

The Port Reporter

FALL EDITION

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



Mayor Strongly Supports the Need to Revitalize the Downtown Core

In my recent meeting with Mayor McMullan to discuss the new Performing Arts Centre, it became readily apparent that he sees this project as one of the key elements in the revitalizing of the Downtown Core. Combined with the Brock initiative (Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts Centre) and the Meridian Centre, he was enthusiastic about transforming our Downtown and attracting private sector development as a result. Brock University's Downtown Campus is going to bring 550 students and 80.5 staff into the Core and this he believes will attract private sector development for more student housing which he believes will be higher end student residential buildings. Given what has happened elsewhere in the Province, this should also attract new residential buildings for other City residents. Mayor McMullan views the changes as an opportunity to make the Downtown the Art and Cultural Centre for the Niagara Region as well as an attraction that will draw many of the residents of the City into the core. A result of this activity will be job creation, something badly needed to offset the decline of manufacturing in this area and the Province. However, development involving a high level of public sector financing and creating major changes in the Core led me to ask about the following issues:

- * financing the infrastructure
- * parking
- * safety

See page 3 for the Mayor's thoughts on those issues

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HEALTH NEWS

SCIATICA-WITH AGE DIFFERENT PAINS CAN EMERGE

What You Need to Know About Sciatica

www.spine-health.com/conditions/sciatica/what-you-need-know-about-sciatica

The term sciatica describes the symptoms of leg pain and possibly tingling, numbness or weakness that originates in the lower back and travels through the buttock and down the large sciatic nerve in the back of the leg.

Symptoms

Sciatica pain can vary widely. It may feel like a mild tingling, dull ache, or a burning sensation. In some cases, the pain is severe enough to make a person unable to move.

The pain most often occurs on one side. Some people have sharp pain in one part of the leg or hip and numbness in other parts. The pain or numbness may also be felt on the back of the calf or on the sole of the foot. The affected leg may feel weak.

The pain often starts slowly. Sciatica pain may get worse:

- *After standing or sitting
- *At night
- *When sneezing, coughing, or laughing
- *When bending backwards or walking more than a few yards, especially if caused by spinal stenosis

Sciatica (pronounced sigh-at-ih-kah) is a symptom of an underlying medical condition – it is not a medical diagnosis in and of itself.

Sciatica is often characterized by one or more of the following symptoms:

- * Constant pain in only one side of the buttock or leg (rarely can occur in both legs)
- * Pain that is worse when sitting
- * Burning or tingling down the leg (vs. a dull ache)
- * Weakness, numbness or difficulty moving the leg or foot
- * A constant pain on one side of the rear
- * A sharp pain that may make it difficult to stand up or to walk

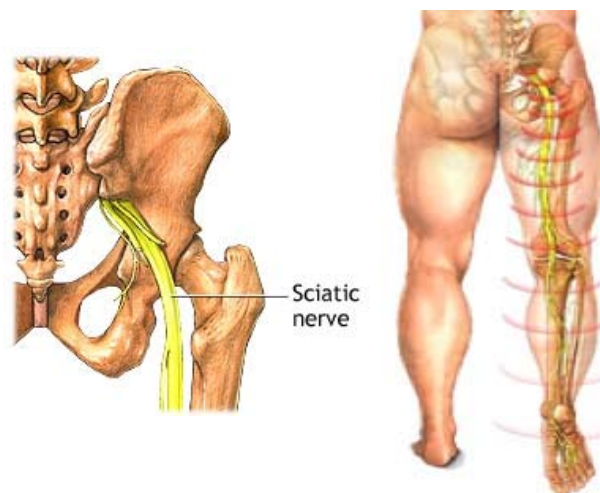
In some cases, no treatment is required and recovery occurs on its own. However, it is common for it to return. Conservative treatment is best in many cases. Your doctor may recommend the following steps to calm your symptoms and reduce inflammation.

- *Apply heat or ice to the painful area. Try ice for the first 48 - 72 hours, then use heat after that.
- *Take over-the-counter pain relievers such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB) or acetaminophen (Tylenol).

Bed rest is not recommended. Reduce your activity for the first couple of days. Then, slowly start your usual activities after that. Avoid heavy lifting or twisting of your back for the first 6 weeks after the pain begins. You should start exercising again after 2-3 weeks. This should include exercises to strengthen your abdomen and improve flexibility of your spine.

Prevention

Prevention varies depending on the cause of the nerve damage. Avoid prolonged sitting or lying with pressure on the buttocks.



Editorial: Creating a Vibrant & Healthy City Centre - Ted Gould

Having experienced first hand Flint Michigan's startling change from a vibrant city with a active downtown core to one of the poorest and crime-ridden cities in the USA, I was surprised how quickly things could go downhill when significant employment losses occur. What was even more surprising was the impact on the outer neighbourhoods. The blight affected everyone. Thousands of people from all across the city began to leave. Businesses closed up and vacant stores in the downtown core and across the city became the norm and, without employment, normal hard working people turned to crime as a last resort for survival. Flint Michigan has been rated the most Dangerous City in America in an article by 24/7 Wall St. The 1989 documentary film Roger & Me cemented Flint as the poster child for a community down on its luck. This birthplace of General Motors would often find itself the subject of national headlines on the declining auto industry and related economic woes—crime, blight, unemployment, poverty, etc....www.mml.org/resources/publications/mmr/issue/march-april2010/flint.html

What Flint and other cities in the USA are attempting to do is rebuild their downtown cores. St. Catharines is not a Flint Michigan but many of the elements that created a Flint are present to varying degrees in St. Catharines. Downsizing of the auto industry, global marketplace purchasing and significant losses in manufacturing to China, etc. are key elements that foster such decay. While I am distraught about the way Port's Commercial Core has been allowed to fall into such a sad state of disrepair, I believe that Council's efforts to rebuild the City's Core Commercial areas is the right path to take. Without a strong City Centre, the exodus of our young adults and families will accelerate and crime will increase significantly; first in the City core and then spread to other neighbourhoods. The efforts to re-energize the city through the arts, recreation (Meridian Centre)

and post secondary education (Brock) are the beginnings of a vibrant City Centre that is attempting to respond to all aspects of city life, not just culture. It remains to be seen if businesses will get on board and take the core to the next level but there are a few signs of that happening. New restaurants are opening that will supplement the cultural/recreational and education experience. That should accelerate job creation and help to keep more of our young adults in our city.

Young adults are looking for a place to live, work, and play. They want at least an 18-hour environment where they can walk places, ride their bikes, and go to a club or restaurant at two o'clock in the morning. Another group are the folks in their 50s and 60s. They look for access to cultural and civic activities and like the fact that their office is now only five blocks away. They are fairly successful, at or near the peak of their careers, so they bring a lot of energy and money to city centres. At the other end of the spectrum are seniors, growing in number, who need a caring and active city with restful places to stop and enjoy their later years. What is key to all of this happening is making the City Core an area that is safe for all.

(cont'd on page 5)

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Revitalizing the Downtown Core (continued from page 1)

FINANCING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

There is a lot of concern by residents about the debt being taken on by the City to finance the infrastructure associated with the Downtown Revitalization. The Meridian Centre and the Performing Arts Centre are costly projects and people are worried about the rising debt level. Mayor McMullan believes that the debt is at a reasonable level and at approximately 10% it is far below what the Province allows. He sees the debt to be good value for the dollar as the City will have valuable assets when the buildings are completed. The projects are "on time and on budget". The City will be using some of its existing reserves and is looking at selling some of the City assets to add to the reserve such as selling off its hydro assets. He believes that in spite of the fact that they are revenue producing assets, the private sector could make an excellent offer to offset such revenue losses. The Heywood Hydroelectric Generating Station in Port is one of those assets. Heywood was built and paid for by Port residents and there is much concern in Port about selling off this asset.

(see Bruce's Briefs on page 6)

PARKING:

The Mayor believes that with 2700 parking spots now available after the renovation of the City garage that there will be enough parking for all who come to enjoy the new Downtown and its entertainment centres. He believes that the short walk to the various venues will positively impact on the street businesses and restaurants that will emerge. This approach will require people who are used to parking in large malls within a few steps of their shopping experience to make an adjustment to their parking routine and will require a strategy to overcome the fears related to the third issue.

(continued on page 13)

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EXPERTS: LAKEPORT BUILDINGS HAVE HIGH HERITAGE VALUE, CAN BE REHABILITATED

No Excuse for Tower Developers to Consider Demolition or Drastic Alteration

Four and a half years ago, following a marathon hearing, the tower developers won OMB approval of virtually 100 per cent of their proposal despite vigorous, and extremely costly, opposition by the community and the City. **The Port Dalhousie Conservancy opposed the project because it was incompatible with Port's unique heritage and because the business model, in our view, was obviously flawed and unlikely to work.** However, we accepted the

OMB decision and hoped the developers' claims that the project would be the engine to revitalize Port and preserve the remaining heritage would be validated.

Unfortunately, since the fateful OMB decision, **N O T H I N G** (except a temporary model suite) has been built. Instead, they have made, or attempted, major changes to what they themselves pushed for at the OMB, and have demolished the historic Port Mansion and other buildings. They have also purchased a number of other heritage buildings downtown Port, closed the existing businesses and gutted the interiors so, we now have a largely DEAD business district.

Everyone is frustrated and disenchanted with the lack of progress on the OMB-approved tower project and recently, there have been widespread rumours (denied by the developers) that the project is in serious financial trouble. In spite of this, the developers have told the media they will be submitting a proposal to build "a mixed residential/commercial project involving the Spice of Life property and buildings along Lakeport Rd. which runs parallel to the harbour". The Conservancy is very concerned that such plans would have a drastic negative impact on these buildings which is why we commissioned a Heritage Assessment report by renowned heritage architect Philip Goldsmith and a Structural Report by experts at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston. Below are some brief excerpts from the two reports:

Heritage Assessment by Philip Goldsmith, Heritage Architect (Presented to City Council on June 24, 2013)

"We have looked at the Heritage significance of a group of 6 buildings in Port Dalhousie. These are 12 Lock St. and 38, 28, 26, 18 and 14 Lakeport Rd. In considering the significance of the buildings we have used the criteria set out under the Ontario Heritage Act, 2005, Reg. 9/06 for the designation of Heritage Properties as a guide.

This small group of building falls into two types. This small group of building falls into two types. Two buildings are gable fronted, wood clapboarded structures in the style of Classic Revival buildings of the mid 19th century although later

in period and simpler in detailing. Four of the buildings are brick structures, three in an Italianate Style and one a later simplification, a "turn of the century" commercial building. Although the quality and sophistication of the original designs and the degree of alteration varies, as noted in detail above, we find all of these buildings to be fundamentally surviving period constructions that could with modest or little work be restored to closer to a period appearance.

We believe all of the buildings are Significant Heritage Structures (emphasis added).

All of the buildings noted are within an existing OHA Part V Heritage Conservation district, nonetheless, we recommend that 38, 26, and 18 Lakeport are worthy of additionally being protected as individually Designated Building under Part IV of the OHA"

Structural Assessment by Julian Smith, Conservation Architect and John Silburn, Conservation Engineer (Presented to Port Dalhousie Heritage Committee on September 26, 2013).

Tour included six turn-of-the-century commercial buildings, four of load-bearing masonry with internal wood structures, and two of wood construction throughout. The tour also included a partial visit of the Austin House hotel.

Overall, these are buildings in good structural condition and entirely appropriate for adaptive reuse (emphasis added).

They are generally simple in design, meaning that their rehabilitation should be relatively straightforward. The masonry---walled structures have had their interior finishes largely removed, which allowed the structural conditions to be easily observed. The wood structures retain more of their finishes, and could not be studied as closely. However, structural issues with wood---frame buildings are easier to deal with since the dead loads of the buildings are relatively small"

Note: The Port Dalhousie Conservancy Inc. has always supported appropriate development in Port Dalhousie's Heritage District that is consistent with applicable planning policies.



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Autumn Thoughts

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Autumn carries more gold in its pocket
than all the other seasons. ~Jim Bishop

The time of the falling leaves has come again. Once more in our morning walk we tread upon carpets of gold and crimson, of brown and bronze, woven by the winds or the rains out of these delicate textures while we slept.

How beautifully the leaves grow old! How full of light and color are their last days! There are exceptions, of course. The leaves of most of the fruit-trees fade and wither and fall ingloriously. They bequeath their heritage of color to their fruit. Upon it they lavish the hues which other trees lavish upon their leaves....

But in October what a feast to the eye our woods and groves present! The whole body of the air seems enriched by their calm, slow radiance. They are giving back the light they have been absorbing from the sun all summer.

~John Burroughs, "The Falling Leaves,"
Under the Maples

October was a beautiful month at Green Gables, when the birches in the hollow turned as golden as sunshine and the maples behind the orchard were royal crimson and the wild cherry trees along the lane put on the loveliest shades of dark red and bronzy green, while the fields sunned themselves in the aftermaths. Anne reveled in the world of color about her.... "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it?..." ~Lucy Maud Montgomery

[Fall] hurries you along as you walk the roads, crunching the leaves that have fallen in mad and variegated drifts. The wind makes you ache in some place that is deeper than your bones. It may be that it touches something old in the human soul, a chord of race memory that says *Migrate or die—migrate or die.* ~Stephen King, *'Salem's Lot*

"Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile." - William Cullen Bryant

"The season for enjoying the fullness of life -- partaking of the harvest, sharing the harvest with others, and reinvesting and saving portions of the harvest for yet another season of growth."
-Denis Waitley

I've never known anyone yet who doesn't suffer a certain restlessness when autumn rolls around... We're all eight years old again and anything is possible. -Sue Grafton



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Editorial: (continued from page 2)

The elements of change are being put in place. I am looking forward to many more initiatives to enhance the city core experience, including new Downtown signage, increased residential/student housing with the corresponding increase in office space, more sidewalk patios, a revised parking strategy (no meters), a Cultural Marketing plan, increased Provincial and Federal involvement in helping fund the proposed changes and City Council working co-operatively with the Downtown BIA in developing Branding initiatives. All of us need to get behind the revitalization of the Downtown core and make it successful. We do not need a Flint-like experience in our city!

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Bruce's Briefs

on City Happenings



Recently, City Council agreed to give consideration to explore the value in selling the Heywood hydroelectric Generating Station and the rights to the proposed Shickluna hydroelectric generating station. While I went along with investigating potential offers, I will not support the sale of any civically owned and operated infrastructure assets unless the value to the people of this city is definitively proven substantially greater than their assessed values including the annual revenues they will accrue to us over the long term. This seems unlikely to happen.

I strongly believe municipal assets such as these are collectively shared by every ratepayer and citizen of St. Catharines and should be retained to serve the common good in perpetuity. Reliable, renewable, green energy producers like Heywood are not only good for the environment they are key contributors to our community being more sustainable and independent in terms of our electricity

generation. In recent years Heywood has typically produced 40 000 megawatts of electricity for community consumption. It is the local ratepayers who invested the original \$17.5 million dollars to build it and it is you and me who continue to pay the maintenance costs to keep this facility operating. Heywood continues to be profitable at a rate of \$1.65 million dollars per year. Since we paid for it, it should be us who should derive the benefits from it. In fact, in order to approve the sale of a valuable component of our community's infrastructure there should first be a referendum to determine whether there is a desire on the part of our residents to relinquish ownership of our prime assets.

Selling proven revenue and efficient energy generators is one of the last actions I ever thought I would have to consider as a representative of the people of Port Dalhousie and the citizens of St. Catharines at large. I would appreciate your thoughts on this issue.

Bruce Williamson
Councillor
Port Dalhousie Ward



Condo Sales 50% Below Historic Norms

In August across the GTA, sales of pre-construction condos for that summer month were the lowest in a decade and almost 50 per cent below historic norms, according to RealNet Canada Inc. "All those cranes we see on the Toronto skyline right now are based on condo sales that took place two or three years ago. There will be fewer cranes going forward (based on declining sales numbers), and that means fewer jobs", says Jim Murphy, chief executive of the Association of Accredited Mortgage Professionals.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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FALL 2013

As a proponent of the Port Place development I viewed it as an opportunity to attract a more upscale clientele and end the rowdiness and hooliganism we endured on summer weekends. I believed it would increase our tax base and hopefully be a catalyst for additional private investment.

With the demolition of the Port Mansion and other buildings I was optimistic that construction would be imminent. Sadly it appears the development has stalled and many dread we'll be left with shuttered businesses and a vacant lot overgrown with weeds. With each passing day of site inactivity it seems PROUD/Port Dalhousie Conservancy's prediction regarding this development were accurate.

If the rumored failure of this project is indeed true, hopefully a contingency plan is in place with a time frame attached. The last thing anybody wants is to be left with buildings in decay and a hole in the ground for the next ten years.

Steve Lukacs



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Location

The Downtown Performing Arts Centre will be constructed on the corner of Carlisle and St. Paul streets. The Canada Hair

Cloth Building is the chosen site for the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts Centre. Links between the two facilities are part of the conceptual plans.

On a 4.5-acre hillside site that runs from busy St. Paul Street down into an urban valley, the Academic and Cultural Arts Centre for Downtown St. Catharines is a unique development that is part campus, part municipal arts complex, and all ambitious.

The result of a historic collaboration between the City of St. Catharines and Brock University, the complex will transform the city's downtown into a vibrant entertainment hub as well as a national centre of excellence for education in arts and culture.

The ACAC plan consists of two main components — the City's public Performing Arts Centre, and a new home for the University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.


Toronto-based Diamond and Schmitt Architects, who have designed concert halls and arts complexes across Canada and around the world, have been selected to design both of these side-by-side projects.

Site preparation will continue through 2012, with construction and renovation work expected to start in 2013. The complex is scheduled for completion in 2015.



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Our Environment

Bees Dying by the Millions in Canada

- By Jon Radojkovic
The Post Hanover, June 19, 2013
[Straight to the Source](#)

Internet Posting

ELMWOOD - Local beekeepers are finding millions of their bees dead just after corn was planted here in the last few weeks. Dave Schuit, who has a honey operation in Elmwood, lost 600 hives, a total of 37 million bees.

“Once the corn started to get planted our bees died by the millions,” Schuit said. He and many others, including the European Union, are pointing the finger at a class of insecticides known as neonicotinoids, manufactured by Bayer CropScience Inc. used in planting corn and some other crops. The European Union just recently voted to ban these insecticides for two years, beginning December 1, 2013, to be able to study how it relates to the large bee kill they are experiencing there also.

Local grower Nathan Carey from the Neustadt, and National Farmers Union Local 344 member, says he noticed this spring the lack of bees and bumblebees on his farm. He believes that there is a strong connection between the insecticide use and the death of pollinators.

“I feel like we all have something at stake with this issue,” he said. He is organizing a public workshop and panel discussion about this problem at his farm June 22 at 10 a.m. He hopes that all interested parties can get together and talk about the reason bees, the prime pollinators of so any different plant species, are dying.

At the farm of Gary Kenny, south west of Hanover, eight of the 10 hives he kept for a beekeeper out of Kincardine, died this spring just after corn was planted in neighbouring fields.

What seems to be deadly to bees is that the neonicotinoid pesticides are coating corn seed and with the use of new air seeders, are blowing the pesticide dust into the air when planted. The death of millions of pollinators was looked at by American Purdue University. They found that, “Bees exhibited neurotoxic symptoms, analysis of dead bees revealed traces of thiamethoxam/clothianidin in each case. Seed treatments of field crops (primarily corn) are the only major source of these compounds.



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EVENTS AT THE ST. CATHARINES

PAGE 8

MUSEUM & WELLAND CANALS CENTRE

FALL 2013

www.stcatharines.ca/en/experiencein/MuseumEvents.asp?_mid_=19685

Shipman's Shindig: History or Hearsay - Oct. 19, 7-10pm

Shipman's Shindig is the signature fundraiser event for the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre, offering patrons a unique after-hours Museum experience and engaging the public with the Museum's collection in new and unexpected ways. This year's theme harkens back to the era of silent films and speakeasys, flappers, jazz, art deco and the new automobile culture. Guests are invited to explore the Museum in high style, formal attire is requested and historical accessories are encouraged!

In addition to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, this year's event features a game of “**History or Hearsay**,” where guests will have to choose between fact and fiction. Participants will have the opportunity to view a selection of artifacts from the Museum's collection and determine if our Guest Curators descriptions of the artifacts are fact – history – or fiction – hearsay.

(continued on page 9)

For more information, please contact museum@stcatharines.ca.

LONG TIME PORT RESIDENTS HONOURED

May and Alex Crawley who have been very active supporting good causes in our community, received the highest honour bestowed by the Robert Burns Association of North America for their work with the association over the past 30 years. May is presently the Director for Canada of the World Federation and Alex is President of the Niagara Falls Burns Club. Bob Stewart, the president of the Robert Burns World Federation in Kilmarnock, Scotland conferred on May and Alex the highest honour bestowed by the Federation, that of Honourary President. Congratulations May and Alex!

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'Impact of Speculators on Communities'

In our Summer edition of the Port Reporter, Catherine Nasmith's article titled **Destruction by Speculation**, which was featured in the Ontario-wide distribution of *Built Heritage News*, stated:

"Without building a thing, the core of Port Dalhousie has been destroyed by speculative forces that may never deliver any of the development that tempted the former Mayor and Council of St. Catharines in the first place".

Recently a study in the USA* found that the majority of vacant buildings that are bought from private owners by individuals or small operators are eventually utilized and their taxes paid. "On the other hand, properties bought by "speculators" -- those who make a business of buying and flipping properties-- much more frequently remain vacant, unmaintained and tax delinquent, causing financial distress and blight for neighbors and governments alike".

"For speculators, it's a great system -- they have little risk, no responsibility and the potential of great reward. Today, there is no "downside" or cost to large-scale speculation" (Dan Kildee).

However, for those concerned with the viability of our communities and the sustainability of our local governments, changing the system is a necessity.

Recently passed legislation in Illinois, both by the City of Chicago and the Cook County Board of Commissioners require that any purchaser, owner or servicer of a vacant property register that property and take responsibility for the property's maintenance, security, taxes and insurance -- creating a cost to the neglect that typically accompanies irresponsible speculation where there was none before. (www.huffingtonpost.com/dan-kildee/ending-land-speculation-t_b_1332087.html)

What is the lesson to be learned from the current disastrous condition of Port Dalhousie's Commercial Core? If we are going to make progress in stabilizing neighborhoods like Port Dalhousie, we cannot allow irresponsible speculation to continue -- with short-term speculators ignoring their maintenance responsibilities and allowing valuable community assets go to ruin. As a minimum, we need legislation that holds owners and mortgagees accountable for the condition of their abandoned properties.

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- **September 14, 2013 - January 15, 2014** On loan from the Sherbrooke Museum of Nature and Science

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Explore modern and historic sports equipment, then measure your strength, speed and heart rate. Visitors are invited to experience, first-hand, the contributions of video in sport and be filmed testing their skill as a cheerleader or baseball pitcher. The whole family can learn about the important contributions of physical trainers, coaches, kinesiologists and even nutritionists to sporting success!

1812, supported by National Presenting Sponsor TD Bank Group and National Supporting Sponsor Ancestry.ca, explores the way in which each participant experienced the war. These multiple perspectives together provide a deeper understanding of the conflict as a whole.

(Continued on page 15)

LAKE SIDE DENTAL

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Dr. David Bergen and...Lakeside Dental ... a different direction.

After many years of owning and operating a large dental clinic, Dr. David Bergen envisioned a new direction: caring for one patient at a time, in a serene setting overlooking Lake Ontario. It would be a full-service office, equipped with the most current technology in a calm environment focused totally on the patient.

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To arrange for an introductory visit or an appointment please call 905-934-3837.

A unique setting, exceptional service, standard pricing. For more information visit www.LakesideDental.ca.

Christmas 2013 HandMade Market 70+ artisans offering Jewellery, Fashion Accessories, Preserves, Natural Bath + Body, Art, Designer Clothing, Time Pieces, Leather Goods, Hand Bound Books, Food, Wine by the Glass!
4020 Locust Lane Beamsville, ON L0R 1B2
EMAIL: info@handmademarket.ca
WEBSITE: <http://www.handmademarket.ca>
Sat, Nov 23 and Sun, Nov 24 from 11am to 4pm each day. COST: Adults \$3 • Under 18 Free
AUDIENCE: Family, Children, Seniors, Couples, All Welcome

The Celtic Tenors "The Celtic Tenors celebrate the uplifting music of Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, while borrowing a few songs from other cultures along the way." - The Irish Voice
ADDRESS: 500 Glenridge Ave St. Catharines L2S 3A1
PHONE: (905) 688-5550 Toll Free: (866) 617-3257
EMAIL: boxoffice@brocku.ca
WEBSITE: <http://www.arts.brocku.ca>
COST: \$5 - \$55
AUDIENCE: All Welcome SPECIAL NEEDS: Audio receivers for hearing impaired, Wheelchair Accessible, Wheelchair Accessible Parking
DATE: Nov 20 7:30 p.m.

All Hallow's Eve Experience the traditions of Halloween, 1812-style, brought to life through the ghosts of Canada's bloodiest battlefield, featuring the annual burning of a Guy Fawkes effigy. Reservations required.
350 Lakeshore Rd Fort Erie L0S 1J0
PHONE: (905) 871-0540
WEBSITE: <http://www.oldforterie.com>
AUDIENCE: Family, Children, Seniors, Couples, All Welcome **DATES: Oct 25 - Oct 26**

Downtown Harvest Festival Family fun with plenty of free activities! Face painting, kids crafts, pony rides. Sidewalk sales galore! Live music and much more!
232 West Street Port Colborne L3K 4E3
PHONE: (905) 834-6090
EMAIL: downtownportcolborne@gmail.com
WEBSITE: <http://www.downtownportcolborne.com>
October 12, 2013, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
COST: Most events free or nominal cost.
AUDIENCE: Family, Children, Seniors, Couples, All Welcome SPECIAL NEEDS: Wheelchair Accessible, Wheelchair Accessible Parking

Rockton World's Fair Enjoy good old fashioned country fun! Horse shows, North American 6-Horse Hitch, Beef & Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Goats, AgAlive educational display, Demo Derby (3 nights), Midway and more.

812 Old Highway 8 Rockton L0R 1X0
PHONE: (519) 647-2502 TOLL FREE: (866) 985-2002 FAX: (519) 647-3899
EMAIL: rasfair@golden.net
WEBSITE: <http://www.rocktonworldsfair.com>
DATES & HOURS OF OPERATION: Fri.: 4pm-10:30 pm; Sat.: 9am-10:30 pm; Sun.: 9am-8:30 pm; Mon.: 9am-5pm. COST: Adults \$13, 6-15 years, \$5, Under 5 yrs., free. AUDIENCE: Family, Seniors, All Welcome SPECIAL NEEDS: Wheelchair Accessible, Wheelchair Accessible Parking, Wheelchair Accessible Public Washrooms
DATES: Oct 11 - Oct 14

Salt, Soda, Wood Salt, Soda, Wood, three of the oldest firing methods, are practiced now by only a small group of ceramists. This exhibition will explore them and the aesthetic ideals that inform them.
1333 Lakeshore Road Burlington L7S 1A9
PHONE: (905) 632-7796 EMAIL: info@thebac.ca
WEBSITE: <http://theBAC.ca>
AUDIENCE: All Welcome SPECIAL NEEDS: Wheelchair Accessible, Wheelchair Accessible Parking, Wheelchair Accessible Public Washrooms
DATES: Oct 5 - Jan 19

Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival Become part of Niagara's Thanksgiving tradition. Enjoy handcrafted items by juried exhibitors, gourmet food tent, kids' activities & entertainment, heritage demos, food & beverages and much more!
3292 Sixth Avenue Jordan L0R 1S0
PHONE: (905) 562-5235 FAX: (905) 562-7051
WEBSITE: <http://www.ballsfalls.ca>
October 5 - 8, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily
COST: \$6/person, seniors (65+) \$4 on Friday only, children under 14 FREE with an adult. \$14 weekend pass. AUDIENCE: All Welcome
SPECIAL NEEDS: Wheelchair Accessible, Wheelchair Accessible Parking, Wheelchair Accessible Public Washrooms
DATES: Oct 11 - Oct 14

Tugboat Santa
A unique Port Colborne tradition! See Santa arrive downtown on a tugboat. Live choir, photos with Santa, free hot chocolate and candy. Crafts for the kids.
201 West Street Port Colborne L3K 4E3
PHONE: (905) 834-6090
Email: downtownportcolborne@gmail.com
<http://www.downtownportcolborne.com>
November 30, 12-4 p.m.
All Welcome
Wheelchair Accessible Parking

Golden Horseshoe Live Steamer Days Catch a ride on miniature coal-burning steam-powered trains. Admission is free to the museum and this outdoor family event.
900 Woodward Avenue Hamilton L8H 7N2
PHONE: (905) 546-4797
EMAIL: steammuseum@hamilton.ca
WEBSITE: http://www.hamilton.ca/CultureandRecreation/Arts_Culture_And_Museums/HamiltonCivicMuseums/SteamMuseum/ DATES & HOURS OF OPERATION: 10:03am to 4:00pm COST: Free admission AUDIENCE: All Welcome SPECIAL NEEDS: Audio receivers for hearing impaired DATE: Sep 29

Canal Bank Shuffle Blues Festival
<http://canalbankshuffle.com/>
Thorold, Ont.
The 12th Annual Canal Bank Shuffle Blues Festival runs October 17-19, 2013. \$20 for a button that will also grant you admission to 21 other blues acts.

Visit www.ontariofestivalsvisited.ca/fall.htm to discover Ontario all the Fall events in Ontario

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



invite you to contact them
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195 King Street, #201
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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SEAWAY MONTHLY TRAFFIC RESULTS

August 2013

Traffic (in thousands of tonnes)	Montreal-Lake Ontario Section				Welland Canal Section			
	Year to Date		Change from 2012		Year to Date		Change from 2012	
	2012	2013	Tonnes	%	2012	2013	Tonnes	%
Total Cargo	16,919	14,485	- 2,434	-14.39%	16,671	15,967	- 704	-4.22%
All Grain	3,366	3,153	- 213	-6.34%	3,278	3,018	- 260	-7.94%
Iron Ore	6,558	4,804	- 1,754	-26.74%	4,176	4,045	- 132	-3.15%
Coal	1,441	1,288	- 153	-10.60%	2,792	2,735	- 58	-2.06%
Dry Bulk	2,612	2,357	- 255	-9.77%	4,333	3,988	- 345	-7.96%
Liquid Bulk	1,788	1,922	134	7.49%	1,407	1,547	140	9.91%
General Cargo	1,133	945	- 188	-16.59%	681	634	- 47	-6.92%

Vessel Transits	2012	2013	Transits	%	2012	2013	Transits	%
Total Transits	1,613	1,450	- 163	-10.11%	1,833	1,769	- 64	-3.49%

Seeking Expression of Interest: Port Weller Dry Dock & Marine Facility

The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) is seeking non-binding Expressions of Interest (EOI) to enter into a long term lease for the operation of the Port Weller dry docks and berthing wall facilities. The facilities are located on the St. Lawrence Seaway south of Lock 1 on the Welland Canal in Niagara, Ontario. They include two operational dry docks (one deep and one shallow) with direct canal access and a berthing wall for above waterline ship repairs. An office building and multiple other buildings over 16.76 acres of land support the dry docks and are a complement to the facilities.

Interested experienced dry dock operators **must offer commercial ship repair services to both the local marine community, and to the national and international users of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The lands and buildings may also be concurrently utilized for a number of other profitable purposes.** Following a review of all EOIs by the evaluation committee, the SLSMC will invite submissions by way of Request for Proposal (RFP), which proposals shall be binding upon the participating applicants in accordance with the terms of the RFP.

It is anticipated that there will be considerable interest in this unique marine facility strategically located on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Seaway to Rebuild Ship Tie-Up Walls at Locks 1, 2 and 3 in the Welland Canal

St. Catharines, Ontario

– The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) announcement provided the following information:

Approximately \$100 million will be spent over the course of next four years (2013-2017) to rebuild a series of ship tie-up walls along the banks of the Welland Canal. The original walls, built in the 1960's with timber piles, are due for replacement.

The replacement structures, located at Locks 1, 2 and 3 in the Welland Canal, will be constructed using steel and concrete. To facilitate construction of the tie-up walls, the SLSMC will also widen the dykes/berms that adjoin the locks. All the trees been cut down and all the brush cleared from the east side of Canal Road just south of Carlton Street. Tons of gravel have been placed over cleared sloped and regenerative landscape materials have been laid over top of the layer of soil placed over the gravel.(see next page)



PAGE 11

FALL 2013

Berry Patch Tea Room

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Welland Canal Update

Seaway to Rebuild Ship Tie-Up Walls at Locks 1, 2 and 3 in the Welland Canal

Key milestones of the four year program, including preparatory activities necessary for the major construction activity, will occur as follows:

Location	Vicinity	Approximate Start/Finish Dates	Description of Work
Lock 2 Upper	Welland Canal Parkway/ Carlton to Cushman	Summer 2013 April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree cutting Dyke widening Access road construction SLSMC utility relocation Wall demolition Wall reconstruction
Lock 1 Upper	Bunting Road/Welland Canal Parkway to Parnell	Summer 2014 April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree cutting Access road construction Wall demolition Wall reconstruction
Lock 3 Upper	South of Lock 3 St. Catharines Museum	Summer 2015 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree cutting Access road construction Wall demolition Wall reconstruction
Lock 3 Lower	North of Lock 3 St. Catharines Museum	Summer 2016 April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree cutting Access road construction Wall demolition Wall reconstruction

Tree removal on dyke banks, removal of existing tie up walls, driving of piles to support the new walls, and various other heavy construction activities will occur.

To permit contractors to safely complete these activities, a series of full and partial road closures will be required over the course of this four year project. As well, the Welland Canal Trail pathway will be closed at various intervals.

To minimize the impact upon the community, the SLSMC will be working closely with municipal leaders to schedule the road closures and detours. The public will be advised by way of signage and/or media releases as these closures draw near. Under the current outlook, the project will not impact the flow of traffic crossing any of the bridges that span the Welland Canal.

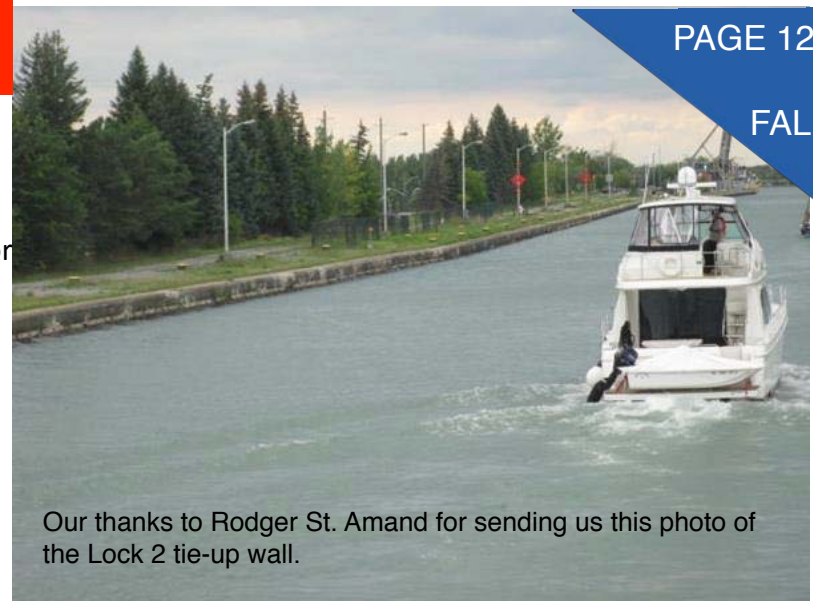
The SLSMC has conducted a series of environmental reviews to ensure that work can be carried out with minimal impact to the surrounding environment. Trees will be planted along the canal banks once construction work is complete, to restore wind breaks that assist ships in continuing to navigate the Welland Canal during adverse weather conditions.

The reconstruction of the Welland Canal tie-up walls is one part of a five year asset renewal plan that contains over \$250 million in investments focused on the Welland Canal. These investments will ensure that the Welland Canal remains a highly reliable and environmentally sustainable means of transporting cargo for years to come.

The Welland Canal is an essential transportation artery within the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Seaway serves as a critical linchpin, connecting the lower St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes. Cargo moving over the combined Great Lakes / Seaway System supports 227,000 jobs and \$35 billion of economic activity on an annual basis.

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FALL 2013



Our thanks to Rodger St. Amand for sending us this photo of the Lock 2 tie-up wall.

The Wednesday Night Out Of The Cold Program

The Wednesday Night Out Of The Cold Program

The Wednesday Night Out Of The Cold Program in St. Catharines (Ontario, Canada) has started to plan for the upcoming winter season. We are looking for people to help with:



- Food Preparation (2 - 4:30 pm)
- Set Up (2 - 4:30 pm)
- Service and Clean Up (4:30 - 8 pm)
- Social Activities (8 pm - 12 midnight)
- Overnight Monitors (Midnight - 7 am)
- Thursday Morning Clean Up (7 am - 8:30 am)

The program begins on November 1st. We begin Wednesday, November 6th, 2013.

We are looking forward to another amazing season of generosity, kindness and respect in action.

Monetary donations are also welcomed.

Tis the season to share!

If you would like to help, please call me at 905-935-1168. The planning has started, so we would like to hear from you now.....today.....ASAP!

Gloria Grace Simon-Gould



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REWARD! BABU IS MISSING
Cherished Family Cat Lost!



Black, white on chest
No front claws
 23 Gertrude St
 Call Theresa
905-646-0987

Once again, Jolly Old St. Nick will be making an early stop in the Garden City when the 11th Annual St. Catharines Santa Claus Parade marches into downtown St. Catharines on **Sunday, Nov. 24, 2013 at 2:30 p.m.**

Be sure to join us for the post party at Market Square for a visit with Santa. Free activities for the whole family. In partnership with Community Care, please bring a food donation.



Dress warmly and bring the entire family to celebrate the holiday season. It's guaranteed to put smiles on the faces of families from all across Niagara.

Parade Route

The parade starts at the corner of Lake Street and William Street, proceeds to St. Paul Street, down St. Paul, left on James Street to King Street and ends at Market Square.

Volunteers will be collecting non-perishable foods, hats

and mittens from spectators along the parade route for Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold.

Canada Post will also be collecting your letters to Santa along the parade route for their 'Santa Letter Writing Program.' Please be sure to include your return address when writing to Santa.

Join Us

If your group would like to be a part of this year's parade, please fill out the parade application form or call Jan Bechard, Market and Event Co-ordinator. There is no entry fee.

Meet the Sponsors

Special Thanks to the St. Catharines Downtown Association, Tim Hortons and Sun Media.

Revitalizing the Downtown Core

(continued from page 3)

SAFETY

Whether walking to entertainment venues, restaurants or street shopping, people will need to feel safe. The Mayor has been working with the NRP on this issue. He recognizes that more work with have to be done with the Region's Public Health unit to address the mental health issues facing some of the people in that area now and sees that the new hospital with its mental health mandate will be a valuable asset in addressing this issue.

The project is well under way (see photo on page 3) and the revitalized Downtown will emerge sometime in 2015.
 Ted Gould

(See Editorial: Creating a Vibrant & Healthy City Centre on page 2)

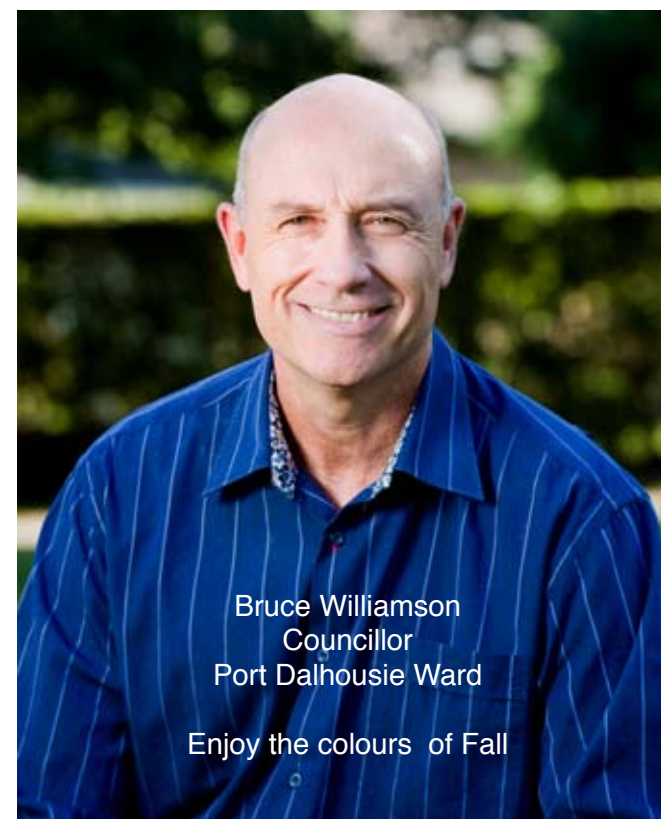
ST. JOHN UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
 91 LAKESHORE ROAD ST. CATHARINES
 IS HOLDING A YARD SALE COMBINED WITH A
 BOOK AND BAKES SALE



SATURDAY Oct 5, 2013 from 10 am - 2 pm

THERE'S STILLTIME TO BOOK A SPACE FOR \$10

905-937-3393



Bruce Williamson
 Councillor
 Port Dalhousie Ward

Enjoy the colours of Fall



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Rennie Park Drainage Improvements

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FALL 2013

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Report from Transportation and Environmental Services, Engineering and Construction

Date of Report: August 30, 2013

Date of Meeting: September 23, 2013

Report Number: TES-286-2013 **File:** 68.31.103

Subject: Rennie Park Grading

Recommendation

That Council receive this report for information purposes. FORTHWITH

Background

On April 29, 2013 Councillor Williamson requested that staff "report on what remedial action can be taken to address the serious public safety hazard caused by the settling of ground in Rennie Park (has now become a recurrent problem with the winter freeze / thaw cycles; water pools on walkways, particularly near the middle of park. Tender to repair before Winter 2014)"

Report

Council's area of concern is a paved path which crosses the middle section of the park. The path is constructed on fill. The area is generally very flat. The area is only slightly above the high water level of Martindale Pond. Hence there is very little elevation available to create slopes for drainage purposes.

Through time, the dredged material used to create the park has settled unevenly. The path of concern is used as a driveway or for parking vehicles during rowing and other special events. The path has settled more than the grass areas abutting the path creating an opportunity for water to pond. Because of the ponding, the asphalt surface has deteriorated.

Page 1 of 2

RCS and TES Staff arranged for topographic survey and considered several options to address the concerns. Staff recommend approximately 150 metres of path should be raised a maximum of 600mm to create the elevation changes necessary to allow for satisfactory drainage. A sketch, Appendix 1 attached, indicates the approximate location of the proposed construction. To raise the area fill must be imported. A preliminary cost estimate for the proposed construction is \$70,000.

All less costly alternatives considered by staff were determined to be ineffective in reducing the path ponding due to the lack of existing elevation above Martindale Pond's water level.

Financial Implications

The proposed construction would typically be financed by the Special projects account of the RCS Operating Budget. At this time the project has been identified in early budget submissions but is unaffordable if 2013 approved budget limits are maintained due to other corporate priorities. It is anticipated that the repair work will be completed well in advance of the PAN AM games in 2015.

Submitted by and:

Prepared by:

C. Adams, P. Eng. Manager of Engineering and Construction

Approved by:

R. Tripp, P. Eng., Director of Transportation and Environmental Services.

The Port Reporter is a not-for-profit, community-information newspaper published by volunteers since 2005. The paper focuses on issues relating to the St. Catharines waterfront, the preservation of our heritage across the City and encouraging City residents to work together to improve our environment. It is currently published quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. 2,200 copies are delivered to homes in Old Port Dalhousie and surrounding area including Cole Farm, Regatta Heights, Westport-Dalemere, St. George's Point and Michigan Beach. It is also available at the Main St. Avondale, City Hall, Public Libraries and various business establishments.

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www.Port Reporter.org

So many of you have asked how to access the Port Reporter -either because you live locally but outside the distribution area or out of town. We have listened and those of you with Internet access can now go to www.Port Reporter.org and view not only the current issue but any past issue going back to 2005. All the great articles and history are there and so are all the advertisements should you be looking for a specific supplier. Also, the Advertising Rates are there if you or someone you know wants to place an ad. The ad rates are VERY reasonable and every ad helps the volunteers keep the community informed.



ADDITIONS • RENOVATIONS • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

Heal Your Mind, Heal Your Body

A gentleman gets into a hassle with his teenage daughter. The next day his performance at work is shadowed by the unrelenting thought processes reliving the events of the previous night. Only he knows that he’s not at the top of his game. In a couple of days with this unresolved issue still plaguing him, fatigue begins to creep in and a week later he calls in sick.

It is common these days to take leave due to stress. Ironically, it is less fashionable to address the emotional factors that induce and ferment the ‘stress’. It is time that we look upon our brains as also an organ that needs to be taken care of, just like one would with one’s digestive system or liver or a bone issue. Regrettably there seems to be a prevailing mindset to avoid discussing our mental health.

The facts are alarming. *In 2010, 23.5% of Canadians age 15 and older reported that most days were ‘extremely or quite a bit stressful’, up from 22.3% in 2008.* (Statistics Canada, 1999) *Toronto Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) said that major depression impacts 8% of people and anxiety closer to 12%. The area with the biggest increase is ‘mental-nervous condiddtions’. Since 1990, depression has been the fourth leading cause of work days lost through disability and premature death in Canada.* (Canadian Health Care Manager, April –May 1999)

It is even more alarming if one takes into account that ‘nearly two thirds of Canadians who will experience mental illness in their lives never seek help’. (Ellis Katsof, CEO Pathstone Mental Health, Niagara This Week, Feb. 16, 2012). The cost of work time lost to stress is 12 Billion dollars each year. (Statistics Canada) The cost of stress related absences is 3.5 billion each

year. (Canadian Policy Research Networks)

Who are all these stats and numbers referring to? **They are talking about us!** Our friends, our families, our colleagues, our friends, our employees. These numbers are showing how we feel as individuals. They reflect the malaise and the sadness that a significant percentage of us feel and when one factors in the statistic which shows that most of us don’t even talk about our distress and depression, the situation becomes alarmingly more pervasive than the numbers show.

Over 80 years ago a brilliant medical doctor, Dr. Edward Bach of England recognized after years of being a physician, bacteriologist and researcher, that the ‘quality of our emotions’ directly affect our physical experience. This realization that prompted him to give up his lucrative Harley Street practice in London and after much research, contemplation and hard work, 10 years later he developed a system known as the Bach Flower Remedies.

Had the gentleman mentioned earlier simply observed his emotional response to his interaction/altercation with his daughter, he could have chosen to use a few drops of Bach Flower Remedies, bringing forth a more peaceful and balanced emotional state which possibly would result in a more empathetic conversation with his daughter.

Dr. Bach has left an invaluable legacy and an elegant effective system of medicine. An elegant, safe and natural system, these flower remedies can be invaluable to support us through the ups and downs of our lives.

Celebrate Wellness offers personalized Bach Flower Remedies. There is a FREE INFORMATION EVENING on Wed. Oct. 9th at 6:30pm at 33 Lakeshore Rd. Unit 5. Due to limited seating pre-registration is required. (905) 646-2700

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.

Name on card: _____ Card Number: _____ Expiry Date of Card: _____

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

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

Name (please print): _____ Address: _____

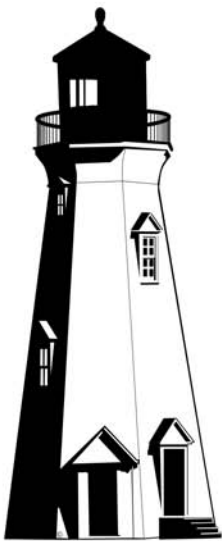
Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

☐ I would like to volunteer to work with ACO-St. Catharines. Please contact me.

Mail this Completed Pledge Form , including your donation to: ACO-St. Catharines, P.O. Box 28049, 600 Ontario St., St. Catharines L2N 7P8.

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.



MUSEUM (Cont'd from page 9)

- Building Champions to Meet Tomorrow's Challenge: Soap Box Derbies in St. Catharines until December 31, 2013

Capture the thrill of racing down a hill in a car you built yourself and learn about St. Catharines’ rich history of soap box racing through this exhibit of artifacts from the St. Catharines Museum collection!

PUBLIC MEETING

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF PORT'S COMMERCIAL CORE?

LIGHTHOUSE ROOM, PORT DALHOUSIE LEGION,
57 LAKEPORT RD.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2013, 7:30 PM

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO PLAN THE FUTURE OF PORT DALHOUSIE

- TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF DOWNTOWN PORT
- LEARN ABOUT THE STATUS OF CURRENT AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS FOR PORT
- SHARE WHAT YOU THINK PORT'S COMMERCIAL CORE SHOULD LOOK LIKE

MAYOR MCMULLAN, COUNCILLORS AND THE CITY'S PLANNING DIRECTOR WILL BE THERE.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.

GET INVOLVED.

LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE PORT A VIBRANT VILLAGE ONCE AGAIN.

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A distinguished 14-year history as a volunteer community organization

I ALWAYS
WONDERED WHY
SOMEBODY DIDN'T
DO SOMETHING ABOUT
THAT. THEN I REALIZED
I AM SOMEBODY

medical school. In a volatile global economy, the Danish government recognizes that it must invest heavily in training programs so workers can learn new skills to meet changing workforce demands. It also understands that when people lose their jobs they must have adequate income while they search for new jobs. If a worker loses his or her job in Denmark, unemployment insurance covers up to 90 percent of earnings for as long as two years. Here benefits can be cut off after as few as 26 weeks. In Denmark, adequate leisure and family time are considered an important part of having a good life. Every worker in Denmark is entitled to five weeks

DANISH AMERICAN COMPARISON

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rep-bernie-sanders/what-can-we-learn-from-de_b_3339736.html?utm_source=Alert-blogger&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Email%2BNotifications&utm_hp_ref=fb&src=sp&comm_ref=false

Danish Ambassador Peter Taksoe-Jensen spent a weekend in Vermont this month

traveling with me to town meetings in Burlington, Brattleboro and Montpelier. Large crowds came out to learn about a social system very different from our own which provides extraordinary security and opportunity for the people of Denmark.

Today in the United States there is a massive amount of economic anxiety. Unemployment is much too high, wages and income are too low, millions of Americans are struggling to find affordable health care and the gap between the very rich and everyone else is growing wider.

While young working families search desperately for affordable child care, older Americans worry about how they can retire with dignity. Many of our people are physically exhausted as they work the longest hours of any industrialized country and have far less paid vacation time than other major countries

Denmark is a small, homogenous nation of about 5.5 million people. The United States is a melting pot of more than 315 million people. No question about it, Denmark and the United States are very different countries. Nonetheless, are there lessons that we can learn from Denmark?

In Denmark, social policy in areas like health care, child care, education and protecting the unemployed are part of a "solidarity system" that makes sure that almost no one falls into economic despair. Danes pay very high taxes, but in return enjoy a quality of life that many Americans would find hard to believe. As the ambassador mentioned, while it is difficult to become very rich in Denmark no one is allowed to be poor. The minimum wage in Denmark is about twice that of the United States and people who are totally out of the labor market or unable to care for themselves have a basic income guarantee of about \$100 per day.

Health care in Denmark is universal, free of charge and high quality. Everybody is covered as a right of citizenship. The Danish health care system is popular, with patient satisfaction much higher than in our country. In Denmark, every citizen can choose a doctor in their area. Prescription drugs are inexpensive and free for those under 18 years of age. Interestingly, despite their universal coverage, the Danish health care system is far more cost-effective than ours. They spend about 11 percent of their GDP on health care. We spend almost 18 percent.

When it comes to raising families, Danes understand that the first few years of a person's life are the most important in terms of intellectual and emotional development. In order to give strong support to expecting parents, mothers get four weeks of paid leave before giving birth. They get another 14 weeks afterward. Expecting fathers get two paid weeks off, and both parents have the right to 32 more weeks of leave during the first nine years of a child's life. The state covers three-quarters of the cost of child care, more for lower-income workers.

At a time when college education in the United States is increasingly unaffordable and the average college graduate leaves school more than \$25,000 in debt, virtually all higher education in Denmark is free. That includes not just college but graduate schools as well, including

of paid vacation plus 11 paid holidays. The United States is the only major country that does not guarantee its workers paid vacation time. The result is that fewer than half of lower-paid hourly wage workers in our country receive any paid vacation days.

In Denmark, there is a very different understanding of what "freedom" means. In that country, they have gone a long way to ending the enormous anxieties that comes with economic insecurity. Instead of promoting a system which allows a few to have (continued on next page)

Oil Discovered First in Ontario

Catherine Nasmith
Built Heritage News

Jerker Line

Petrolia and Oil Springs in western Ontario are two historic sites a few miles apart that commemorate the founding of the world's oil industry. That's right, the WORLD's oil industry.

Did you know that oil extraction technology was pioneered in Ontario and spread from Ontario around the world in the 1860's.

Did you know that oil was discovered and extracted at Petrolia and Oil Springs before it was in the U.S.?

I am sure some BHN readers are familiar with this aspect of Ontario history, but only in Canada would a site of such importance be so modestly presented. However you feel about the oil economy, oil transformed the world. But perhaps because U.S. and international companies dominate the oil industry, this may be a story they aren't all that interested in telling.

[Oil Springs](#) is a National Historic Site, and has a small visitor centre. The site at [Petrolia Discovery](#) is a privately operated museum. There are efforts to have Oil Springs declared a World Heritage Site, recognition that it clearly deserves, but achieving it may be beyond the means of these two modest museums.

I had occasion to visit in August and was astounded to see how simple and elegant the first technology was and that over 100 years later it is all still in use to extract oil by the descendant, Charles Fairbank, of the founder of Fairbank Oil Properties Limited, (the oldest oil company in the world).

In 1862 Fairbank invented the [jerker-line pumping system](#), a series of wooden

rods connected to a single 10 HP engine, enough power to operate as many as 90 wells at once. The sound of the rods moving back and forth is the only sound in this still, almost empty, rural museum. The company manufactures replacement parts locally to keep the system operating. Apparently there is no economy in using more recent technology. After 100 years the oil output is modest, but it is quite a wonder to stand there and contemplate what this place must have been like in the oil rush days of the 1860's, when there was so much oil flowing that the local rivers caught fire from time to time.

The jerker line pumping technology was exported around the world, the expertise developed here in Canada.

DANISH AMERICAN COMPARISON (continued from page 16)

enormous wealth, they have developed a system which guarantees a strong minimal standard of living to all -- including the children, the elderly and the disabled.

The United States, in size, culture, and the diversity of our population, is a very different country from Denmark. Can we, however, learn some important lessons from them? You bet we can.



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St. Catharines Quiz (answers on page 18)

1. What are the City's two nicknames?
2. What year was it settled?
3. What year was it incorporated as a town?
4. What year was it incorporated as a city?
5. What is the elevation of the City?
59 metres 97 metres 112 metres
6. St. Catharines is the;
2nd largest city in the Niagara Region
Largest city city in the Niagara Region
7. How far is the City from the international boundary with the USA?
23 Km 15 Km 19 Km
8. St. Catharines carries the official nickname "The Garden City" due to its:
500 acres of parks, gardens and trails
750 acres of parks, gardens and trails
1000 acres of parks, gardens and trails
9. How many kilometres is the city from Toronto (across Lake Ontario)?
33 Km 51 Km 42 Km

If you have reason to be in this part of the province, or want to have a reason to go, I would encourage you to visit this remarkably modestly presented, yet significant part of Canada's and world history.

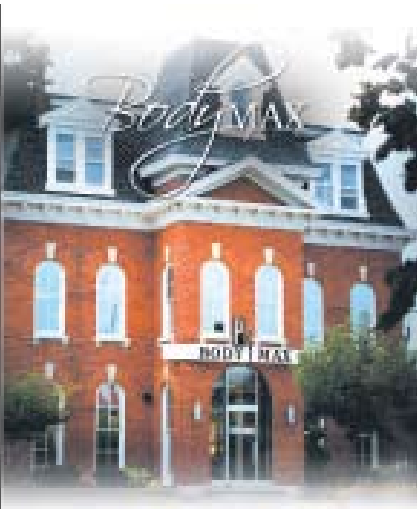
P.S. And while you are there, make sure you visit the main street of Petrolia, for one of the fanciest Victorian railway stations I have ever seen. Just down the street from the Fairbanks mansion.

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Performing Arts Centre Construction Site - Sept.22, 2013



Academic and Cultural Arts Centre



Project Description

On a 4.5-acre hillside site that runs from busy St. Paul Street down into an urban valley, the Academic and Cultural Arts Centre for Downtown St. Catharines is a unique development that is part campus, part municipal arts complex, and all ambitious.

The result of a historic collaboration between the City of St. Catharines and Brock University, the complex will transform the city's downtown into a vibrant entertainment hub as well as a national centre of excellence for education in arts and culture.

The ACAC plan consists of two main components — the City's public Performing Arts Centre, and a new home for the University's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

Site preparation will continue through 2012, with construction and renovation work expected to start in 2013. **The complex is scheduled for completion in 2015.**

www.buildingtheartsdowntown.ca/academic-and-cultural-arts-centre-for-downtown-st-catharines/

FEATURES

- * 775-concert hall
- * 210-seat dance/theatre venue
- * 300-seat recital hall with shared access with the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts
- * 187-seat film venue with shared access with the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts
- * Also a multi-purpose space, community lobby and box office

N.B. Websites For archiving our history



For Facebook users look up **Vintage Port Dalhousie** and consider sharing some of your Port Memories and photos. It is a great site and worthy of repeated visits. Thank you John

For Welland Canal fans, look up **Friends of the Welland Canal** and there you will find photos that capture the early days of the canal. Thank you Rene

ANSWERS TO QUIZ (PAGE 17)

1. Garden City and St. Kitts
2. 1783
3. 1845
4. 1876
5. 97
6. Largest
7. 19
8. 1000 acres

PAGE 18
FALL 2013



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ELEANOR LANCASTER CROSS-EXAMINED BY LAWYER WHO ALSO ACTED FOR
OVERCONTRIBUTOR
SCANDAL OVER ILLEGAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

EXTRA: On July 5, 2013, community volunteer Eleanor Lancaster was cross-examined for hours by lawyer Tom Richardson. When will Eleanor’s ordeal come to an end?

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

March 27, 2011 – In a newspaper interview, Port tower developer Dan Raseta spoke about his large spending to support certain candidates and how businesses that share owners or directors can each contribute the \$750 maximum to the same candidate.

July 4, 2011 – Long-time Port resident and former Regional Councillor Eleanor Lancaster filed request for audit of expenses of candidates Rigby, Petrowski, Dorsey, Harris, Siscoe and Stack alleging they violated Municipal Elections Act (MEA) by accepting overcontributions from related companies. Raseta immediately reversed his previous position and one of his lawyers wrote candidates asking them to pay money back.

July 20, 2011 -The Compliance Audit Committee held its hearing on the 4 City candidates identified by Ms. Lancaster (Rigby and Petrowski are spared a hearing on a technicality). Each candidate claimed they did not realize it was wrong to accept the overcontributions. Hearing Chair rejects all four audit applications because they paid the money back and to save the taxpayers money.

February, 2012 - Eleanor decided these violations were too serious to just let them drop and took the Committee’s decision to the Ontario Court of Justice. Judge Harris “ruled an audit into the campaign finances of several St. Catharines candidates in the 2010 municipal election isn't necessary”.

July 20, 2012 – The candidates filed claims for court costs totalling \$20,000 and lawyer Patrick Maloney attacked Eleanor’s character and claimed she was merely being a “busybody” in seeking a more detailed probe into the illegal campaign financing. Judge Harris ordered Eleanor to pay a total of \$13,600 in costs to the candidates for asking for audits as any citizen has the right to under the MEA. This is in addition to her own legal expenses.

October 9, 2012 – Eleanor had appealed Judge Harris’ ruling to Ontario Superior Court and Judge Quinn supported Judge Harris: *“While it is ‘undisputed’ that Matt Harris, Mat Siscoe, Len Stack and Brian Dorsey accepted illegal campaign contributions, Judge Quinn said it is also undisputed that they returned the money as soon as they learned of the illegality, as required by the Ontario Municipal Elections Act”.*



Fall, 2012 – Eleanor appealed Judge Harris’ costs award to Judge Quinn and she continues to strongly believe that letting the mistakes go gives candidates across Ontario carte blanche to take over-donations, use them and then pay them back months later. She said the law should bar candidates from taking the cash at all. *“It still leaves the whole issue of what is a fair, honest election process sitting in limbo”.*

Spring, 2013 - Before ruling on Eleanor’s appeal of the costs award, Judge Quinn asked her to allow herself to be Cross Examined by lawyers from Sullivan Mahoney (this is the firm acting for the candidates who admitted receiving overcontributions and that also has acted by Messrs. Raseta and Terrio who admitted overcontributing).

July 5, 2013 –Eleanor refused to be intimidated by the threat of the Cross Examination. She was Cross Examined for hours by lawyer Tom Richardson who was quite aggressive in his questioning and said he was trying to show that Eleanor is not doing this in the public interest but, because she is conducting a vendetta against Mr. Raseta because she is opposed to the Port Dalhousie tower. Eleanor responded that she is only one citizen concerned about integrity in politics yet, she tried to

review the expense reports of every candidate for Regional and City Council and filed against the most obvious violators (Editor’s Note: There is nothing in the MEA obligating a citizen to file against all violators. She could have filed against just one if she so chose). September, 2013 – She awaits Judge Quinn’s decision, expected in November. If the costs award is upheld this would amount to a successful SLAPP suit (Strategic Litigation against Public Participation) of the type frequently used in the US to keep concerned citizens from becoming involved. It will be an overpowering deterrent that will keep citizens from getting involved in the future and the MEA will have no enforcement process at all.






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GMO Seeds: Fueling the Health of Corporations

- Internet article **By Organic**

Consumers Association August 21, 2013

For related articles and more information, please visit OCA's [Millions Against Monsanto page](#) and our [Genetic Engineering page](#).

Numbers don't lie. Over the past 20 years, America's seeds, animal feed and biofuels have been infiltrated like a virus by genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The primary winners in this game of genetic roulette have been the profit margins of the world's largest biotech, pesticide and agrochemical companies. More than [40 percent](#) of all U.S. cropland is devoted to GMO crops. Yet even though nearly [80 percent](#) of processed foods sold in the U.S. now contain GMOs, the majority of genetically engineered (GE) crops aren't grown to feed humans. The bulk of today's GE soybeans and corn in particular, are used to feed animals and generate biofuels.

Americans consume [193 pounds](#) of GMOs annually. And the animals that provide us with nearly all the meat, poultry and dairy we eat are force fed GE crops their bodies were never designed to [process](#).

Who's getting healthy on GMOs? Not the American people, whose health has declined since GMOs were introduced into our food. Not American farmers, whose numbers have dropped precipitously since agribusiness has taken over our farmland. And not the billions of animals being pumped full of antibiotics to stave off illnesses associated with confinement and GMO feed.

No, the only ones getting healthy are the four largest pesticide, agrochemical and biotech companies - Monsanto, Dupont, Dow Chemical, and Syngenta - whose sales have jumped from \$60.1 billion in 2004 to \$119.3 billion in 2012.

The Winners: Biotech, Agrochemical and Pesticide Industries

[\\$13.5 billion](#): Monsanto's net sales in 2012 (largest biotech seed company in the world), up from [\\$5.5 billion](#) in 2004.

[\\$34.8 billion](#): Dupont's net sales in 2012, up from [\\$8 billion](#).

[\\$56.8 billion](#): Dow Chemical's net sales in 2012, up from [\\$40.1 billion](#).

[\\$14.2 billion](#): Syngenta's net sales in 2012, up from [\\$7.3 billion](#) in 2004.