



THE PORT REPORTER



SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION & PORT TOWER EDITION

"I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANY LONGER!"

"I don't have to tell you things are bad. Everybody knows things are bad.and we sit watching our TV's while some local newscaster (newspaper) tells us that that's the way it's supposed to be. And the daily business of life is a corrupt comedy..... We sit in the house, and slowly the world we are living in is getting smaller, and all we say is, 'Please, at least leave us alone in our living rooms. Let me have my toaster and my TV and my steel-belted radials and I won't say anything. Just leave us alone. Well, I'm not gonna leave you alone. I want you to get mad! I don't want you to protest. I don't want you to riot(but).... Things have got to change. But first, you've gotta get mad!..."

"from the movie Network"

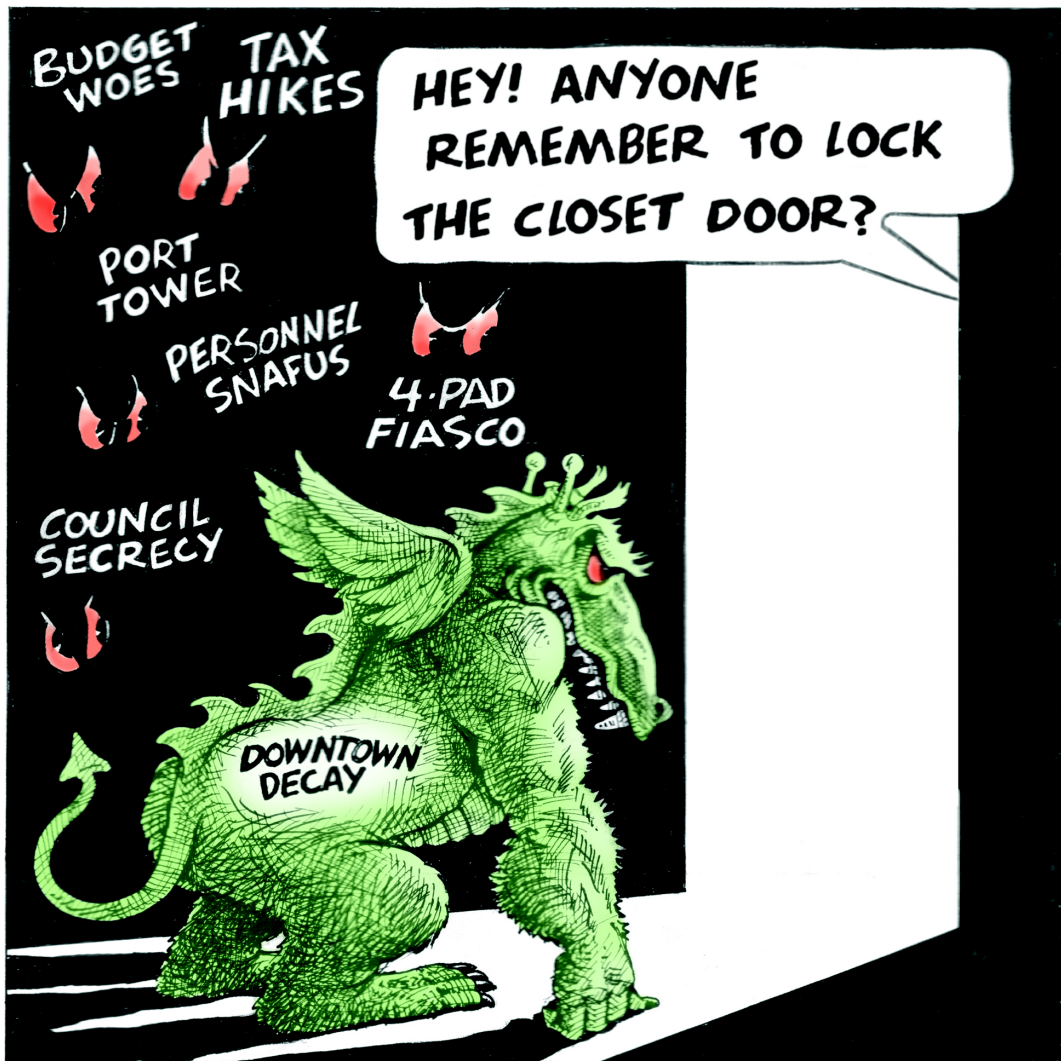
WELL, JUST LIKE THE REPORTER IN THAT MOVIE, WE ARE MAD AS HELL TOO! WE DON'T JUST NEED A NEW MAYOR - WE NEED A NEW KIND OF MAYOR. OUR CITY NEEDS MAJOR CHANGES IN THE WAY IT IS BEING GOVERNED. We, the electorate whom our municipal representatives are elected to serve, have allowed our city to drift into moral bankruptcy with the principles of representative government thrown aside for a quick fix of the City's problems- problems caused by many years of uninspired leadership and dubious accomplishments at Council. For years our city has been influenced by parochial, short-sighted decision-making. It is not by accident that the city has suffered a serious setback - the hollowing out of our city core. Our downtown has lost many of its major stores, as the big box stores were located outside

the core, just like the disastrous examples occurring in the United States. The YMCA moved out when creative solutions were not examined to keep it in the downtown. The development of the lower level parking lot has continued to flounder and it remains under utilized. All these lost opportunities have contributed to a legacy of despair. This situation was aggravated by the past council's arrogance as reflected in much of its decision-making. We are experiencing distrust of and loss of faith in government. Key city staff have breached the covenant of openness by holding back information from the public. The new council will have its work cut out for it to attempt to renew faith in its decision-making and its capacity for governance.

There is a growing perception that power has fallen into the hands of an elite few "old boys (or girls)", thereby promoting the perpetuation of policies which benefit that group at the expense of the general public. Governments, like courts must not only be fair and just, they must be seen to be fair and just. Trust in and respect for our elected officials must be earned. Municipal councils must be open and approachable and be reliable to act in the best interests of all their electors, not just those of an elite few. Regardless of where you stand on such issues as the 4-pad and the Port Dalhousie tower, you are entitled to be able to rely on a process that is fair, open and transparent. When secrecy is the standard operating procedure, our democracy is at risk.

Now that so many of the horses are out of the barn, where do you start to improve the situation? First you have to get mad, really mad and get out there on November 13 and vote out those who abused your trust. Then vote for a mayoralty candidate who is able to act with independence and accountability. Consider making honesty and integrity your first selection criteria. Without honesty and integrity as the starting point, the dark cloud that hangs over this city will never lift. After you have determined in your own mind which of the candidates meet these criteria then you might want to assess which of those candidates are good listeners as we are going to need solutions and ideas from a broad range of the community to get the city out of the morass that presently exists. Thirdly, those candidates that meet the above criteria need to be assessed for their teamwork abilities and the skills that they bring to the position of Mayor.

Finally, get and stay mad and then vote to bring about a badly needed change at city hall!



About the artist: Andy Cienik is a well-established and very successful freelance St. Catharines artist. Andy lives and works in Port Dalhousie and may be reached at 905-934-8208.

INSIDE -EDITOR'S ELECTION PICKS
PAGES 3, 12 & 13



MARIE'S
LOBSTER
HOUSE
"The Vogue of Food"

1 Lock Street
Port Dalhousie
905-934-1677
Open Daily
at 5:00 PM

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2006



From Royal Canadian Legion Website

They Shall Grow Not Old As We
That Are Left Grow Old
Age Shall Not Weary Them Nor
The Years Condemn
At The Going Down Of The Sun
And In The Morning
We Will Remember Them



FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE: SYMBOL OF UNITY

On November 11th Canadians all across the country will stop and pay tribute to the men and women killed in Canada's wars and military operations. Some will remember friends and relatives long dead. Others - like yourselves perhaps - will pause in tribute (but will really have nothing to remember).

For millions of Canadians the poppy has long been the flower of Remembrance. It originally was a reminder of the blood-red flower which grew in the fields where many Canadians died in a place called Flanders. It remains the flower of Remembrance.

In schoolrooms across Canada for a number of years students have discussed Remembrance; recognizing the sacrifices which others made for Canada but unsure of how they themselves could respond. Today, there is an answer. It was always there only now it can be seen much more clearly. It has to do with unity.

Canadian unity is not as strong today as it once was. When men from all parts of Canada came to a place called Vimy Ridge in 1917 everybody said that it was impossible to take the Ridge from the enemy. In a very important battle on a very cold day the Canadians did what nobody thought was possible. They took Vimy Ridge. When the guns stopped, the Canadians were very happy. Not so much for the victory itself but for the difficult thing they had done together. They were proud to be Canadians. Some of them who were wounded and waiting to be shipped to hospital lay on stretchers in tunnels in the earth. They carved maple leaves on the wall. It was a good time to be a Canadian.

In another war when the guns stopped at a place called Dieppe, the Canadians suffered a terrible defeat. This time Canadians from East and West shared a defeat. And as the wounded, ragged soldiers were marched away to prison camps, they marched proudly, knowing that they had shared something difficult. It was a sad time to be a Canadian. Thousands of young men from all parts of Canada faced death together at Dieppe. You can see their graves and read their names on the stones. The stones speak eloquently of ethnic and religious origins. They speak of men with a common cause: Canada.

In Canadian schoolrooms today there are students whose parents, or even themselves, remember other wars. Some remember the terrible ordeal of escaping to freedom. To them the poppy can be a symbol of that freedom. But it is important for all of us to remember that unity of Canadians in wartime enables all of us to enjoy freedom. Although Canada now has repatriated her constitution, the spirit of a common cause is lacking. We no longer share difficult things with a sense of unity. The poppy, then, is a reminder of the need: a challenge to each of us to seek out that spirit of unity which sustained our forefathers and our country.

http://www.legion.ca/asp/docs/rempoppy/allabout_e.asp



OVERNIGHT VIGIL NOV. 4/5 HELD AT PORT DALHOUSIE CENOTAPH

23 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets held an overnight vigil at the Port Dalhousie Cenotaph to commemorate Remembrance Day. They began standing vigil at 11:00 pm on Saturday November 4 onwards to the time of the 350 Legion Remembrance Day Ceremony Parade at 11:00 am on Sunday November 5.

LEST WE FORGET: PRIVATE WILLIAM BROWN

Each Remembrance Day veterans and citizens gather in front of the cenotaph at the corner of Ann and Main streets in Port Dalhousie to pay their respects to those brave souls who made the supreme sacrifice. Their names are inscribed on the cenotaph so that we may never forget them. William Brown's name appears under those who lost their lives in World War One. William was born on March 25, 1896 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Sometime prior to the outset of the war, his family moved to a house on Main Street in Port Dalhousie. William worked as a shoemaker. He signed up for service in Niagara on August 4, 1915 and was assigned the service number of 141631. He was sent overseas and served with the Canadian Infantry, Central Ontario Regiment, 58th Battalion.

At 10:30 p.m. on October 8, 1916 Private William Brown was on his way into the front line just north of Courcellette. As he marched forward, a line of tired soldiers were heading back from the front through the muddy terrain. Unbelievably, his older brother Charles was one of those soldiers and he and William paused briefly to greet each other, Charles wishing his brother well at the front. They had not seen each other since the start of the war and it would also be the last time they were to see each other, as by midnight, William would be killed in action. William was 20 years old.

William left behind his family, including his mother, Mrs. Charlotte Brown, who had moved to Toronto, an aunt, Mrs. Mary McKey of Merriton, and his brother Charles. His belongings were sent home and the Silver Cross was sent to his mother in 1920, but the family was never able to find out where his remains had been buried. Twenty years later a group of researchers doing excavation near the battlefield in Courcellette found a single grave containing badges, buttons and the identification disc along with the remains of Private William Brown. The Department of National Defence in Canada informed his family here in Canada and William's remains were removed and reburied in Grave 2.A.12 of the London Cemetery Extension, High Road, Longueval, about two miles south east of Courcellette. Because the location of his remains had not previously been known, William's name had already been inscribed in the Vimy Memorial, but a suitably inscribed headstone was placed on the grave. The family finally was to receive his remaining belongings, his identification disc, eighteen years after the war ended.

When William's brother Charles returned to Canada after the war, he settled in Toronto and started a family. He named his eldest child in memory of his brother. Charles son, William, knew about his namesake. He had a newspaper clipping from 1936 describing how his uncle's remains were found. He knew that his uncle's name is inscribed on the cenotaph in Port Dalhousie and also on page 60 in the Book of Remembrance displayed in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill each year on February 16th. Although his children have never been to Port Dalhousie, they now have photos of the cenotaph and William's inscription through the kindness of a stranger. Private William Brown has not been forgotten.

Story contributed by Bill Stevens

Two Victoria Crosses Coming to St. Catharines!

This exhibit and events are being held at the St. Catharines Museum during Remembrance Week 2006 (November 4-12). They commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross and recognize and honour veterans by focusing on the two local recipients of the British Empire's highest decoration for bravery.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK DEDICATED TO VICTORIA CROSS HEROES AT THE ST. CATHARINES MUSEUM

A Military Parade and March Past will mark the official opening of the spectacular exhibit at the St. Catharines Museum featuring the only two Victoria Cross medals connected to the Niagara region. The two Victoria Crosses, the highest award for bravery in the British Empire, were both awarded during the First World War - one to LCpl Fred Fisher, a native of St. Catharines who joined the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada (Black Watch) in Montreal; the other to Lt (later Col) Graham Thomson Lyall, a local resident who enlisted in the 19th Lincoln Regiment, now The Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

Victoria Crosses are extremely rare, and having two original medals on display is quite a coup. In the 150 years since the

medal was instituted by Queen Victoria, only 1,355 have been awarded, 94 to Canadians. The medals are on display from the Black Watch Museum in Montreal and the Lyall family and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Museum and in Britain. It is the first time the two VCs have been in St. Catharines. The event will start off with a short parade across the property at the Museum. Veterans, cadets, and the band of The Lincoln and Welland Regiment will join re-enactors in a tribute to veterans in veterans in general, and the Victoria Cross recipients in particular. Those attending the opening will also be able to view one-day only exhibits of World War I equipment, vehicles and memorabilia, and witness the firing of an artillery gun similar to those used in the First World War.

The exhibition, *FOR VALOUR: The Victoria Cross and St. Catharines*, commemorates the original medals of Niagara's two recipients, Lance Corporal Fred Fisher and Colonel Graham Thomson Lyall, and will be the centrepiece of a display that includes rare artifacts, uniforms, and unique documents.

The area's military will also be showcased in exhibits highlighting local military memorials to veterans, and in displays about The Lincoln and Welland Regiment and the 10th Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery. A special education program, *War, Peace and Remembrance*, may also be booked for educational and community groups. It interprets the history of Fisher, Lyall, and the Victoria Cross, and expands upon the social, political and military history of Canada.

(continued on page 6)

PORT REPORTER'S EDITOR'S ELECTION PICKS WHO I WOULD VOTE FOR AND WHY

As part of The Port Reporter's Municipal election coverage, we contacted new St. Catharines' candidates for City and Regional Council to find out how they stand on specific issues such as: secrecy; property taxes; priorities and; how they would have voted on the Port Condo tower proposal. For incumbents running again, we looked at their previous voting record. This information was reviewed and led to our conclusions and voting recommendations summarized below.

Notes:

1. A candidate's position on the Port tower issue was given the most significant weight in our review because the proposal violates all applicable planning regulations and because, based on our research, feedback from a number of candidates and the record attendance at the various public meetings, we believe there is widespread opposition throughout the City and Region.
2. Full copies of responses received can be seen on our website at www.saveport.ca
3. Given the available time, we did not review the candidates for School Board positions.

RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES

MAYORALTY RACE

Sue Erskine is the only candidate who currently holds public office. As Councillor for Port Dalhousie ward she has consistently ignored her constituents' opposition to the tower proposals. She has voted to keep planning reports secret and voted to approve the unpopular tower. She has also been a close ally and supporter of departing Mayor Rigby on many other issues. In addition to Sue Erskine, candidates Marilyn Bodogh, Preston Haskell, Jackie Phelan and Rob Welch also support the unpopular tower proposal for Port Dalhousie's low-rise Heritage District. Brian McMullan and Gary Robbins are against the tower and Emad Zawadi also is opposed. Based on their responses where available, their campaign literature and their performance at the various debates, we believe that Brian McMullan is the best candidate for the position. Mr. McMullan has a decided edge with his more extensive and relevant business and political experience and because he is responsive to the community's opposition to the tower proposal.

Recommended: Brian McMullan.

MERRITTON - WARD 1

Incumbent Jennifer Stevens voted against keeping planning reports secret and against the tower. She was very supportive of the community's opposition to the tower and is known to be responsive to the concerns of her constituents. The other incumbent, Sheila Morra voted exactly the opposite. She voted both for secrecy and for the tower. New candidates Jeff Burch and Robbie Craine do not support the tower proposal. Of these two, Burch has the most experience and gets our nod.

Recommended: Jennifer Stevens and Jeff Burch.

ST. ANDREWS - WARD 2

Incumbent Joe Kushner stood up for the community and voted against secrecy and against the tower proposal. He is also the dean of council with extensive experience. Incumbent Cam Donevan voted both for secrecy and for the objectionable tower. There are two new candidates: Andrew Gill and Wayne Sadlak. They both are opposed to the tower proposal. Of the two we give Gill the edge because of his energy and enthusiasm, understanding of the issues and objection to the tower proposal.

Recommended: Joe Kushner and Andrew Gill.

ST. GEORGES - WARD 3

Incumbent Greg Washuta stood up for the community and voted against the tower. He also opposed the first (withdrawn) tower proposal. Incumbent Peter Secord on the other hand, voted to keep reports secret and voted for the unpopular tower. Newcomer Darren Platakis supported the tower at the public Council Meetings.

Recommended: Greg Washuta.

ST. PATRICKS - WARD 4

Incumbent Carol Disher was very supportive of the community on issues such as the tower and the leash-free dog park. It is sad she is not running. Incumbent Charles Gervais took the opposite position and has been a strong supporter of both tower proposals. There are 5 new candidates in this ward including: John Bacher, Bill Buckle, Matthew Cutler, Mark Elliot, Heather Foss, and Milica Kovacevich. Bacher, Foss and Kovacevich are clearly against the tower while the positions of Buckle, Cutler and Elliot are either not as clear or they did not respond. We very much like Bacher's commitment to environmental preservation and Foss' business experience and platform.

Recommended: John Bacher and Heather Foss.

GRANTHAM - WARD 5

Incumbent Dawn Dodge was unable to vote on the tower issue due to a serious injury. However, she was against the first tower proposal and has indicated she would have voted against the second. She also did vote against keeping the planning reports secret. Incumbent Brian Dorsey on the other hand, ignored the community's concerns and voted for secrecy and for the tower. Dorsey has also been a close ally and supporter of Mayor Tim Rigby on many issues. There are 5 new candidates including: Laura Ip, Bill Phillips, Salvatore Sorrento, Mike Sullivan and Tony Tullo. Of these, Bill Phillips and Mike Sullivan seem the best qualified and we give the edge to Mike because of his extensive experience dealing with Council on Hydro and other issues.

Recommended: Dawn Dodge and Mike Sullivan.

PORT DALHOUSIE - WARD 6

Incumbent Bruce Williamson has been one of the most responsive to his constituents throughout his several terms in office. He stood out for his clear opposition to secrecy and to the Port Dalhousie tower which is proposed in his ward. His questions of those speaking at the tower public meetings were incisive and well thought out. The second incumbent, Sue Erskine, stood out for exactly the opposite. She ignored the overwhelming opposition of her own ward's residents and voted

for secrecy and for the tower. She is now running for Mayor on that record. There are 7 new candidates in this ward including: Tim Atherton, Susan Bassett, Mark Klimchuk, Richard Martinelli, David Prentice, Norm St. George and Len Stack. On the all important tower issue four candidates are clearly siding with the community in opposing such an inappropriate development in a low-rise heritage district: Bassett, Klimchuk, Prentice and St. George. Of these, we give the nod to St. George because of his previous council experience and ongoing support for heritage preservation.

Atherton, Martinelli and Stack, on the other hand, definitely support the developer and the objectionable and unpopular tower proposal. Stack stands out amongst those for the tower in that he has his offices in a building owned by the developer and is seen out campaigning with members of the developer's support group which is not independent from the developer.

Recommended: Bruce Williamson and Norm St. George.

REGIONAL COUNCIL

As has been highly publicized, Regional Councillors recently voted to rubber-stamp Mayor Rigby's pro-tower position. In fact, of the 12 Regional Mayors on this Council, only Gary Burroughs of Niagara-on-the-Lake broke ranks with Rigby (unlike Burroughs the second NOTL Councillor, David Eke, supported the tower and spoke in favour). This despite overwhelming evidence the proposal violates all applicable regulations and is opposed by the vast majority of residents.

There are six incumbents running for the six available St. Catharines' seats: Judy Casselman, Michael Collins, Brian Heit, Ronna Katzman, Peter Partington and Bruce Timms. Of these, three stood up for their constituents against seemingly overwhelming odds: Casselman, Collins and Heit. They are very deserving of our support.

Rigby, Timms and Katzman, on the other hand, voted for the tower and against the community. Rigby's and Timms' support for the developer and both tower proposals is well known. They were, in fact a team at the Regional meeting with Rigby making the motion to approve the tower and Timms seconding it. Partington did not vote on the issue because he is the Chair. His position on this important issue is still unknown and he has not responded to our question regarding his position on the tower.

There are four new candidates running: Bart Brouwer, Carlos Garcia, Robert Hesp and Tim Rigby who is running for Region now that he will not automatically be in as a Mayor. Rigby is obviously for the tower and his record of secrecy, secret committees, cost overruns, etc is well-known. Brouwer is relatively inexperienced while Hesp supports the tower. Garcia, on the other hand, has a wealth of business and community involvement experience. He is known to be a hard working volunteer in Port Dalhousie and a strong heritage advocate and has helped lead the opposition to the highly unpopular tower proposal.

Recommended: Judy Casselman, Michael Collins, Brian Heit and Carlos Garcia.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FOR ELECTION DAY:

1. Do not be afraid to vote for only those you know support your position and leaving the rest blank.
2. Avoid splitting the vote so that those who you don't support get elected by default.
3. It is very important to have the 2 elected councillors be able to work together to enhance your ward. This is particularly applicable in St. Patricks, Grantham and Port where there are 7 or more candidates.

U.S. Customs Entry and Release Custom Bonding, Warehousing and Freight Forwarding



STUARTA. CRAWLEY www.northerncustoms.com
 905-933-5349 639 Walmoe Road
 scrawley@northerncustoms.com Niagara Falls, New York 14301

**EDITOR'S
 ELECTION
 PICKS**

PAGES 12 & 13



RE-ELECT

Marcy HEIT

With the ever-changing issues affecting public education, an experienced committed voice supporting quality education must remain constant.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEE

St. Catharines & Niagara-on-the-Lake

WHAT'S UP?

NIAGARA FALLS

12th Annual Fall Craft Show
Winter Festival of Lights
Phone: 905-374-1616 x 26 • Toll Free: 1-800-563-2557
From: November 4, 2006 To: January 8, 2007

Niagara Region Orchid Society Show and Sale
Phone: 905-934-8289 • Toll Free: 905-641-1934
From: November 11, 2006 To: November 12, 2006

Niagara Falls Concerts at the Arena

Filed under: Events — NiagaraFalls @ 5:28 pm
Nov 18, 2006 – Nov 20, 2006
Niagara Falls Memorial Arena
The Concerts at the Arena feature: Mel Tillis with special guest, Gordie Tapp, on November 18th – 19th and Vicki Lawrence, of Mama's Family, in The Vicki Lawrence Show on November 19th and 20th. For more information please call 1-800-563-2557 ext. 26
Website: <http://www.WFOL.com> Email: tina@WFOL.com
Phone: 905-374-1616&2

November 4th – January 8th

Winter Festival Of Lights
Niagara Falls
905 374 1616, ext. 46 / 1 800 563 2557
www.wfol.com

Niagara Falls Santa Claus Parade

Phone: 905 356-7521 x. 4326
Event Date: November 18, 2006

Art by the Falls

8th Annual Christmas Art & Craft Show
Phone: (905) 227-7248
From: December 2, 2006 To: December 3, 2006

8th Annual Art by the Falls Christmas Festival

Dec 02, 2006 – Dec 03, 2006
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Optimist Hall Park
Over 50 Canadian Artisans & Crafters selling their actual wares. Holiday music, jams, jellies, food vendor on site, Mennonite cookies on Saturday only. Admission is \$2.00, free parking on the premises. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls Sunrise.
Email: cathy.henderson@sympatico.ca
Phone: 905-227-7248

The Nutcracker Niagara Falls

Dec 06, 2006 – Dec 06, 2006
2:00 PM Kingston Education Centre
The Greater Niagara Ballet Company presents its 29th annual performance of 'The Nutcracker'. A must see for the holidays. Join Clara and her Nutcracker Prince as they visit the Kingdom of Sweets and the Sugar Plum Fairies. Take part in the magic of Christmas as it comes to life in this 'World Class Performance!' The Nutcracker.
Purchase your tickets today! 1-800-563-2557 ext. 26
Website: <http://www.WFOL.com>
Email: tina@wfol.com
Phone: 905-374-1616&26

DOWNTOWN ST. CATHARINES

Tree Of Lights Celebration

Friday, November 17th
Kick off your holiday season with a fun-filled family tradition . . . come downtown to the Market Square and celebrate the start of the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation's Annual Tree of Lights campaign. Watch the tree at City Hall light up on a big screen while sipping hot chocolate inside the Market Square. Official ceremonies at 6:00 p.m. followed up by our Candelight Walk and Carolling over to the tree at City Hall.

St. Giles Presbyterian Church presents the play

"Angels of Peace"
Saturday Nov. 25, 2006 at 2:30 pm – Linhaven Home for the Aged, Ontario St., St. Catharines
Sunday Nov. 26, 2006 at 7:00 pm – St. Giles Church, 207 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines
Freewill offering – For more information call 905-934 1901 (mornings)

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 350

Toys for Tots Annual Dart Tournament
Toys Donated Each Year to Community Care
Corporate & Private Sponsorship for Boards Just \$25
Event Date Sat. December 2, 2006
Call Karen McGarr, 905 934 1261
Reserve Today

ST. CATHARINES (CONT'D)

Santa Claus Parade

Sunday, November 26th
The Santa Claus Parade starts at 2:30p.m. Parade route: William St. to St. Paul St. to James St. to King St. to the Market Square. Come to the Market Square following the parade as there will also be apple cider and activities for the family. In partnership with Community Care, please bring a food donation. For info, call 905-688-5601 ext 1503 or email dgarrington@stcatharines.ca

PORT COLBORNE

Yule Tide

Date(s): November 01 – December 31, 2006
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum
280 King Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada
Yule Tide – a holiday exhibit for all ages to enjoy.
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum
905-834-7604

Santa Claus Parade

Downtown Port Colborne
Clarence Street
905-834-1668

Grand Old Christmas Festival

December 03, 2006
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum
280 King Street, Port Colborne, Ontario,
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum
905-834-7604

Arabella's Serving Christmas Pudding

December 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 2006
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum
280 King Street, Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum
905-834-7604

HALDIMAND

November 6 to February 5
8th Annual Juried Art Show: Snowscapes
Haldimand County Museum & Archives
A celebration of art through the theme of everything "winter". Featuring works of Haldimand and area, artists and artisans. Free
905-772-5880 Cayuga, ON
museum.archives@haldimandcounty.on.ca
<http://www.haldimandcounty.on.ca>

November 6 to March 15

Exhibition: FINE PRINT – The Grand River Sagem Celebrates 150 Years
Edinburgh Square Heritage & Cultural Centre
Discover the history of one of Canada's oldest printing houses and newspapers. Donations accepted.
905-765-3134 Caledonia, ON
esquare.centre@haldimandcounty.on.ca
<http://www.haldimandcounty.on.ca>

November 11

Cayuga Lions Craft Show

J.L. Michener School
Annual art and craft show – all proceeds go to ongoing projects in the community – lunch available – door prizes every 30 minutes! By donation: – \$, winning lottery tickets, Canadian Tire money
905-772-3583 Cayuga, ON

November 12

16th Annual Village Green Craft Show

Haldimand Artworks
905-772-7000 Cayuga, ON
admin@haldimandartworks.ca
<http://www.haldimandartworks.ca>

November 12

Chili Cook-Off & Supper

Cottonwood Mansion
Come and enjoy the chili made by our contestants. Two first prizes. You be the judge at 6:30 pm. Officiating Judge at 3:00 pm. TBA
905-776-2538 Selkirk, ON
cottonwoodmansion@linetap.com
<http://www.linetap.com/cottonwoodmansion>

HALDIMAND (cont'd)

November 23 to November 25

Christmas in Caledonia

Throughout Caledonia
Light-up Night Nov 23; shopping in Caledonia Nov 24; Kinsmen Santa Parade November 25.
Rotary wine tasting/auction November 25.
905-765-0377
Caledonia, ON

November 23

Haldimand Museums Silent Auction & Wreaths for Charity

Edinburgh Square Heritage & Cultural Centre
Part of Caledonia's Light-Up Night tradition. Stop by the Square to bid on gift certificates, admission passes, decorative objects and more! Free
905-772-5880 Cayuga, ON
museum.archives@haldimandcounty.on.ca
<http://www.haldimandcounty.on.ca>

November 30

Mistletoe Tea, Talk & Trivia

Haldimand County Museum & Archives
Tea is served, along with scones, fruit and sweets! Learn about the origins of Christmas customs with special emphasis on Victorian traditions.
Please confirm with the Museum. 905-772-5880
Cayuga, ON
museum.archives@haldimandcounty.on.ca
<http://www.haldimandcounty.on.ca>

WELLAND

Welland Santa Claus Parade
Phone: 905-732-1515
Event Date: December 2, 2006

Smithville's Christmas in the Village –

Santa Claus Parade
Phone: (905) 957-7577
Event Date: November 25, 2006

PENINSULA

WHAT'S ANGELFEST ALL ABOUT?

November 16, 2005 to January 22, 2006
Angelfest is a magical Niagara West Region winter season festival, now in its sixth year. Angelfest offers a series of exciting events, taking place over the ten weeks of the festival. The themes of Angelfest are Lighting and Decorations, Arts and Culture, Food and Wine, and Mind/Body/Spirit. The festival features the glittering Angel Trail, which generally follows the Wine Route, from Stoney Creek to Port Dalhousie to Thorold.

THEATRE IN PORT'S PRODUCTION OF I DO, I DO! *+

Located in the Port Mansion, 12 Lakeport Road, Port Dalhousie (St. Catharines, Ont.) L2N 4P5
October 28 to January 1, Wednesday to Saturday evenings and Sunday matinee.
Ticket prices: \$24.00 – \$33.00
Information: phone (905)934-0575,
email: rsfurtney@portmansion.com

THOROLD

Thorold Annual Santa Claus Parade

Phone: (905) 227-2754
Event Date: November 25, 2006

Thorold's 12th Annual Christmas Art & Craft Show

Phone: (905) 227-7248
From: November 18, 2006 To: November 19, 2006

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

12 Days of Christmas in Niagara-on-the-Lake
Phone: 905-468-1950
From: December 1, 2006 To: December 31, 2006

Niagara-on-the-Lake Santa Claus Parade

Phone: 905-468-4261
Event Date: December 9, 2006

Candlelight Dinner

Navy Hall, Niagara On The Lake
905 468 6621
www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca

Dec 8 & 9

Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary House Tour
NOTL

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2006

TWO STORIES OF LOVE AND HOPE AMIDST THE HORRORS OF WAR

HOPE AMIDST CHAOS

When war broke out in 1939, two students, living on the opposite sides of Canada, had no idea that one day their lives would intersect. Doug was in Vancouver, studying, working part-time and in the Reserves. Pauline was training as a nurse at St. John's Hospital in New Brunswick. Doug joined the Princess Patricia's ('Pats') Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), and rose to the rank of lieutenant in one of the most decorated regiments in the Canadian Forces. The Regiment spent three years in the United Kingdom, most of which was spent in coastal defense and training in various parts of the country. On 10 July 1943 the PPCLI, forming part of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division and the 8th Army, landed in Sicily. After the short Sicilian campaign, the Regiment landed and fought in Italy from September 1943 to March 1945.

In March 1945, the Regiment was transferred to North West Europe where they participated in the liberation of the Netherlands. On the 8th of May 1945 the Regiment was the first Allied force to enter Amsterdam.

In 1943, while he was stationed in Great Britain, Doug overheard, during a blackout in a train station, nurses from the Canadian General Military Hospital talking and one mentioned that her ward had the coffee on at 10 p.m. for the night shift. The next night, Doug, while visiting a friend at the hospital, dropped in to Ward M and found out that patients came first and, if time, then coffee. Pauline was helping service men whose injuries were not life threatening but needing her attention often and her duty came first. From that night on, Doug dropped in for coffee each night and Pauline grew interested. Doug described it as the best days of his life. Christmas and New Year's dinners were part of their coming together. They both knew that permanent togetherness was something that could not be thought about but they enjoyed each other's company so much that they continued to correspond when Doug shipped out. For servicemen, the importance of the Armed Forces mail system cannot be over-stated. Letters served as a primary connection to the world the men and women were fighting for and instilled hope in their daily existence. Letters helped keep them sane in an existence that seemed to be beyond control.

Doug finds it difficult to talk about the campaign in Italy except to acknowledge that the conditions were, a lot of the time, horrible as the 'Pats' pushed upward from Sicily on the Adriatic side while the Americans kept to the other side. The weather in the mountains was a constant enemy and they were fighting the cream of the German troops. The dirt and filth had to be pushed out of the troops' minds as the artillery fire increased as they moved up from the 'boot' of Italy. If it wasn't crossing a river then it was crossing a canal and the fighting was fierce. Doug lost a lot of comrades in that campaign but it never entered into his mind that he would be killed. He expected that he might be wounded and therefore was not willing to consider a serious relationship with his "pen pal" as he never wanted to be a burden. In fact, he was wounded but the injuries were not serious enough to keep him away from the Front. For him, taking life one day at a time made life bearable.

The amazing thing was that despite the conditions on the continent, the mail came through. Pauline continued to serve in Great Britain until D-Day and then volunteered to serve in Europe in a Casualty Clearing Station near the troops and the daily battles. Their accommodation was in tents and, hot or cold, the nurses remained on duty trying to help the wounded. Pauline wanted to be of help to wounded servicemen and weather conditions were not going to keep her from her duty. The skies lit up brilliantly each night with artillery and the wounded kept coming. Their skill and their caring made Canadian nurses well thought of by the wounded, whether they were Polish or British or Canadians.

In February 1945 the Canadian Government formed the Canadian Army and the 'Princess Pats' were pulled out of Italy, 'deloused' and arrived in Belgium in March of that year. Compared to what Doug had faced in Italy, it was like day and night. The men were no better equipped, just equipped differently and they continued to operate as basically a self-contained group only this time it was within the structure of the Canadian Army.

On Day One in Belgium, Doug saw to his men and their needs and on Day Two he was off to find Pauline's CCS. She didn't know he was coming and it was a wonderful shock but she was too busy attending to her patients. That night they had dinner and Doug was 'damn glad to see her'. It was at this point that both of them now saw that a long term togetherness was now a possibility. The mail had kept them 'together' throughout the terrible conditions they both faced and now the possibility of a future together was in the back of their minds. Unfortunately, their duties got in the way.

To learn what happened next and their identities,, you, the reader, will have to make sure you read next month's paper.

The Girl with the Apple

by Herman Rosenblat, Miami Beach, Florida

August 1942., Piotrkow , Poland . The sky was gloomy that morning as we waited anxiously. All the men, women and children of Piotrkow's Jewish ghetto had been herded into a square. Word had gotten around that we were being moved. My father had only recently died from typhus, which had run rampant through the crowded ghetto. My greatest fear was that our family would be separated.

Whatever you do," Isidore, my eldest brother, whispered to me, "don't tell them your age. Say you're sixteen". I was tall for a boy of 11, so I could pull it off. That way I might be deemed valuable as a worker. An SS man approached me, boots clicking against the cobblestones. He looked me up and down, then asked my age.

"Sixteen," I said. He directed me to the left, where my three brothers and other healthy young men already stood. My mother was motioned to the right with the other women, children, sick and elderly people. I whispered to Isidore, "Why?" He didn't answer.

I ran to Mama's side and said I wanted to stay with her.

No," she said sternly. Get away. Don't be a nuisance. Go with your brothers."

She had never spoken so harshly before. But I understood: She was protecting me. She loved me so much that, just this once, she pretended not to. It was the last I ever saw of her.

My brothers and I were transported in a cattle car to Germany . We arrived at the Buchenwald concentration camp one night weeks later and were led into a crowded barrack. The next day, we were issued uniforms and identification numbers. "Don't call me Herman anymore." I said to my brothers. "Call me 94983." I was put to work in the camp's crematorium, loading the dead into a hand-cranked elevator. I, too, felt dead. Hardened, I had become a number. Soon, my brothers and I were sent to Schlieben, one of Buchenwald's sub-camps near Berlin .

One morning I thought I heard my mother's voice. So on, she said softly but clearly, I am sending you an angel. Then I woke up: Just a dream-a beautiful dream. But in this place there could be no angels. There was only work. And hunger. And fear.

A couple of days later, I was walking around the camp, behind the barracks, near the barbed-wire fence where the guards could not easily see. I was alone. On the other side of the fence, I spotted someone, a young girl with light, almost luminous curls. She was half-hidden behind a birch tree. I glanced around to make sure no one saw me. I called to her softly in German. "Do you have something to eat?" She didn't understand. I inched closer to the fence and repeated the question in Polish. She stepped forward. I was thin and gaunt, with rags wrapped around my feet, but the girl looked unafraid. In her eyes, I saw life. She pulled an apple from her woolen jacket and threw it over the fence. I grabbed the fruit and, as I started to run away, I heard her say faintly, "I'll see you tomorrow."

I returned to the same spot by the fence at the same time every day. She was always there with something for me to eat, a hunk of bread or, better yet, an apple. We didn't dare speak or linger. To be caught would mean death for us both. I didn't know anything about her, just a kind farm girl, except that she understood Polish.

What was her name? Why was she risking her life for me? Hope was in such short supply, and this girl on the other side of the fence gave me some, as nourishing in its way as the bread and apples.

Nearly seven months later, my brothers and I were crammed into a coal car and shipped to Theresienstadt camp in Czechoslovakia

Don't return," I told the girl that day. "We're leaving." I turned toward the barracks and didn't look back, didn't even say good-bye to the girl whose name I'd never learned, the girl with the apples.

We were in Theresienstadt for three months. The war was winding down and Allied forces were closing in, yet my fate seemed sealed.

On May 10, 1945, I was scheduled to die in the gas chamber at 10:00 A.M. In the quiet of dawn, I tried to prepare myself. So many times death seemed ready to claim me, but somehow I'd survived.

Now, it was over. I thought of my parents. At least, I thought we would be reunited.

At 8 A . M. there was a commotion. I heard shouts, and saw people running every which way through camp. I caught up with my brothers. Russian troops had liberated the camp! The gates swung open. Everyone was running, so I did too. Amazingly, all of my brothers had survived; I'm not sure how. But I knew that with the apples had been the key to my survival. In a place where evil seemed triumphant, one person's goodness had saved my life, had given me hope in a place where there was none. My mother had promised to send me an angel, and the angel had come.

Eventually I made my way to England where I was sponsored by a Jewish charity, put up in a hotel with other boys who had survived the Holocaust and trained in electronics. Then I came to America , where my brother Sam had already moved. I served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and returned to New York City after two years. By August 1957 I'd opened my own electronics repair shop. I was starting to settle in.

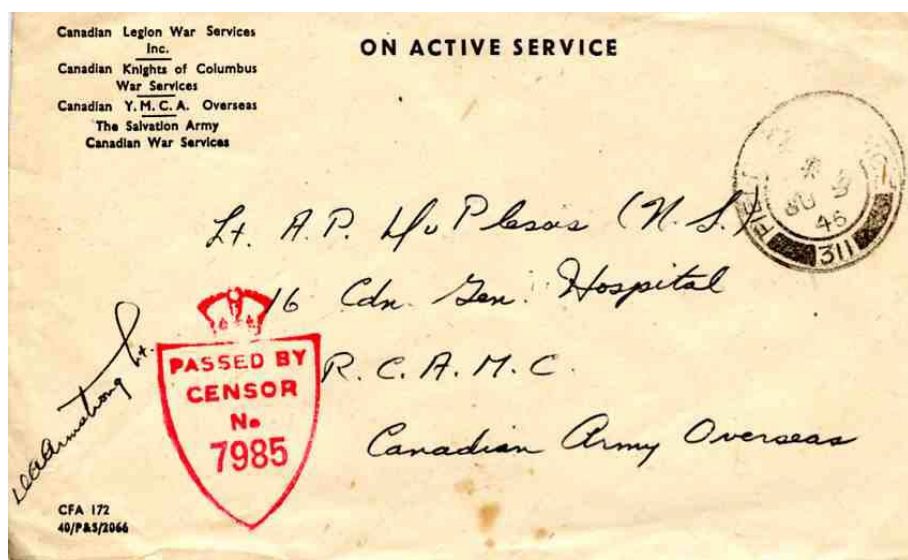
One day, my friend Sid, whom I knew from England , called me. "I've got a date. She's got a Polish friend. Let's double date." A blind date? Nah, that wasn't for me. But Sid kept pestering me, and a few days later we headed up to the Bronx to pick up his date and her friend Roma. I had to admit, for a blind date this wasn't so bad. Roma was a nurse at a Bronx hospital. She was kind and smart. Beautiful, too, with swirling brown curls and green, almond-shaped eyes that sparkled with life. The four of us drove out to Coney Island . Roma was easy to talk to, easy to be with. Turned out she was wary of blind dates too! We were both just doing our friends a favor. We took a stroll on the boardwalk, enjoying the salty Atlantic breeze, and then had dinner by the shore. I couldn't remember having a better time. We piled back into Sid's car, Roma and I sharing the backseat. As European Jews who had survived the war, we were aware that much had been left unsaid between us. She broached the subject, "Where were you," she asked softly, during the war?"

"The camps," I said, the terrible memories still vivid, the irreparable loss. I had tried to forget. But you can never forget. She nodded.

"My family was hiding on a farm in Germany , not far from Berlin ," she told me. "My father knew a priest, and he got us Aryan papers." I imagined how she must have suffered too, fear, a constant companion. And yet here we were, both survivors, in a new world.

"There was a camp next to the farm." Roma continued. "I saw a boy there and I would throw him apples every day."

(continued on page 6)



THE GIRL WITH THE APPLE (continued from page 5)

What an amazing coincidence that she had helped some other boy. "What did he look like?" I asked.

"He was tall. Skinny. Hungry. I must have seen him every day for six months." My heart was racing. I couldn't believe it, this couldn't be.

"Did he tell you one day not to come back because he was leaving Schlieben?" Roma looked at me in amazement.

"Yes, that was !! " I was ready to burst with joy and awe, flooded with emotions. I couldn't believe -My angel. "I'm not letting you go." I said to Roma. And in the back of the car on that blind date, I proposed to her. I didn't want to wait.

You're crazy!" she said. But she invited me to meet her parents for Shabbat dinner the following week. There was so much I looked forward to learning about Roma, but the most important things I always knew: her steadfastness, her goodness. For many months, in the worst of circumstances, she had come to the fence and given me hope. Now that I'd found her again, I could never let her go.

That day, she said yes. And I kept my word." After nearly 50 years of marriage, two children and three grandchildren I have never let her go.

VIDEOTAPES STILL BEING WITHHELD BY THE CITY? THE SECRECY CONTINUES

October 29, 2006
KEN TODD
City Clerk
City of St. Catharines

Ken,

Back in June we found out that Cogeco would not be telecasting the Public Council Meetings on the Port condo tower proposal and we asked for permission to video them ourselves. Your department told us that: "Members of the Public are not allowed to video any meetings of City Council." Despite this, you allowed a third party advertising production company to video all of the meetings.

Since then, we have been trying to get a copy of these videos. However, it then turned out that it is up to the advertising production company to decide when the citizens of St. Catharines get to see the video of their own Council and this company decided the public should not see them before the October Regional Council meeting on the tower proposal. You then told us: "The video tapes have not been received from OMNI Media and we don't expect to have the video tapes in our possession until sometime in late October. Once we have the video tapes in our possession they will be made available to members of the public to borrow from the Clerks Dept."

It is now late October and the Regional Council held its meeting without being able to see the videos. Have you now received your copy of the tapes and will you now release copies to the public?

We look forward to your prompt reply.

David Bergen and Carlos Garcia
PROUD Port Dalhousie
A PROUD Seven-Year History as a Volunteer Community Organization

Editor's Note: As to the date we went to press on November 6th, no reply had been received from the Clerk's Office.

REMEMBRANCE WEEK DEDICATED TO VICTORIA CROSS HEROES AT THE ST. CATHARINES MUSEUM (continued from page 2)

There will also be two illustrated lectures during Remembrance Week. On Nov. 8, Dr. Geoffrey Hayes will speak about Col Lyall and The Lincoln and Welland Regiment. Lyall enlisted in St. Catharines with the 19th Lincoln Regiment (now The Lincoln and Welland Regiment). He first served with the Welland Canal Field Force which guarded strategic installations such as the Welland Canal, hydro facilities and international bridges. Lyall was shipped overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. During two days of actions in 1918, Lyall led daring attacks against the enemy which resulted in the capture of 26 machine guns, ten field guns, and 185 prisoners.

Dr. Hayes is a professor at the University of Waterloo and is author of The Lincoln and Welland Regiment history, *The Lincs*.

On Nov. 9, Dr. Andrew Iarocci will present a lecture about LCpl Fisher, the Second Battles of Ypres, the 13th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, Royal Highland Regiment of Canada (The Black Watch) and the 10th Field Battery. Fisher's medal is particularly significant as the first awarded to a Canadian soldier during the First World War. His leadership of the machine gunners helped to protect the withdrawal of artillery (which happened to be the Battery from St. Catharines) during the first major gas attack of the First World War.

Dr. Iarocci is an Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University. He is an authority on the First World War and, in addition to a number of books and articles about WW I, has written about the battle where Fisher received his Victoria Cross.

Veterans will be admitted free to the Museum on November 11 and 12.

WHO SUPPORTS THE PORT CONDO TOWER PROPOSAL?

Many of us continue to wonder who supports this proposal since just about everyone we meet in the city is against it. In addition, the: Port Dalhousie Heritage Committee, Niagara on the Lake Conservancy, St. Catharines Heritage Committee, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Heritage Canada Foundation, Niagara Regional LACAC, Region of Niagara Planning Department and the Ministry of Culture, amongst others, are against it. So WHO is for it??

Well...there is the developer, of course. There is also a group called Niagara Citizens for Smart Development. This group is a one-issue, lobby group that was formed (by their own admission) exclusively to fight PROUD Port Dalhousie and support the tower proposal(s). The group is not independent of the developer and they have had the developer pay for publishing their newsletters in the paper and hold their meetings in the developer's office. According to this group there are also some politicians who support the tower. We are told they have sent out an email listing politicians who are for the tower. We assume they want people to know WHO NOT TO VOTE FOR. We don't know who they listed but, we know how politicians voted on this critical issue.

Voted to:

City Councillor	Keep Reports Secret	Approve Tower Re-Zoning	Approve Tower By-Law
Tim Rigby	YES	YES	YES
Sue Erskine	YES	YES	YES
Brian Dorsey	YES	YES	YES
Cam Donevan	YES	YES	YES
Charles Gervais	YES	YES	YES
Sheila Morra	YES	YES	YES
Peter Secord	YES	YES	YES

Voted to Approve Tower at Regional Council:

Regional Councillor	Planning Committee	Regional Council
Tim Rigby	YES	YES
Ronna Katzman	YES	YES
Bruce Timms	YES	YES

There you have it: the developer, their lobby group and some politicians. There are, of course, some people who have fallen for the developers spin but even many of these people must really question whether the 'ends justified the means'. The end result has been democracy by secrecy and serious damage to representative government. Is that really good for our city? HmMMMM?

For the record: Accountability

Those who voted against the proposal and are deserving of our support in this November's election:

- Carol Disher (not running for public office)**
Joe Kushner
Greg Washuta
Jennifer Stevens
Bruce Williamson

Those who voted for the proposal and for secrecy in the process and **should be voted out of public office this November:**

- Tim Rigby
 Charles Gervais
 Cam Donevan
 Sheila Morra
 Brian Dorsey
 Peter Secord
 Sue Erskine

EDITOR'S ELECTION PICKS

PAGES 12 & 13

Creole Gumbo
 Antoine's Restaurant- New Orleans

Ingredients:
 3/4 stick butter
 2 cups chopped green onions
 2 cups sliced okra
 1 cup chopped white onions
 2 cups raw peeled shrimp
 2 cups raw oysters
 1 cup chopped tomato pulp
 2 cups tomato juice
 1 1/2 quarts Fish Stock
 3 crabs (top shell discard, cut into 4 pieces)
 3 tablespoons flour
 1 tablespoon File (sassafras)
 3 cups cooked rice
 salt, pepper, and cayenne

Directions:

Melt the butter and sauté the green onions, okra, white onions and crabs. In a separate pot put the shrimp, oysters, tomatoes and tomato juice with 1 1/2 quarts of Fish Stock and bring to a boil.

Let boil for a minute, then add to the first pot. In a small skillet cook the butter and flour together until brown.

Blend this brown roux with the File and some of the gumbo liquid and add to the gumbo. Add salt and pepper and cayenne to taste. Simmer for 1 1/2 hours.

To serve, pour 1 1/2 cups of gumbo into each bowl over 1/2 cup rice. Serves 6.



PRIORITIES

- **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**
Listen to and be responsive to the concerns of residents.
- **PROPERTY TAXES**
Work to improve the property assessment system to help seniors and people on fixed incomes keep their residences.
- **ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENT/DEVELOPMENT**
Improve the marketing of the Region's unique location, history and climate to attract business, industry and retirees. Seek ways to stabilize and expand our Region's strength in the Auto industry.
- **TOURISM AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION**
Continue to work to preserve and enhance the region's rich heritage. Strive to help the Region maximize heritage tourism opportunities that create meaningful local jobs - particularly for the younger generation.
- **HEALTH CARE**
Work hard to expedite the completion of a new St. Catharines Hospital and Cancer Centre.
- **OPEN & TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT**
I want the taxpayers of St. Catharines to see first hand that the culture of secrecy is not going to surface in our regional governance. Information should be available to the public and elected officials held accountable for their decisions.

Vote Carlos GARCIA for Regional Council

VOTE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE !



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BUY A BRICK \$10.00 \$100.00 \$250.00

**EDITOR'S ELECTION PICKS
PAGES 12 AND 13**

ENCOURAGING E-MAILS

Hello volunteers and friends of Port Dalhousie,

In case you are concerned or discouraged after Regional Councillors chose to ignore the community...DON'T BE! Our case for the OMB is stronger than ever because of the excellent and comprehensive Planning Report from the Region and the strong letters from Provincial Ministries. We know this and, more importantly, so does the developer. However, they had to pull out all the stops at the Region because if the vote had also gone against them they would have been in an even deeper hole .

Together, we will definitely Save Our Seaport
David Bergen and Carlos Garcia
PROUD Port Dalhousie

FYI, below are a few of the emails we received today: (OCT. 20, 2006)

Don't be discouraged folks. The strength of the Regional Planning Report will be much more effective and useful at the Board than the political decision.
Cheers,
Gregory J. Daly MCIP RPP (our Professional Planner who has extensive OMB experience and has served as an OMB judge)

Great presentation to regional councillors...very very proud to be part of Proud...THANK YOU ...THANK YOU.
PROUD Member Brigitte Eaton

The arguments presented demonstrate clearly to me that those against PDVC will have a very strong case before the OMB. The proposal is violating many, many basic statutory requirements, laws, commitments etc. and the OMB judge will be most interested in assessing those compliance issues. It is not hard after watching today to see how to demolish the logic of the arguments used by the developers in the OMB forum.
Prof. Herb Stovel,
Director, Heritage Canada Foundation

Good morning,
The speakers against the project were an absolutely excellent, clear and personable group of intelligent and well informed individuals who must have been convincing to anyone listening. The pro project group less so with a more manipulative approach, and the architect appalling in my opinion. I cannot take Kirkland seriously with his poorly founded and lofty attitudes which are imported from his elitist perspective and disregard for the inherent nature, history and quality of Port and its people, and disregard for those who have invested so much in its preservation and, in the best for its future.
The unfortunate voting results must stem from a narrow and very limited viewpoint, a sense of systemic desperation by Councillors, and unwillingness to accept the fact that there are better other interesting and creative ways to move Port forward without destroying or attempting to supplant its inherent and unique character and appeal.
Thanks to all of you who have seen the vision of Port as it can and should be.
PROUD Member Claude Gidman

THE TOWER IN PORT: MYTH, FACT AND SOME QUESTIONS

MYTH: If the tower is approved it shows that St. Catharines is pro-development and "open for business."

FACT: If the tower proceeds it shows that St. Catharines is desperately prepared to ignore its planning restrictions to accept development at any cost. Once the first tower is built, it will be much harder to say no to the second, or the third. St. Catharines could model itself after Niagara-on-the-Lake, which has lots of development that is appropriate, but preserves what the character of the community. What arguments do you use to stop the second, third and fourth towers once the first one is approved and built?

MYTH: Parking will not be a problem for the development or for Port.

FACT: Parking is already a problem. How can 39,000 square feet of retail/commercial and a 415-seat theatre, for which no parking is being provided in downtown Port, not add enormously to the problem that already exists?

MYTH: PROUD is a special interest group opposed to all development.

FACT: PROUD is a broad based community group that was originally formed to facilitate Port Dalhousie becoming a heritage conservation district under the Ontario Heritage Act. It was focused on many issues before the PDVC development in Port was announced, and continues to be. PROUD is pro-development if the development is seen as appropriate and fits into the existing heritage character of Port Dalhousie.

MYTH: The PDVC proposal has been passed by city and regional councils and can now proceed.

FACT: The PDVC proposal was pushed through both levels of government as the result of vigorous lobbying by several senior politicians. Those decisions are being appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, which judges projects on planning principles and adherence to governing planning legislation. Facts and not political pressure are measured when the decision is made. We have been assured that with proper representation there is a very strong likelihood that the pro-development decisions will be overturned.

MYTH: Proponents of the development say that a majority of St. Catharines residents are in favour of the tower.

FACT: We have run our own surveys, formal and informal, we have reports from politicians canvassing door to door and we have our own experience. We believe the vast majority of St. Catharines is opposed to this project. Do your own survey. Ask ten of your friends or neighbours how they feel about this project. We are confident that your results will be the same as ours. In fact, if your results are the same as ours, you might consider this to be an interesting time to vote against politicians who are more interested in the opinions of developers than of their citizens.

MYTH: It has been argued that this project fits the principles of Smart Growth, that Smart Growth encourages vertical infilling.

FACT: The principles of Smart Growth recognize that vertical density is not appropriate in all settings and that infilling can best be done in a way that fits into an existing situation

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Angela Saleta



Photo Credit: Niles J. Fuller

PORT REPORTER INTERVIEW –CARLOS GARCIA, REGIONAL COUNCIL CANDIDATE

Ted Gould (TG) , Editor of The Port Reporter, interviewed Regional Council Candidate Carlos Garcia (CG) on November 2, 2006. Carlos is Co-Founder and Executive Vice-President of PROUD Port Dalhousie, Niagara's largest volunteer heritage organization with over 600 members. He is also volunteer Chair of the Port Dalhousie Heritage District Advisory Committee. Below is the full text of the interview –

This Carousel Horse, donated by a world reowned artist, could be yours for Christmas. See below!



The draw for this horse will be made on Dec. 16th at the Legion at 1:00 p.m. The artist, Bill Kuhun, will be making the draw

Tickets are: \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00

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TG: You are already so heavily involved in community and volunteer work. What made you decide to run?

CG: It was a very major decision since I have never before run for office. However, I have become so disenchanted and frustrated with politicians who, once they are elected, choose to ignore the wishes of those who elected them. On top of this, they choose secrecy over openness and hold information and reports secret. The public always has a right to know.

TG: Are you referring specifically to the Port Tower Issue?

CG: That is certainly a perfect example and one that is close to my heart. The tower proposal violates all applicable regulations including the Heritage Guidelines approved by City Council. It is also opposed by the vast majority of our city's residents yet, some of our politicians decided they know best and voted to approve it. They also held reports from our own Planning Department secret from the public. However, there many other examples such as the Four Pad where people have been ignored and information kept secret.

TG: Why did you decide to run for the Region?

CG: I was certainly most disappointed in the way Regional Councillors –including three from our city, rubber-stamped City Council's tower decision despite such strong evidence that it should not be approved. However, the reason I chose the Region is that I have over 35 years of business experience, a strong strategic planning background and a global perspective. Our Region has more heritage and history than most other parts of our country yet we are not fully capitalizing on this potential. A comprehensive strategic plan to capitalize on this potential and having an integrated Regional approach is something I can really contribute to.

TG: Many candidates say they have business experience. How is yours different?

CG: Very few in the country have the extensive strategic planning experience I have. I have developed strategic plans for major projects and organizations around the world. That is a key difference. My plans are also actionable and have measurable objectives and milestones. A plan is useless if you don't execute it and measure the results

TG: What about high property taxes. What would you do about them?

CG: Our property taxes are clearly out of control. We MUST reduce expenditures and be prepared to cut where required. I advocate Zero-Based Budgeting where every department has to start from zero to justify all expenditures –including staff costs. This needs to be done at both Municipal and Regional levels. There is no excuse for St. Catharines' property owners paying Toronto level taxes or higher.

TG: What about protecting our seniors. How would you do that?

CG: If elected, I want to push for a tax freeze or deferral program whereby those on fixed incomes pay taxes based on what they paid for the property –not what it might bring in today's market. Seniors should NEVER lose their homes because of high taxes.

TG: What would you do about the new hospital?

CG: Universal health care is one key benefit that differentiates us from our neighbours to the South. We need to strengthen our system and get the new facility built and operating ASAP and I will make every effort to push for this. In addition, we need to consider all alternatives that will lead to better access and facilities for the both the City and Region. Closing the Dieu was premature and now we are in a crunch.

TG: Let's talk about industry and investment. We obviously need to attract more. What can we do?

CG: We are not doing enough nor have we made a coordinated effort to market our unique history, climate and location. This will be part of the comprehensive strategic plan I believe we need. We are in a unique position to attract new businesses, industries and retirees. If other Ontario cities which do not have all our advantages can do it, we certainly can. There is no instant solution to our economic ills such a huge new plant. The answer is to make every effort to hold on to our current industry while at the same time attracting new ones.

TG: We have not talked about heritage which is such a critical issue for you. What can we do with our heritage?

CG: Heritage Tourism which attracts visitors wanting an authentic experience is one of the fastest-growing trends in the world's largest industry (tourism). We have so much but have a poor track record of preserving and marketing our heritage. We need to preserve gems like Port Dalhousie, Port Colborne and Niagara on the Lake and capitalize on this potential. My strategic plan would focus on four major thematic, heritage attractions and develop an integrated marketing approach. These include the Underground Railroad and War of 1812 as well as the Welland Canal. It would all tie in with the Wine Route and, imagine, you could start at one end of the Canal for example, and have historical information, interpretive walks, displays, museums and the actual history at each stop. This is what tourists want to experience –authenticity. As someone remarked: "When was the last time someone travelled to see a condo tower?"

EDITOR'S ELECTION PICKS

PAGES 12 & 13



Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.
Church Office: 905-935-7231

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Course on Miracles**

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Fri. Nov. 17 - Euchre Night 7:30 pm
Sun. Nov. 19 - Outreach Sun. Speaker - Dr. James Czegléd
Sat. Nov. 25 - "Angels of Peace" play at Linhaven 2:30 pm
Sun. Nov. 26 - Christ The King Sunday
"Angels of Peace" play at St.Giles 7:00 pm
Sun. Dec. 3 - Advent #1 / Communion
Sun. Dec. 10 - Advent #2

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

five tips for a woman

1. It is important that a man helps you around the house and has a job.
2. It is important that a man makes you laugh.
3. It is important to find a man you can count on and doesn't lie to you.
4. It is important that a man loves you and spoils you.
5. It is important that these four men don't know each other

LIVING WILL

While I was watching the playoff games last weekend, my wife and I got into a conversation about life and death, and the need for Living Wills. During the course of the conversation, I told her that I never wanted to exist in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and taking fluids from a bottle. She got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all my beer. Sometimes it's tough being married to a "smart ass."

THE PROPOSED GENTRIFICATION OF PORT DALHOUSIE

gen·tri·fi·ca·tion: noun:

the process of transforming an unprosperous neighbourhood of buildings needing repair into a more prosperous one, for example, through investment in remodelling buildings or houses

Expensive beer, high-end boutiques, upscale residents and visitors looking for places to park their shiny, pricey cars: Is this the vision dancing before the eyes of supporters of the proposed condo-tower development in Port? We are told that this will be the salvation of Port Dalhousie and St. Catharines as well. Our small, relatively intact beach town will be given a Mississauga treatment, but apparently it will all be for the greater good.

Does this not cause you to have some questions, and perhaps some doubts? Here is a list of some of ours:

SOME DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS:

- Maybe we hadn't noticed that downtown Port is actually that badly off. Do you think that it will really be improved by the proposed gentrification: a twenty-storey condominium, an 80-unit boutique hotel, a 415-seat theatre, lots of retail and fancy cafes?
- Port has many older buildings that are in need of maintenance. Do we need a project that will loom over the existing streetscape to provide this upkeep?
- In Europe there are villages, towns and whole cities where their downtown cores predate Port Dalhousie by hundreds of years, and yet everything is kept in good repair. Are Europeans really that much cleverer than we are that they can preserve their buildings and communities without massive modern construction?
- Certainly there are seasonal problems with rowdiness in Port. Are these problems controllable through conventional policies or can we only solve them through major redevelopment?
- In summer, parking is already a major difficulty. No new parking is being provided for a 415-seat theatre or for the large retail area. Does this sound feasible to you?
- If this gentrification of Port proceeds, do you feel that Port will have room for you, for your kids, for your grandkids?
- If this first condo tower is permitted, and economically successful, where do you think the second condo tower will go? And the third? How will Port look and feel then?
- You have been repeatedly assured by the developers, supporters of the developers, and by certain city politicians that these concerns are nothing for you to worry about. Do you believe them? Are you going to vote for those politicians again?



"May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you now and throughout the New Year"

Jim Bradley MPP
St. Catharines




Proverbs According to First Grade Students

- Strike while the ..., insect is close.
- Never underestimate the power of... ants.
- Don't bite the hand that... looks dirty.
- Better to be safe than... punch a grade 7 boy.
- If you lie down with dogs, you'll... stink in the morning.
- It's always darkest before... Daylight Saving Time.
- You can lead a horse to water but... how?
- No news is... impossible.
- A miss is as good as a... Mr.
- You can't teach an old dog new... maths.
- Love all, trust... me.
- The pen is mightier than the... pigs.
- An idle mind... is the best way to relax.
- Where there's smoke there's... pollution.
- Happy the bride who... gets all the presents.
- A penny saved is... not much.
- Two's company, three's... the Musketeers.
- Don't put off till tomorrow what you .. put on to go to bed.
- Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and you have to blow your nose.
- There are none so blind as... Stevie Wonder.
- Children should be seen and not... smacked or grounded.
- If at first you don't succeed... get new batteries.
- You get out of something only what you... see in the picture on the box.
- When the blind leadeth the blind... get out of the way.
- Better late than... pregnant!

Re-Elect Councillor

BRUCE WILLIAMSON



Port Dalhousie Ward

I WILL CONTINUE TO:

- * **Consistently listen and vote for what is in the best interest of the people of Port Dalhousie Ward.**
- * **Strive for responsible management of your municipal tax dollars.**
- * **Be a progressive force for positive change that will not be silenced.**
- * **Vigorously challenge wasteful spending.**
- * **Act upon a conviction that places your quality of life ahead of vested interests.**
- * **Maintain focus on improving environmental conditions**
- * **Persist in achieving fairness, so that the north end gets our rightful share of parks and civic facilities.**
- * **Strive to improve the decision-making process so that it more effectively includes the opinions of neighbourhood residents.**
- **Put the "good of the many" ahead of the self-interest of a few."**

RE-ELECT BRUCE WILLIAMSON - CITY COUNCIL




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This is a quiz for people who know everything! These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers. Answers given on page 11 – no cheating!

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
 2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
 3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
 4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
 5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
 6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters "dw" and they are all common words. Name two of them.
 7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
 8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
 9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter "S."
- Don't peek at the answers until you have answered all of the questions. How did you do?

The first half of our lives is ruined by our parents, and the second half by our children.
 Clarence Darrow

You are only young once, but you can stay immature indefinitely

It's not that I'm afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens.
 Woody Allen.

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Standup for St. Catharines!!!!

VOTE for

Dr. John BACHER

Candidate - St. Patrick's Ward



J. Janes

- John is a determined advocate for Heritage and the Environment.
- Alone among the candidates for City Council, John Bacher has personally appealed the Port Dalhousie high rise tower to the Ontario Municipal Board.
- John Bacher strongly opposes the misuse of the Community Improvement Plan to alter the beauty of Lakeside Park for the benefit of a private condominium project.
- John Bacher worked successfully to help ensure that the Greenbelt Protection Act stops encroachment on unique grape and tender fruit land.
- Working with his neighbourhood, John Bacher helped prevent the City of St. Catharines from plans to sell off Catherine Street park lands to a private developer.
- John successfully persuaded the City to recognize Freedom Park in the Parks Plan. He is committed to working toward its implementation.
- John Bacher was awarded the *Friends of the Great Lakes Award* by federal and provincial Environment Ministries and Niagara Region's *Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award* in recognition of his role in fighting pollution, illegal dumping and tree cutting.
- John supports local firefighters.

Send a powerful message – Be a Bacher Backer!

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We can learn much from Merritt's history
 Letters to the Editor – Saturday, November 04, 2006 @ 01:00

St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby trotted out the name of William Hamilton Merritt when promoting the Port tower complex, apparently to try to give the project credibility through historical association. Some have suggested that Merritt would have supported the tower "because he was an entrepreneur."
 "It would seem, then, that this dubious claim could equally be made perhaps for Merritt's support of any profit-making plan, no matter how destructive or despised, simply "because he was an entrepreneur."

Certainly we can learn a great deal from history. One might recall that Merritt's Welland Canal Company was a financial sinkhole; that many of those who invested in it were ruined as a consequence and came to regret that they had ever heard of the Welland Canal; that the operation of the company, its continual instability, and the huge amounts of government money needed continuously to keep it afloat raised such alarm that an official inquiry was held, with the result that the government stepped in to take over the canal in 1841.

Nancy Cameron
 Dalhousie Avenue
 St. Catharines

When choosing between two evils I always like to take the one I've never tried before.
 Mae West

VOTE & ELECT
NORM
ST. GEORGE
NOV. 13, 2006



◆◆ A Proud Canadian
City Councillor
Port Dalhousie
Ward

My Commitment to You

● **TAXES**

Any proposed changes to our tax system, discussed at council meetings, must be open to the public and not behind closed doors. Keep property taxes at a reasonable level and spend wisely. Propose caps on property assessment and fair tax system are needed to keep our property taxes below the rate of inflation. Our residents in St. Catharines are paying too much of their hard earned dollars for the services they are receiving.

● **HERITAGE**

Any proposed changes to our tax system, discussed at council meetings, must be open to the public and not behind closed doors. Keep property taxes at a reasonable level and spend wisely. Propose caps on property assessment and fair tax system are needed to keep our property taxes below the rate of inflation. Our residents in St. Catharines are paying too much of their hard earned dollars for the services they are receiving.

● **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

A new hospital should be our top priority to attract new doctors to our City of St. Catharines.

I will work towards giving SENIOR CITIZENS the independence they deserve to live safely and enjoy available recreation, thus creating excellence in their well-being and the quality of life. I will keep the Port Dalhousie Ward residents informed of current and upcoming issues that will effect our community.

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EDITOR'S ELECTION PICKS
PAGES 12 & 13

Port Dalhousie Seniors Centre

Contact Information
Port Dalhousie Senior Citizens Centre
19 Brock Street 905-646-8000

- Monday
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ... Bingo
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. . Quilting
 - Tuesday
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
... Crafts and Social Time
Third Tuesday only - Luncheon
 - Wednesday
Second Wed. 12:30 - Pot Luck
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Euchre
 - Thursday: 1-4 pm Bingo
 - Saturday
(1st Saturday of each month)
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.... Euchre
- Note: Foot clinic every 6th Thursday -- \$10.00**
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* **Respect for your hard earned tax dollars**

Answers To Quiz: (page 10)

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends: boxing
2. North American landmark constantly moving backward . Niagara Falls (The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.)
3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons: asparagus and rhubarb.
4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside...strawberry.
5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. (The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.)
- 6 Three English words beginning with dw . Dwarf, dwell and dwindle.
7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh: lettuce.
9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with "s": shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES

Merritton, Ward 1

Quote: Citizens for a Smart Growth Hospital
 "On two major development issues, the **St. Catharines General Hospital** and the **Port Dalhousie Tower**, our elected representatives with few exceptions have voted against the best interests of their Community and our City. Support for the Port Dalhousie Tower was made against the advice of Regional planning experts and against the wishes of the public.

Merritton Representatives - How they voted!
 All our Regional Representatives voted in FAVOUR of closing the Inner City Hospitals and moving to West St. Catharines. All but three voted in Favour of the Port Tower

At the City level,
 Merritton Councilor Sheila Morra voted in FAVOUR of the Tower Development
 Jennie Stevens, to her credit, OPPOSED.

Merritton Councilor Jennie Stevens OPPOSED abandoning the Merritton General site.

Sheila Morra voted in FAVOUR.
 Based on past records and looking into the future we recommend the following:

- Vote, most important.
- Support Jeff Burch and Jennie Stevens for Merritton Councilors.
- Support either Garry Robins or Brian McMullan for Mayor."

St. Andrew's Ward 2

Incumbent Joe Kushner stood up for the community and voted against secrecy and against the tower proposal. He is also the dean of council with extensive experience. Incumbent Cam Donevan voted both for secrecy and for the objectionable tower. There are two new candidates: Andrew Gill and Wayne Sadlak. They both are opposed to the tower proposal. Of the two we give Gill the edge because of his energy and enthusiasm, understanding of the issues and objection to the tower proposal.

Recommended:
Joe Kushner and Andrew Gill.

St. George's Ward 3

Incumbent Greg Washuta stood up for the community and voted against the tower. He also opposed the first (withdrawn) tower proposal. Incumbent Peter Secord on the other hand, voted to keep reports secret and voted for the unpopular tower. Newcomer Darren Platakis supported the tower at the public Council Meetings.

Recommended: Greg Washuta.

Merritton, Ward 1

OFFICE OF MAYOR
 Brian McMULLAN

CITY COUNCIL

Jeff BURCH
 Jennifer STEVENS

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Judith CASSELMAN
 Michael COLLINS
 Carlos GARCIA
 Brian HEIT

St. Andrew's Ward 2

OFFICE OF MAYOR
 Brian McMULLAN

CITY COUNCIL

Andrew GILL
 Joseph KUSHNER

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Judith CASSELMAN
 Michael COLLINS
 Carlos GARCIA
 Brian HEIT

St. George's Ward 3

OFFICE OF MAYOR
 Brian McMULLAN

CITY COUNCIL

Gregory WASHUTA

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Judith CASSELMAN
 Michael COLLINS
 Carlos GARCIA
 Brian HEIT

Are you a developer-free candidate? As is happening in other Ontario cities (and reported by the Toronto Star on Oct. 29, 2006), one critical question to ask a mayoralty candidate you are considering is: Are you a 'developer-free' candidate? If the candidate has received or will be receiving a donation from developers or their associates (remember the donation period extends past election day), there will be an implied obligation to those sources, unwritten perhaps, but an obligation nonetheless, and the interests of the community which they will represent, if elected, may be at risk or compromised later. Think about it.

SEE ELECTION DISCUSSION ON PAGE 3

RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES

St. Patrick's Ward 4

Incumbent Carol Disher was very supportive of the community on issues such as the tower and the leash-free dog park. It is sad she is not running. Incumbent Charles Gervais took the opposite position and has been a strong supporter of both tower proposals. There are 5 new candidates in this ward including: John Bacher, Bill Buckle, Matthew Cutler, Mark Elliot, Heather Foss, and Milica Kovacevich. Bacher, Foss and Kovacevich are clearly against the tower while the positions of Buckle, Cutler and Elliot are either not as clear or they did not respond. We very much like Bacher's commitment to environmental preservation and Foss' business experience and platform.

Recommended: John Bacher and Heather Foss.

Grantham Ward 5

Incumbent Dawn Dodge was unable to vote on the tower issue due to a serious injury. However, she was against the first tower proposal and has indicated she would have voted against the second. She also did vote against keeping the planning reports secret. Incumbent Brian Dorsey on the other hand, ignored the community's concerns and voted for secrecy and for the tower. Dorsey has also been a close ally and supporter of Mayor Tim Rigby on many issues. There are 5 new candidates including: Laura Ip, Bill Phillips, Salvatore Sorrento, Mike Sullivan and Tony Tullo. Of these, Bill Phillips and Mike Sullivan seem the best qualified and we give the edge to Mike because of his extensive experience dealing with Council on Hydro and other issues.

Recommended: Dawn Dodge and Mike Sullivan.

Port Dalhousie Ward 6

Incumbent Bruce Williamson has been one of the most responsive to his constituents throughout his several terms in office. He stood out for his clear opposition to secrecy and to the Port Dalhousie tower which is proposed in his ward. His questions of those speaking at the tower public meetings were incisive and well thought out. The second incumbent, Sue Erskine, stood out for exactly the opposite. She ignored the overwhelming opposition of her own ward's residents and voted for secrecy and for the tower. She is now running for Mayor on that record. There are 7 new candidates in this ward including: Tim Atherton, Susan Bassett, Mark Klimchuk, Richard Martinelli, David Prentice, Norm St. George and Len Stack. On the all important tower issue four candidates are clearly siding with the community in opposing such an inappropriate development in a low-rise heritage district: Bassett, Klimchuk, Prentice and St. George. Of these, we give the nod to St. George because of his previous council experience and ongoing support for heritage preservation. Atherton, Martinelli and Stack, on the other hand, definitely support the developer and the objectionable and unpopular tower proposal. Stack stands out amongst those for the tower in that he has his offices in a building owned by the developer and is seen out campaigning with members of the developer's support group which is not independent from the developer.

Recommended: Bruce Williamson and Norm St. George.

St. Patrick's Ward 4

OFFICE OF MAYOR

Brian McMULLAN

CITY COUNCIL

John BACHER

Heather FOSS

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Judith CASSELMAN

Michael COLLINS

Carlos GARCIA

Brian HEIT

GRANTHAM WARD Ward 5

OFFICE OF MAYOR

Brian McMULLAN

CITY COUNCIL

GRANTHAM WARD

Dawn DODGE

Michael SULLIVAN

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Judith CASSELMAN

Michael COLLINS

Carlos GARCIA

Brian HEIT

PORT DALHOUSIE WARD

OFFICE OF MAYOR

Brian McMULLAN

CITY COUNCIL

GRANTHAM WARD

Norman ST. GEORGE

Bruce WILLIAMSON

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Judith CASSELMAN

Michael COLLINS

Carlos GARCIA

Brian HEIT

PROUD PORT DALHOUSIE PAGE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PROUD'S CONTRIBUTION RECOGNIZED – NOW WE MUST STOP THE TOWER AT THE OMB

We are pleased that a recent Editorial in a local newspaper recognizes that PROUD has made a difference in having the first tower proposal rejected and that we have succeeded in saving heritage. But, the concept of the tower developer offering money to save historic Dalhousie House in exchange for the community not going to the OMB is incorrect and flawed. First, the two issues are totally unrelated. Dalhousie House does need to be saved and PROUD has had a volunteer committee working on potential solutions for over a year. However, Dalhousie House is owned by the City – not the developer– and it is not currently threatened by the massive tower proposal. If the developer sincerely wants to help PROUD in its efforts to save this historic building, they should be willing to make a donation with no strings attached. Is it possible that this offer is simply a strategy to keep the community from going to the OMB and stopping the second tower proposal?

Yes, the over 600 PROUD volunteers have made a difference.

Without our determination there would now be 33 storey tower dominating our village. Without our determination the Jail House would have been moved or even damaged. Without our determination other historic buildings would have been destroyed.

AND without our determination the second tower proposal will proceed to violate the planning regulations and heritage guidelines and will forever change the 19th century canal village.

OMB WILL STOP SECOND TOWER. PROUD volunteers are committed to going to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and have appealed the political decisions made at the City and Regional Councils. We know we have a particularly strong case. The OMB is a tribunal set up to uphold the intent of applicable regulations and they make decisions based on those regulations –not on the decisions by the politicians! In this case, the proposal contravenes all applicable Provincial and Municipal regulations – including the Provincial Policy Statement, the City's Official Plan, the Zoning By-Law and the Heritage Guidelines. In addition, the Ministry of Culture (responsible for the Ontario Heritage Act) has confirmed the proposal violates the Heritage Guidelines and should not be approved. Furthermore, the OMB has never approved a tower within a designated Heritage District and such a decision would set a negative precedent for the 80 other designated Heritage Districts in Ontario.

We have to really like our chances at the OMB. They have politicians on their side and we have the law on ours. It is shameful, however, that the community has to continue fundraising and commit as much as \$250,000 to get our City and Region to enforce the regulations they were elected to uphold. If you would like to be a part of history in preserving our heritage, please contact Lorraine at 905-646-1264 or bcordner@cogeco.ca to find out how you can make a donation. YOU TOO can make a difference.

David Bergen
PROUD Port Dalhousie

A PROUD Seven-Year History as a Volunteer Community Organization

NEWSPAPERS, LIKE POLITICIANS, SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE

In June and October of this year, City Council and Regional Council gave their respective approvals to the controversial condo tower proposal for the low-rise Port Dalhousie Heritage Conservation District. In doing so, both Councils voted to ignore that the proposal is in gross contravention of the Provincial Policy Statement and the City's own Official Plan, Zoning By-Laws and Heritage Guidelines.

We, the voters obviously have a right to expect that our elected officials will uphold the approved planning regulations. Even more importantly, we have a right to expect that they respect our wishes and, in this case, it is clear that the vast majority oppose this proposal. While the developer and his close associates in each Council will argue there is support for this proposal, one needs go no further than the Public Test. Any reader who has any doubt that the vast majority oppose this proposal should go out and speak to 10, 20 or 100 members of the public at random. He/she will soon have clear direction: a significant, if not overwhelming majority will be opposed or have grave concerns.

It is particularly frustrating that our politicians ignore their own regulations and their own constituents and that now the community has to raise funds to stop this inappropriate project at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). It is just as frustrating to read editorials in the Standard endorsing a project that violates all the rules and is opposed by the majority. Newspapers, like politicians, should be responsive to the communities they serve. Unfortunately, while the tower will be stopped at the OMB, we can't appeal to the OMB to get our only daily newspaper and, presumably parent Osprey Media, to reflect the concerns of the community and not just those of developers and politicians. I believe on Election Day, we the voters will send a very clear message to politicians who ignore our concerns. Let's hope Osprey and The Standard will also get the message.

Peter Douet Dalhousie Ave.

CITY MUST LIFT IRON CURTAIN OF SECRECY

I was not at all surprised to read in the Saturday Standard that our "city fails information test" and that the city did not even respond to requests for information. Information at the city is controlled by the City Clerk's Office and this is the same office that denied requests to make public the planning reports for the first Port Dalhousie tower. That refusal to share with the public information from our own Planning Department, cost citizens and the Standard time and money –until the tower developer finally told city hall it was ok to release the reports.

It was this very same Clerk's Office that refused to allow the public to videotape the Council meetings on the current Port tower yet, allowed a company named Omni Media to do it because they are "a media group no different than any other member of the press." The Clerk also admitted to the Standard it didn't know if Omni was paid to do this or by whom. Omni has since refused to release the tapes of these extremely important Council Meetings and has now decided it will not do so until after Regional Council rules on the tower.

To the best of my knowledge, Omni is an advertising production company and not a "member of the press." If they do claim to be press, they should know suppressing the news is NOT a function of the press. A journalist's function is to report both sides of an issue----and let the public decide. I should know having been a journalist for over 30 years.

To withhold the facts is taking sides on an issue. The Clerk's Office and Omni should release this information immediately and let the public be the judge of its relevance. As someone stated recently: "it is no longer a veil but an Iron Curtain of secrecy at city hall."

Bruce Cordner
24 Shelley Avenue
Port Dalhousie

CONCERNED ABOUT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

While I agree there is a need to make the municipal election the focal point for Nov. 13, I am concerned that the school board elections will get pushed aside in people's minds. The education of our young needs people to volunteer for the school boards to make sure that fresh viewpoints are examining the ways in which our children are being taught. New candidates like **Flavia Orvitz**, a highly qualified candidate for public school trustee who just knocked on my door will find it hard to get known by the public school voters. I was impressed with her enthusiasm and knowledge and wish her well on Nov. 13. Flavia Orvitz has my vote on election day.

Rose Campbell
Public School Voter

St. Andrew's Badminton Club

Junior Age 7-15
Monday Oct 16 2006
7pm-9pm

Senior Badminton
Thursday Oct 5 2006
8pm-10pm

For more information call 905-934-1945

The Port Reporter

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Deadline for posting of community events and advertising for the next issue is Dec. 20. Call Ted at 935-1168.

The Port Reporter will occasionally distribute brochures to help offset our costs. To submit requests for rates–please call Bruce (646-1264) or Ted (935-1168).

EXPERIENCED, DEDICATED, INDEPENDENT



RE-ELECT
BRIAN
HEIT
REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

Brian supports appropriate infilling projects like Merritton's Domtar Project. Councillor Heit voted AGAINST the 17 storey tower in Old Port Dalhousie.

For information or a lawn sign please call: 905-935-8377
A PROVEN REPRESENTATIVE WITH INTEGRITY

Stable House Studio

Port Dalhousie artist and Dalhousie Yacht Club sailor: Barbara McMullen captures the pageantry of sailboat racing in her newest painting "Sunset Run".



Giclee prints are for sale for \$75. with profits going towards attracting and training young sailors in the Learn to Sail program at the NYC.

Prints can be ordered through Stable House Studio at 905-934-3289.

Barbara's nautical art is displayed at the Dalhousie Yacht Club and non-members may view this work by simply calling Anne Rosler at the NYC 905-934-8325.

PROUD'S SUBMISSION TO REGIONAL COUNCIL OCT. 19, 2006

Chair Partington and Regional Councillors
October 19, 2006

RE: OP AMENDMENT NO. 31, CONDO TOWER DEVELOPMENT
IN HERITAGE DISTRICT
PROUD PORT DALHOUSIE URGES YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THIS
AMENDMENT

Today you will be voting on a recommendation from the Planning and Public Works Committee to support the subject amendment which would allow a 62.5 metre high-rise condo tower in the low-rise (11metre maximum height) Port Dalhousie Heritage

Conservation District. Our volunteer organization urges you to vote AGAINST this amendment for the following key reasons:

1. This is NOT just a local St. Catharines issue. It can set a Region and Province-wide precedent and impact each of the Region's 12 municipalities. You are NOT intruding on St. Catharines' local business when you vote on this. Do you want this to happen in your municipality?
2. The proposed OPA is contrary to the Provincial Policy Statement, the City's Official Plan and Secondary Plan for Port Dalhousie, the Zoning By-Law and the Heritage Guidelines. This position is supported by experts and your own Planning Department's comprehensive report.
3. The Planning Report recommends the proposal be rejected. It states that all key planning documents which are applicable in this matter support the Region's Objective 7.F.1., which is to preserve buildings communities and other sites of significant historic and architectural interest.
4. The proposed OPA "represents a departure from the articulated planning vision for the core of Port Dalhousie." This planning vision was recently approved by the OMB following a comprehensive planning process (please refer to attached letter from our lawyer Jane Pepino).
5. Port Dalhousie can be a valuable economic driver for the Region as an authentic Heritage Tourism destination. This economic potential will be lost if an alien high-rise structure is allowed to be built and the feel of a relatively intact 19th century canal village is lost.
6. Purported tax and job benefits have not been substantiated by any in depth feasibility studies. The study done by Prof. Soroka at Brock only took the developer's assumptions and projected what would happen IF these assumptions were valid. Retail experts have questioned the viability of the Retail and theatre expert Janis Barlow questioned the viability of the Theatre.
7. While intensification is important, not all areas are suitable for it (see Planning Report)
8. Heritage Guidelines should be respected. PDVC's lawyer has argued that "...the Port Dalhousie Guidelines have no legal status under the Ontario Heritage Act." However, according to the Ministry of Culture: "... (existing Heritage District Plans) represent the municipality's stated objectives and policies with respect to the development of the district and should be respected. In cases that come before the OMB (on appeal by the owner or others under the Ontario Heritage Act or Planning Act), the OMB will look to those plans/policies among other considerations in reviewing the matter." (please see information from the Ministry attached).

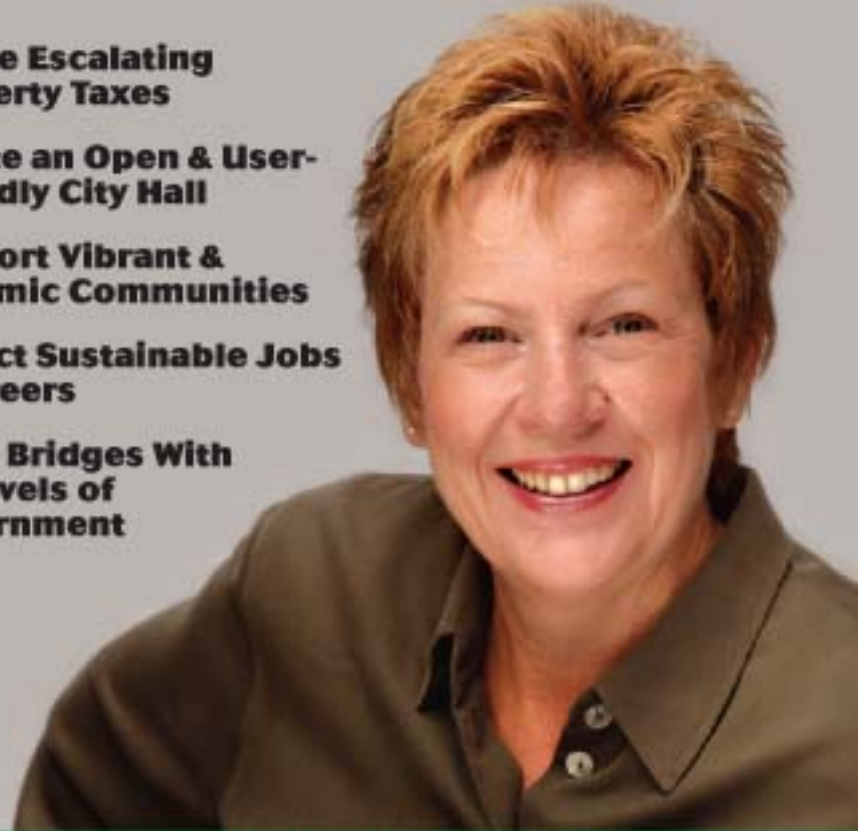
Our research and the record attendance at the various public meetings clearly indicate there is widespread opposition to the condo tower proposals throughout the City and Region. Specifically, the over 600 members of our community organization support appropriate development in the commercial core of the Port Dalhousie HCD, but they overwhelmingly oppose a tower and the massive scale of development proposed by the PDVC application. PLEASE REJECT THIS OPA AND DEMAND A PROPOSAL THAT WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE AND RESPECTS THE APPLICABLE PLANNING REGULATIONS.

David Bergen, President and Carlos Garcia, Executive Vice-President

GO FORWARD WITH Phelan FOR MAYOR

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- ✓ Create an Open & User-Friendly City Hall
- ✓ Support Vibrant & Dynamic Communities
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- ✓ Build Bridges With all Levels of Government



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Brian McMullan for Mayor

ELECT

LEADING WITH EXPERIENCE

Currently, Managing Partner of a North American leader in the paper recycling industry.

9 Years as Councillor for Grantham Ward.

3 Years as Regional Councillor.

Former Chair, Recycling Council of Ontario.

Member of City Finance Committee that froze taxes in consecutive years.

Co-Chair of Regional Smart Growth Committee.

I have long thought - **YES, WE CAN** build a bright future for our community.

Yes, we can have fair property taxes and preserve city services.

Yes, we can clean up our streets and put an end to graffiti.

Yes, we can have new development in St. Catharines *and* preserve our history and our heritage.

Yes, we can make St. Catharines green again.

And - **yes, we can** work together to make these things happen.

Do you have questions for Brian?
Want to volunteer or make a donation?
Would you like a lawn sign?

Contact Our Campaign Office:

**350 Scott Street, Unit 5
St. Catharines, ON
L2N 6T4**

Tel: 905.937.3111

Fax: 905.937.9328

brian@brianmcmullan.ca



www.brianmcmullan.ca

A VOICE FOR YOU AT CITY COUNCIL

Mike Sullivan

18 Sharon St.
St. Catharines, ON L2N 3J4

Call: 905-646-8140

Candidate For Councillor - Grantham Ward (Ward #5)

Please Remember To Vote Monday, November 13, 2006
Authorized By The Mike Sullivan Campaign For City Council

THE PORT REPORTER

Want to contribute a story, photo, recipe, letter to the editor, etc. to the Port Reporter? Our paper is an all-volunteer effort, trying to give to the citizens of St. Catharines an alternative news source to provide more reporting balance in our city.

We can be reached by Email at dalhousiecity@yahoo.com, by sending a message through the www.savport.com website or by snail mail by dropping off your material in the mail basket at 34 Bayview Drive. All input is welcomed and helps keep your paper sensitive to the needs of the community. Our sincere thanks to all those people who have contributed to the success of our paper. It is truly a community effort.

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