-third of Canadians watch sports every day.

All this data may wonder you, and you may ask, what are the most popular sports in Canada? Well, we will give you an idea about that in this article. Read on to know the 10 most popular sports in Canada.

10 GOLF

With around 2,700 golf facilities, including 921 9-hole courses, Canada is the third biggest golfing nation. Although the country has 310,000 registered and overall 1.5 million golfers, golf is not very popular in Canada.

Canadians started playing golf from the 1850 to 1900 centuries, and the country has had numerous professional golfers over the centuries. Unlike other countries, 90% of the golf courses in Canada are open to the public. However, Montreal Golf Club was the first golf club in Canada, which was founded in 1873, and since then, golf has become popular in Canada.

9 BASKETBALL

Both men and women in Canada play basketball year-round in different levels of competition. Although professional basketball started in 1946 in Canada, it got popular in 1994 after Toronto Raptors and Vancouver Grizzlies enlisted in the NBA.

Around 354,000 youth aged between 3 to 17 play basketball in Canada, and it is the sixth most popular sporting activity for Canadians. However, basketball is getting popular among adults too. The Millennials, immigration, and the NBA have been contributing to gain the popularity of Basketball in Canada.

8 CURLING

Outside of Canada, curling is known as bewilderment. Curling was invented as far back as 1511 in Scotland but came to Canada in 1985, and the first curling club was established in 1987 in Lethbridge, Alberta. After that, curling became an essential sport for grassroots Canada, and gradually all ages of participants from all levels found a lifetime persuasion.

Among the Canadians, 1,986,000 people curled at least once in their life. Nevertheless, around 80-90% of the world's curlers are from Canada.

7 RUGBY

Rugby union is moderately popular in Canada. An early form of rugby was first played in 1923



in Canada, mostly in east Canadian towns. Although there are not many rugby players in Canada, there are around 30,000 adults who play rugby at some level.

Despite being a moderately popular sport, Canada participates in many international events such as Rugby World Cup, Churchill Cup, etc. Canada doesn't have any full-time professional league as they are a tier two rugby nation.

6 SOCCER

Soccer is the fastest growing and largest participatory sport in Canada. According to FIFA, 2.6 million Canadians played soccer in 2006. Hence, in terms of participation rate, soccer is the most popular sport in Canada. However, Canada participates in Major

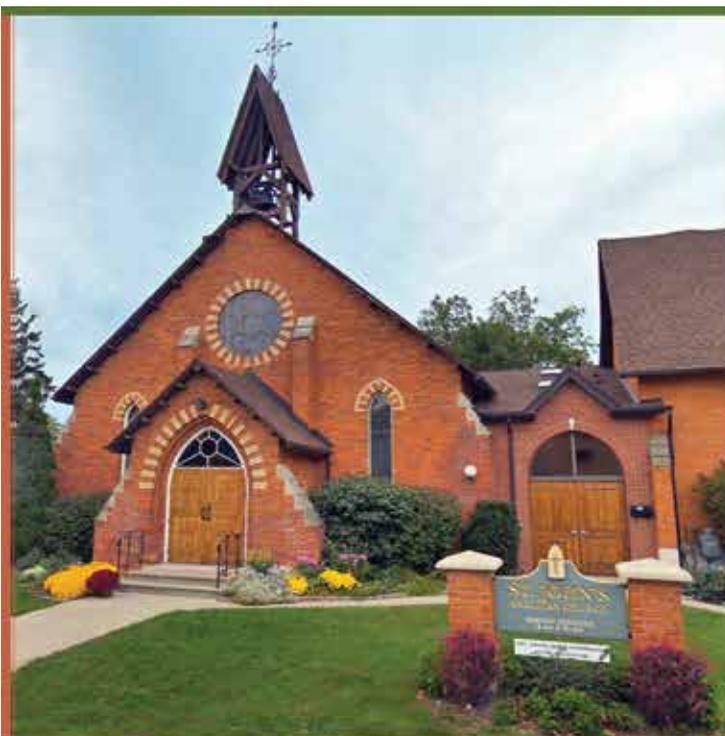
League Soccer, United Soccer League, and Canadian Premier League for professional soccer.

Currently, there are 1 million registered soccer players in Canada who play in 1200 clubs available in 13 provincial/territorial member associations. Canada's men's national soccer team ranked at 78th in the FIFA World Ranking, and the Women's national soccer team ranked at 7th.

5 CRICKET

Until the popularity of Ice Hockey exploded in the early 20th century, Cricket was considered the most popular sport in Canada. Due to its popularity, the first Prime Minister of Canada, John A. Macdonald, declared Cricket as the

Continued on next page



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

national sport. With more than 40,000 active cricket players, it is now the fastest-growing sport in Canada. Canada has participated in four Cricket World Cups in 1979, 2003, 2007, and 2011. However, Canada is yet to be approved by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to play test matches. In 2018, Canada got the approval from ICC to start Global T20 Canada, the first franchise-based 20-league in North America.

4 BASEBALL

The world's first baseball game was played in Beachville, Ontario, on June 4, 1838. During the 19th century, Canadians participated in numerous level competitions in the country. Currently, the Toronto Blue Jays are the only major league team.

However, minor league baseball is played in around 75 Canadian cities and towns. Reportedly, 120,000 Canadians played baseball in 2016, which is increasing approximately 14% rate each year.

3 CANADIAN FOOTBALL

In terms of the spectator, Canadian football is ranked second in the list of most popular spectator sports in Canada. Moreover, the Grey Cup, the annual championship of Canadian football, is considered one of Canada's largest annual sports events. During the grey cup festival many casino platforms offer lucrative deals on online casinos for real money, which enables the fans to earn a hefty amount of bucks. It is fun and a way to connect better with the game.

Although Canadian football originated from rugby in the early 1860s, Canadians did a unique modern football sport. The first documented football game was played at the University of Toronto on November

9, 1861. Canada has their own national football league named Canadian Football League (CFL). Nevertheless, CFL is the third biggest sports brand in Canada, and almost 50% of Canadians follow this league at some level.

2 LACROSSE

Lacrosse is the national summer sport in Canada. Beginning of the 20th century, lacrosse has become one of the most popular sports in Canada, and modern lacrosse got its popularity in the 1800s. Whenever there is a lacrosse game, the stadiums are always full. It is considered an integral part of Canadian culture.

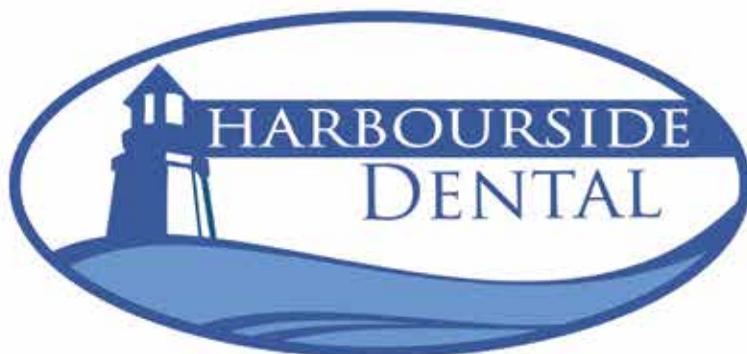
Currently, more than 100,000 registered players play lacrosse across Canada. However, there would be more unregistered participants. Lacrosse might not be popular in other parts of the world, but it has immense popularity in North America. Due to its popularity, it was included in the Summer Olympics.

Moreover, Canada is a major rival in world lacrosse, and in 2006 they won the World Lacrosse Championship after 28 years by defeating the USA.

1 HOCKEY (What a surprise!)

Ice hockey is the number one popular sport in Canada, and it is the national winter sport of Canada. Although hockey was played in Europe and Canada, it found its home in Canada. Currently, 42.7% of the NHL players are Canadian-born.

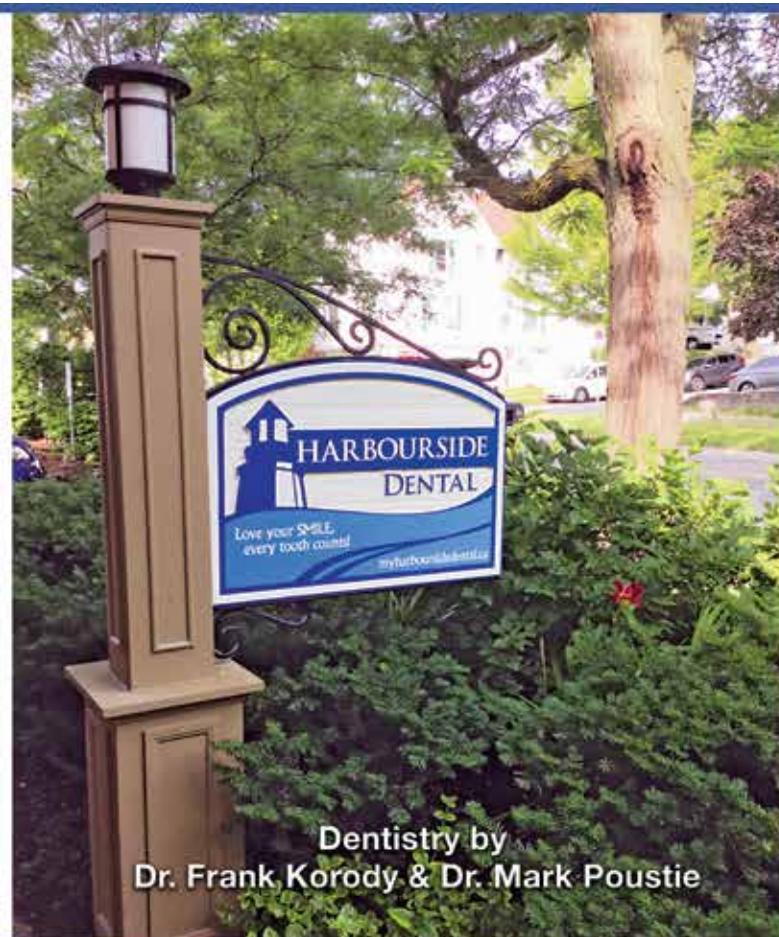
In 2010, 1.3 million Canadian adults participated in ice hockey. When it comes to the most popular hockey teams, Toronto Maple Leafs and Montreal Canadiens are the top favorite teams. ■



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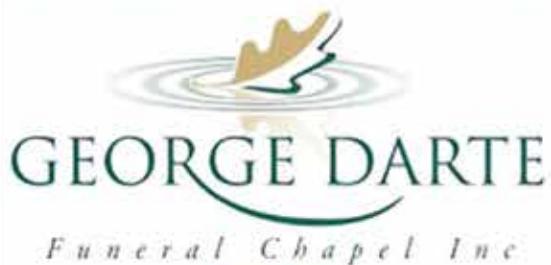
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Do we know yet what will happen to the Walker Family YMCA ?

The announcement of the sale of the Walker Family YMCA on March 10, 2021, came as a surprise to most Y members, to St Catharines citizens and to City Councilors.

Let's hope the sale will not result in demolishing this purpose-built structure and building a condo in its place!

Public donations funded the building of this Centre and it was debt free until 2003, when they took an \$8M mortgage on the building for who knows why. Now the Y Board decides to sell the building for \$12M and use the funds who knows where?

Efforts by City Council where three motions were passed, proposed by Councilor Bruce Williamson, one on April 26, another on July 12 and a third on August 9, to try to engage the Y into finding alternatives but received no action.

The "Save the Y group" who tabled alternatives to selling the building, also got no response from the Y Board.

The Y Board was focused on selling the building and was not ready to listen to or look at alternatives.

Over 550 write-ins were received from concerned citizens who questioned where they can go when the Y is no longer operating. The Niagara Society of Architects offered to hold a Charrette to determine how the building could be saved. The SEA (St Catharines Environment Alliance) questioned why the building might be demolished and what considerations had been given to the ecological impact. City Council questioned the demolition of the building and subsequently the construction of a new municipal aquatics facility that would become necessary at a cost of over \$30M.

All these points failed to make an impact on the Y Board. They kept quoting that other Ys are closing. They said that it is a sign of the times. Is it really? Why did the Ontario Government give \$30M to build a new Y in Barrie? Why did Pointe Claire in Montreal buy the West Island YMCA building? Why did the City of Waterloo form a partnership with the Y? There are alternatives!

Let's hope that either the potential buyer sees the value of the Walker YMCA and tries to find a way to keep it operating or that our City is able to get into a joint ownership of the building with the Y.

St Catharines needs this Facility! It is not just a building with a pool and a gym. It is a Community Centre and its varied programs are vital for building a healthier spirit, mind and body for all its citizens. ■

Stakeholders or Shareholders?

As Tax-Paying Citizens We all Want the Same Thing-- Namely a Successful and Prosperous Community, But Who's Listening?

Why do the city and its citizens often clash? A lot of it boils down to the fact that residents feel disempowered by a fundamental failure to engage them in an appropriate and timely manner. There appears to be a significant lack of respect for residents' and taxpayers' insight and skills at city hall. This is puzzling since most citizens we are aware of, are well meaning and have lifetimes of experience to share. It seems that some politicians are afraid of them and purposely avoid them. By doing so, however, they inevitably create new feelings of disenfranchisement. As tax-paying citizens we all want the same thing-- namely a successful and prosperous community, but we don't like being treated as an afterthought once the train has left the station or a decision is already made.

Residents are not mere stakeholders who could be almost any one person, business or agency in the province, who don't live here and can't decide for us what needs to be done. Residents are more like shareholders

since they have a significant stake, both personal and financial, in the outcome, because they do live here and bear the consequences.

A few basic examples:

- The city hired a designer for Lakeside Park before having any prior discussions with the public, effectively putting the cart before the horse. This put the city staff in the unenviable position of pursuing a largely predetermined vision on the public or loose credibility. I suspect this negative pattern is repeated across St. Catharines, but this very process has the net effect of alienating the citizenry and making them feel like they really don't matter. It is also extremely costly to hire consultants, therefore the the strong tendency to follow their vision and advice.

- Complex processes, regulatory burdens and in-camera sessions become shields behind which leadership attempts to impose solutions. There is, for example, little consideration given to restoration as

an option, and only if confronted with resistance and a much cheaper option, that any discussion even comes into play. The hiring of expensive experts (whose instructions are secret) are then used to silence opposition or steer public opinion. This lack of transparency does not help build public confidence. It is easier to pass motions costing millions for mega projects that benefit the few, than it is supporting local causes which cost very little.

- Using issues of accessibility, legal liability, and insurance do not inspire confidence either, they sound more like excuses. There are always alternatives. If you don't want something to happen then say so honestly, but be prepared to give your well-thought-out rationale. Residents are not unreasonable, but things do have to make rational sense.

- There is not a lot of consideration of the impact on taxpayers either. It seems absurd to constantly speak of not having enough money to do the

multitude of things that need doing, while at the same time foisting a vision on the public which could cost a million dollars more. This all the while making sure that non-partisan community organizations have to raise extra contributions for something as simple as flower baskets for the public to enjoy. Potential long term benefits of saving the Walker Y facility for future use may well become another example of this.

- Small businesspersons are not immune to a heavy-handed approach either. Just ask any of those involved with the restoration of the Lock St. businesses about the resistance they have had to deal with in spite of their display of good intentions and working within the rules.

- There appears to be a double standard of using By-Laws and Zoning against those who can't afford to fight back, but those with deep pockets are given every advantage regardless of which by-laws or Zoning rules need to be broken. Public lands

... Continued on page 20

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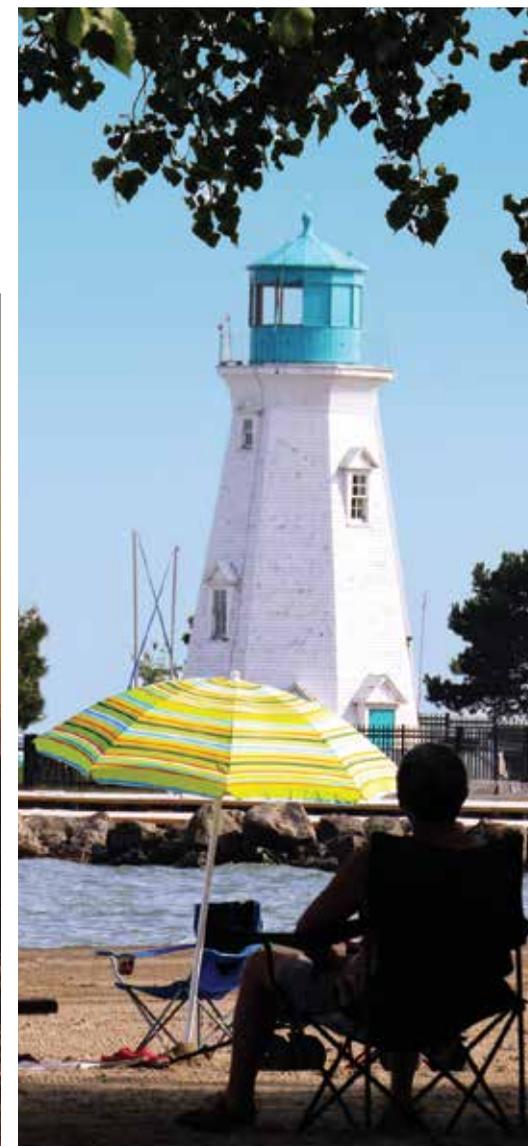
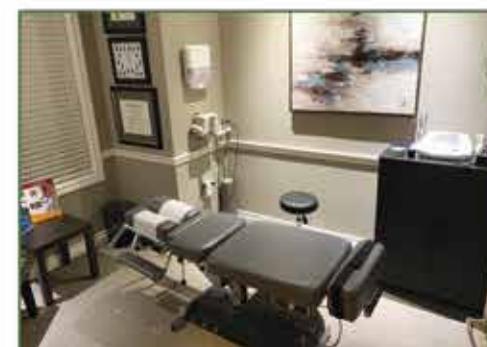


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It was heavily used by visitors to the farm. It is filled with history and if it could talk it would have many interesting stories to tell. It survived two world wars and served the City of St. Catharines right until the end of the Streetcar era in the early 1950's. It is currently under restoration at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston. Talks are currently underway with the city of St. Catharines to find a suitable location to allow this significant asset of the NS&T era to be able to tell its story for future generations of area residents and visitors to enjoy!

Please Become a Project Sponsor for this Amazing Project!

Estimated. Budget - \$15,000 dollars.

Stakeholders or Shareholders?

... Continued from page 18

are secretly sold off for unspecified "community benefits," whether or not the public perceives them as benefits or not.

All of the above examples show lack of respect for citizens and our by-laws which does not help us find the real solutions that we sorely need. We need a better way. Everyone deserves to be respected and listened to, not manipulated or ignored. Collectively, residents have a lot to offer and legitimate community organizations deserve to be consulted BEFORE things happen, not after. Perhaps with some mutual understanding of causes and motivation we can more easily come to mutually agreeable solutions. Those solutions are ultimately always the best. A good example was when a number of community groups in Port Dalhousie got together (without the city) before the proposals for the redevelopment of Main St. were developed. It took us only about half an hour to come up with a consensus position. Surprisingly there was no real division in the community in terms of what was desired. It is in fact the failure to engage and communicate with the public and each other before things happen, that leads to needless confrontation and conflict. We are all shareholders in making this city the best

place to be. Working together is not only the best way, it's the only way!

- Hank Beekhuis



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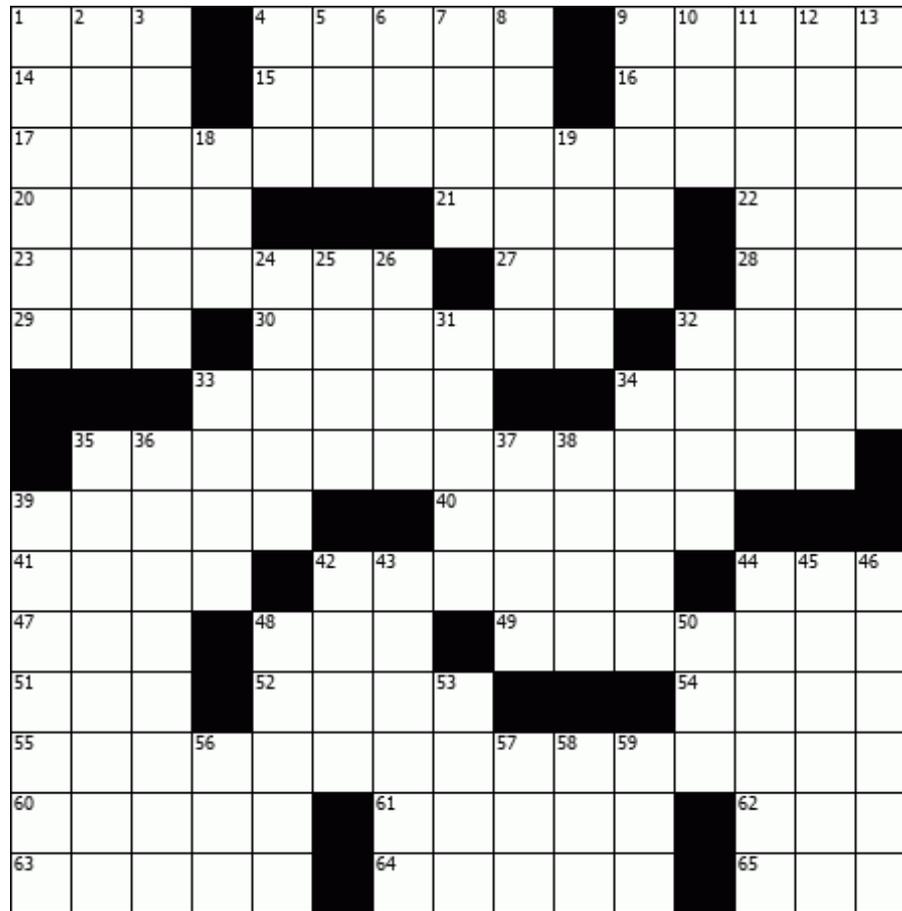
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FALL CROSSWORD

Across

1. Junior reporter
4. Corrosive substances
9. Noted trial location
14. Geneticist's letters
15. Exhibited sudden elation
16. Still with us
17. Senator's pickup line?
20. Clash of heavyweights
21. "But only God can make a ___" (Kilmer)
22. Cenozoic, for one
23. Rule of personal conduct
27. Not a happy camper
28. Sunset Park locale, briefly
29. The euro's Japanese counterpart
30. More bombastic
32. Windshield cover, sometimes
33. Printer type
34. Albacore and others
35. Advertiser's pickup line?
39. Terrible twos, e.g.
40. Amass clues
41. Grammarian's no-no
42. Longtime Disney head Michael
44. Number in a Dickens title
47. Bygone Ford
48. Word with stamp or knee
49. Ineffectual competitor
51. Unit of storage capacity, informally
52. Tolkien's antagonists
54. Puts the squeeze on?
55. Realtor's pickup line?
60. Incur, as debts
61. Last movement of a sonata, often
62. Part of a musical gig
63. One way to be lost
64. Nerdy guy
65. Virginia Woolf's "___ Dalloway"



Down

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Like fresh potato chips | 18. Word with post or ad | 39. Tall fan palm used for thatching |
| 2. Diffident | 19. Patch target | 42. British nobleman |
| 3. British military orderlies | 24. Send to seventh heaven | 43. Entry requirement, at times |
| 4. Fourth caliph of Sunni Islam | 25. Free ticket | 44. It's self-evident |
| 5. U.S.S.R. successor | 26. Four is superior to it | 45. "Tristan und Isolde" composer |
| 6. Possessive pronoun | 31. Rum and water drinks | 46. Where to find the best actors and directors? |
| 7. "Up Where We Belong," for one | 32. Downfall | 48. Momma's mate |
| 8. Meager | 33. After everyone else | 50. Unit of electrical resistance |
| 9. Far from famished | 34. Pre-revolution leaders (Var.) | 53. Large, flat-bottomed boat |
| 10. Menu words, perhaps | 35. Polar weather condition | 56. Feel regret |
| 11. Comparing or equating | 36. Shooting irons | 57. Navigational dir. |
| 12. Your average Joe | 37. It's near the radius | 58. Poetic homage |
| 13. Imperils | 38. Feel dizzy | 59. Scottish legend Roy |

* Answers on next page



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**FOR ALL YOUR
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Photo by Don Alexander

Summer is dwindling down. Labor Day weekend has thankfully come and gone; since I live on a beach route people get a little crazy this time of year. Even though the smell of BBQ, sun screen, and DEET are beginning to fade, it's not time to retire that garden just yet. Fall is officially days away, and with fall comes – wait for it – fall gardening! Hopefully your tomatoes are still producing the last few beautiful fruits and there are a few more cucumbers and watermelons hanging on the vine, but you need to start working the soil again and getting seeds and plants ready to go into the ground.

First things first, remove any non-producing plants from the garden. If you had a bad year this year, like I did, that may mean the removal of every single squash and zucchini plant you planted (unfruitful, ungrateful plants that they may be). Hopefully you're composting them since they still have the potential to help you later.

Once you've removed the old plants you'll need to rework the ground. Start by loosening up the soil using a shovel or pitchfork, stick, rake, kid's toy tractor, heck, even your kids for that matter. Child labor is a great way to step up your

gardening fun and productivity. Anyway, you want to reverse any compaction so the new plants have a better chance of growing an extensive and healthy root system. Plants don't like soil that's been



veggies. It's run out of nutrients by now. This revitalization can be done a number of ways, or you can take an all of the above method. You can use traditional fertilizers; either organic or inorganic to

compost. Mix this in the soil thoroughly to ensure that each plant will have the food it needs to make you food.

Now, let's get those plants in the ground! There is actually a wide variety of plants that do well in cooler temperatures and will last all the way to the first heavy frost, or longer, if you use a hoop house or cold frame. These plants often called cole crops, include: leafy greens like spinach, kale, cabbage, and lettuce, cauliflower and broccoli, winter squashes like butternut squash and some beans and peas like sugar snaps. These plants are full of nutrients and will grow right into winter. Plus plants belonging to the legume family, peas and beans, are nitrogen fixing plants. This means that they can actually take nitrogen out of the atmosphere and fix it into the soil at the root zone (helped by some pretty intense bacteria). This nitrogen fixing also helps replenish the soil nutrients; now that's a double whammy! Get busy though, early to mid September is a great time to be planting your fall garden. ■

walked all over, or that has just settled to a point where the soil is no longer loose.

Next, it's time to recharge the soil. The soil's been working hard all summer busting hump to make your yummy

add nutrients. Compost made in part from the old plants from yesteryear is a fantastic way to add richness to your soil. Or, you can do both fertilizer and



Carlos Garcia
Councillor, Port Dalhousie Ward
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Port Dalhousie Citizen Soldier Banner Project *You Can Help!*

In the small Ontario town of Port Dalhousie, ON is an impressive Cenotaph dedicated to the citizen's from the town, who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Great wars and other conflicts and peacekeeping since. Twenty men are listed who fought in WWI, but never returned. In 2020, a class from St. Ann School produced artwork, to honour each of those twenty individuals.

The artwork is so beautiful, yet stark, that it was suggested that they would be terrific banners that could be hung annually near the Cenotaph and throughout Port Dalhousie, leading up

to Remembrance Day and for a short period following. An initial suggestion from "Port Girl" Dorene Inglis, a relative of William Inglis, one of the 20, was carried forward by Port-born childhood friends Herb Davies and Pat Brand, who then sparked the committee to make this initiative a reality. With all this momentum, we now need financial assistance and the community's help to actually make it happen.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to enable and cover the following for the Port Dalhousie Citizen Soldier Banner Project:

- Initial production of the 20 banners from the artwork provided by the students of St. Ann's;

- Associated cost to install and remove the banners annually;

- Costs associated with any additional hardware for the banners not already provided by the City of St. Catharines;

- Creation of QR-coded signage which will be mounted on the pole below each banner, which will provide info on the featured individual; and

- a small portion for administration including banking, marketing and storage of banners.

It would be great if you can help us make this come true.

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