VOL.17 NO. 2

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

Fall 2022

#### To Vote or Not to Vote. That Shouldn't be the Question.

and unicipal Regional elections are on the horizon, October 24th to be exact, and the apathy displayed by the electorate in Municipal elections is puzzling. Niagara's elections produce around a 35-40% voter turn-out rate, while Provincial elections attract approximately 50 - 55% and Federal elections 60-70%.

One would think that local issues that affect us daily in the community in which we live and work would (and should), be a higher priority in citizen's concerns. Not to say that Federal and Provincial elections are less important, but neither do they affect us directly the way Municipal elections do.

Here is a list of some of the responsibilties of Municipal governments in Ontario as compiled by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario:

Airports, Ambulance, Animal Control and By-law Enforcement,

## The Port Dalhousie Councillors' Report

Our Councillors Combine Efforts in Presenting Their Final Report Before the Elections.

s we approach the end of the  $\bigcap$  current Council term, we are departing from our usual practice by providing a joint recap of key municipal issues we have worked on over the past four months to share with readers across Port Dalhousie Ward.

#### **Fighting Tax Subsidies for Luxury Condos.**

Through this term of council, we have consistently objected to and voted against these subsidies, which are granted through the Community Improvement Program (CIP), because we strongly believe that one of the basic duties of citizenship is that everyone ought to pay their fair share of taxes. This is a fundamental aspect of equality and fairness in our country and there should be no special exemptions from meeting this obligation, least of all for individuals with the financial

means of doing so. These projects will proceed regardless of subsidies from property taxpayers if they are feasible. Despite our opposition, this Council has approved \$3.57 million in tax rebates for the Lincoln



Fabrics development in Port and,

taxpayers also fund about a third, or so, of the Region's taxes.

Hopefully, we can make significant changes to this program early in the next term of Council to make it more relevant, particularly, to the pressing concern of the deficiency of affordable housing.

#### **Access to Lake Ontario and** Beaches.

We voted against the recommended model for charging residents for parking at the City's beaches, including the Lakeside Park parking lot, because we believe beach parking should be affordable for everyone and that cost should not be a major factor restricting access to publicly owned parking lots and the waterfront. Since there has never been a charge for parking in the past, it is important to continue to ensure residents' ability to pay must not prevent

Continued on page 2

recently, \$5.73 million for a condo tower downtown. These rebates are then matched by the Region so the developers get double what the City approved and, of course, our City's

## Just Who Was J.M.A. Waugh?

A Used Bookstore Find Sets Our Writer on a Path of Discovery

"It's been said that undertaking historical research is not unlike entering a crowded room where a lively conversation has been carried on since long before one was born. One must catch a word, a phrase, or a friendly voice, feeling ones way about until it all begins to make sense, before one dares to ask the first question."

- Russell A. Potter, 2016

nd that is the way that I felt just recently A after making a purchase at the Write Bookstore on St. Paul Street, which is one of my favourite places to stop by and browse because you never know what kind of treasures you will find there. Let me back up. On the day in question, I was browsing among the shelves, and I found an early edition of the novel "Quo Vadis:" A Narrative of the Time of Nero, by Henryk Sienkiewicz. This copy was printed in 1901, and the \$8 price suited my budget perfectly. Besides, the subject matter also piqued my curiosity having been a Classics major at Brock University back in the...

ummm...dark, pre-internet ages.

When I got the book home, I decided to leaf through it and take a closer look at it. And I immediately noticed a detail that had escaped my eye while in the shop: an ink stamp with the name of a former owner, "J.M.A. Waugh. Chemist & Druggist. Port Dalhousie, Ontario." The name seemed familiar, but (as Potter quoted), I asked myself "the first question" ... just who was J.M.A. Waugh? Research showed that he led an interesting yet ultimately sad life.

Continued on page 4



## Port Dalhousie Councillors' Report ... continued

Arts and Culture, Child Care, Economic Development, Garbage Collection Services, and Recycling, Electric Utilities, Library Services, Long Term Care and Senior Housing, Maintenance of Local Road Network, Parks and Recreation, Public Transit, Police Services, Property Assessment, Public Health, Social Services, Social Housing, Storm Sewers, Tax Collection and Water and Sewage, to name just some areas within Municipal and Regional jurisdiction.

So considering the above list, please adjust your voting priorities, and take the time to cast your ballot on October 24th. Become a "YIMBY" ("YES In My Back Yard") voter.

Although this issue focuses on the elections, it also has interesting and informative articles by our regular contributors on Port's history, profiles, the restaurant review, opinion pieces, BWC update, and the Councillors' report among other features and notices.

Happy Reading! ■

them from enjoying the lake. While we understand the philosophy underpinning the user-pay concept, the cost must be reasonable. We are also concerned about passing the additional administrative costs involved in operating this system on to ratepayers. Nevertheless, a majority of Councillors voted for the model we now have of charging for parking. Once again, we hope we can make changes to the program during the next term of Council.

We have also fought hard to save the various staircases that access the lake in Port.

After a protracted effort, featuring much hard work by Councillor Garcia, we secured approval to perform any required repairs to reopen and maintain the four sets of existing stairs at Lake Front Park, Pawling, Graham and Simcoe. In addition, we received approval for funds to eventually replace a fifth

set of stairs at Masefield (or another suitable location) since they were rendered unusable following emergency shoreline repair and protection work.

#### The Impact of Climate Change.

Global warming and the effects of climate change are one of the most challenging issues of our times. The negative impacts extend to human lives, species extinction, and biodiversity loss in ecosystems. In Canada we are witnessing immediate impacts in the form of extreme weather events such as severe rainstorms, floods, wildfires, and droughts. Early in the current term Council passed the Climate Change Emergency Declaration based on a motion put forward by Councillor Williamson. Since that time, a Climate Change Adaptation Plan has been implemented. However, we must make more progress by considering the

measurement of environmental impact in every decision we make and deal with these issues much more vigorously. It is also critical that we make progress in taking mitigation actions.

There are many practical and inexpensive initiatives we can support starting with a genuine arboriculture program to plant more trees, nurture these newly planted trees and protect and manage existing trees, as well as to maintain the greenery in our parks. We need to look to nature-based solutions and prioritize the use of permeable, low-carbon, less costly alternatives to hard surfaces such as asphalt for pathways in trails and parks.

#### The Battle to Save the YMCA.

We led this effort with several motions by Councillor Williamson. These motions directed staff to work with the Y on an arrangement to keep it open or, failing that, to



The view from our chair

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

Dr David Bergen

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



purchase the facility and repurpose it as a civic recreational facility. In the end, a Toronto developer purchased it for around \$10 million a seeming bargain in today's real estate market.

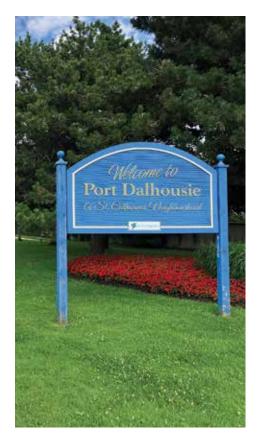
Now, we may be faced with getting our taxpayers on the hook for as much as \$30 million to build a second indoor aquatic facility which experts say is needed to meet demand. This is regrettable since we had an excellent existing indoor aquatic facility which was paid for largely by St. Catharines residents.

#### **Hanging Flower Baskets in** Port Dalhousie.

For two years now, starting with the City's Budget Committee, we have been advocating to have the same number of flower baskets on poles in the Summer as we used to always have before. The pandemic led to deferrals, but we managed to have a total of 17 last year. However, we would have liked to have at least double that this year which is roughly what we used to have. Port is the most important tourist area in the City and we feel it is critical to beautify it as much as possible; this year, we had thousands of visitors for the return of regattas and the Canada 2022 Games. Unfortunately, our Council colleagues approved a motion that limited us to 17. We certainly hope this can be changed with a new Council.

#### **Cleaning Up the Former GM Lands** at 282 and 285 Ontario St.

We have made and supported motions requesting several updates regarding the clean-up of the GM site because the contamination impacts the whole City. Of course, Port Dalhousie Ward is really affected as PCBs and other contaminants leak into Twelve Mile Creek and flow into Martindale Pond, the harbour and Lake Ontario. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) became aware over 1½ years ago of the discharge of highlytoxic PCBs flowing from the Ontario Street properties and other sites into Twelve Mile Creek. Updates



requested included: that staff seek a timeline from both the contractor hired by the property owner and the MECP for split testing (meaning that test samples are taken by both the contractor's qualified engineers and the Ministry) and that staff invite the MECP to present the

PCB Clean Up Workplan and split results for the subject properties to Council as soon as possible, and that Ministry staff and City staff provide an update to Council on the additional PCB hotspots, testing and cleanup efforts in the other known areas of concern along Twelve Mile Creek.

When this report was written we had just received one update from the Ministry but the work continues. The site is an eyesore and a blight on our city and now the property owner is proposing a new development on part of the site without the rest being cleaned up. We will oppose any new development until full clean-up is completed, a comprehensive plan is in place and residents are safe.

#### **Final Condo Development** Approved for "Tower Site" in **Port's Commercial Core.**

For many years we have worked to ensure new development in Port Dalhousie's historic Commercial Core is appropriate and preserves

Continued on page 8



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

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

Editorial Board Hank Beekhuis / Deborah Kehler/ Peter Wing Editor/Production

Peter Wing

**Copy Editors** Bram Hoff/Deborah Kehler Henry Knoop

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

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

Deadline for posting of community events, advertising, & article submissions is the first of the month prior to printing Late submissions are considered for publication at the discretion of the editorial board.

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

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

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



## Just Who Was J.M.A. Waugh? ... continued

James McArthur Waugh (b. February 1866) was a native of Lobo Township near London, Ontario, and the son of John and Margaret (McArthur) Waugh. Census records showed that his father was of Scottish ancestry, a farmer, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. Margaret was "Calvinistic Baptist." They raised a family of at least six children (three sons, three daughters) who were born between 1866 and 1878. James was the eldest child among his siblings, and the census records showed that he lived at home in Lobo until at least 1881. He appears to have acquired a thorough education and taught school in Kent County for a time during the 1880s before he entered the Ontario College of Pharmacy. The College was then located on Gerrard Street East near Church Street in Toronto.

By 1891, Waugh had graduated and was working as a pharmacist in Wallace-

burg (in Chatham-Kent.) He was a lodger in the house of one J.W. McDonald, who was described in the census as a "mariner."

Waugh moved to Port Dalhousie sometime around 1897, and it is quite probable that he took over the pharmacy that had been operated for many years by Dr. John Wyse Considine (ca. 1819-Nov. 12, 1907) who was, by then, in his late 70s.

The 1898 Directory showed that Waugh resided at the "Windsor House" on Front Street, kept by Samuel Houston (now 18 Lakeport?) The Directories between 1901 and 1921 variously showed his address on either Front or Canal Streets. Between 1922 and 1924 his address was listed on Lock (1922, 1924) and on Main Street (1923.)

In June 1901, Waugh was appointed to serve as the municipal village clerk for Port Dalhousie---a position that he also took over from Dr. Considine who had been the clerk between 1887 and 1901. A notice, signed by Waugh as clerk, appeared in the Standard in July 1902 calling for tenders "for laying granolithic sidewalks" in the village. Waugh, "the efficient and popular Village clerk," held this office until 1921; "his excellent work in this position has gained him a host of personal friends."

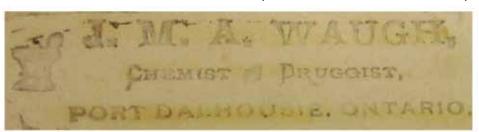
A "Special Souvenir Issue" of the Standard, printed in 1907, described Waugh as the proprietor of "one of the leading establishments" in Port. His business was located on Front Street in "a substantial brick block and is one of the most attractive stores of its kind in town. It is stocked with the purest and freshest of drugs and medicines, toilet articles, and druggists' sundries, and a specialty is made of the compounding of physicians' prescriptions. In connection with this pharmacy is a handsome soda water fountain, and neatly furnished ice cream parlors." Waugh not only sold medicines that he "compounded," but he also sold patent medicines of questionable efficacy. In November 1917 the Standard published a testimonial for a tonic known as "Taniac." A brick mason named William Williamson of Toronto had "the biggest surprise of his life" when he began taking Taniac. It quickly helped him to recover from his kidney ailment, back ache, rheumatism, insomnia,

restored his appetite, and alleviated his depression. "I can't praise it enough," he beamed. Taniac was sold by Waugh as well as by Potter and Shaw in St. Catharines and G.S. Brant in Merritton.

Waugh was a member of the Seymour Lodge AF & AM No. 277 GRC, and he served as the Master of the Lodge in 1907, District Deputy Grand Master in 1912, and as Lodge secretary in 1922.

Waugh was married at London (Ont.) on May 11, 1898, to Helen ("Lena") McArthur (b. May 23, 1867.) She was a native of the London area and the daughter of Colin and Margaret McArthur. Waugh was listed as a Presbyterian and Lena as a Baptist on their marriage registration. They raised a family of three children:

• John Arthur ("Arthur"), born at Port Dalhousie March 8, 1899. The 1911 census showed him listed as a "newsboy." He later worked as a clerk for the Per Marquette Railroad. He moved to the Windsor area (Sandwich) in the early 1920s where he succumbed to tuberculosis ("tuberculosis kidney") on August 14, 1925. He was an unmarried man at the time of his death. The informant was his maternal aunt, Mrs. Abel (Isabella) Ashby. He was interred at London in the family plot at Woodland Cemetery.





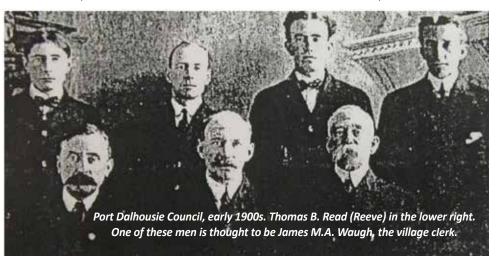
Working with families in Port Dalhousie has been a remarkable privilege for the past four years. Our communities are stronger when our schools are safe, welcoming and inclusive.

https://www.facebook.com/KateForEducation



• James Christopher Leslie ("Leslie"), born at Port Dalhousie Feb. 4, 1901. Like his older brother, Leslie was also employed as a "newsboy." The Vernon's Directory showed that he resided apart from his family in 1922 at the corner of Main and Simcoe. He then moved to Waterloo where he worked as an office clerk. He was married there on Feb. 6, 1923, to Loretta Lorentz (Jan. 5, 1904-Sept. 21, 1977.) She was the daughter of Martin and Catherine (Heinrich) Lorentz. The 1921 census showed that she was employed as a rubber worker in a shoe factory around the time of their marriage. James and Loretta raised a family of four children who were born between 1923 and 1932. Leslie died at Kitchener on Nov. 25, 1975.

• Margaret Lila Isabel Elsie Waugh ("Lela" or "Lila") was born at Port Dalhousie on Feb. 4, 1905. Few details are known of her life. In 1921, she attended the



St. Catharines Collegiate and resided with her aunts and mother on York Street. Like her older brother, she later moved to the Windsor area in the 1920s. Records showed that a certain "Miss Lila Waugh" worked as a secretary/stenographer in Windsor from the 1930s until the 1960s. She resided with the family of one John A. McArthur in 1935. Margaret then moved to Victoria, British Columbia where she died unmarried on Feb. 22, 2000.

Mrs. Waugh unfortunately suffered from a series of severely debilitating strokes between 1916 and 1922 which rendered her an "invalid." She was moved to the residence of her sisters, the Misses Jessie (1850-1917) and Mary (1855-1924) McArthur, at 92 York Street in St. Catharines. Jessie was employed as a "dressmaker." This building, which still stands at the corner of York and Dufferin

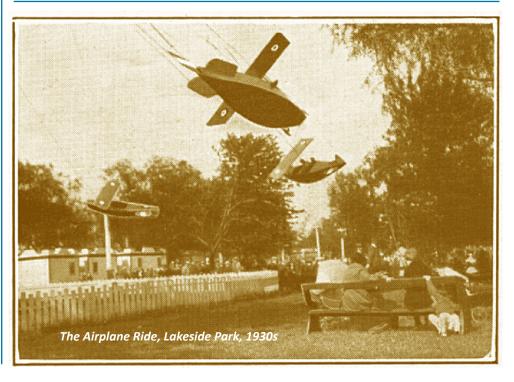
Streets, has recently been used as a "Busy Bee Food Mart." Mrs. Waugh succumbed to one final stroke ("cerebral hemorrhage") on Dec. 4, 1922. Her death notice stated that the funeral was to be held from her sister's residence, "remains will be conducted to London. Flowers gratefully declined" (Standard, Dec. 5, 1922.) She was interred in the Waugh family plot in the Woodland Cemetery at London.

Waugh retired from his pharmacy business ca. 1924, and afterwards he briefly worked for the NS &T. He retired to Waterloo where his son Leslie resided with his wife Loretta (nee Lorentz.)

Waugh, who suffered from cirrhosis of the liver, died from a cerebral hemorrhage at his residence (Ezra Ave., Waterloo) on Jan. 23, 1928. His remains were conveyed to the Woodland Cemetery at London for burial. His death notice appeared in the Kitchener Daily Record on Jan. 24, 1928, but no notice appears to have been published for him in the St. Catharines Standard.

Isn't it interesting how all this research came about from the ink stamp on the inside cover of an old book, and from the questions it raised!

- Brian Narhi







## The Port Stairs Have Been Saved; Now the Hard Part Begins



ity staff recently accepted the advice of an insurance company's assessment of the stairs leading down to the lake and recommended to City Council to close off public access to the Port Dalhousie waterfront by removing all the stairs. Fortunately, our Councillors and several local residents successfully fought for the right to keep them (and maintain them) so that public access can continue. These public access stairs have existed in Port for over 60 years and are used by many residents and visitors to access the lake for swimming, kayaking and paddle boarding. Unfortunately, the stairs have been entirely neglected by the City of St. Catharines ever since amalgamation.

The report does, however, outline the repairs that are needed, and as a result there are issues with safety which after all this time should not be surprising, even though there is no record of anyone ever getting hurt on them. Repair is cheaper than building new because there is flexibility for existing infrastructure while new build requires new standards to be met. We can all celebrate the fact that access to the lake along the waterfront is possible for now. Thanks are due to all those who fought so hard to make that point to

City Council because we know that once the stairs are removed, they will never return. Now however, the hard work begins. Repairing and maintaining these access points for the public will require a vision for the future. It will not be cheap and the city cannot do it alone. The lowest price for replacing the Masefield stairs was

\$200,000. On-going maintenance will be required to keep them all accessible and attractive for public use. The community may have to invest in this effort; otherwise, given the cost, we will likely only delay their demise, not eliminate it. This will require everyone's participation and perhaps some fundraising, as we partner with the city to keep this important public asset. Undoubtedly some compromises will need to be made.

Here are a few suggestions for a larger Port waterfront vision:

First: all public property at these access points needs to be clearly delineated as such from private property, either by fencing or landscaping as well as signage, so that everyone knows that this is public property and that access to the Beach is allowed.

Second: Given the erosion and need for shoreline protection now and in the future, we should work together on a long range vision for these stairs. Water levels will continue to fluctuate and be a problem. The International Joint Commission's decision to raise the lake level by 6 inches will cause ongoing issues. (It is also why the federal government was willing to raise the piers by 6 inches.) Eventually all of Port lakefront may need to be reinforced.

Third: We may wish to consider community involvement in perhaps creating viewing platforms with benches at the top and bottom, which would allow people to view the lake and access it safely. Adjacent residents may have to commit to assist with some mowing and landscape maintenance.

Fourth: In the future, could we dream about a walking path along the water on top of the seawall between stairs so that residents could once again walk to Lakeside Park along the waterfront?

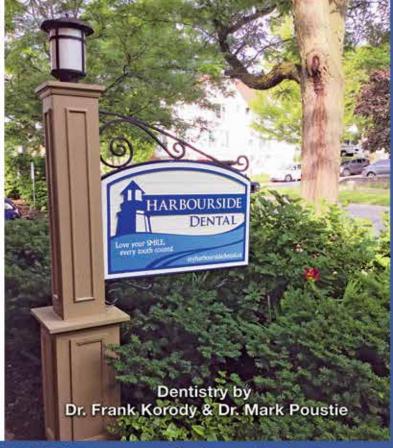
There may be public meetings to discuss this and hopefully all residents will participate to protect this important community asset.



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

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

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



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



## Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee

## Spring/Summer Report

It is so nice to see Port busy and active again after not being able to, for what seems ages. Our beaches and parks are busier, businesses are busier, patios are busier ... and it seems like more boats are back in the water. The Royal Henley Regatta returned and The Canada Games have brought even more activity not only to Port Dalhousie, but to the region as a whole. What a difference a year makes!

Yeeaaah! Concerts !! You have most likely seen the event signs, social media posts, or even attended some of the great shows that super-volunteer Martinne has put together at Port Dalhousie's Old Lock One Stage. A huge thank you to her for coordinating the BWC 2022 Summer Concert Series, as well as to her crew of volunteers who help to make these shows happen. Such an amazing setting to enjoy live music - great acoustics and a unique stage made even nicer with the backdrop of boats in the harbour, surrounded in front by the beautiful flower boxes that are paid for, planted and maintained by BWC volunteers. We very much appreciate the donations to the BWC at the shows, (as people are able), as well as the kind sponsorship from some

of our local businesses, which allows us to present these shows free of charge ... just show up and have fun!! We've enjoyed the full gamut of entertainment, from magic for the kids to music from the "swing" era, from Celtic to Country, from Rat Pack to Rock, even Pop to Opera ... What a line-up!

The BWC volunteers appreciate all the great compliments as people wander by, commenting on the beautiful flowers, whether in the Lock One planters, or the other BWC planted and maintained areas, such as the railing boxes across the street, the wooden bench planters at the former "Port Mansion site" or the pollinator gardens at the Lock Tender's Shanty that the bees seem to be enjoying. Again, thank you so much to the volunteers, many of whom go well above and beyond ... with a special thank you to all volunteers who are newcomers to "Port".

As far as "The world's quietest bottle drive" ... We continue to collect any containers that once held alcohol (bottles, cans, those "4 and more" litre plastic bags from the wine boxes that magically became so popular during lock down). Monies raised go

directly to the flower fund, so if anyone has such containers and would like to donate them so that Port Dalhousie can continue to have beautiful planters, please call or text Andy at 289 213-9500, or send us a message via our facebook page ( Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee ). He'll be pleased to swing by and pick' em up ... and give you a lovely vintage BWC postcard as thanks!

New volunteers are always welcome and appreciated! Just send us a message on our facebook page, or chat to one of us while at a show, or if you see us doing our "Wednesday Weeding" etc. Volunteering, especially outside on a nice day, is fun and many of us have made great new friendships in the process of beautifying our Port ... and it looks so nice for all of us when out strolling, whether with a local coffee, ice cream, or going out to enjoy a patio!!

It is great to see Port Dalhousie active again and to see the local businesses "back in action". We're looking forward to more fun BWC activities in the fall. Halloween anyone ??

Tidying the large pollinator garden under the watchful eye of plant experts, with Bruce, Della, Deanna, Marg



**Tony Douvis** 

Financial Advisor

Edward Jones

RRSPs / RRIFs • LIRAs / LIFs • TFSAs • RESPs • RDSPs

101 Lakeport Road

St. Catharines, ON L2N 7L7

Bus: 905-937-6990

Fax: 1-866-751-0759

Toll-Free: 1-877-711-0911

www.edwardjones.com

Member: Canadian Investor Protection Fund

Making Sense of Investing

ETFs
Stocks
Bonds
Annuities
Mutual Funds

Life Insurance

**GICs** 



Rand Meshki **Personal Injury Lawyer** FREE No Obligation Consultation Motor vehicle accidents Slip/trip and falls Long-term disability denials Insurance claims Dog bites CPP disability benefits LANCASTER **CHOWN &** WELCH LLP rmeshki@lcwlawyers.com T: 905.346.0781 Niagara Falls St. Catharines 80 King Street, Suite 800 3 Cross Street, Suite 202 4625 Ontario Ave P.O. Box 790, L2R 6Z1 P.O. Box 67, L3B 5N9 P.O Box 897, L2E 6V6

some of the 19th century canal village feel that makes the area so attractive. Earlier this year Council approved The Locks project by Rankin Construction. The approval was based on a three-party agreement following extensive negotiations between City staff, Rankin and the Port Dalhousie Conservancy. Conservancy President Hank Beekhuis said while this was not the best outcome for the heritage of Port Dalhousie, it was the best that could be negotiated. In the St. Catharines Standard, Councillor Garcia described the "bittersweet." settlement as We are disappointed that the heights allowed (up to 12 storeys at the park) are contrary to the Council-approved secondary plan that the community spent over 2 years developing and only allowed 3 storeys at Lock St. and up to 6 behind. Also, the density is high, and the design is quite modern-looking for a historic 19th century low-rise village. In

addition, another 180 condos will exacerbate already serious traffic congestion. Nevertheless, we are glad a development is finally going to happen because it involves a reputable local builder, and it will help local businesses as the site has been an eyesore for many years. It's good we're getting something done there, but it's certainly going to change the face of Port Dalhousie forever.

#### **Municipal Accommodation Tax**

(sometimes referred to as a hotel room surcharge)

At the City Council meeting held on Monday, May 30, 2022, Council approved a 4% Municipal Accommodation Tax (per room, per night) implementation on paid overnight accommodations at hotels, motels, bed and breakfast organizations and short-term rental (STR) providers (including online home sharing platforms) operating in the City of St. Catharines, effective August 1,

2022. (Which was subsequently delayed till January 1<sup>st</sup> to give local hoteliers sufficient time to adapt.)

The tax is similar to what many municipalities across the Province have and the revenue generated will be directed to support tourism-based investments.

## No to Voting Ourselves a Pay Raise

**Both Port Dalhousie Ward Council** voted against recommendation to update the salary grid for Members of Council. While we are not paid as much as some other municipalities, we both believe strongly that we do this to help - not simply for the salary. In addition, we feel Councillors should not be giving themselves a raise when so many in our City are suffering because of the effects of the pandemic. Below is the core of the motion which was ultimately defeated:

That the update to the

remuneration methodology for Members of Council (other than the Mayor) be approved and the percentage of the average earned income of all individuals filing a tax return in the City of St. Catharines, which is used to determine the level of remuneration, increase by 4% annually from 55.5% to 71.5% by 2026 based on the following schedule:

- 2023: 59.5%; (\$27,197 estimated)
- 2024: 63.5%; (\$29,026 estimated)
- 2025: 67.5%; (\$30,855 estimated)
- 2026: 71.5%; (\$32,684 estimated)

In fact, an amendment was made to the staff recommendation to move the increase to 71.5% effective immediately. This motion was defeated.

## Transfer of Port Dalhousie Piers and Harbour Lands

(paraphrased from the Garden City Current)

Ownership of the Port Dalhousie

Piers and harbour lands including

# Re.Elect

## Alex Bradnam for Public School Board Trustee

**Active - Accessible - Authentic** 

- North End St. Catharines resident for 35+ years who understands the needs of this area.
- Current DSBN Vice-Chair
- Current Policy & Student Discipline Chair
- Teacher & Principal in DSBN for 33 years.
- Trusted leadership & proven results.
- Not afraid to ask the tough questions.

For more information, or to request a lawn sign, please visit:

www.facebook.com/AlexBradnamDSBN

Email: AlexBradnam@aol.com Call: 905-934-7108



Lakeside Park will be transferred to the City by the Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard. The City has leased the Port Dalhousie Piers and harbour lands including Lakeside Park from the Minister as represented by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) since 1992. In spring of 2015 both the east and west piers were closed to public access by the DFO due to safety concerns. In addition, boat mooring, and vehicle access limitations were imposed where necessary within the inner harbour to maintain public safety. In 2021, a major, \$28-million rehabilitation of the piers and harbour by the DFO was completed and the Port Dalhousie Piers reopened to the public. With this project now complete, the ownership transfer will now occur for a nominal fee. As part of the agreement to transfer through the DFO's Small Craft Harbour program, the City has committed to continue to operate the lands as a public

harbour. With the expectation of the City becoming the registered owner of the lands, and to ensure the continued protection of Lake Ontario shoreline and the piers, a Port Dalhousie Pier / Harbour Area Reserve was created in 2019.

## Community Benefits Charge Strategy and By-law

(paraphrased from the Garden City Current)

Developers of high-density residential construction projects will now be contributing to new growth-related community-building projects within the city. City Council approved a strategy that will drive funding for a broad range of community-improving projects via development growth with the finalization of the City's first Community Benefits Charge (CBC) Strategy and By-law.

The CBC is a new tool under the Planning Act, which the City will implement on September 1, 2022, that will help fund growth-related capital costs not covered by tools such as the existing development charges. Based

on population and development projections identified in the study the City anticipates generating \$5.2 million in CBC funds over the next 10 years. Projects funded by the proposed CBCs include culture and public realm projects, City-wide corporate and building infrastructure, and growth studies to further identify the needs of the City.

#### 2024 World Rowing Championships Infrastructure and Community Accessibility Improvements

At the meeting of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Council received a presentation regarding some interesting proposals to improve connectivity in Martindale Pond and upgrades to the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing course infrastructure. The proponents are looking to the municipality to replace the weir dam at Lakeport Road adjacent to the Heywood Generating Station which requires renewal anyway.

## The new Neil Campbell Rowing Centre

We are pleased one of the legacy facilities of the 2022 Canada Games will address the need for essential off-water training and support facilities at the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Course in Port Dalhousie. The Neil Campbell Rowing Centre is expected to be fully accessible, with universal change rooms, fitness rooms, and a multipurpose training, event, and administrative/support space.

We look forward to continuing to work hard for the people of Port Dalhousie Ward and all of St. Catharines.

Thank you, Carlos and Bruce



#### Re-Elect Carlos GARCIA

#### **WORKING HARD FOR OUR RESIDENTS**

Excellent attendance record at City Council meetings.

Return all calls and emails from residents within 24 hours.

Attend most new business openings throughout the City including all within Port Dalhousie Ward.

Support the fundraising activities of multiple local charities.

Attend numerous arts and culture events including theatre and music festivals and heritage designations.

Active member of: Cultural Sustainability Committee (Chair); St. Catharines Hydro Board; Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Board; PAC Finance and Audit Committee; PAC Governance and Nominations Committee; PAC Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Task Force; Niagara Jazz Festival Board; and Canine Control Committee.

Also active member of: Development Studies and Charges Task Force; Surplus Lands Task Force; and 2029 Welland Canals Task Force.

Attend all meetings of volunteer arts, culture and heritage Advisory Committees of Council including: Arts and Culture; Public Art; St. Catharines Heritage; and St. Catharines Heritage Permits.

Support volunteer organizations and Service Clubs including: Port Dalhousie Lions; Beautification and Works Committee; Grantham Optimist; Port Dalhousie Conservancy; and St. Catharines Kiwanis.

## **RE-ELECT**

## Carlos GARCIA

PORT DALHOUSIE WARD



If N Carlos Garcia GarciaPortDalhousie@gmail.com
Carlos GARCIA Campaign:905 937 7012

#### Re-Elect Carlos GARCIA

#### **40 YEARS OF BUSINESS EXPERIENCE**

- Held various management positions in marketing and strategic planning in the private sector and managed my own consulting firm specializing in long term strategic planning for 25 years.
- Developed strategic business plans in a broad variety of industries including: food processing and food service, computer hardware and software, poultry and beef farming, healthcare, publishing, retail and, sports and entertainment.
- Client organizations include: Major League Baseball, Warner Brothers Studio Stores, John Labatt Limited, The SkyDome (now Rogers Centre), Cuddy Foods and Farms and the Basketball Hall of Fame.
- Director of the Food and Agriculture division of the Anti-Inflation Board in Ottawa with responsibility for over 500 of the country's largest food processors, retailers and wholesalers.
- Academic qualifications: B.Sc. (Mathematics), M.Sc. (Physics) and M.B.A. (International Business).

"I am totally committed to Port Dalhousie and St. Catharines and will continue to work very hard for all of our City's residents."



Stepping out for a walk on a beautiful Friday evening in Port Dalhousie, we decided to treat ourselves to dinner. With dusk settling and the night abuzz with people savouring the last weekend in August, we wanted to enjoy the summer breeze and dine in the fresh air.

The Twisted Pig on the corner of Lock and Main was a natural choice with their lovely patio overlooking the harbour. I admit there was another reason influencing this decision, and that is as residents of Port Dalhousie, this was our first visit. Like many others, the past two plus years had turned us into homebodies. This visit was long overdue.

We were fortunate to find the last available table on the patio. The red table and black umbrella decor provided a vibrant backdrop for patrons from both near and far dining in the warm evening air. While browsing the menu, the aroma from the wood-fired pizza oven wafted from inside, its paddle busy baking another fresh pie.

The Twisted Pig is an Italian kitchen, but with a twist! Its impressive menu highlights classic Italian fare such as penne, fusilli, rigatoni, and of course spaghetti and meatballs, but it also offers fresh and delectable dishes such as Swordfish and Veal. There are also veggie options such as

Mediterranean Quinoa, and the chef is glad to adapt certain dishes to glutenfree.

Once the cool patio vibe draws you in, the service makes a lasting impression. Our server exuded excitement about the food, sharing the restaurant's best known dishes and his personal favourites. He recommended the Gnocchi as a house specialty. It sounded fantastic but I was interested in a bit lighter fare and opted to keep with my Friday night tradition of having fish.

As an appetizer the serving of Crispy Atlantic Cod & Yukon Gold Potato

Cakes were larger than anticipated. Made with just the right ratio of cod to spuds, they were served with an absolutely delicious aioli and garnished with pea sprouts.

My partner chose the less traditional Smoked

Duck and Gorgonzola Cheese pizza alongside a Caesar Salad, served with a creamy fresh garlic dressing, topped with a nest of Parmigiana-Reggiano. He offered me a taste of this thin-crust pizza which was unique and delicious.

In staying with the seafood theme, I ordered the Organic Steamed PEI Mussels, it came with charred Italian bread to dip into the white wine sauce. To round out my meal, I chose the savoury Truffle Frites topped with a healthy portion of shredded parmesan. To sum up our dining experience: the atmosphere was inviting, the staff attentive and personable, the food well-presented and the prices reasonable given the quality and generous portions. Oh, and did I mention the great local wines and craft beers along with an inventive cocktail list?

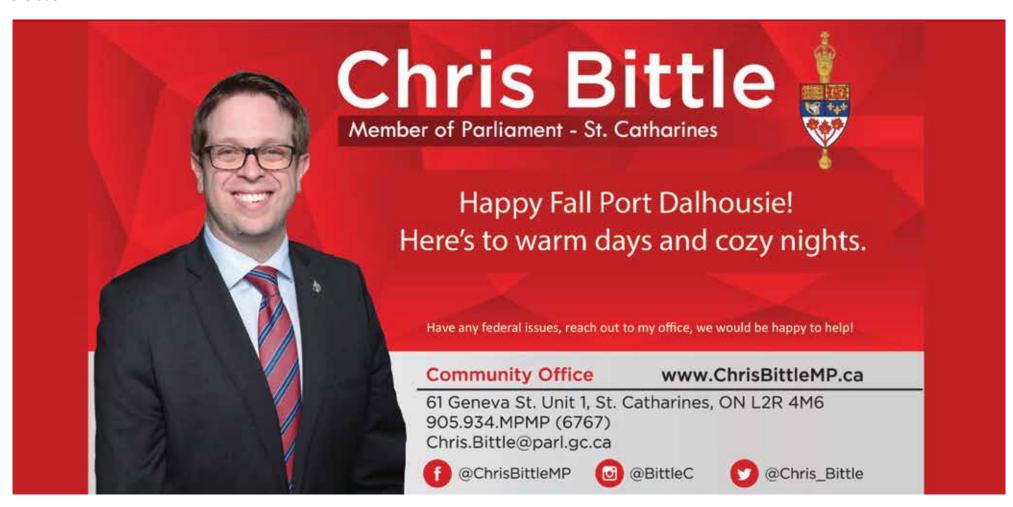
My only regret...we had after dinner plans and ran out of time for dessert. I'll be going back to try the Bourbonspiked Peach Crumble made with local peaches, cinnamon streusel, vanilla gelato and cream cheese caramel.

I hope I've given you a few great reasons to make The Twisted Pig your next Port Dalhousie dining destination!

- Allie Fresco

\*Allie is a Port Dalhousie resident who makes her living in the hospitality industry.









#### The Big Difference is our EXTRA Services we offer. Relax and let us do all the work!

- · Cleaning/Decluttering
- Staging-Both Virtual & In House
- Renovations Connections & Advice
- Free Consult to Improve Your Home for Sale eg: Kitchen, Baths, Floors
- · Help with Estate Sale/Working with **Lawyers and Family** Members
- · Sorting items to be Donated or Sold
- · Packing to Get Ready for Your Move
- Organize Lawn Maintenance/Snow Removal if needed

- 5 Star Reviews \*\*\*\*\*
- Luxury Presentation of Your
- High End Photography
- · Up to 480 Million Views of Your
- MLS + Multiple Websited, Huge **Global Reach**
- Largest Independent **Brokerage in Canada**
- · Mortgage/Lawyer Referral
- Personalized Daily Contact with Any/All your Needs
- · House sitting while on Vacation or away from Home.

- · Exposure to 11 different Real **Estate Boards**
- List of Testimonials Unsolicited
- · Office Located in Ideal Area of NOTL, with Parking, Great **Buyer Traffic with over 4** Million Out of Town Visitors **Driving By to See Your Listing**
- Super High Quality Brochures
- Huge Agent Network **Throughout Southern Ontario**
- Active List of Buyers



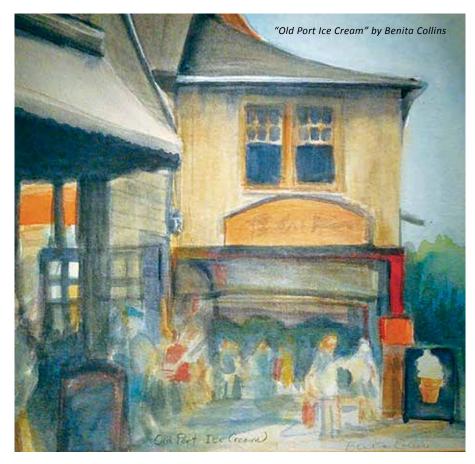
## **FREE HOME EVALUATION**

WALK-INS WELCOME **CALL OR TEXT** 

289-214-4394



**Buying and Selling Luxury Properties** Port Dalhousie, Lakeshore, Northend, to Niagara On The Lake Call Angelika Today! 496 Mississauga Street, NOTL (Corner of John and Mississauga)









## DON'T VOTE! After all, It's Only a Municipal Election

As most of us don't know, there is a municipal election on October 24th. It happens every four years and somehow gets lost in the October hustle and bustle of leaf raking. Kinda makes you wonder if they plan it that way.

The good news is that it's only a municipal election; it always has the lowest voter turnout because there is no reason to vote. Nothing exciting or important happens at the municipal level. Besides, municipal politicians are our friends and neighbours, who have an intimate understanding of the needs and values of our community. We can trust them, so why bother voting?

We need to bother voting because a vote, particularly at the municipal level, is the most effective way of communicating our concerns, our enthusiasms, and perhaps most importantly, what we believe to be important ways for our communities to evolve.

Let's take a quick look at some of the issues that have occurred in the past four years:

Climate Change has been identified as one of the biggest threats our planet faces. Our city went so far as to declare an emergency on the climate in 2019. Can you name anything that they have done in response to that emergency? They have made the argument that parking meters at Lakeside and Sunset beaches were done as a green initiative; I see it as greenwashing. There is no science behind it-- I suspect they just needed to rationalize the parking meters they wanted. If you recall, we were originally told it was a measure to control Covid parties on the beaches that were getting out of control.

## Community Improvement Program

Council has adjusted this program in such a way that they are now free (and it seems, eager) to grant

millions of dollars to luxury home builders. More than \$20 million in the past three years has been granted to developers of luxury condos, giving St Catharines and the Niagara Region the dubious honour of subsidizing housing for the wealthy instead of for lowincome families and those in need.

The GM site on Ontario St remains unresolved and continues to threaten people and the environment. National level media has now started to cover the toxic cesspool festering in the heart of the city. Its leaking carcinogens, at 908 times the provincial standard. Solutions existed that the city could have initiated, but they chose otherwise and seem to have failed to make available, a key report on the site, to the public. It has recently been revealed that the city had its own strong concerns about the site, but regrettably we didn't hear about that, seemingly unconcerned of the risk to people and the environment.

The Grantham Rail Trail – paving a naturalized trail with no public input and a refusal to consult with the public even when it was demanded by impacted citizens.

Hidden Agendas When a regional councillor needed to be appointed to replace the tragic loss of regional councillor, the late Sandy Bellows, policy existed that was created to honour the votes of its citizens and respect the democratic process. That policy prescribed that the vacant seat must be offered to the person who finished with the most votes but did not get elected. The seat should have been offered to Mike Britton who had

6,765 citizen votes for the position. Staff advised Council of this, and Mike Britton had expressed his willingness to take the seat. Instead, Council gave the seat

to someone who received zero votes for it. A divided council (7-6 was the vote) decided to pursue other agendas instead of following the will of the people as the policy prescribes. The seat was offered to Mat Siscoe and he accepted.

These are only five of the reasons why you might not feel like voting in this municipal election because, as noted above, nothing important happens at the local level, except that it does! Municipal politics just may be the most relevant political venue for making a difference in your community.

-Ed Smith









#### Port Dalhousie Named After Father of Great Environmentalist

Few know that the community of Port Dalhousie is named after George Ramsay, the 9th Earl of Dalhousie and former Governor-in-Chief of Canada. He has been honoured by historians for his role in assisting Black refugees fleeing slavery, and also, while serving in Nova Scotia before his more significant posting to Lower Canada, for protecting the historic territories of the Micmac by holding their lands in trust before the development of reservations. He also founded the university in Halifax that bears his name.

Significant though the accomplishments are of the person for whom Port Dalhousie is named, the most important was to be the father of his third youngest and most remarkable son, the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dalhousie, James Andrew Brown Ramsay. He served as Governor-General of India between 1848 and 1856. During this period he laid the basis for much of the subsequent development of India as a strong and democratic state, establishing for instance, its publicly owned railway system, still one of the largest employers in the world. But Dalhousie's most significant accomplishment was to adopt the conservationist Indian Forest Charter, which remains prominently in the Constitution of India.

Dalhousie's Indian Forest Charter has been appropriately recognized as a major turning point in human civilization. This is because it recognized the importance of government as a protector of the environment, through regulations

fairly administered by scientifically trained experts. He had all government-owned lands in India become forest reservations, not only to protect future sources of lumber but for watershed protection, species diversity, and to counter negative forms of human-induced climate change.

In making his major environmental protection initiative, Dalhousie was influenced by the eminent botanist and director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, J. D. Hooker. He alerted Dalhousie to the tragic consequences, including drought-inducing climate change as well as species extinction that had taken place on the island of St. Helena over the past two centuries of European colonization.

Before Dalhousie's great Forest Charger, the forests owned by the Government of India were regarded as wastelands, which any person was free to plunder. Under the Forest Charter they were now regarded "as the property of the Government and no general permission to cut timber therein will be granted to anyone." The Charter also meant scientific management of state forests, not only for commercial purposes, but to protect endangered species and water resources. One of the admirers of the early conservationist achievement of Indian Forestry was none other than the leader of India's independence movement, Gandhi, who termed one of its leading administrators, Dietrich Brandis, as "the Hero of Pegu," an area in Burma of ecologically diverse teak forests. Another famous figure in the Indian Forest Service was the founder of the Boy Scouts, Baden Power, who was employed by the Indian Forest Service in Punjab.

The model of Indian Forestry was exported throughout the British Empire, including Canada. It was introduced to the United States by the great forester, Gifford Pinchot, through his remarkable creation, the U.S. Forest Service. It carries on remarkably in the conservationist spirit of the Indian Forest Service of the Victorian era, which inspired many of the famous nature stories of the British author, Rudyard Kipling.

John Bacher, PhD

(Apart from Wikipedia articles on the 9th and 10th Earls of Dalhousie, the major source for this article is: Gregory Allen Barton, Empire Forestry and the Origins of Environmentalism (Cambridge University Press, 2002).

















FAX: 905.934.5642 hainersdiscount@bellnet.ca

FOR ALL YOUR
AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS

MICHELIN BRIDGESTONE

## From Where I Sit... Public Transit: All Stick, No Carrot

"Improved public

transit is a much

larger issue.

It starts with leadership!

When leaders use public

transit themselves,

others follow."



Hank Beekhuis

A recent article in the Standard entitled "Cars are inefficient and destructive; we can no longer afford to give them so much public space" caught my attention. Intellectually, I agree that there are just too many cars and that increased use of public transit is the better solution. In fact, Europe has shown us many ways in which this can be done. The fundamental problem is that we live in a huge country with a lot of wide open spaces and we lack the density to come anywhere near our ability to pay for it. Public transit is already heavily supported by the general taxpayer (only 50% is covered by fares), and yet for most of us doing without a vehicle makes life nearly impossible,

unless you live in a large urban area with existing multiple transit options.

It appears that our local approach is more punitive than it is really making public transit more useful. Most solu-

tions proffered by the city just happen to include mostly higher fees for parking as well as for transit. Conveniently, these solutions always seem to have the happy outcome of making more money, be that by increasing parking fees, subsidizing

developers by waiving by-law requirements, or subtle removal of existing public spaces without compensation, all in the hope of forcing people to take public transit. Looking at the increasing numbers of cars, that strategy is not working very well, and the very people we seek to serve are suffering under the burden of these fees which serve only to deny access to public amenities.

Improved transit is a much larger issue. It starts with leadership! When

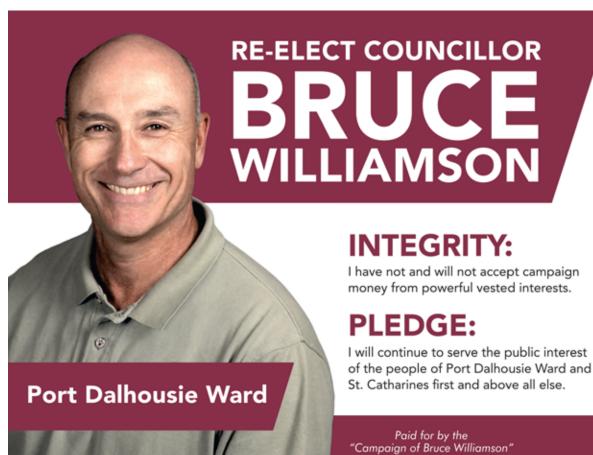
> leaders use transit themselves, others follow. We currently treat public transit as only being for seniors who can't students drive, who can't afford to drive, those who want to not drink and drive, and the poor who are stuck by financial necessity with using it, but

not for the rest of us! City councilors covet their parking passes and some even have reserved spaces. I once directly asked city council, who had taken the bus to a downtown meeting at the PAC? It turned out that not one did! Let's face it, we all need to be more creative! (I include myself in

that). Show us how it's done and show us a comprehensive approach that really encourages public transit. We see the stick, but how about the carrot?

What is the overall strategy of achieving our goal? Once we have seen that, perhaps then residents will change their perception of public transit. Public transit needs to be more fun and more convenient, and have far more options. It may mean that we have to expand our transit services first.

Let's start with more flexible schedules that address frequency and routes, especially during peak periods or during special events. Perhaps an historic trolley bus or a specially wrapped beach bus during the summer; perhaps special buses for Go train passengers, along with reasonable daily passes and information for families to hit all the city highlights. Perhaps special shopping buses (paid for by store owners) since we keep approving car-centric shopping malls instead of walkable ones.



#### **COMMITTED TO:**

- The responsible and efficient use of your tax dollars.
- · Being an honest, thoughtful, and independent voice for the people of Port Dalhousie and North End St. Catharines.
- · Upgrading city services and programs.
- Standing up for residents in land use planning decisions to protect our neighbourhoods and strive towards creating a more liveable and sustainable community.
- Renewing essential local infrastructure such as roads, water, and sewers.
- Enhancing our parks and natural spaces.
- · Acting to ensure the North End receives its fair share of civic and recreational facilities.
- · Full disclosure of information to the public.

brucewilliamson.ca

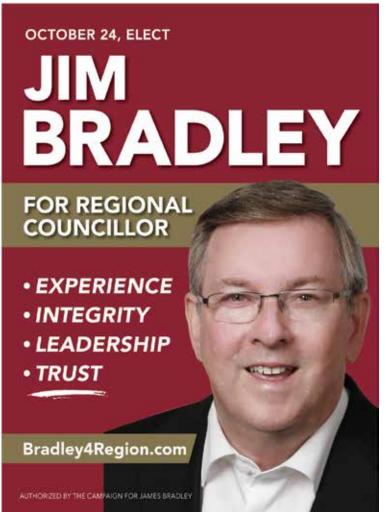
Create a very adaptable funding system which includes both daily, weekly, monthly and annual passes. We could even consider free annual passes for those whose income is severely limited by their disability or status..

There could also be integration with alternate forms of transportperhaps one pass that includes train, bus and bike rentals or even events.

Perhaps we need to adjust our building codes to include not only many more bike tie-ups (especially for commercial buildings), but in key destinations have a secure, covered biking area which allows people with disabilities and those with electric or expensive bikes to park them out of the rain and not have to worry about them being stolen or damaged. (We could even charge for that). Maybe we have to greatly increase the number of bus shelters for transit users so that people don't catch their death of pneumonia or heat stroke while waiting for a bus (as well as signage for expected arrival times).

Finally, given the ever-increasing population projections, we should stop eroding spaces we already have and improve them, because we are always going to need spac- like Port Dalhousie or downtown St. Catharines will always es for cars even if public transit use is greatly improved. Currently we treat existing spaces as giveaways. Destination hubs

need parking space for our visitors and guests, especially during peak season.











portdalhousie@ yahoo.com or facebook.com/Port DalhousieBWC

Telephone: Marg Smith 289.438.4050 or Sandy Slater 905.646.3056

## BUDAPEST BAKESHOP

— CHIMNEY CAKES —









A bakery experience like no other in Canada!

Come watch as we prepare, roll, and bake our Sweet and Savoury Chimney Cakes right before your eyes in our large, open kitchen on Queen Street in the heart of Niagara on the Lake.

Our Chimneys are prepared and made from scratch using the freshest ingredients and contain no preservatives. We offer a variety of different Sweet or Savoury Chimneys that are the perfect grab-n-go breakfast, snack, lunch or light dinner!

Check our Instagram for Bakeshop updates and new Chimney features!

Coming Soon this Fall to 15 Lock Street, Port Dalhousie!

118 QUEEN STREET, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE, ON • 905-468-7778 • WWW.BUDAPESTBAKESHOP.COM

@BUDAPESTBAKESHOP

## St. Catharines Mayoral Candidates Respond

#### The Port Reporter Asked Mike Britton and Mat Siscoe a Series of Questions

Why do you want to be Mayor and how do you view the future of St. Catharines, and if elected, what are your goals in the first year of being Mayor?

MB: My key priorities are built around 5 themes: A Mayor & City Hall On Your Side; Grow Our Economy, Not Our Tax Bills; Safer Streets for a Welcoming Community; Housing Responsible Growth for Affordability; Restore Ethics and Trust at City Hall. One of my first actions will be to Axe the Beach Tax at City beaches, putting more money back in your pocket, and ensuring that public spaces remain just that, public and accessible for all residents of all financial means.

MS: As our next Mayor I intend to make our city more Affordable, Accessible and Accountable so the next generation can have the same opportunities I have had – to work, own a home, and raise a family right here in Niagara.

What is your position on the "One Niagara" proposal, and do you think there are too many politicians in Niagara?

MB: My position is that any changes to how Niagara is governed should be guided by the valuable input of Niagara's residents, not just what a single Mayor thinks. I believe, and have heard from residents over the years, there can be less elected officials overall, but that the voice and unique character of each community must be heard and respected.

MS: As our Mayor I will work with likeminded Mayors across Niagara to strike a shared-services working group to identify and exploit opportunities for cost-saving partnerships that will help keep property taxes down and improve the services received by residents and businesses.

What are your views on the use of the still controversial CIP program? (Community *Improvement Program)* 

MB: I would de-politicize the City's Grant and Incentive programs and provide predictability for builders and savings for taxpayers along the way.

MS: To date the city has leveraged CIP to add \$360 million to the property tax assessment base that in turn saves residents \$32 each and every year. Attracting appropriate development in our city with CIP is smart business.

What are your thoughts on Ford's proposed "Strong Mayors" legislation?

MB: These powers are currently only for Ottawa and Toronto. If this policy was to ever be implemented for St. Catharines, I would not make use of it, and would focus on finding common ground with Council colleagues.

MS: I believe in consulting with residents and building a consensus with Council. I support measures that help build 15,000 homes in St. Catharines - but this alone will not get the job done.

Do you think city by-laws are firm regulations to protect the public or are they guidelines for City staff?

MB: City by-laws are firm regulations. For example, recently bylaws were ignored by some City Councillors who made backroom deals to appoint their political allies to Council. That is wrong and ignores the thousands who made their democratic choices known at the ballot box.

MS: By-laws are the rules that govern our city and are to be respected. That said, part of the responsibility of Council is to keep our by-laws current, modern, and in the best interest of residents and our local husinesses

How do you intend to improve City Hall communication, especially its response to citizens' queries and concerns?

MB: I'd involve the community in upcoming major redevelopment projects - like the old GM Site, Port Dalhousie Core, and Welland House - so they don't sit on the back burner for another decade; I would launch in-person Town Hall Meetings for direct resident feedback; and I would open City Hall to all communities and partner with social/cultural organizations to celebrate the City's diverse mosaic. I welcome all feedback and ideas at mike@mikebritton.ca.

MS: I will utilize technologies such as telephone town halls and virtual communication to improve the twoway dialogue with residents about our community. We can only move forward together if we communicate and work together.

\* The 3rd Mayoral Candidate Nick Petrucci did not respond to our questions in time for publication.





We can make the changes that we want to see in Port Dalhousie and St. Catharines now and prepare for the future.

Connect our communities and reduce traffic with active transportation. Provide space for families of all stages by improving current public areas in all parts of Port Dalhousie.

Make sure I'm accessible and available in-person and digitally to listen to your concerns, then take action.

Let's make Port part of the picture. Election day is Monday, October 24, 2022. @Belgrave\_STC



@BelgraveSTC





MEMAIL: SENDIT@JONATHANBELGRAVE.CA



LEARN MORE: JONATHANBELGRAVE.CA

## A Day in the Life

#### Or What it Takes to be a City Councillor

Ort Dalhousie has the privilege of having two very experienced councillors who have been on city council for a significant period of time and are very knowledgeable about how things work in the city. Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a city councillor? The Reporter asked our incumbent councillors Carlos Garcia and Bruce Williamson some questions about what it takes to be a Councillor and this is what they told us:

#### What gives you satisfaction in your job as Councillor and what are your greatest disappointments?

**CG:** My role is to listen and be responsive to the needs of the residents of my ward and all of St. Catharines. It is most enjoyable when we get Council support for issues I feel are very important to the community such as saving the stairs to the Lake, holding tax increases to a minimum etc. I particularly get great satisfaction out of being able to help residents who contact me about specific problems. A disappointment would be losing the battle to have free beach parking for city residents or approving large taxpayer subsidies for luxury condos that I don't believe are necessary.

BW: I get personal satisfaction when I can successfully solve a problem for a resident and stand up for the "little guy," which gives me a sense of accomplishment. Dealing with municipal issues is often unfamiliar and intimidating for people who are not used to it. I can act as a bridge to our local gov't. I enjoy advocating for service clubs, cultural groups and sports organizations so that they can improve their ability to provide opportunities for recreational or social activities. Being able to mold public policy is arguably the most critical work that a councillor can do. I try to ensure that the city changes entrenched practices to address serious issues like climate change and generally advocate for the common good which serves the long term interests of everyone. It takes courage to not concede to the desires of powerful vested interests.

#### How much time does it take to be a Councillor?

**CG:** Because I am retired and see Council work as a public service to our city, I spend about 30 hours a week. I get about 4-6 calls and/or emails per day (often on weekends). I pride myself on responding to calls and emails within 24 hours. I think any councillor needs to spend at least 15- 20 hours a week to properly represent residents. In addition to Council I attend 12 committees and task forces and serve on the board of St. Catharines Hydro, the Performing Arts Center and Niagara Jazz Festival, as well as supporting local businesses, and various community groups. Since we have no dedicated staff, I have to work closely with city staff to get their assistance and support when I need it.

BW: It varies a great deal, depending on the season and the number of additional meetings one attends. Some weeks are relatively quiet and others are very busy and require lots of time. It is the unquantifiable emotional aspect of dealing with very consequential issues that affect the entire city that weigh on your conscience. We do not have support staff so it is a balancing

act between home, work and time spent on answering calls, attending committee meetings and preparing for council.

#### How do you communicate with your Constituents?

CG: I email and call constituents when they make requests for information. I post factual matters of public city interest and report on the work I have done on my Facebook page. I do not post opinions or communicate directly on Social Media.

BW: I do some social media though I prefer to address issues personally or through email or phone directly.

How can things be made more efficient? Should we amalgamate into one city of Niagara?

CG: I believe there is currently a lot of

unnecessary duplication between the city and the Region but having one Niagara will likely make things worse and much more expensive. We should instead focus on making city government more efficient and minimizing duplication.

**BW:**Amalgamation was rarely mentioned when I speak with people in the community. The city is the closest to the people and the Region is perceived as not always putting our needs first since

we are under represented. The issue of ity in municipal gov't.

fairness in terms of representation by population needs to be addressed. One big region would only serve to further concentrate more power in the hands of the wealthy few, increasing the likelihood of corruption and less accountabil-

Historic St. John's Church in Port Dalhousie Welcomes You to its

## 2022 Speaker Series

a general audience & intended to be informative and entertaining.

Sara Nixon, Public Programmer, St. Catharines Museum Presents - "The LOOKING BACK Series" Wednesday, October 5 at 2 p.m.

Looking Back at Downtown St. Catharines Wednesday, November 2 at 2 p.m.

> **Looking Back at Port Dalhousie** Wednesday, December 7 at 2 p.m.

Looking Back at Holiday Traditions in St. Catharines

Nancy Cameron, Local Historian Presents - "PORT DALHOUSIE TALKS" Thursday, October 13 at 7 p.m.

Autumn Tales: Ghost Stories and Mysteries of 19th Century Port Dalhousie Thursday, November 10 at 7 p.m.

**Port Dalhousie Shipwrecks** Thursday, December 8 at 7 p.m.

Port Dalhousie's Historic Houses and Their Stories

We hope you can attend. Donations Are Welcome, Thank you! Location: St. John's Church, 80 Main Street, Port Dalhousie



# Port Dalhousie is an amazing part of St. Catharines.

I am proud of all we have accomplished these past 8 years to put Port back on the map:

- New Port Piers
- Renewed Lakeside Park featuring Neil Peart Pavilion
- Revitalized commercial core
- New places for residents to call home at Royal Port
- New Canada Games 2022 Rowing Centre at Henley Island

 World Rowing Championships in 2024

 Reduced speed for resident safety

New Port Legion

Thank you for all the support!

Mayor Walter Sendzik City of St. Catharines

- f /MayorSendzik
- @ @wsendzik

mayorsendzik.ca

## Port Dalhousie's Own Sonny Wong, Was Recently Inducted Into the Boxing Canada Hall Of Fame



Sonny Wong started officiating in 1981. Sonny was appointed as a Chief Official for Ontario for 15 years and for Boxing Canada from 2010 to 2017. He has represented Canada at competitions around the world, first as an AIBA Official from 1998 to 2011 and then as an AIBA International Technical Official. Sonny's efforts have greatly contributed to the standard of officiating in Canada and continue to have an impact.



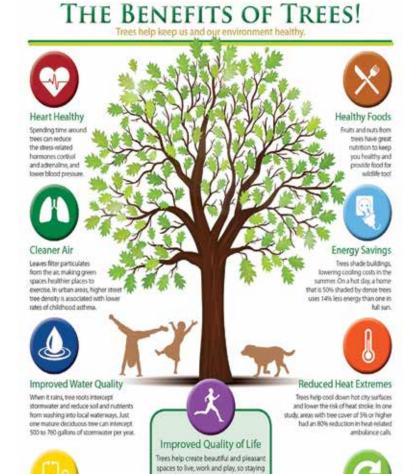
To Our NEW

## Congratulations to the City and the Parks and Rec Department!

If you haven't already noticed, a lot of trees have been planted along Main St. in Port Dalhousie. Trees have also been replaced along the canal and on the beach. Port Dalhousie has, over the past years, lost a lot of mature trees and it is great to see them finally being replaced. This may not have a huge effect until the next generation which will really get to enjoy them, but it is great to see that there's a start being made.

It is, after all, our future and the future of the world that is at stake since the city has declared a climate emergency. Let's plant a lot more trees and support our Parks and Rec Dept. If any city department. deserves to have its budget doubled, they do! Their work directly affects the quality of life in our city and makes Port Dalhousie a great place to live.

If you spot a location where a tree should be planted, please contact the city staff and tell them where you think one should go. There is no time to lose.



Local Wood Source

can be reused to make furniture, art, and other long-lasting



Garden. Church.

Whiskey. Weeping.

Stories. Silence.

Three hours. Three days.

Refreshments. Feast.

Iggy. Mozart.

Party. Procession.

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



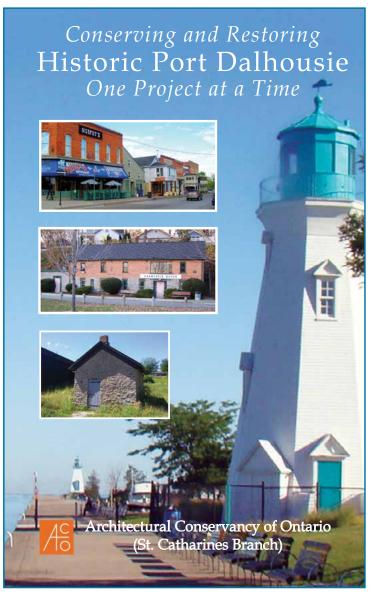
585 CARLTON STREET · ST. CATHARINES

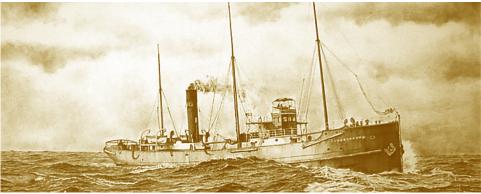
(905) 937-4444 · www.dartefuneralhome.com

St. Catharines' only locally-owned funeral home.

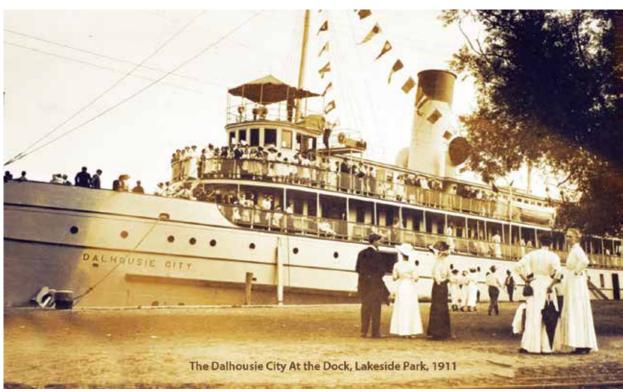
Improved Health

re more likely to have babies of healthy birth sweight





The Ghost Ship
"Bannockburn", lost
in Lake Superior on
November 21, 1902.
Known as "The Flying
Dutchman of the Great
Lakes", her crew was
made up of Port Dalhousie
residents. She perished
and has never been found.





# Provincial concerns?

My office is here to help

St. Catharines Community Office

- 209 Carlton St, Unit B St. Catharines, ON, L2R 1S1
- **(**) 905-935-0018
- @ 905-935-0191
- JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca
- JENNIESTEVENS.CA



## The Louth Area of Port Dalhousie

alhousie, as it was called prior to adding Port to the name once the First Welland Canal was constructed, was situated in the north-west corner of Grantham Township along the shore of Lake Ontario. As the town grew westward, it eventually reached the border of Louth Township. In order to continue to grow the town needed to expand into Louth Township. This article pertains to that area of Louth Township that was part of the Town of Port Dalhousie at the time of amalgamation with The City of St. Catharines on January 1, 1961.

On October 30, 1862 the Unincorporated Village of Port Dalhousie, all of which was in the Township of Grantham, had reached a population of 750 inhabitants and Lincoln County Council passed a By-Law to Incorporate the Village of Port Dalhousie.

The 1876 Page's Atlas shows the town's western limits to be the east side of the road allowance of Church Street (now Johnston Street). The

map shows Church Street extending from Martindale Pond all the way to Lake Ontario. The extension of Church Street from Albert Street (now Bayview Drive) to the Lake, placed a small triangle of Louth Township in Port Dalhousie. The triangle includes the

portion of Church Street which is now Considine Avenue (formerly known as Sixth Avenue) and today's Peel Street, the north half of Abbey Avenue and Maysfield Avenue. This same town limit is shown on the 1887 Fire Insurance Plan of Port Dalhousie. The population in 1887 was 872.

The 1929 Fire Insurance

Plan shows a new town limit, which now excluded any part of Louth Township previously shown on earlier plans. The new town boundary contained the remaining lands in Grantham Township from the east side of Church Street (now Johnston Street) to the Louth Township border. This area included Verdun Avenue and parts of McMahon's Farm (now Regatta Heights subdivision) and the buildings of the Port Dalhousie Canning Company, both of which straddled the new village limits and

On October 30, 1862 the
Unincorporated Village of Port
Dalhousie, all of which was
in the Township of Grantham,
had reached a population
of 750 inhabitants and
Lincoln County Council passed
a By-Law to Incorporate the
Village of Port Dalhousie.

border. The cannery was built in 1913 and became the Port Dalhousie Lions Club when they purchased the site on June 1, 1952. The population in 1929 was 1586 people. This meant that all future growth of Port Dalhousie would need to extend into Louth Township.

the Louth Township

This expansion into Louth Township would take place onto Lots 1 and 2 in the Broken Front Concession and Broken Front Concession in Front of Broken Front Concession of Louth Township. The westerly limit of Lot 2 is what is now Courtleigh Road and

Third Street Louth, which was also the town's limit at amalgamation in 1961. The crown granted most of these lands to Captain Peter Tenbroeck with the exception of Lot 2 in the Broken Front Concession in Front of the Broken Front Concession that was granted to Solomon Secord. Peter Tenbroeck was a Captain in Butler's Rangers during the American Revolution. In 1796 he received over 800 acres of Crown lands in both Grantham and Louth Township. His daughter married Jesse Pawling. They had several children, among them two boys Henry and Nathan, both of whom are well known to those aware of Port's history.

Solomon Secord was also a member of Butler's Rangers during the American Revolution and he received his Crown land grant in 1798. His lands passed on to his three daughters— Harriet, Ann [or Nancy] and Clementia. Harriet married David Cole. The Cole lands were held by a descendant of that family until sold and became Cole Farm Subdivision. Many of the



On Oct. 24 Vote Mike Britton for Mayor of St. Catharines



mike@mikebritton.ca



www.mikebritton.ca



905.328.3868



@MikeBrittonSTC

Cole family are buried in St. John's Cemetery. Clementina married George William Read of the Homer area Reads and they moved to Louth Township in 1818 and built their first house on the shore of Martindale Pond. The first burials in the St. James Church records are the children of George and Clementina. Dr. Arnold Read and his wife made their home at 'Elmwood' which was located at the end of Martindale Road (which today is where the Green Ribbon Trail is), down a long farm lane (which today would be Courtleigh Road) right on the shoreline of Lake Ontario.The Read lands were held in the family until sold in 1967.

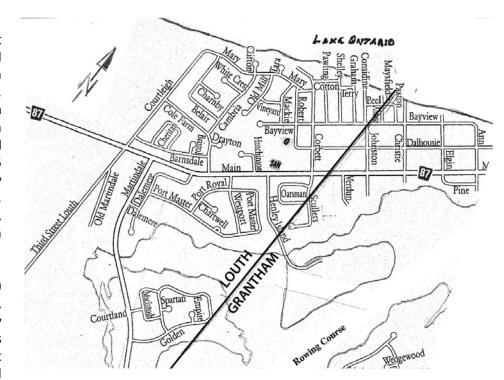
Prior to becoming part of Port Dalhousie, St. James Anglican Church was built and a cemetery created in Louth Township where St. John's Cemetery is located on Main Street at the corner of Cole Farm Boulevard. A log school house located nearby had been used by the local congregation. George E. Read with his neighbour Thomas Read (of no relation) donated the land for the church and cemetery. The cornerstone of St. James was laid in 1841. When the congregation built St. John's church in the Village in 1868, St. James was dismantled and taken by canal to Merritton where it continued as St. James until fire destroyed the structure in 1892. Additional lands were later donated to the cemetery. The Read

land donor families intermarried into the Secord, May, Hainer, Leighton, Calcott, Tenbroeck, Houston and Muir families.

On May 9, 1948 Village incorporated into a Town and, at the same time, the Louth Township area was officially amalgamated into the Town. Following the amalgamation, development took place within an area which became known as Corbett Park.

With a growing population in the west end of Port, a 5 ½ acre public school site was purchased in 1951 from Mrs. T. B. Read and Mrs. R. F. Grace. In July of 1953 the Grace family farm was subdivided by The Gracefield Plan (Registered Plan #319). Gracefield Public School opened in January 1955 with five classrooms. The Grace family home still stands at 3 Corbett Avenue. The last family member residing there, Ella Mildred Grace, passed away in 1988.

Cole Farm subdivision (Plan M-51) was registered on November 26, 1975 and consists of 315 single family lots developed by Taro Properties Incorporated. Next was Westport subdivision (Plan M-55), registered on February 25, 1976, consisting of 106 single family lots and the site of St. Ann's Separate School, developed by Swift Real Estate Limited. Westport Extension (Plan 30 M-129) was registered July 30, 1985 and consisted of 44 single family lots developed by Fairview Land Development Limited. Delemere Estates (Plan 30M-138), registeredSeptember5,1986,consisted of 55 single family lots developed by Fairview Land Development Limited. The last remaining large parcel of land was the McMahon farm which was in both Grantham and Louth Townships. Owner John McMahon passed away on Sunday, August 15, 1993. The farm



eventually became the Regatta Heights subdivision, developed by Maracay Taro Homes

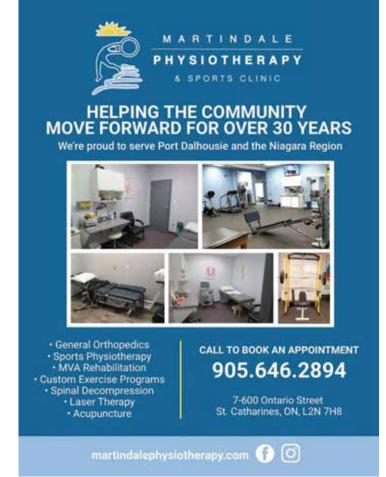
Some additional notes: Prior to becoming part of Port Dalhousie there were some houses and cottages built along the lakeshore as well as the farm residences. The Avondale convenience store used to be known as Hollydean. Henley Island Drive (which starts in Louth and crosses into Grantham Township about halfway to the bridge) was built in 1960. St. John's Cemetery monument photos with inscriptions can be seen on the web site CanadianHeadstones.com.

-Bill Stevens

- From





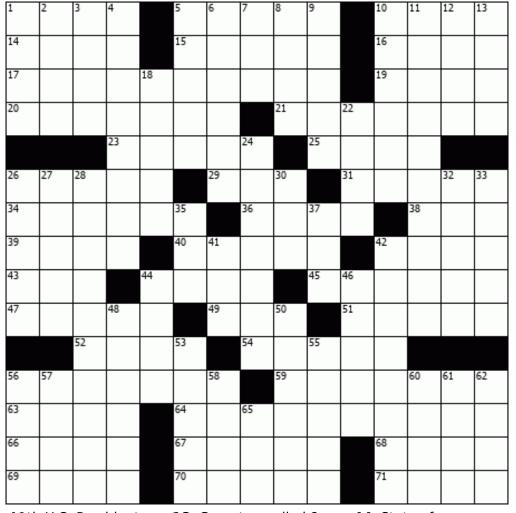


## AUTUMN CROSSWORD

#### **Across**

- 1. Glazier's cutting
- **5**. "The Planets" composer
- **10**. "\_\_\_ want for Christmas is . . . "
- **14**. Hauge of poetry
- 15. Sprightly
- 16. Oboe attachment
- **17**. Sign at the edge of a cliff?
- 19. Daily delivery
- 20. Kind of address
- 21. Okapi cousin
- 23. Glides high
- 25. Threads
- **26**. Mexican monies
- 29. Weep convulsively
- 31. Memory slip
- 34. Provides data
- 36. Disappear gradually
- 38. Word after T.
- 39. Imagist
- 40. Hot under the collar
- 42. 1958 Chevalier film
- 43. Edifice extension
- 44. Dull-colored
- **45**. Bit in a brownie, perhaps
- 47. Ketchup alternative
- **49**. Intricate pattern
- **51**. Blows a gasket
- **52**. Clown since 1946
- **54**. Hail damage
- **56**. Produce place
- 59. Japanese entertainers
- 63. Manhandle
- 64. Tethered dive
- **66**. Puberty problem, for some
- **67**. Epic starring Achilles
- 68. Position on a ship
- 69. Rorem and Beatty
- 70. All choked up
- **71**. Potter's prop

Crossword Answers on page 27



11th U.S. President

18. Go out on a limb?

44. State of

#### Down

- 1. 11th U.S. President
- 2. Sunburn soother
- 3. Sea power
- 4. Flattens
- 5. " la vista, baby!"
- 6. Eyeballers
- **7**. Cover up, essentially
- 8. Smelting refuse
- 9. Halfhearted
- 10. 3-Down group
- **11**. Suspension system component
- **12**. Eric the Red's son

The Port Dalhousie Conservancy

**13**. Thumb-twiddling

- 18. Go out on a limb?
- 22. Exercise authority
- **24**. Guest room furnishing, perhaps
- **26**. Corncobs and briars
- **27**. First name of a famous plane
- 28. Hypnotized
- **30**. Horror film regular
- **32**. Fluid transition
- **33**. Leaves
- **35**. Officer's address
- **37**. Morning condensate
- **41**. Wet behind the ears
- **42**. Palooka's downfall

- **44**. State of bewilderment
- 46. Clarinetist Shaw
- 48. Plinths
- **50**. Alms seeker
- **53**. Satellite path
- 55. Lacking
- **56**. Fed
- **57**. Compete against the clock
- **58**. December noun
- **60**. Luau dance
- **61**. Last word of the Bible
- **62**. Burned rubber
- 65. Peeples or Long



# A Brief History of "The Henley"

rowing ompetitive became ✓popular in Canada during the 1860s and 1870s. The historic Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, held here since 1903, is the major rowing event of North America, drawing rowers from Canada, the USA and Mexico and other countries. The Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen, formed in Toronto in 1880, held the regatta annually in various Canadian centres. The Port Dalhousie course, its waters protected by the high banks, became the permanent site in 1903. In 1904 a grandstand was constructed at the point overlooking the finish line and a clubhouse was built at the southern end of the course.

As the event steadily attracted more participants and spectators, it became necessary to build a more adequate grandstand. So in 1931 the clubhouse was torn down and a larger grandstand was constructed in it's place. The Rowing Club began using the former Gateworks building of the third canal to store racing shells until 1967 when a new boathouse was built on Henley Island. The World Rowing Championships have taken place here over the years because it's the only rowing course in North America that meets international standards. The Henley Course will host the 2024 World Rowing Championships.

"We always went to the regattas." recalls Rhoda Abel, a long-time Port resident. "We always got a new dress for that, too. As there were so many strangers in town we felt we had to get dressed up to go down there. There were two girls in Port Dalhousie who were very good swimmers, and they'd put on an act between races. Oh they used to have fun! They'd get all dressed up in silly hats and go out in a canoe in front of the grandstand, then they'd tip the canoe and fall into the water. Both of them were champion swimmers. The people in the grandstand went crazy and some of them were going to jump in and save them. You know they never got anything for it. They just did it for the devilment."

- Christine Robertson

From "A History Outline of Port Dalhousie"

## The YMCA Affair: An Update

e still do not know what will happen to the St Catharines Walker Family YMCA. We do know that Atria Development Corporation bought the facility on February 4, 2022. We also know that negotiations with the YMCA for a long-term lease broke off mid-May, and that the YMCA had to vacate the premises by June 10th. Atria has made it clear that there will be NO further discussions with the YMCA of Niagara. If people thought that the YMCA had a plan, consider that they are now running limited summer exercise classes out of the Prince of Wales Public School Gym.

We also know that Atria is re-evaluating their strategy for the building. They had seen it as a focal point for their planned development of the three high towers of rental units. However, they have no intention of managing the operation of the facility.

We also know that the St Catharines Recreation Department has had several discussions with Atria as to possibly taking on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the facility. But to date no real interest has been seen from Atria.

The claim that this outcome is anything other than a major lost opportunity to maintain or improve our collective quality of mental and physical health is not to be believed.

To the children, teens, adults, disadvantaged youth, physically challenged and seniors who will no longer, or who will never experience the magic of this special community place, I commiserate. The people of St Catharines who built, paid for and supported this incomparable YMCA facility do not deserve to see its demise. It is a loss for the city of St Catharines and will be greatly missed by the 6000 members (down from the 11000+ in 2014) who had relied on it.

The "Save the St Catharines Y Group" is still pursuing the following: Contacting the 85 Heritage Club members. These are people who have told the YMCA of Niagara that they have committed a certain amount for the YMCA in their will. We want to make sure they are fully aware of the whole situation and reconsider whether this is the right place to leave their grant.

- Uwe J Natho
"Save the St Catharines YMCA" Steering Committee Chair

Save the St Catharnes Two Controls Committee Chair

#### **Blood Brothers**

Wilson and I became friends in kindergarten.
We both had a 5-year old's crush on Erna Allen.
One afternoon I saw the two of them sitting and laughing on her front steps.

They looked so good together. I decided to look for another girl.

We were in grade 6 when Wilson and I became blood brothers. At recess I brought out my Swiss Army knife.

We each carefully put a small cut on our right thumbs.

We held our thumbs together so our blood would mix, saying only, "Brothers for life."

At 16 we rented a van with guys we didn't know and drove to Florida for Spring Break.

One night the guys were going out and I decided to stay in someone's apartment for another beer or two.

At 2 am there was a knock on the van's side door.

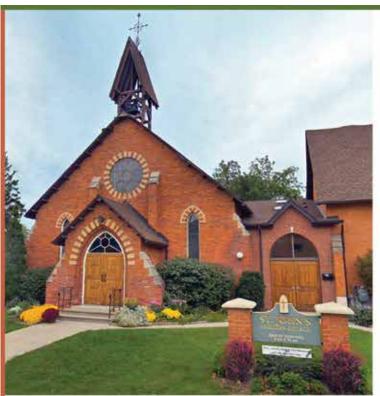
Two guys were there, carrying me. "Does he belong to you?" Wilson replied, "Yeah, throw him in."

In those days I drove a motorcycle around town. Wilson was riding on the back and knocked on my helmet. "Dropped your pipe crossing the tracks. Must go back!" "It's okay, I'm done with it now." That is how Wilson helped me to give up smoking.

Our paths diverged when I moved west and Wilson remained in Port Dalhousie. So I must visit him there — always welcome at Wilson's house, and he at mine.



- Danny Peart



For More Information

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

www.stjohnsportdalhousie.com

An Open Invitation to Join Us at

#### The Historic Church With Heart!

#### A Warm Welcome to Everyone

- In-Person Worship Sundays at 8am and 10am (Live Streamed)
- Facebook Postings everyday except Saturday on (St. John's, Port Dalhousie-Anglican).
  - · Hall Rentals, short and long term.
  - Special Fall Events posted on our website, outdoor sign, and Facebook
- NEW Fall Speakers Series: "Looking Back" with Sara Nixon, St. Catharines Museum
   plus "Port Dalhousie Talks" with Nancy Cameron, Local Historian

### Help us Help our Community!

- Fill the Trailer Food Drive for Community Care Saturday, October 1, 10am-2pm
- . Dignity Kits: Drop off men and women's toiletries and underwear that go to those at risk.
- Bells of Hope every Sunday at noon. Sign up to ring in memory of loved ones or causes dear to you

Want to know more about us? Have a question?

Call us at the office or visit our new website at stjohnsportdalhousie.com

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

#### Disagreement is not Disrespect!

This Misunderstanding is the Cause of Much of the World's Conflicts

There is no place for disrespect, bad language, threats or violence in dealing with our government leaders. On the other hand, we do need to attempt to understand the frustration felt by businesses, ratepayers and residents when simple disagreement is met with disrespect from our leadership. Honest disagreement ought to be met with curiosity and dialogue rather than silence, stonewalling and a general lack of transparency. This only increases suspicion and misunderstanding. To be fair, these same things often happen provincially, nationally and even internationally, and are the cause of much of the world's conflicts.

The recent attempt by some at regional council to institute a "gag" rule for those whom councillors fear was such an action. There is an exceedingly fine line between protecting our political leaders from abuse and the muzzling of dissent and disagreement. Chairpersons are fully within their current rights and responsibilities to stop anyone from abusing our elected leaders; however, stopping people from expressing disagreement or views that some don't like should never be done. That's part of the job!

What we can expect from our elected leaders is honesty, facts and evidence-based proposals, which are presented in an unbiased fashion and which support a demonstrated need. When opposition arises, opponents should also be held to the same standard. These disagreements ought to lead to respectful dialogue and sharing of the facts and evidence, including the assumptions underlying them.

It is only through this type of open dialogue that reasonable and intelligent people can come to agreement. When everyone feels heard-and-listened-to, we can all have more faith in the majority rule principle when a decision needs to be made. In the end, we will never know what good things we can learn from each other and, as any good leadership course will tell you, a decision reached in consultation with the rest of the team is always better than one made unilaterally. We are always better together. 

- Hank Beekhuis

#### Six Myths About Solar Panels

It was easy to dismiss solar power as science fiction in the early days. Not only was the technology spotty and inconsistent, but it was also incredibly expensive. But now that affordable residential models are available, people are finally taking this form of energy seriously. Not surprisingly, its critics have grown more desperate in recent years. Whether they're trying to protect an established energy source, or they just don't believe in solar panels, detractors have been spreading lies and half-truths at an unprecedented pace. Let us take a moment to debunk a few of our favorites.

Myth: Only the rich can afford them.

**Fact:** According to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), the price of installation has plummeted by more than 73 percent since 2006. Energy subsidies have made solar panels affordable for Canadians of every economic strata.

Myth: They require a lot of upkeep.

**Fact:** Because they lack moving parts, residential systems require minimal maintenance. The only advice installers give is to inspect them for dirt and debris every few months. Other than that, these units are pretty much maintenance-free.

Myth: They won't work in some areas.

Fact: While it is true that solar panels operate more efficiently in regions that get a lot of sun, they can still generate energy from ambient light on rainy or overcast days. As such, they will work just fine in any region of the country.

Myth: They damage roofs.

**Fact:** Actually, the complete opposite is true. Numerous studies have found that panels actually protect roof surfaces from inclement weather. We should also add that the equipment, when properly installed, will not harm your roof in any way. It can be put in or taken out without damaging shingles or the wood underneath them.

Myth: They hurt resale value.

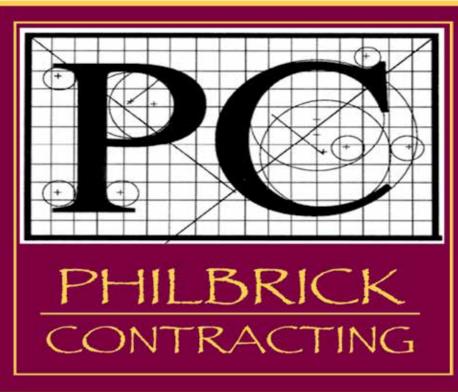
**Fact:** Once again, this one isn't even close! Several studies have found that a working residential system can add thousands of dollars in value to the average home. In fact, one recent report found that a host-owned system could add as much as \$15,000 to a home's resale value.

Myth: They aren't built to last.

**Fact:** As with any new technology, there are bound to be a few users who had a bad experience. Critics have seized on sketchy reports of dissatisfied customers to question the structural integrity of residential systems. Are they really tough and durable enough to stand up to the elements? According to the companies that sell, they are! That's why most providers offer 20- to 25-year warranties on their units. Not surprisingly, most are tested to last that long, or longer.

Now that you know the truth about solar power, you can make up your own mind about the fastest-growing form of alternative energy.

- Alfred Ardis



- ADDITIONS
- RENOVATIONS
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- DESIGN SERVICES
- COMMERCIAL
- RESIDENTIAL

Call Us For an Estimate Today!

"Renovating Port Dalhousie One House at a Time!"

766 York Rd., Niagara on the Lake, ON



Please scan the QR code and complete our online survey



or visit the website at https://bit.ly/3A2fARD



There are a number of things to watch out



#### TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Check the source of the story, do you recognise the website? Is it a credible/ineliable source? If you are unfamiliar with the site, look in the about section or find out more information about the author.

### LOOK BEYOND THE HEADLINE

Check the entire article, many fake news stories use sensationalist or shocking headlines to grab attention. Often the headlines of fake new stories are in all caps and use exclamation points.



#### **CHECK OTHER SOURCES**

Are other reputable news/media outlets reporting on the story? Are there any sources in the story? If so, check they are reliable or if they even



#### **CHECK THE FACTS**

Fake news stories often contain incorrect dates or altered timelines. It is also a good idea to check when the article was published. Is it current or an old news story?



# 3

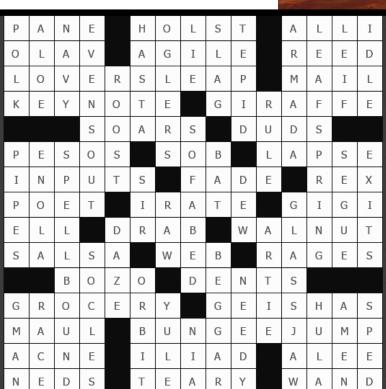
#### **CHECK YOUR BIASES**

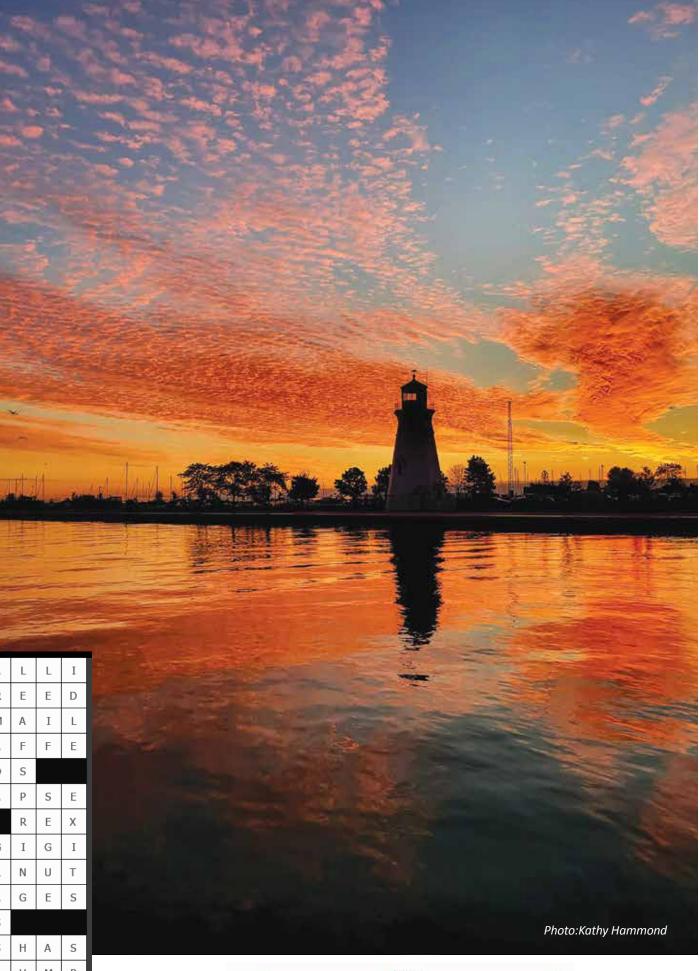
Are your own views or beliefs affecting your judgement of a



#### IS IT A JOKE?

Satisfical sites are popular online and sometimes it is not always clear whether a story is just a joke or parody. Check the website, is it known for satire or creating furny stories?











## **Port Health Pharmacy**

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



Try Our Convenient Drive-Through!



David Costiniuk & Jennifer Nitsopoulos-Bruder Your Community Pharmacists.

www.pharmasave.com