

# REPORTER

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"It is a scenario that is all too familiar to the residents of Port Dalhousie in St. Catharines and it is now one the residents of Crystal Beach area of Fort Erie find themselves embroiled in."

".....fight on, even if it only goes to prove once again that the system, up to and including the Ontario Municipal Board, couldn't give a fig about what the majority of residents in a community think about a developer's plans. In other words, do it if it only exposes again how undemocratic a system we have when it comes to the kind of development a majority of residents want in their communities." Doug Draper  
NiagaraAtLarge

ARTICLE IS ON PAGE 8

## Toronto's Early 20th Century Heritage Property Saved - Is Port's Heritage Second Class?

We continue to applaud the fact that (now former) Minister of Culture Aileen Carroll finally took action to protect some of our Province's precious heritage (check link to Star article below). Carroll earlier issued stop-work order to "prevent further alterations or damage" to 7 Austin Terrace, in the Casa Loma neighbourhood. The house, which dates to 1922, according to the ministry, was designed by John Lyle – the architect ( continued on back page)

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This page sponsored by Dr. David Bergen





# PORT DALHOUSIE PAGE

## PROUD'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 20th and it was very well attended. It was great to see such interest despite the obvious letdown of last year's negative OMB decision when we had the City and seemingly all the rules on our side. However, it was very clear that everyone feels we may have lost a battle but not the war. The meeting was very energizing and positive.

Following detailed updates on the Port Dalhousie tower development and the Treasurer's report, the membership elected a slate of officers for 2010. Volunteer Hank Beekhuis was elected President replacing David Bergen who stepped down due to the time requirements of his new dental practice. Beekhuis, who participated as an appellant at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing on the development proposal, replaces David Bergen. Hank thanked David, who will continue to be accessible as Past President, for his hard work and leadership over the past 5 years, and gave a very moving and uplifting talk when he accepted the presidency. The following Media Release that was sent out about the AGM following that meeting:

## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Catharines, January 21, 2010. PROUD, the volunteer community organization]held its Annual General Meeting in Port Dalhousie last night. David Bergen, who has served as president for over five years, told members he would be not standing for reelection. Dr. Bergen cited the time pressures of his new dental practice as the reason for his decision.

"I thank you all for your wonderful support over the years," he told the members. "This is a decision I have reached with great regret."

Hank Beekhuis who is a veteran member of PROUD was elected to take Dr. Bergen's place. The other officers of PROUD were all returned with Carlos Garcia as executive vice president, Lorraine Cordner, treasurer, and Sheridan Alder, secretary. Dr. Bergen assumes the new position of past president.

"Port Dalhousie is a gem of an attraction. Members of PROUD are dedicated to working to preserve and strengthen the character of the community we have inherited. This is going to be a busy and interesting year for us, and a very fulfilling year too," Hank Beekhuis stated.

Treasurer Lorraine Cordner reported that PROUD's legal and expert witness costs to support the City of St. Catharines' case against the Port condo tower proposal at the Ontario Municipal Board hearing completed in 2009 totaled \$550,000. "The public showed they support our position and were behind us all the way. I am delighted to confirm all our costs have been paid in full," she said.

Ms. Cordner emphasized that the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's Port Dalhousie Heritage Fund remains active accepting donations for other heritage projects.

PROUD (Port Realizing Our Unique Distinction) is a community-based volunteer organization with over 600 members. Starting in 1999, PROUD spearheaded the extensive community consultation process that led to Port Dalhousie being designated as a Heritage Conservation District under the Ontario Heritage Act. This led to the struggle to try and save the new heritage district from a developer's proposal that would forever alter the character of one of Ontario's most attractive heritage communities.

Please contact:  
Hank Beekhuis  
President  
PROUD Port Dalhousie  
905-935-1058

Executive Committee  
PROUD Port Dalhousie  
A PROUD Ten-Year History as a Volunteer Community Organization

## Trivia Night: Another Very Successful PROUD FUNdraiser



The third 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.

Executive Committee member Colin Johnston was our MC for the evening and he took charge at approximately 7 pm when most of the trivia buffs had arrived. Colin welcomed everyone on behalf of PROUD Port Dalhousie, Niagara's largest volunteer heritage organization and thanked them for coming. He first introduced special guests including: City Councillors Bruce Williamson and Heather Foss, former Councillor Carol Disher and, of course, PROUD Executive VP and Regional Councillor Carlos Garcia. Note: Mayor McMullan was also introduced later in the evening and he helped by drawing the winning ticket for the 50-50.

Colin then introduced our new President Hank Beekhuis for those who had not met him. Hank also welcomed the crowd and reiterated PROUD's commitment and dedication to preserving our heritage.

Before the Trivia game started, this year's Trivia Master Linda Dirks was introduced. Linda kindly donated her services as a Trivia Master and assisting her were husband Peter Dirks, her mother Pat Waters, John and Tammy Pauls and Gerda and Rudy Klassen.

Linda explained the game and we got started. The game had a rowing flavour as each round of questions had a rowing course name. The questions were not about rowing but included a mixture of history, geography, music, TV, quotes, etc. and each round had a Port Dalhousie historical question. Linda did a very professional job and had the questions up on the screen as well as read them. A VERY SPECIAL thanks to Linda and her team!

During the breaks, Colin and Lorraine Cordner drew tickets for numerous door prizes and there was, of course, the pizza break. Colin then thanked the many PROUD volunteers who worked so hard organizing and working the event including: Lorraine Cordner, Marianne Kond and Ed Szaszi, Kristine and Rick Broughton, Nancy Beckon, her children and Bruce Irwin, Carol Brittan-Jones, Carol Anne McIntyre, Esther Chadwick, Ruth Johnston (and Colin), Nancy Cameron, Helen Szakacs, Jackie Szymansky, Barb McLeod, Liz Caesar, Todd Hildebrand and Marilyn Mason and anyone he may have missed plus, special thanks to Irene Newton, President of the Black Sea Hall. It is a great venue for events.

The game was very competitive and the table that included Councillor Williamson were the big winners. They generously donated their winnings to PROUD Port Dalhousie.

occasions over these past 31 years. The visits would usually end up in the kitchen with Margaret serving me a tea and tarts or one of her freshly baked pies; and if that wasn't good enough, she would usually send me home with a care package and often with so much in it that I would jokingly ask her if she also provided a cart, like the supermarkets do, to help me get everything to my car. There is no question about it; Marg had a heart of gold. She was also very bright, very articulate and very well informed; and that was certainly so when it came to politics. I have been at more than one municipal political rally with Marg where there was some burning issue to be resolved; and Marg was never timid about holding some politician's feet to the fire; and I might add they never dismissed her; she was too well informed and too articulate to be brushed off.

## ACCEPTANCE SPEECH: HANK BEEKHUIS

I am honoured to be elected to this role, and I am glad to be able to be of service to our community. I first want to thank David, Carlos and the board for all their tireless efforts on behalf of this community, and I hope that they will continue to play their important roles. As some of you may know I am a very busy person, but I will do my best to continue in the large footprints that David has left behind.

This is a particularly challenging time for Proud and would be for any organization. We have been around for about 10 years, and for most of that time have been deeply involved with the recent OMB case and received a largely negative decision. It would now be the easiest thing in the world to lose momentum and our sense of purpose. Now, however, is *precisely* the time that we have to refocus our energies. History shows that it is exactly at the moment when you are most tempted to let off the gas that you need to step on it. We need to maintain the friendships and relationships that we have built over these last few years and pledge to not let them slide.

Protecting Heritage and community spirit is really never done. What is vital is that we maintain a united community that has a clear vision of what it wants for Port Dalhousie. There are two major things that gain the respect of politicians and developers. The first is a united community, that knows what it wants and is organized enough to go after it. The second is a community that is prepared to lay out the financial resources to make that happen. The fact that we raised over half a million dollars to defend our community is not lost on anyone. That is why it is vital that you continue to support the Port Reporter and the ACO Port Dalhousie Heritage fund. We need to be prepared, and having the support of the community and resources in place gain us respect and entitle us to be a part of any conversation about the future of Port.

We already see disturbing trends towards a bigger "City of Niagara". Efforts are underway to do away with the ward system. All of these things work together to undermine a community's ability to be heard. Bigger is not always better, as many are starting to find out.

In the end, all Port Dalhousie has is its people and their willingness to stand up for what we believe to be right for our community. Nobody can do that alone and all of you need to be a part of that. We may not have won the decision at the OMB; we have, however, certainly won our community. There will be challenges ahead and they will take time and perseverance.

I will do what I can and I hope all of you will do your part as well. I am convinced that we will come out of this, stronger more aware, and better prepared. If we persevere, we will succeed and represent the true spirit of Port Dalhousie. Along the way, we will build friendships and a great community -- and have a lot of fun together doing it! Thank you all for your support.

Hank Beekhuis  
31 Corbett Ave



Marg was a woman of courage. She had cancer over twenty years ago and fought her way back to health. About three months ago when Marg was diagnosed with a brain tumor and doctors told her that her condition was terminal, I asked her how she was handling that news. She replied: "I'm OK with it. I'm 86, I've lived a good life and had a lot of blessings along the way;" and then we shared the Eucharist together. Marg was a very special lady who loved her family deeply and spoke of them often; and she loved her husband Harold; and her policy to countless others, through the years, was to offer them an open door and an embracing heart.

Marg was truly one of a kind; and all of us who knew her are as diminished by her departure as we were enriched by her company.

*Ed.Note: Our thanks to Canon Kinkley for sharing his thoughts with us. Marg's spirit will live on with us in Port.*

## Excerpts from Eulogy by Canon Gordon Kinkley M.A., M.Div. MARGARET DOREEN JONES

November 05, 1922 - December 31, 2009

So we approach this service with hope and promise and in a spirit of thanksgiving. We offer our thanksgiving to God, today, for MARGARET; for her life and her witness and for all that she meant to each one of us. I offer my own thanksgiving to God, today, for Margaret; as her pastor and as a friend.

Margaret had an amazing gift for hospitality. Whenever I would visit her, if she were on the veranda, people would constantly be stopping by; if she were in her house, people would constantly be stopping by. At times I thought it was a little like Grand Central Station. Margaret had an incredible skill of making everyone feel welcomed and accepted. I have dropped by to see her now on countless





## ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO (ACO) CONTINUES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR HARBOUR LOCK

At its July 13, 2009, St. Catharines City Council reviewed an archaeologist's report on Lock 1 of the First Welland Canal ( the "Harbour Lock") and Port Dalhousie Councillor Bruce Williamson concluded: "The buried remains of the first Welland Canal are a treasure that should be protected and shared, and the more people who get involved, the merrier." The city plans to create a visible trail outlining the buried path of the first Welland Canal through Lakeside Park, and Councillor Williamson wants amateur historians and heritage groups to provide input on the location of the canal and how it should be interpreted.

The St. Catharines Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) is taking up Councillor Williamson's challenge and is going a major step further. ACO-St. Catharines will not only provide interpretive input but, has launched a campaign to raise funds to support the City's efforts to preserve the Harbour Lock and delineate the path of the First Canal. "These are tough economic times and we believe the City needs financial support as well as expert interpretation. The Harbour Lock has the potential to be an anchor for Heritage Tourism in Niagara" stated ACO-St.Catharines President Ken Mackenzie. "We will start seeking donations right away and will introduce other programs for raising funds" he added.

Since then, ACO St. Catharines has held the 3rd annual Run For Fitness and Heritage in Port Dalhousie to raise funds for the Harbour Lock. If you would like to help with this very worthwhile cause, please consider a 2009 contribution to ACO-St. Catharines' Harbour Lock Heritage Fund. It is not too late. Donations are made to ACO-St. Catharines and will receive a tax receipt. Please fill out and mail the Pledge Card on page 5 with your donation or phone 905-935-9407 if you have questions.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is a 76-year old registered charity whose mandate is to help preserve buildings and structures of architectural merit and places of natural beauty in Ontario.

### All of Ontario's Treasured Heritage is Now in Danger - Please Help

As you have previously read, the Ottawa-based Heritage Canada Foundation has stated the Port Dalhousie decision approving a 20-storey height condo tower in a low-rise historic district translates to the OMB declaring "open season on all heritage conservation districts in Ontario". Heritage organizations and all those concerned about heritage now fully realize the implications of what the Board did in Port Dalhousie: If Hearing officer Susan Campbell can rationalize the Port Dalhousie tower by claiming she is striking a balance, and accepting unsubstantiated claims of economic benefits, the conclusion is inescapable: EVERY heritage building and district in Ontario is now vulnerable!

It goes like this: A developer can propose a tower in any heritage district (and almost every single one is low-rise) and claim it will provide economic benefits. Regardless of how well-written that district's heritage plan is (and Port Dalhousie's was one of the most detailed ones), Susan Campbell (or another OMB member) can determine that the proposal does not violate the heritage plan. In Port Dalhousie, Campbell ignored the City's two heritage committees and five top heritage experts who testified the tower clearly violated the heritage plan (guidelines). After all, she is entitled to form an opinion albeit subjective and she can also claim she is "striking a balance". Even if the community were to raise half a million dollars and hire a top lawyer and heritage experts as we did in Port Dalhousie, the OMB can rule as it chooses. It can also choose to disregard the fact that the democratically-elected City Council was against the proposal as it did both in Port Dalhousie and in Manotick outside Ottawa.

In Ottawa, the OMB approved that huge subdivision despite opposition by Council and the requirements of their Official Plan. Now in Lake Superior (Wawa), the OMB has approved a quarry in a pristine location over the objections of environmentalists. The Board's rationale?? Although the board 'conceded that the coastline is a national "treasure," it said property rights should take precedence over any claims for land preservation." (Globe and Mail, July 23, 2009). Thus, the OMB has managed to add to its already close to omnipotent authority. If property rights trump all other concerns and policies, then we might as well abolish all Planning Departments and throw away all Official Plans: whatever the property owner wants to do will always be allowed! Add this to the OMB's overwhelming arsenal of claiming to be "striking a balance" and accepting unsubstantiated claims of "economic revitalization" and no site in the Province has ANY protection.

The OMB's power is broad, perhaps unbridled and the community's options are very limited. Once the OMB rules, all that is left is to appeal to the courts -a costly process that could lead to another full hearing if the appeal was won- or, opponents can first ask OMB Chair Marie Hubbard to review the decision. In the case of Port, there were three requests for a review by Hubbard. She simply endorsed Campbell's decision and refused the requests even though she admitted Campbell made errors in law. With what appeared to be clairvoyance, Hubbard concluded that the errors would not have led Campbell to a different decision. Case closed.

Can anything be done or are we and future generations doomed to lose all of Ontario's precious heritage? As pointed out by the Heritage Canada Foundation, the Ontario Ministry of Culture says that designating Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD) under the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) will ensure respect for the community's heritage objectives. But the Ministry was conspicuously absent from the recent high-profile case (Port Dalhousie) that made a mockery of that statement. This landmark OMB decision, HCF continues, calls into question the protection afforded the more than 90 heritage districts already designated in Ontario. It also

sets a dangerous precedent for heritage districts across the country: if a 20-storey height tower is appropriate in a district comprised of mostly one- to three-storey structures, why bother to designate a Heritage Conservation District and endorse heritage guidelines for them at all?

The Ontario Heritage Act is NOT effectively protecting our heritage and the Province needs to take action NOW. Two major changes are needed if our remaining heritage is to be saved: OMB reform and proactive intervention by the Ministry of Culture (Heritage). The Ministry of Municipal Affairs needs to rein in the OMB and make it clear that in designated buildings and districts, the Heritage Act and plans take precedence: no "striking a balance between the Heritage and Planning Act" as Campbell claimed. The Ministry of Culture needs to use its existing powers decisively including stopping demolitions and designating threatened buildings.

Only then will we have appropriate development that truly revitalizes, increases heritage tourism and provides an adequate return to developers. If you share these concerns, please write both Ministries and your MPP today....or it will be too late (please see contact information below).

PROUD Port Dalhousie Executive Committee

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**Deadline for posting of community events and advertising for the next issue is Feb. 26, 2010.**



### EAT GREAT FOOD WHILE SUPPORTING ONE OF ST. CATHARINES' TREASURES - THE BME CHURCH

The church that was home to Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railway needs our support. The food at Christmas was outstanding!

#### HARRIET TUBMAN DINNER

BME Church Geneva St. just past Welland Ave. St. Catharines, Ont.

March 7th,2010

Tickets are \$15 per person Take out is from 1 till 2  
Tickets to be purchased in advance for take and for sit down dinner Call ADA at 905 984-6769

*Come out and enjoy a wonderful meal,and help support the BME Church*

**PLEDGE FORM**  
**HELP PRESERVE THE HARBOUR LOCK**

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: Harbour Lock 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 my help with the Help Preserve the Harbour Lock Campaign. Please contact me.

*Mail this Completed Pledge Form, including your donation to: ACO - St. Catharines c/o Mr. Ken Mackenzie, President, Box 28049, 600 Ontario St., St. Catharines L2N 7P8.*



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO), founded in 1933, is a registered charity committed to the preservation of buildings and structures of architectural merit and places of natural beauty. The ACO assists communities in efforts to protect their heritage endowments.



# TRIVIA NIGHT PHOTOS



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**HARRIET TUBMAN DINNER**  
BME Church  
Geneva St.  
**March 7th, 2010**  
Tickets are \$15 per person. Take out is from 1 till 2. Tickets to be purchased in advance for take and for sit down dinner. Call ADA at 905 984-6769



Close to home.  
Far from ordinary.  
*Niagara's Cultural Treasure!*

## The BlackPack S.E.L.L.O.U.T. Comedy Tour Thursday, Feb. 25/10 at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring the hilarious and interactive segment "Ask A Black Man Anything!" The Black Pack S.E.L.L.O.U.T. Comedy Tour is more than your standard assembly of stand-up comedians. The camaraderie between the performers, and with the audience members, make this one of the best comedy experiences and social events in the world.  
Platinum \$32 Gold \$37 Regular \$41 University/College Students \$20 High School Students \$5

## Summer of My Amazing Luck by Shameless Hussy Productions Saturday, Feb. 27/10 at 7:30 p.m.

The Sterling Award "Outstanding New Play" based on the hilarious MIRIAM TOEWS novel about a young mother

hitting the road in a van full of kids.

Established in 1992, Shameless Hussy Productions is a British Columbian company of self-producing theatre artists co-founded by Renee Taci, Deb Pickman and Lana Krause with a mission to "tell provocative stories about women, to inspire the hand that rocks the cradle to rock the world."

Platinum \$31 Gold \$35 Regular \$39 University/College Students \$20 High School Students \$5

## Quartetto Gelato Sunday, Feb. 28/10 at 2:30 p.m.

Spend an afternoon with this virtuosic ensemble of globally-influenced eclectic classical music. Spend an afternoon with this virtuosic ensemble of globally-influenced eclectic classical music. Classical in intent, eclectic by design, Quartetto Gelato not only thrills it's audiences with their mastery of instruments, but offers the wonderfully unexpected bonus of a brilliant operatic tenor. Platinum \$31 Gold \$35 Regular \$39 University/College Students \$20 High School Students \$5

## Nearly Neil & the Solitary Band Thursday, Mar. 4/10 at 7:30 p.m.

### Sean O'Sullivan Theatre

The Centre for the Arts welcomes back Bobby Bruce, an electrifying performer who has spent more than a dozen years astounding appreciative audiences across North America, Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia with his amazing tribute to Neil Diamond. A legend was discovered in Toronto when Vancouver-born Bobby Bruce's incomparable talent for impersonating Neil Diamond was finally realized in 1994. He has never looked back. Bobby has played with some of the biggest shows in the business, including a 10-month tour of the U.S. with Las Vegas-based Legends of Concert, and two tours of Australia with Legends of Rock. Platinum \$35 Gold \$39 Regular \$44

## Art of Time Emsemble with Steven Page

Friday, Mar. 5/10 at 7:30 p.m.

### Sean O'Sullivan Theatre

Steven Page, former lead singer of the Barenaked Ladies, sings his favourite pop songs in fresh, new arrangements created by innovators from the worlds of pop, jazz and classical music - everything from Radiohead's "Paranoid Android" to "Changing Opinion" by Philip Glass and Paul Simon.

For twenty years, Steven Page was the lead singer and songwriter with Barenaked Ladies, the Toronto-based band formed in 1988.

Platinum \$42 Gold \$46 Regular \$49 University/College Students \$20 High School Students \$5

## Romantic Valentine's Day Dinner

Who needs a fancy restaurant? With these recipes, anyone can cook up an elegant Valentine's Day dinner!

## Hot Date with a Chicken

By: JackieMilazzo

"A date, apricot, pistachio, and cayenne pepper stuffing fills these baked chicken breasts."

Prep Time: 30 Min

Cook Time: 25 Min

Ready In: 55 Min

Servings 2

### Ingredients

- \* 1/4 cup dates, pitted and chopped
- \* 1 small apple - peeled, cored and chopped
- \* 2 tablespoons chopped dried apricots
- \* 2 tablespoons raisins
- \* 1 tablespoon grated orange zest
- \* 1 tablespoon orange juice
- \* 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- \* 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
- \* 1/4 teaspoon ground mace
- \* 2 (6 ounce) skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- \* 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

### Directions

1. Preheat an oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Combine the dates, apple, apricots, raisins, orange zest, and orange juice in a small bowl. Season with cayenne pepper, cardamom, and mace; mix well.
3. Place the chicken breasts between two sheets of heavy plastic (resealable freezer bags work well) on a solid, level surface. Firmly pound the chicken with the smooth side of a meat mallet to a thickness of about 1/4 inch. Mound the fruit filling on the flattened breasts and roll up, tucking in the ends. Secure the chicken with toothpicks.
4. Heat the vegetable oil in an oven proof skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken breasts, and cook until browned on all sides, about 5 minutes. Place in the preheated oven, and continue cooking the chicken breasts until the filling is hot and the juices run clear, 20 to 25 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).





**SEAWAY NEWS** [www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/press-releases/index.html](http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/news/press-releases/index.html)

**SEAWAY CONCLUDES 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON**

Cornwall, Ontario (January 8, 2010) - The St. Lawrence Seaway concluded its 50th anniversary season on December 28th with the passage of the JW Shelley. The vessel transited the Iroquois Lock at 7:37 p.m. on route to Lake Ontario. The Seaway navigation season for 2009 spanned 274 days.

The Welland Canal, which has been in operation since 1932, remained open to navigation **until December 30th, as the CSL Tadoussac transited Lock 1 at 3:04 p.m. and cleared Port Weller entering Lake Ontario at 3:22 p.m.**

Total Seaway cargo volume for 2009 is estimated to amount to 30.5 million tonnes, the lowest volume witnessed since the early 1960's. The 25% decrease in cargo volume compared to 2008 can be attributed to the depth of the recession, which sharply curtailed movements of iron ore and steel on the waterway.

“Given the Seaway's reliance upon the steel industry for a substantial portion of our business, the economic downturn during the last year has certainly impacted our traffic level” commented Richard Corfe, President and CEO of The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC). “The depth of this downturn underscores the importance of the SLSMC's efforts to diversify our cargo base, and we are working diligently on a number of fronts to attain this goal”.

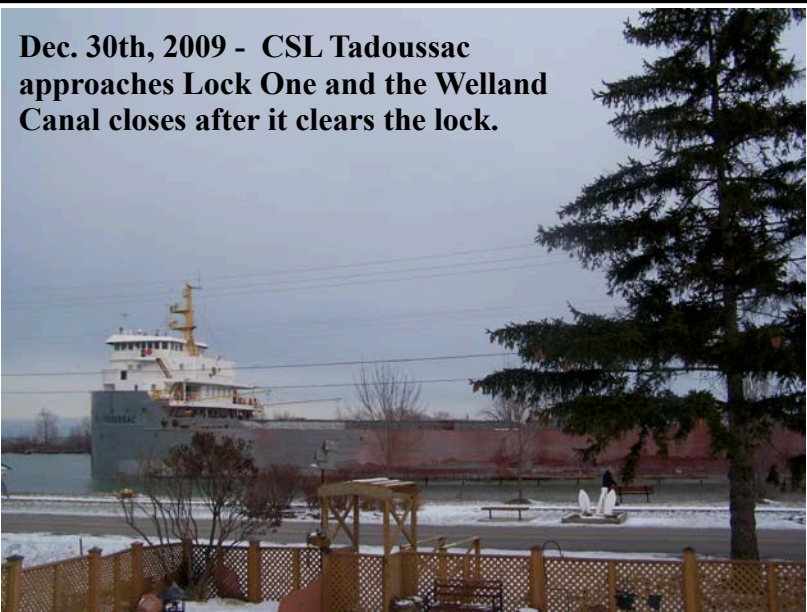
“While our core market will remain centered upon the transport of bulk commodities, we are working towards a future in which the Seaway will become more adaptive in nature, and able to welcome a wider variety of vessels carrying niche cargoes” continued Corfe. “Our efforts to this end focus on the development of Hands Free Mooring, which will eliminate the need for a vessel owner to invest in equipment it only requires when navigating through the Seaway, reduce vessel crewing requirements for lock transits, and enhance productivity and safety”.

Despite the economic downturn, the Seaway and its Highway H2O partners have not relented in their efforts to attract new cargo volumes. A series of business incentives were credited with bringing in 1.6 million tonnes of new cargo contributing over \$2 million in toll revenue for 2009. A pilot project sponsored by the Port of Hamilton demonstrated the utility of transporting specialized containers between Hamilton and Montreal via tug and barge, providing an alternative to busy road and rail links.

“The application of salt water flushing, while not a final solution, is clearly having the desired effect, giving vessels the ability to transit the Seaway without posing undue risks to the ecology of our waters” emphasized Terry Johnson, Administrator of the U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. “Our present efforts combined with the forthcoming introduction of U.S. Coast Guard ballast water treatment standards will ensure an orderly progression in the steps required to protect our system from ship borne threats”.

The Government of Canada’s recent announcement of its intention to remove the 25% duty on certain vessels brought into Canada also bodes well for the Seaway’s future. The ability of ship operators to cost effectively acquire vessels able to maximize the use of the Seaway’s existing locks will bolster the system’s competitiveness. New vessels, equipped with modern engines capable of burning low sulphur fuels and advanced ballast water management technology, will reinforce the existing bulk fleet and provide fresh options to further expand short-sea shipping initiatives.

**Dec. 30th, 2009 - CSL Tadoussac approaches Lock One and the Welland Canal closes after it clears the lock.**



**A frosty Coast Guard ship December 29, 2009**



**Algoport Sinks on Ocean Journey:** On September 6, 2009 the Algoport broke in half and sank overnight in heavy seas (East China Sea south of Japan) while under tow to China. The vessel was encountering rough seas from Tropical Storm Dujuan that had passed near the vessel's position. The tow was about one week away from her destination and the Port sank in approximately 5,000 metres of water. The tug Atlantic Hickory managed to cut the tow wire before the vessel sank, and there are no injuries reported in the accident. While the Algoport did have some fuel oil onboard to power its generators, the fuel is contained in the bunker tanks with all vents closed as a requirement of the tow. The tug reported that no signs of pollution or debris were evident after the vessel's sinking. The Algoport was being towed to Chengxi Shipyard to have a new forebody attached over the winter. The Algoport was a Great Lakes bulkер owned by Algoma Central Ltd of Canada. She was built in 1979. The Algoport was a familiar sight on the Welland Canal.

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# our mental health

# SIGNS

**HANDBOOK 2010** (an internet article)

**Health:**

- 1. Drink plenty of water.
- 2. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a beggar.
- 3. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants
- 4. Live with the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy
- 5. Make time to pray.
- 6. Play more games
- 7. Read more books than you did in 2009 .
- 8. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day
- 9. Sleep for 7 hours.
- 10. Take a 10-30 minutes walk daily. And while you walk, smile.

**Personality:**

- 11. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
- 12. Don't have negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.
- 13. Don't over do. Keep your limits.
- 14. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
- 15. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.
- 16. Dream more while you are awake
- 17. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need..
- 18. Forget issues of the past. Don't remind your partner with His/her mistakes of the past. That will ruin your present happiness.
- 19. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone. Don't hate others.
- 20. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
- 21. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
- 22. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.
- 23. Smile and laugh more.
- 24. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree...

**Society:**

- 25. Call your family often.
- 26. Each day give something good to others.
- 27. Forgive everyone for everything..
- 28. Spend time w/ people over the age of 70 & under the age of 6.
- 29. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
- 30. What other people think of you is none of your busi ness.
- 31. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.

**Life:**

- 32. Do the right thing!
- 33. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
- 34. However good or bad a situation is, it will change..
- 35. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
- 36. The best is yet to come..
- 37. Your Inner most is always happy. So, be happy.

**Last but not the least:**

- 40. Please share this with everyone you care about, I just did

**A Valentine’s Article**

*How to Dance in the Rain*

It was a busy morning, about 8:30, When an elderly gentleman in his 80s arrived To have stitches removed from his thumb. He said he was in a hurry as he had an appointment at 9:00 am. I took his vital signs and had him take a seat, knowing it would be over an hour before someone would to able to see him. I saw him looking at his watch and decided, since I was not busy with another patient, I would evaluate his wound. On exam, it was well healed, so I talked to one of the doctors, got the needed supplies to remove his sutures and redress his wound. While taking care of his wound, I asked him if he had another doctor'sappointment this morning, as he was in such a hurry. The gentleman told me no, that he needed to go to the nursing home to eat breakfast with his wife. I inquired as to her health.

He told me that she had been there for a while and that she was a victim of Alzheimer's Disease. As we talked, I asked if she would be upset if he was a bit late. He replied that she no longer knew who he was, that she had not recognized him in five years now. I was surprised, and asked him, 'And you still go every morning, even though she doesn't know who you are?' He smiled as he patted my hand and said, 'She doesn't know me, But I still know who she is.'

I had to hold back tears as he left, I had goose bumps on my arm, and thought, 'That is the kind of love I want in my life.'

True love is neither Physical, nor romantic. True love is an acceptance of all that is, has been, will be, and will not be. With all the jokes and fun that are in e-mails, sometimes there is one that comes along that has an important message. This one I thought I could share with you. The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; They just make the best Of everything they have.

I hope you share this with someone you care about. I just did. 'Life isn't about how to survive the storm, But how to dance in the rain.

In a Podiatrist's office:  
'Time wounds all heels.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On a Septic Tank Truck:  
Yesterday's Meals on Wheels  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On a Plumber's truck:  
'We repair what your husband fixed.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On another Plumber's truck:  
'Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On a Church's Bill board:  
'7 days without God makes one weak.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
At a Tyre Store  
'Invite us to your next blowout.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On an Electrician's truck:  
'Let us remove your shorts.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
In a Non-smoking Area:  
"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action..'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On a Maternity Room door:  
'Push. Push. Push.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
At an Optometrist's Office:  
'If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On a Taxidermist's window:  
'We really know our stuff.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
On a Fence:  
'Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive!'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
At a Car Dealership:  
'The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Outside a Car Exhaust Store:  
'No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
In a Vets waiting room:  
'Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
In a Restaurant window:  
'Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
In the front yard of a Funeral Home:  
'Drive carefully. We'll wait  
\*\*\*\*\*  
  
RADIATOR SHOP:  
'Best place in town to take a leak.'  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Sign on the back of yet another Septic Tank Truck:  
'Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises'

**CNN News**

His request approved, the CNN News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, 'Let's go'. The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, 'Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides.'  
'Why?' asked the pilot. 'Because I'm a photographer for CNN News,' he responded, 'and I need to get some close up shots.'  
  
The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, 'So, what you're telling me, is . . . You're NOT my flight instructor?



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**FEBRUARY IS**  
  
**BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH**



**HARRIET  
TUBMAN DINNER**  
BME Church  
Geneva St.  
**March 7th,2010**  
Tickets are \$15 per  
person Take out is  
from 1 till 2  
Tickets to be pur-  
chased in advance for  
take and for sit down  
dinner. Call ADA at  
905 984-6769



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

Monday  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ... Bingo  
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. ... Quilting  
Tuesday  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ... Crafts and Social  
  
Wednesday  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ... Euchre  
Thursday  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ... Bingo  
Saturday  
(1st Saturday of each month)  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. ... Euchre

Note: Foot clinic every 6th Thursday.  
Call for dates and time - \$10.00



**HARRIET TUBMAN DINNER**  
BME Church  
Geneva St. St. Catharines, Ont.  
**March 7th, 2010**  
Tickets are \$15 per person  
Take out is from 1 till 2  
Tickets to be purchased in advance  
for take and for sit down dinner  
Call ADA at 905 984-6769

# WHAT'S UP?

**FEBRUARY IS  
BLACK  
HISTORY MONTH**

**The Niagara IceDogs** announced today that there has been a game time change for their home game vs. the Ottawa 67's on Sunday, February 28th. The original start time for the game was scheduled for 2pm, but has now been changed to 12 Noon. The time change has been made to prevent a conflict with the Olympic Men's Hockey Gold Medal Game, which is taking place at 3:15pm on February 28th. Tickets for this game and all other IceDogs home games are still available and can be purchased at any IceDogs ticketing location. For further information, please contact the IceDogs offices at 905-687-DOG1(3641).

**Black & White Art Show and Sale**  
**February 13, 2010**

The Shaw Gallery in Beamsville is holding a Valentine fundraiser for Haiti relief. Various other local businesses will be available including: Monk's Chocolates, The Watering Can, Harmony House, and Greaves Jams.  
Location: The Shaw Gallery Beamsville

**First Star's 17th Annual Niagara Winter Psychic Fair** - February 12, 13, 14, 2010

**Event Details:** Featured at this popular annual event are gifted psychic readers, mediums, and healers, an aura photographers, all types of vendors, free lectures, hourly draws, and much more.  
**Location:** Qulity Hotel & Parkway Convention Centre, 327 Ontario Street St. Catharines  
**Date:** February 12, 13, 14, 2010  
**Time:** Fri. 3pm-9pm - Sat. 10am-9pm - Sun.10am-6pm \_  
**Admission:** \$5.00 - valid all weekend. Children under 12 are admitted free with an adult. Parking is also free.

**The Family Day** - February 15, 2010

**Event Details:** 2nd Annual Niagara Inflatables FUN FOR FOOD Family Day Event for Community Care Market Square, St Catharines  
February 15, 2010 10 am - 2 pm **Admission:** Free  
**More Info:** 905 646-5867

**Niagara Anaphylaxis Support & Knowledge (NASK) Support/Discussion Group**

Meeting - Tuesday, February 9, 2010  
Event Details: Support/Discussion group meeting of interest to people living with life-threatening allergies, their families, caregivers, educators, and friends  
Location: Thorold Public Library  
14 Ormond St. North, Thorold Tuesday, February 9, 2010 6:30 pm Admission: Free

**The Legendary Bear Exhibit -**

January 23 - April 12, 2010  
Event Details: The Legendary Bear Exhibit runs January 23rd through April 12th, 2010 at Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation. This exhibition showcases Teddy Bears, their history, famous teddy bears and more.  
Visit their web site for more information on this and many more exciting events hosted by the NPCA.  
Special activities will be included on Family Day, March Break, and Easter.  
Location: Ball's Falls Conservation Area 3292 Sixth Ave. Jordan January 23 - April 12, 2010 9:00am – 4:00pm  
Adults: \$5.50, Seniors/Students:\$4.00 Carload: \$15.00  
More Info: 905-562-5235

**"The Forgotten Years" exhibition at the Niagara Historical Museum**

43 Castlereagh Street  
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON  
P: 905-468-3912  
From: October 15, 2009 To: April 15, 2010  
This exhibition focuses on the artists that were in town during this era. The atmosphere was conducive to creativity. Many of these artists socialized with each other and their parties were filled with creativity, music and art. Some of these artists were home grown, others moved here because it was inexpensive to do so and a few others were leftovers from the tourism era when wealthy Americans would summer here. The exhibition also has some work of Niagara area artists who saw the beauty in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Most of the artists exhibited, were not trying to make a living on their art. They produced these for friends, family and themselves. It was love of art and the town that tied them together.  
For more information, please call 905-468-3912



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**'Bug-a-licious' 5th Annual Insect Food Festival**

2405 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls, ON 905-356-8119  
From: February 13, 2010 To: February 15, 2010  
Wondering what to do over Family Day weekend? Join us for the 5th annual Bug-a-licious Insect Food Festival. A fun experience you will be sure to talk about. This annual event challenges you to consider insects as an optional nutrition source, a practice common to cultures from around the world. 'Bug-a-licious' features a cooking competition between Chef Jeff Stewart and special guest surprise chefs. Paid admission to the Butterfly Conservatory will include insect menu samplings: \$11.75 for Adults 13+, \$6.95 for children 6-12 years, and children 5 and under are admitted FREE (prices in Cnd, plus tax). Free parking on-site. Open daily 9:00AM - 6:00PM with last visitors admitted at 5:30PM.

**International Women's Day - Luncheon and Silent Auction**

1311 Egerter Road, Port Robinson,  
February 28, 2010  
Featuring as keynote speaker Karen Lee Stocker - Coach, Trainer & Facilitator for Law of Attraction Seminars and Workshops.  
Tickets: \$35 each or Table of 10 for \$300. Available from W.A.R.M. Office, Fort Erie - 905-871-9195 ext 822 or from Fort Erie Shopper, Garrison Road - 905-871-7222.  
Time: 12:30pm.  
Proceeds to W.A.R.M. - Women's Addiction Recovery Mediation - a non-profit charity in Fort Erie that services the Niagara Region.

**VALENTINES DRAW**

Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre presents:  
**"please be mine valentines draw"**  
tickets: \$10 each or 3 for \$25  
1st:The Gold Weekend: 3 nights at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth in Montreal, incl: air, \$150 towards the Beaver Club", \$200 towards Spa Treatments (\$2500-Vision 2000 Travel)  
2nd: Stunning Diamond and Ruby Ring (\$2000-Jewellery by Michael  
3rd: Romancing the day away:  
2-Spa Facial, Manicure, Pedicure, Cut & Style at Salon Eskada &  
An evening for Two: Chef's Dinner & Wine Pairing at Coppola's Italian Ristorante (\$875)  
Don't miss out!! get you tickets NOW (at)!!  
BBBlooms, the Quality Parkway Hotel, Vision 2000 Travel & The Centre  
help support the children and women of your community!

**GENIUS WITHIN: The Inner Life of Glenn**

**Gould** February 28, 2010 2:00 PM  
The Inner Life of Glenn Gould Sunday, **February 28, 2010** at 2:00 PM "A must-see film for serious music fans" - Variety The Shaw Festival and Music Niagara present this award-winning film at the Festival Theatre, followed by a reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres in the Macdonald Heaslip Lounge, and featuring the Gould String Quartet. Tickets: \$50 film and reception \$20 film only Advance and same-day tickets available at the Shaw Festival Box Office 905-468-2172 1-800-511-7429 Proceeds from this afternoon will benefit the Shaw Festival and Music Niagara.  
**Location:** The Shaw Festival Theatre, 10 Queen's Parade Niagara on the Lake  
**Admission:** \$20 - \$50  
**More Info:** 905-468-2172 or 1-800-511-7429

**The Family Day** - February 15, 2010

**Event Details:** 2nd Annual Niagara Inflatables FUN FOR FOOD Family Day Event for Community Care Market Square St Catharines \_  
**Time:** 10 am - 2 pm **Admission:** Free  
**More Info:** 905 646-5867

**2010 Winter BETTER LIVING EXPO -**  
February 20, 21, 2010

**Event Details:** Sample various wines and foods while watching demonstrations, chatting with local experts, catching some entertainment, capture some great bargains or checking out row after row of displays relating to home & decor, health & fitness, recreation & travel at the Better Living Expo.  
**Location:** Quality Parkway Hotel & Convention Centre 327 Ontario Street , St. Catharines **Time:** 11 AM - 6 PM  
**Admission:** \$7  
**More Info:** 289-362-0277

**Make Waves for Bethlehem Projects -**

Sunday, February 28, 2010  
**Event Details:** Enjoy a fun-filled day at Waves Indoor Waterpark at the discounted price of \$15.95 per person (plus tax). \$10.00 from every ticket sold will be donated to Bethlehem Projects of Niagara. Enjoy a family fun day with a raffle, food specials and games! Availability is limited so call Bethlehem Projects to purchase your tickets in advance for this special fundraising event.  
**Location:** Americana Conference Resort and Spa  
**Address:** 8444 Lundy's Lane Niagara Falls  
**Time:** 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
**Admission:** \$15.95 plus tax  
**More Info:** 905-684-1660 ext. 3

**Taste of Burlington -**

February 22, 2010 to March 14, 2010  
**Event Details:** Come taste the eclectic styles and flavours of the world as Burlington's finest restaurants will be offering prix-fixe lunch and/or dinner menus. Prices set at \$20 for lunch, and \$30/\$35/\$40 for dinner (restaurants vary). Come and enjoy a new culinary experience!  
**Location:** Burlington **Admission:** \$20 for lunch, \$30/\$35/\$40 for dinner  
**More Info:** 905 634-5594

**Second Annual Welland Canals Advocate Family Day Hike** - Monday, February 15, 2010

**Event Details:** Second Annual Welland Canals Advocate Family Day Hike of Merritton Locks Park on the Fabulous Merritt Trail ! Locks 5 -14 of the Second Welland Canal!  
**Location:** Merritton Locks Park **\_Address:** Oakdale Avenue and Westchester Avenue **\_City:** St. Catharines  
**Date:** Monday, February 15, 2010 **\_Time:** 12 noon sharp!  
**Admission:** non-perishable food item for Community Care St. Catharines/Thorold

**Sweep Away Heart Disease & Stroke -**

Friday February 12, 2010  
**Event Details:** help us Sweep Away Heart Disease & Stroke at Niagara's 8th Annual Curl for Heart Bonspiel. The event will take place at the St. Catharines Golf & Country Club on 70 Westchester St. We are looking for teams of four to participate in a day of fun, fitness & pledge raising! The event is open to all skill levels including new curlers wishing to improve their curling!  
**Location:** St. Catharines Golf & Country Club 70 Westchester, St. Catharines  
**Date:** Friday February 12, 2010 **Time:** 9:00am to 3:30pm  
**Admission:** \$120 after Dec 23  
**More Info:** 905-938-8800

**8th Annual Strike Out Violence Bowling Tournament** - Friday, February 26, 2010

**Event Details:** The Cares Foundation 8th Annual Strike Out Violence Bowling Tournament, co-hosted by Women's Place of South Niagara and the Niagara Regional Police Service, raises funds to support the two shelters for women and children experiencing violence - Serenity Place in Welland, and Nova House in Niagara Falls. Your \$50 registration free includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, and a 3-course dinner at Club Italia, along with the opportunity to win fabulous prizes! Join us to help eliminate violence in our lifetime!  
**Location:** Bowl-O-Rama **Address:** Niagara Street Welland **\_Date:** Friday, February 26, 2010  
**Time:** registration at 1pm, bowling begins at 2pm  
**Admission:** \$50 per person  
**More Info:** 905-356-3933 ext 241

**Niagara Symphony- Pops 3! -Winter Carnival**

Centre for the Arts, Brock University  
St Catharines,  
P: 905-688-5550 ext. 3257  
From: February 20, 2010 to: February 21, 2010  
Saturday, February 20, 2010 7:30pm – New start time!  
Sunday, February 21, 2010 2:30pm  
Pre-concert talk 45 minutes prior to performance  
Guest conductor John Morris Russell returns to Niagara to light the flame under the Winter Olympics. Even as the games are being played in Vancouver, a generous helping of Canadiana (including “The Great Canadian Sing-along”— an interactive element where all voices are welcome to join in the fun!) and other selections of Olympic proportions will go for the musical gold. Special guest artist Mary Lou Fallis, Canada's Olympic Diva, will appear.

**Pancake weekends** at White Meadows Farms begin on weekends starting January 9th - April 11th, 2010 and everyday during the March Break from March 15th to 19th. Come check our our Maple Menu including pancakes, waffles, eggs, sausage, Maple Baked Beans, Maple Cheesecake, Maple Apple Crisp and much more. All day breakfast is served from 8:30am - 3:30pm with the doors closing at 4:00pm. Our Sugar Bush Adventure runs every weekend from **February 13th** - April 3rd, 2010 and every day during the March break from the 15th - 19th. We are also open Monday **February 15th** for Family Day! First wagon is at 9:30am, and last wagon leaves at 3:30pm. Visit www.whitemeadowsfarms.com to find more fun and exciting activities happening as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our Maple Lodge.  
\*\*New for 2010 we are offering FREE skating and tobogganing beside the Maple Lodge. Bring your skates, toboggan along and have fun with the whole family.\*\* **\_Location:** White Meadows Farms St. Catharines

**Fashion in the Falls** Saturday, **February 27, 2010**

Fashion in the Falls is a charitable event geared towards women. The event will provide attendees with an entertaining and enjoyable fashion experience. The fashion show will featue unique and wearable outfits. Clothing items will be provided by local Niagara Region stores that have a selection of classic business attire and casual wear for the upcoming Spring 2010 fashion season.  
Location: Best Western Beacon Harbourside Inn & Suites Conference Centre Jordan



# A ‘Waterloo’ Battle For One Of Niagara’s Lakeshore Beaches

January 28, 2010  
By Doug Draper

It is a scenario that is all too familiar to the residents of Port Dalhousie in St. Catharines and it is now one the residents of Crystal Beach area of Fort Erie find themselves embroiled in.

And just as I remember trying to shoehorn my way into a jam-packed legion hall in Port Dalhousie six years ago to hear residents duke it out with a consortium of high-priced developers and lawyers over plans to erect a multi-storey condo tower in the middle of a designated heritage district, the municipal hall in Fort Erie was crammed this past Jan. 25 with hundreds of people from the area – more than a dozen of them who stood up before the town’s council to speak for and more than two dozen who spoke against plans to build a 12-storey condo tower in front of Bay Beach.

And just as the developers won their bid to erect a 17-storey condo near Port Dalhousie’s Lakeside Park – despite a regional planning report that listed several reasons why the proposal conflicted with municipal and provincial planning rules, and a newly elected city council that joined in opposing it at Ontario Municipal Board hearings – those in Fort Erie opposed to this one have a long and costly fight on their hands. And the Fowler’s Toad (a threatened species in this province that apparently inhabits the site) is probably not going to help them.

The only thing that might be of help is a change in municipal and provincial government (elections for those levels of government fall respectively his coming October and the fall of 2011) and a complete overhaul or abolition of the Ontario Municipal Board. Nothing short of that might stop whatever space is left along the shores of Niagara’s lakes from being lined with high-storey condos. Because that is the way we are going.

If thousands of people in St. Catharines could not stop the high-rise condo from going up in a Port Dalhousie centre that is one of a small number of designated heritage districts across this province, what chance do the people of the Crystal Beach area have of stopping a condo from going up there.

If they believe this 12-storey condo is the wrong thing in a community of mostly one- and two-storey cottages and businesses then, by all means, fight on, even if it only goes to prove once again that the system, up to and including the Ontario Municipal Board, couldn’t give a fig about what the majority of residents in a community think about a developer’s plans. In other words, do it if it only exposes again how undemocratic a system we have when it comes to the kind of development a majority of residents want in their communities.

What seems especially sad about this Bay Beach one is that the Town of Fort Erie was good enough to buy Bay Beach in or around the beginning of this decade for a couple of million of dollars. It did so with some recognition that there are few open beaches left for the people of this region to enjoy.

Most of the rest of the beaches along our lakes – as those of us who wish to enjoy them know – are lined with private cottages and businesses where, even if we could find a place to park, we are met with signs telling us we are not welcome to walk or some of the more delicate signs say ‘loiter’ along these beaches. Never mind that these are our Great Lakes, for God’s sake.

Forgive me for getting a little passionate about our Great Lakes hear and the billions of dollars taxpayers on both sides of the Canadian and U.S. border have spent to protect and preserve them, but I have spent a good deal of my summers walking the beaches of Cape Cod, Massachusetts where the cottages (if you could call these \$1.5 million huts that and some of the finest inns on the continent) cannot keep you from enjoying a beach because Massachusetts, unlike Ontario, actually has laws guaranteeing public access to a beach.

I would think that if we, the citizens of this province, are called upon to contribute some of our taxdollars to protect and preserve the Great Lakes that we should have access to them.

Now I know that the proponents of this Bay Beach condo project will say we will still have access to the beach and that their development will actually help the town of Fort Erie pay for that access and for better washroom facilities for beachgoers and so on.

But the question is, why do we have to go here? Why do we have to go to a private developer who wants to build a tower that is totally out of character with a historic community along our Lake Erie shores to “save” what little access the public has left to our Great Lakes.

I thought I heard Niagara’s regional chairman Peter Partington repeat for the second time in a matter of three months that one of his priorities is to save what is left of public access to the beaches. Is there no funding the regional government can provide to help keep Bay Beach – one of the very few public beaches left along Niagara’s whole Lake Erie shoreline – open and accessible to families and others that have enjoyed this gem of a shoreline for decades.

Is our only recourse to bow to some out-of-town developer who says; ‘We’ll let you keep your beach if we can build something that is totally out of whack with the surrounding community?’

One of the most disgusting things I heard coming out of the proponents for this high-rise condo plan during the town hall session in Fort Erie is that the condo has something to do with “intensification” and “smart growth,” meaning it should be greeted as a good thing because it is not low-density urban sprawl.

In answer to that, this kind of development bastardizes everything that good, healthy sustainable ‘smart’ growth is supposed to stand for. If these developers are really into intensification in an urban area where it might make sense to build a tower this high, why not go to Fort Erie’s urban core down near the Niagara River and build your condo there.

The answer would probably be no because they want to build it along a picturesque beach that Niagara families have enjoyed going to for generations because they can sell more units in their condominium development there. And let’s get one-thing straight folks. Most of us mortals out here are probably not going to be able to afford to buy one.

And how long will it be before the people who can afford to buy one go to the town’s council and say; ‘What can you do to get the riff-raff off our beach?’

And given how few laws there are in Ontario today to ensure public access to our lakeshore beaches, they will likely find a way to get us off. If we don’t fight back, we can count on it.

*Ed. Note: Our thanks to to Mr. Draper for giving permission to reprint this article. The article was originally printed in Niagara At Large. Be sure to visit [niagaraatlarge.com](http://niagaraatlarge.com) to read great articles on day-to-day life in Niagara.*

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**PORT'S HERITAGE SECOND CLASS?** (continued from front page)

behind Union Station and the Royal Alexandra Theatre – and was built for John Bayne Maclean, founder of Maclean's Magazine.

<http://www.yourhome.ca/homes/newsfeatures/article/741757--stop-work-order-for-century-home>

However, what about our beloved Port Dalhousie?? Carroll, who was dumped from cabinet in Premier McGuinty's recent shuffle, took action to save a 1922 heritage property -but not to save a full 19th century and early 20th historic and unique canal village which is already designated (Ed. Note: The construction year of the Maclean house has been reported as 1922 and 1910 in different articles. Regardless of which date is right, it is a much newer property than a number of heritage buildings in the Commercial Core of Port Dalhousie).

Following Carroll's action, the City of Toronto has decided that, although its century-old sash window frames have already been ripped out, the John B. Maclean house will be added to Toronto's inventory of heritage properties. The unanimous council vote was designed to force talks with the developer, who wants to tear down the Georgian Revival home and build eight townhouses and a rental building. Council now has one more final vote on the actual heritage designation of the property.

Carroll's action has, therefore, led to further moves to protect the Maclean house. Interesting that Carroll did not show any similar concern for Port Dalhousie. Port should be way ahead of a property like 7 Austin Terrace in Toronto since it is already designated under the Heritage Act.

Please do not hesitate to contact the new Minister Michael Chan and your local MPP about this. Minister Chan\_ coordinates are:

Michael Chan  
Ministry of Culture  
5th Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto ON M7A 1L2  
Tel : 416-325-1660 Fax : 416-325-1726  
Toll Free : 1-866-454-0049 TTY : 416-325-5170  
**[mchanmpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mchanmpp@liberal.ola.org)**

**Wiarton Willie wakes up to see his shadow**

Wiarton Willie predicted six more weeks of winter weather by seeing his shadow this morning. This is most disappointing news for those who've had enough of winter., Shubenacadie Sam In Nova Scotia and Punxsutawney Phil in Pennsylvania also saw their shadows fortelling six more weeks of winter.



A depiction of the high-rise condo many Crystal Beach residents are fighting to keep off of the popular Bay Beach in their community. Photo: NiagaraAtLarge

**Brock Finance & Investment Group Challenge**

The Niagara Community Foundation benefitting this year from the 1st Brock Finance & Investment Group Challenge being organized by finance students in the Business Faculty at Brock. This is a fully automated virtual stock market simulation married to support a charitable initiative (a fund at the Niagara Community Foundation to help children in financial need, to participate in sports, recreation and cultural activities).

Contestants will be given \$100,000CAD in virtual money to invest. The contest started Jan 25th and ends on April 16th. And there are prizes throughout the contest.

Cost to participate is \$20. For more info and to register go to

[www.brockinvestmentchallenge.com](http://www.brockinvestmentchallenge.com).