

The Port Reporter

*an all-volunteer, non-profit, community newspaper since 2005,
serving the community of Port Dalhousie
and the City of St. Catharines*

Free

Volume 7 No. 1 Spring 2011

Moving Forward

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When? Saturday May 14th

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St. Catharines' Taxpayers

There are four major Port projects in various stages of completion ..see page 3



Port Dalhousie- Moving Forward

by Hank Beekhuis

The battle against the Tower development is officially over! The OMB has ruled in favour of the developers, the city has bowed to their demands on parking requirements and all avenues of appeal are concluded. There, I said it! We may not be happy with the outcome but we have to accept it and move forward. However that does not mean that our work is done and we can all go home and rest on our The work of preserving heritage and building a vibrant community is really never done. As a

community we have learned a lot from the last few years, and as I reflect on our mutual experiences, I think there are a number of important lessons that we have learned as well. First, I think we found out that there are a lot of highly motivated people in Port who feel very passionately about their community and its Heritage. Throughout, it was obvious to

everyone that the overwhelming majority are eager for development that preserves the look and feel of Port and respects its unique past, and they are ready to fight for it. Secondly, we learned that we cannot depend on official plans, by-laws, or the political process to defend our values. It is ultimately up to us to stand up for what is right for our community. (cont'd. on page 2)



New Bridge Across Martindale Pond (see page 3)

Moving Forward (cont'd)

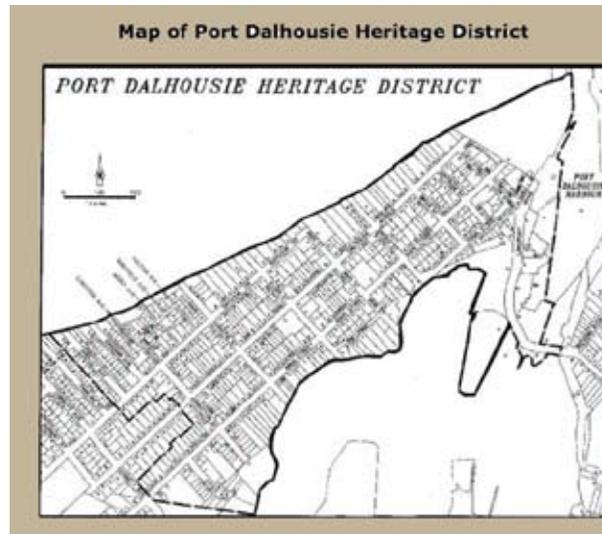
Third, we discovered that we are stronger when we stand together and speak with a unified voice. We proved that with a strong organization we can better defend our community and make sure that our voice is heard. In fact, it is the only way we are going to be able to preserve this great community for future generations. Finally, we also proved that it is possible to gather the necessary resources in both volunteer time and money to build up our community and to defend our Heritage.

Since 1999 PROUD Port Dalhousie has been that organization. It worked hard at gaining our Heritage designation and we accomplished it successfully. The Tower development struggle diverted our energy for a while, but now we have to shake the dust off our sandals and continue to strengthen our organization and pursue our twin goals of preserving our Heritage and building our community.



This work is ongoing and requires all of us to be vigilant and active. In particular, we have to ensure that if and when the tower development is built, it is built as approved by the OMB and includes ALL of the individual components that the developer used to successfully argue revitalization. The word on the street is that there are some who are already plotting their

next moves, and if we do not stand ready to hold them accountable, we already know that there is



no one else who will.

The PROUD Executive is enthusiastically looking forward to building and expanding the work we have already begun. The new format of the Port Reporter is designed to keep you abreast of events in our community and to keep you informed of issues that directly affect you. We need to continue the work, to not only keep this community organization going but also to make sure that we are ready for the future. We are very mindful of the fact that we can't do this without all of you. We need your help and support as we plan more community events which are designed to bring us all together as well as prepare us for what may lie ahead. We need to pull together as a community and all of you need to do your part to help us keep Port a great place to live, work and play for all the citizens of St. Catharines. Remember, strong communities build strong cities. We need your time, resources and participation. Volunteer

today and let's have a lot of fun together as we grow our community.

To do your part to help us keep Port a great place to live, work and play, please contact Lorraine Cordner at 905 646 1264 or bcordner@cogeco.ca

I am easily pleased.....

I am easily pleased and thoughts of Spring please me no end. After being cooped up for much of the winter, just looking out and seeing the birds become more active and looking for food at our feeders almost makes me want to rush out wearing shorts like my crossing guard friend, Harold, is now wearing. I say almost because I know if I did so, a Spring 'cold' would follow so the thought has to be enough.

With the arrival of Spring, my thoughts wander to brighter skies, blooming flowers and the feel of green under my feet. Somehow aging feels less overwhelming with the warmth of the Spring sun. With Spring in the air, the miracles of our maker are everywhere - in the tiny buds on our trees, in the tulips as they peak through the soil, the dew on the grass, in the early rising of the sunrise and the later setting of the sun and, most importantly, in the fresh crisp air we inhale. Renewal!

I can hardly wait to dig into the rich soil in our flower beds and trim the bushes. Gardening gives me much pleasure as it brings me back to the simple pleasures of life and away from the media contrived complexities of daily living. If only politicians were required to do an hour's gardening before they undertook their work, then perhaps the lives of the neediest and not the greediest would improve and Nature would be listened to and an end brought to the poisoning of Mother Earth for the almighty dollar.



We rarely take the time to enjoy these Spring gifts as daily living overwhelms our days. Sadly, it takes tragedy to awaken us and realize that all of the beauty surrounding (cont'd page 3)



I am easily pleased.....(cont'd)

us can be gone in seconds, Japan being the most recent example of this.

I hope you will not postpone taking that moment to smell the roses or appreciate the warmth of a morning sunrise as I have in the past. Take a good look around you and see all the gifts and beauty that surround you and the countless blessings we have in our friendships and our families. I urge you to take the path that leads to appreciation of life's simple pleasures. Greet warmly your neighbours as they emerge from their winter cocoons. Go out and bask in the warmth of Spring. I am sending to you, my readers, a wish for a springtime of warmth, laughter and continued good health with the hope that you will take time to enjoy and appreciate all the riches bestowed upon us. Ted Gould

Long Time Port Resident Passes:

Colborne Collins, a Port activist right back to the Rennie days, passed away in his sleep on Jan. 17, 2011 in his home on Ann Street. His house, #6 Ann St., and property (abutting the Rowing grandstand) **holds much Port history, including a signature of one of the earliest boat builders (Abbey) in Port etched in a door pane.** It was on this property that the folk hero Chief Smiley lived and died in a tragic fire.

Colbourne was in his 93rd year. Colborne, a long time member of St. Andrew's United Church in Port, and a life time member of the Port Dalhousie Lions Club, was a WWII veteran who served in the Royal Canadian Navy, and retired in 1976 as the president of Commercial Photocopy.

In the late 40's and 50's Colborne was the St. Andrews Sunday School Superintendent serving over 200 children and youth each Sunday. Many a family in Port and the city have fond memories of their childhood experiences at the church thanks to his efforts. I will miss him. Ted Gould

HANDS ACROSS NIAGARA

Good day Ted,
Thank you for promoting our fundraising event in your Proud newsletter – we could use all the help we can get!

The Event: Hands Across Niagara

When: Saturday, June 4th at 12 noon sharp

Where: Along the Welland Canals Parkway trail Starting at Lock 1 – Lock 3

What we are requesting: Participants to join hands on June 4th to link hands in the name of helping people living with cancer & those who are affected by those living with cancer.

And Volunteers to help the day of the event: jobs include: markers along the route, organizing people along the route, registration table, email blasts to help awareness of event, putting up posters.

What is 'Hands Across Niagara': The sole purpose of Hands Across Niagara is to provide services for those afflicted with cancer in the Niagara Region to help make their & their families journeys not such a hardship. Examples of this include: driving people to a treatment appointment or other doctors appointments, financial assistance if required, housekeeping, meal preparation, shopping assistance, supporting Hospice Niagara through donations to name a few.

The main fundraising event takes place annually starting at Lock 1 to Lock 3 along the Welland Canals Walkway in St. Catharines.

How to participate: Each participant **pays \$10.00 register on (www.handsacrossniagara.com)**(can register on your own or as a group) (no pledges necessary but are always accepted) and at designated locations along the route (Welland Canal), they come together and over a fifteen minute period each holds hands with the other until the chain is complete. All in the name of raising funds to benefit those going through cancer treatments in the Niagara Region.

Thank you for helping to spread the word about this great event.

Frank Bassett

Four Port Projects Financed by Federal Funds Supplemented St. Catharines' Taxpayers

There are four major Port projects in various stages of completion that received significant funds from the Federal Government even though some of them were not even in the City's budget (the balance of the funding required is financed by St. Catharines' taxpayers). These include:

1. Bridge Across Martindale Pond. This was initially proposed as a mostly-overland route paralleling some the old Canal towpaths but it was changed to a bridge because of objections from residents that would be affected. The permanent bridge, which is almost complete, allows access from Port right to Jaycee Park.

2. Replacement of Water Line Along Lakeport Road. This work has been completed.

3. Restoration Work on Historic Dalhousie House. The old offices of the Muir Bros. Drydock required major work including: shoring up the bank behind, gutting the interior and repointing the brickwork. This is difficult work in winter weather and had to be done under a heated tarp to ensure the mortar would not be affected by the cold. Work is still in progress.

4. Re-Painting Lighthouse. Painting in winter is also challenging and this work also had to be done under a heated tarp. It is now complete.

Like most similar projects, these four projects had to be completed by March 31, 2011 in order to receive the promised Stimulus Funds from the Feds. Our City Council's initial request for the extension of this deadline was rejected and work had to proceed through the winter months. However, the deadline was finally extended at the last minute

Residents Asked to Call Emterra Environmental For Collection of Large Household Items

NIAGARA REGION, March 15, 2011 - Residents are being asked to call Niagara Region's new collection contractor, Emterra Environmental, when requesting collection of a large household item or appliance.

Residents should call the company at least two working days before their regular garbage collection day to make arrangements. Emterra Environmental can be at 905-227-7771 or toll free 1-855-227-7771.



Are you cleaning up or clearing out? Have a bin delivered today.



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Progressive Euchre Tournament

\$10 per person Cash Bar

Saturday May 14, 2011
St. Andrews Church (lower Hall)
 92 Main St. Port Dalhousie

Doors open at 6:00pm
 Games start 7:00pm

For Tickets please call:
 Marianne at 905 937 4946

Snacks included **GREAT PRIZES!!**

PRESENTED BY: PROUD PORT DALHOUSIE

notice board

THE ANIMAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY'S BIG BAZAAR & HUGE SILENT AUCTION

It will include over 150 silent auction items donated by local businesses & friends of the society. There will be a Rummage Sale, Penny Table, Knit & Baked Goods, Crafts, Plants, Raffles, Lunch, a psychic and more.
Date: Saturday April 30th 9am-3pm at the Ukrainian Black Sea Hall, 455 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines
905-322-6429 is the number for Animal Assistance.

St. John's Anglican Church Good Friday Walk-a-Thon

Date: April 22, 2011 1:00 pm
 On this meaningful day, please join us for our annual walk for our loved ones, and the Primate's World Relief (PWRDF). All proceeds will go to PWRDF - Haiti Relief. Fr. Gordon will lead us with a prayer for the PWRDF, and we'll share the names of our loved ones for whom we are walking.

Lakeport's Fabulous 50th Reunion

Saturday, May 21, 2011 at Lakeport Secondary School 4 Details: 905-937-4987
www.lakeportreunion.com

PROUD'S Progressive Euchre Tournament.

St. Andrew's Church,
 92 Main St. in Port Dalhousie,
Saturday May 14th, 2011
Game starts: 7:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6 P.m.
\$10 pp snacks, prizes
Call Marianne for tickets
937-8046

Port Mansion Theatre Buddy Holly and the Crickets May 6 - 15, 2011 Musical tribute to a rock'n'roll pioneer.

Call (905) 934-0575 for info & tickets.

ST. ANDREWS SPRING FLOWER SALE

Support the upkeep of the community gym and other community meeting spaces.

Call 905.935.7231 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings to order.



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Ruth Beekhuis, MSW, RSW
 and
Don Neufeld, MSW, RSW



invite you to contact them for counselling:

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 St. Catharines

- Individual, Marital, Family
- Mental Health: Anxiety, Depression, etc.
- Grief, Stress, Anger Mgt., Self-Esteem, etc.
- Children, Adolescents, Adults

Contact for info or appointments:
 Don Neufeld: 905-650-1577; Ruth Beekhuis: 905-646-3507

Part-time associate:
 Heidi TeBrake, MSW, RSW - 905-328-8177
www.beekhuisneufeld.com

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very informative AGM



PROUD had an excellent and very informative AGM in February and would like to thank St. Andrews for providing the venue and Lorraine Cordner, Aty Anker and Ted Gould for providing yummy desserts and coffee. In case you missed it, here are some highlights:

- 1. PROUD projects in 2011.** Colin Johnston delivered a slide presentation on potential projects in the community that your organization will be supporting this year including saving the historic Lion's Hotel, Dalhousie House and the Legion plus beautifying the area surrounding the first locks of the 2nd and third canal and the Locktender's Shanty. He also told the group that PROUD had offered support and advice to PDVC in saving/restoring the Lions.
- 2. Status of Federal/Municipal projects.** Carlos Garcia reviewed ongoing work on Dalhousie House, Lighthouse and the bridge across the pond to Jaycee Park -all three must be completed by March 31st to qualify for promised Federal funding.
- 3. Rumour Mill Update.** President Hank Beekhuis updated us on the many rumours on the approved tower development (lack of financing?, leases extended?, etc.) and other potential tower proposals such as one at the Legion's site. He reminded us all to be vigilant to protect our remaining heritage.
- 4. Guest Speaker:** Val O'Donnell, President, Niagara Heritage Alliance. Val shared the reasons for forming this Region-wide organization formed to help preserve our natural and built heritage and how the NHA can work with PROUD.
- 5. Treasurer's Report and Election of Officers.** Lorraine Cordner reported on 2010 finances and Colin Johnston conducted the Election of Officers. All current officers were re-elected including Hank Beekhuis, Carlos Garcia, Lorraine Cordner and Sheridan Alder.

Bruce's Briefs on City Happenings

City Councillor
Bruce Williamson



It is my privilege to serve the citizens of Port Dalhousie and all of St. Catharines as councillor for the 2010-2014 term.

We look forward to spring's arrival with happy thoughts of more time outdoors during longer, warmer and sunnier days. It also means it's budget time at City Hall where challenging decisions need to be made. Issues of wants, needs and affordability must be balanced in a tangible way.

When weighing these matters, I do my best to put myself into the shoes of the average tax-paying citizen. I try to think long-term about what is in our best interests to ensure we are a sustainable community. It has always been my view that the primary responsibility of local government is to ensure the health of the city's infrastructure. This means roads, bridges, sidewalks, watermains, sewers and other civic structures be maintained in good condition.

Along with a spirit of renewal, spring brings with it Earth Day at Malcolmson Eco-Park, symbolic tree planting events, Climate Action Niagara's Eco-Fest and Pitch In Week organized by the Clean City Committee, upon which I am proud to serve. My family looks forward to renewing acquaintances at these events.

As our focus shifts to matters green, the saying "Think Global, Act Local" is top of mind. Current global issues, which must be factored in our decision-making, include rising energy and natural resource costs, unsteady economic times and the perils of climate change.

If we are to maintain our quality of life, we must plan a course for St. Catharines addressing these concerns. Actions that promote conservation and reduce our ecological footprint are no longer just options.

Please mark your calendar for the MS Walk, April 17 at 9 a.m. and the Rankin Cancer Run (or stroll), May 29 at 10 a.m. Both start at the Grantham Lions Park and proceed along our beautiful Welland Canals Parkway. The Walk for Kids Help Phone is at Jaycee Gardens on May 1.

Don't forget to register for summer sports and recreational leagues, cultural and city programs.

Before we know it the carousel will be open!

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Fourth Annual Trivia Night



The fourth annual Trivia Night at the Black Sea Hall was again very successful and well-attended. For those of you who missed it, here is a brief summary.

Colin Johnston, our MC for the evening welcomed everyone on behalf of PROUD Port Dalhousie, and introduced special guests including: City Councillors Bruce Williamson and members of the Niagara Heritage Alliance including three who had travelled from Fort Erie to attend. PROUD President Hank Beekhuis spoke briefly and reiterated PROUD's commitment and dedication to preserving our heritage.

Trivia Master Ron Newton was introduced. Ron kindly donated his services as a Trivia Master and assisting him was his wife Irene Newton who is also President of the Black Sea Hall.. Ron explained the rules of the game and we got started. The questions were a great mixture of mixture of history, geography, music, TV, etc. and a few Niagara questions. Ron did a very professional job and everyone was very pleased(except those of us who did not win). A VERY SPECIAL thanks to Ron and Irene! During the breaks, Colin and members of the audience drew tickets for numerous door prizes and there was, of course, the pizza break. We thank the many PROUD volunteers who worked so hard organizing and working the event including: Lorraine Cordner, Nancy Beckon and Bruce Irwin, Ed Szaszi and Marianne Kond, Morgan Mitchell, Amanda Mitchell, Shelby Mitchell, Marie Irwin, Ruth Barclay, Carol Brittan-Jones, Sheila Fronk, Esther Chadwick, Jackie Szymanski, Todd Hildebrand, Barb McLeod and anyone we may have missed. By the way, Helen Szacs who usually volunteers was in hospital. We wish Helen a very speedy recovery. The game was very competitive and the table that included former President David Bergen. Executive Committee members Deborah Kehler and Ken Mackenzie. PROUD members Vicki Dodge, Linda and Mike Sullivan and Peter Connolly and David Carmichael were the big winners. Congratulations! (see photo above)

members Vicki Dodge, Linda and Mike Sullivan and Peter Connolly and David Carmichael were the big winners. Congratulations! (see photo above)

Citizens of St. Catharines and Niagara: We Need YOUR Help

Please remember that all our funding comes from contributions from people like you who care about Port's unique heritage.

PLEDGE FORM HELP PROTECT OUR HERITAGE!

YES! I would like to help this cause with my donation.

NOTE: Donations are tax-deductible and an income tax receipt will be issued.

A donation in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed as a cheque made payable to ACO-St. Catharines.

Reference: Port Dalhousie Heritage Fund

Credit card donation in the amount of \$_____ will be charged to my VISA Master Card.

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I pledge \$ _____ a month for _____ months totalling \$ _____.

Enclosed are _____ post dated cheques for \$_____ each or charge my credit card as above \$_____ per month.

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The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) is a registered charity founded in 1933 to help preserve Ontario's architecturally-significant landscapes and structures. The St. Catharines Branch was established in 2006.



PORT DALHOUSIE LAWN BOWLING CLUB NEWS

Our season starts off with a Pot Luck supper on the 11th of May, starting at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The season of bowling starts on Friday the 13th.

Open Houses will be held on May 14, 15, 21 and 22 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. - Everyone is welcome. Just wear some flat shoes. Instruction will be given.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Mixed bowling 6:45 p.m. starting on the 17th of May.

Monday morning bowling starting on Monday, June 6 at 10 a.m.

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“As Canadians, we take pride in traditional values and personal freedoms that prior generations have worked and given their lives to protect. I ask for your support to once again uphold the core values that define our society. We must move away from the messages of fear that seek to divide our nation. Let’s unite as Canadians on May 2nd and restore a vision of **Our Canada.**”

About Andrew



Andrew is a firefighter in Niagara and has served St. Catharines as a City Councillor from 2006 to 2010 representing St. Andrews Ward.

He resides in Port Dalhousie with wife Donna and their three school-age children

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