



THE REPORTER



VOL.21 NO.2

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF PORT DALHOUSIE'S HISTORY - 1826-2026

SUMMER 2026

Happy 200th Birthday
Port Dalhousie!

A Port Boy's Story

*Renowned Drummer Neil Peart's
Memories of Growing up in Port Dalhousie*

Well here we are, another summer season is upon us and this time it's a very special one. Port Dalhousie is turning 200 years old and there will be many exciting public events that will celebrate our town. Check out our Community Calendar on the back pages of this issue for dates, time, etc.

We are very fortunate to live in this beautiful area, full of exhilarating sunsets, verdant parks, heritage homes, shaded streets, fine restaurants and shops, and of course the wonderful beach of Lakeside Park.

In this issue though, we are highlighting the people of Port Dalhousie, both past and present, who have in their own ways added to the richness of the village's history.

One of our more illustrious sons, Neil Peart, the drummer extraordinaire, offers his memories of growing up in Port that many of us can relate to. We welcome Don Jones who submitted a profile of Benjamin Pawling, one of the earliest settlers in the area, and Brian Narhi takes a look at Alexander Muir, through the lens of Muir's personal writings.

In lieu of a full report on the political activities of our City Councillors, Bruce Williamson expresses his thoughts, in no uncertain terms, of the Ford Government's willful and anti-democratic approach to the restructuring of our

Continued on page 2

MY STORY begins in 1952, on the family farm near Hagersville. Mom tells me they used to wrap me in swaddling clothes and lay me in a manger, but don't get me wrong - this was no Christmas story. They just wanted me out of the way while they did the milking. But the dimly lit barn, redolent of straw and manure, was an early imprint, and to this day a dairy farm always smells like home to me. Wherever I may travel, from Switzerland to Senegal, my deepest memories are triggered by ... cow dung.

Still, after a couple of years I became restless with country life, and convinced my parents to move to the big city - St. Catharines. My father became parts manager at Dalziel Equipment, the International Harvester dealer on St. Paul Street West (gone now, but I worked there too in later years, right before I joined Rush). Our little family settled briefly into an apartment on the east side, then into a rented duplex on Violet Street, in the Martindale area.

A year later, the stork brought my brother Danny, and sister Judy a year after that. They were nice enough siblings, but I really wanted to be an only child - I never liked to share.

We only lived on Violet Street until I was four, so my memories are few, but I do remember tumbling off my tricycle and falling headfirst into the corrugated metal pit around the basement window, crashing through the glass to hang upside-down, staring at my mother as she stood, drop-jawed, at the wringer washer. Miraculously, I wasn't injured - although in retrospect, I may have suffered a little brain damage. It would explain some of my behavior in later years. But it didn't discourage my early taste for pedal-power, or adventure travel, for 30 years later I would find myself cycling through China, many countries in Europe and West Africa, and around much of North America.

In 1956, we moved to a brand-new split-level on Dalhousie Avenue - then Queen Street, before the imperialist forces of St. Catharines invaded Port Dalhousie, in 1961, and amalgamated it. (like Saddam Hussein amalgamated Kuwait, it seems to me).

Our new subdivision had until recently been an



orchard, and four pear trees remained at the end of our yard (over the years we ate so many pears off those trees that I have never been able to eat them since). Just behind us was Middleton's cornfield, which occupied the middle of the block, and in late summer it became a cool green labyrinth, perfect for hide-and-seek in the long twilight hours.

My Dad built us a swing set and a sandbox, and with those pear trees to climb and the cornfield to run through, our backyard was nearly perfect. We needed a pool and a trampoline, and maybe a roller coaster. But life was pretty good.

In those days, we didn't know about day-care centres or nursery schools, but Grandma Peart lived in a house on Bayview - right across the cornfield - and often looked after us, especially when Mom started working at Lincoln Hosiery.

Continued on page 2

Theft of Copper From The Lockup and Lincoln Fabrics is a Warning Sign

Older Unoccupied Buildings are at a Higher Risk of Vandalism, Including Theft and Fire.

The repeated brazen theft of the copper roof on the 1845 Jail house is a local tragedy. The high price of copper has led to an increase of copper thefts across St. Catharines, and has now come to roost in Port Dalhousie. The copper vandalism of the transformer at the proposed Harbourclub, which led to a fire and the leakage of transformer oil, was a major disaster that was cleaned up by Alectra will likely cost well over 100,000 dollars. The cost will end up on your electric bill.

Property crimes are not always treated as seriously by the police as we would like. Especially vulnerable are older buildings. It is not unusual, for example, for someone to report vandalism to the police and simply be given a police report number and encouraged to contact their insurance company, without any real investigation. The rationale is that the police can't be everywhere at once and that they are focused on more major crimes. Unfortunately, those who commit major crimes have often graduated from minor ones for which they have not faced any consequences.

Community security is everyone's business! If you see something, say something. If you witness suspicious behavior, call the police. For St. Catharines, phone: 905-688-4111, EXT: 1024233. If you witness a crime in progress, call 911. We should all be focused on keeping our communities safe and our communal properties secure, and especially heritage properties. ■



Happy 200th Birthday Port Dalhousie!

... Continued

regional government. Remember, Ford ditched the 28 million dollar jet he tried to purchase after a tsunami of outrage was expressed by the people and the media. This is what happens when you hand a majority government to a petty tyrant. Oops... sorry, I drifted off into my personal thoughts on the matter. My bad.

We also present Part Two of the development of the communities that were established along the Welland Canal, as well as a piece on the Emancipation Day Picnics in Lakeside Park. This issue also continues with the special feature "Voices of the Past", and Yours truly has written an article about growing up in the town. Now that I think about it, it could be a companion piece for Neil Peart's article.

So along with our regular contributors and features including Hank Beekhuis's column, the BWC Report, Dennis Gannon's Yesterday and Today, the crossword puzzle and community calendar, I think we have put together an excellent issue, full of great summer reading. A special thanks to John House, Christine-Aloian Robertson and David Serafino.

On behalf of our wonderful volunteers and advertisers, please stay safe, and get out there and enjoy the warm summer weather!

- Peter Wing

A Port Boy's Story ... Continued

Grandma played hymns on the pedal organ, baked amazing pies and buns, taught me all about birds from her little colored books (I have them now), made quilts with her friends from the United Church Ladies Auxiliary, and wore her hair tucked in flat waves under a net.

She was a classic Puritan grandmother: wiry and iron-hard, a stern disciplinarian - her chosen instrument was the wooden spoon, applied to my backside with enough force to break more than a few of them - but I also remember a million acts of kindness. And if she believed the injunction against sparing the rod, she could still "spoil the child" in other ways, and we also knew her innate softness, her pure gentleness of heart.

I remember staying at her house when I was small, and at bedtime she would emerge from the bathroom totally transformed: leaving behind the severe cotton dress, the hard black shoes, and the strict hairnet, she tiptoed into the dark room on bare feet, wearing a long white nightgown, her hair down in a rope of grey braid. She seemed so frail and girlish as we knelt beside the big wooden bed to say our prayers: "Now I lay me down to sleep..."

I started kindergarten at McArthur School, and the first time the fire alarm went off, I ran out of there and didn't stop running until I got home. I had

much to learn about life.

From grades 1 to 5 I attended Gracefield School, at the other end of Port Dalhousie, which was still surrounded by fields in those far-off days, and a cove of trees which we poetically called "Littlewoods." Once I



Neil (2nd from left, bottom row) in his Grade Two class at Gracefield School, 1959

fell out of one of those trees, landing on a broken branch and tearing a gash in my inner arm, big enough that I could see the white bone.

An older boy from down the street, Brian Burke, had the presence-of-mind to rip off his T-shirt, wrap it around my arm and get me home, so after Mom got me to the hospital and had it stitched up, the only permanent damage to my future drumming limb was a long, ragged scar. Thanks, Brian, where ever you are.

Port Dalhousie in the late '50s was a magical time and place, perfect for boyhood. Quiet streets for ball hockey,

the lake for swimming, skating on Martindale Pond, the library to feed my growing appetite for reading, and hordes of other "baby boomer" kids around to share it all.

We measured our lives not by the seasons, but by the ancient festivals - children are natural pagans. Winter was Christmas, spring was Easter, and autumn was the magic of Halloween: dressing up as Zorro, or a pirate, or a hobo, and wandering the cold, dark streets in search of flickering pumpkins at doorways where people would fill our bags with loot.

Whispered words were passed among the ghosts and goblins, and we learned which houses were giving out fudge or candy apple (no fear of needles or poison in those days - before people became so crazy. I blame the water).

Summer, of course, was a long pagan festival all its own. I would get together with a friend like Doug Putman, or my brother Danny, and we would hike or ride our bikes to Paradise Valley, out by Ninth Street, or farther, to Rockway and Ball's Falls. Somehow nothing was more attractive than "the woods" - a bit of leafy forest, a stretch of running water, maybe a shallow cave in the rocks of the escarpment. This was Romance and Adventure. ■

- Neil Peart

Reprint from the St. Catharines Standard - 1994



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Speaking Truth to Power

Municipal Councillor Bruce Williamson Shares His Thoughts on the Provincial Corruption of Local Governance

We are fortunate to live in a place in the world that is peaceful, inherently democratic, and relatively stable. However, events beyond our borders are markedly impacting our way of life. Inflation of housing costs, groceries, insurance, taxes and fuel are making life less affordable. While these economic hits have been, to a large degree, caused by global factors, like Trump's erratic tariffs and his attack on Iran and the subsequent closure of the Gulf of Hormuz, they are also affected by decisions made locally and by those made at the upper levels of our government. In Niagara, abrupt and rash decisions by Doug Ford have created unwelcome upheaval and are fundamentally altering our system of local governance without regard to cost-savings, improving efficiency or to basic democratic principles such as obtaining consent from the grassroots. Budgets are also being impacted by choices being made on major provincial projects like the twinning of the Garden City Skyway, which will end up costing over a billion dollars. This money could have been much better spent towards tackling the local infrastructure deficit we have for sewers, water mains, recreational facilities and local roads. Alternatively, it could not be spent at all and therefore not add to Ontario's burgeoning publicly-held debt of \$486 billion and escalating future deficits.

According to *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, "the relationship between a province and its municipalities is one of superior and subordinates; not of equals. Municipal governments have no constitutionally recognized existence. They are creations of the provinces, which assign to them certain duties and responsibilities." As well, many of the regulations we follow are set out by the province. To a great extent, this structure leaves

municipalities at the mercy of provincial governments, and to a lesser measure, federal governments. Local government revenue is raised largely from property taxes and provincial grants. As a long-serving member of City Council, I have experienced how a variety of provincial governments have treated St. Catharines. The current one is at the bottom of the list. The disrespect and contempt Doug Ford has shown for local democracy is summed up by him labelling elected municipal representatives across Niagara as turkeys. I find this personally insulting and degrading to the many terrific councillors I have served with in the past (and continue to work with today) who had the courage to allow their name to stand for election to serve their neighbours in local government. In turn, it is a repudiation of the people in this community, "the little guys" Ford claims to care about.

St. Catharines Council, like most in Niagara, simply requested that any governance review process include consultation with local residents to have their voices heard and that it be based on facts, evidence and thoughtful analysis. The precise opposite happened: no one was consulted much beyond the three mayors who endorsed

him during the 2025 election and to whom he conferred strong mayor powers. His own government's expensive study from 2019 was buried and never released to the public. As part of this charade, misleading documents with official city logos went out, inferring this council and others supported these draconian, anti-democratic changes. The reality is this was entirely about circumventing the truth to enable Doug Ford to even more blatantly satisfy the demands of his well-healed cronies and campaign contributors. These centralized decisions are self-serving by concentrating power into the hands of a few mayors and a Niagara Regional Chair who will be appointed by him. These four positions have been given unprecedented powers effectively turning Niagara into an oligarchy.

In King Charles III's brilliant recent speech to the American Congress, he stated that Magna Carta was the very "foundation of the principle that executive power is subject to checks and balances". The great charter of 1215 symbolizes the rule of law. The critically important checks and balances in local government are provided by those local councillors willing to speak truth

to power. Eliminating those positions from Regional Council and diminishing the role of local councillors by imposing strong mayor powers undermines those critical checks and balances. The other value that is being weakened or dispensed with by these changes is the role municipal councillors have in voicing the concerns of their constituents.

This is an authoritarian play that is contrary to the public interest and will make way for a new cabal where the strings will be pulled even more directly from the Premier's Office in Queens Park. It is dangerous to forget our history in terms of the long and difficult journey it took for citizens to earn the right to vote. The backdoor way to erode this important privilege is to take away the number of people we have to represent us in local government. It will concentrate even more power in the hands of the wealthy few, only increasing the likelihood of even more corruption and less accountability in municipal government. Eliminating those of us who manage to have a seat at the table without the need to rely on money from developers, corporate interests or a political party will be the end of local representatives who are able to vote independently, to take principled stands and not be beholden to vested interests.

As I write this column, performative auditions are being conducted in Toronto to select eight regional chairs, including our own. In a democracy the peoples' representatives are voted on by citizens in free and fair elections, not by rewarding cronies in backroom deals.

Wishing one and all a terrific summer celebrating the 150th birthday of St. Kitts and the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Port Dalhousie. ■

- Bruce Williamson



Photo by Erin Leydon

"Have I got a government for you!"

THE REPORTER

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

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

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The Big Picnic at Lakeside Park

Forty years ago, everyone would have understood the significance of the first Thursday of every August.

It was the date of the annual Emancipation Day Picnic, an event that is said to have rivalled only Christmas as the high point in the lives of Black Canadians living in the Niagara region.

And from 1924 until the early 1970s, as many as 8,000 people could be expected to converge at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie to attend the "Big Picnic" each year.

People came from Toronto to Owen Sound and throughout the Great Lakes region, with some even travelling from Virginia and Tennessee in the U.S. to attend.

Originally organized by Bertrand Joseph Spencer Pitt, a Grenadian-born Toronto lawyer and president of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), the event sought to foster greater solidarity and pride among members of the Black Canadian community in memory of its remarkable achievements and in face of persistent racism.

Sometimes known as "Maids Day Off," the day was spent picnicking, visiting friends and family, and enjoying the amusement park and rides. According to the Niagara Falls native and award-winning musician "Big" John "T-Bone" Little in 2008: "They were good, some good times."

The picnics gradually declined in popularity after the UNIA stopped hosting the event in 1951, although they continued to take place for another 20 years. Although similar events were held throughout



Riding the Merry-Go-Round in 1953

Ontario since the mid-nineteenth century, the one at Lakeside Park was unique.

The location was easily accessible to those travelling by water on lake steamers, such as the SS Dalhousie City and SS Northumberland, which annually crossed Lake Ontario filled with tourists, or by road, with its proximity to the Canadian-American border. More importantly, it was close to the site of the signing of the Act Against Slavery in 1793 by Governor Simcoe in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the first step in a process that led to the abolition of slavery throughout the British Commonwealth on August 1, 1834.

The Black Horse

A highlight of the day often included a ride on the "black horse" on the Port Dalhousie Carousel, which then - as now - was 5c. By the 1920s, local lore had come to designate this carousel character symbolic of the troupe of black horses that were led by representatives of the Coloured Corps during the procession to inter the remains of Major General Brock in his monument at Queenston Heights in 1859. The Coloured Corps was the famous organization of freed slaves of African descent, who volunteered to fight with the British in the War of 1812.

With its brightly coloured saddle and tack, the horse served - and continues to serve - as a reminder of the courage and tenacity of ancestors of the Black Canadian and African American communities, both in Niagara and throughout North America. ■

- Sarah King Head

Communities Along the Welland Canal

Part Two: Tracing the Origins of the Towns and Villages

Thorold

Thorold, like Port Dalhousie, was a product of the canal and individual enterprise. George Keefer, first President of the Welland Canal Company, owned land on the canal route on the Escarpment brow, and in 1828 built a grist mill in anticipation of the canal's completion. He was rewarded with free water rights in perpetuity for his initiative. About the same time he or his son George Junior laid out the rudiments of a village and called it Thorold, and in 1828 the post office was moved

there from the Deep Cut. Some sources say that the village was originally called Stumptown and St. Georges, but there is no hard evidence for this.

In naming the village Thorold Keefer simply adopted the name of the existing township. Originally called Township No. 9 when it was surveyed in 1788, it was renamed Thorold in 1793 in keeping with a county based naming policy employed by Governor Simcoe. The counties of Upper Canada west of the Trent river were all named after English counties, and places within each county were often given names from the corresponding county in England. Since the Niagara peninsula fell in Lincoln County all the early townships were given Lincolnshire names. Most were named for places. But Thorold is the name of an ancient Lincolnshire family with roots in Saxon times.

Perhaps the most famous Thorold (or Thurrald as family members say the name) was Godgifu, better known as Lady Godiva, who lived in the 11th Century. The story of her unclothed ride through the streets of Coventry in an attempt to persuade her husband Leofric III, Earl of Mercia, to reduce taxes is well known. Less well known is the film about her made in the 1950's. Maureen O'Hara played the title role, George Nader was Leofric, Arthur E. Gold-Porter was Thorold, Sheriff of Lincoln, and the part of First Saxon, very much a minor character, was played by someone named Clint Eastwood.

Beaverdam

This is not a typographic error. In early times the name was usually written as a singular noun, Beaverdam, though often it was split into two words and preceded by the definite article, as in the Beaver Dam. The modern plural form Beaverdams was also used early on, but only rarely before 1830.

The beaver dam in question was located on what became known as Beaverdams creek, a tributary of the Twelve Mile Creek in Thorold. Its remains were still visible in the late 19th Century but in 1904 were submerged beneath the waters of Lake Gibson. It is likely that the creek was named first (precisely



Edward Walsh painted this watercolour of Chippewa in 1804

when is unknown) and some time later the name was used for the village that developed nearby at the junction of two important early routes (nowadays the intersection of Beaverdams Road and Marlatts Road/DeCew Road)

Beaverdams is not normally thought of as a canal community, but the First Canal ran directly alongside the Village, which by then had been in existence for three decades. The earliest written mention of the name is dated 1804,

and the first recorded burial in the cemetery is 1801, so there was probably a village before 1800, making it roughly contemporaneous with St. Johns in Short Hills. Beaverdams flourished briefly while the canal was being built, and in 1826 became the site of Thorold's first post office, but soon afterwards was eclipsed by other canal side communities.

Deep Cut

Deep Cut was the original name for Allenburg. Most sources claim that the original name was New Holland, but strictly speaking this is not so. Prior to the canal there was no

village, just scattered farms and a tavern run by Joseph Badgley, where Merrit and his associates repaired following the canal sod-turning in 1824. The name New Holland was applied to the general area, not to a specific community. Both it and the name Holland Road date at least as far back as the war of 1812, and most likely reflect the Dutch origins of settlers like John Vanderburgh who had 700 acres of land in the vicinity. An 1818 reference to Holland Settlement seems to imply that a village had emerged by then, but this is unlikely. While the term settlement as used in the 19th Century

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did refer to settlers, it did not mean that they were concentrated in one spot. There was no reason for a village to exist anyway.

With construction of the canal, however, a village did develop at the north end of the Deep Cut, where the line of the canal intersected Lundy's Lane. The Deep Cut was the excavation through the high ground between Beaverdams Creek and the Welland River, and this was the name given to the community. Deep Cut was a bustling place, with several stores and taverns catering to canal labourers, and Thorold's post office moved there in 1827.

In 1827 the Welland Canal company bought 65 acres of land west of what became centre street from Hall Davis. Some time later they laid it out in building lots, possibly in conjunction with Harmonious Vanderburgh, who owned land to the east. By 1830 the village was called Allanburgh (the h was dropped) after Wiliam Allan, Vice-President of the bank of Upper Canada. Some claim that the "burgh" recognizes the Vandenberg family but this is uncertain. Much of the new village was wiped out by later canals, but the name survives.

Beverly

The history of Beverly (later Port Robinson) is not unlike that of the Deep Cut/ Allanburg. Located at the south end of the Deep Cut where the Welland Canal met the Welland river, the village emerged during the canal construction on the farm owned by John Carl. Initially it may have been much smaller than Deep Cut, and in fact there is no certainty that it even had a name prior to 1830.

The name Beverly (not Port Beverly as some sources claim) appears in canal related documents at this time. It was very short lived, however, and soon gave way to Robinson which in time yielded to Port Robinson by 1831. The names Beverly and Robinson both come from John Beverly Robinson, Attorney General of Upper Canada and a director of the Welland Canal Company.

As in the case of Allanburg, there was an element of deliberate planning in the creation of Port Robinson, for in 1830 the Canal Company purchased 240 acres from John Carl, and a portion of this was laid out in building lots. They were divided into three classes and were to be sold for 25 pounds, 12 pounds 10s, and 6 pounds 5s, prices significantly higher than for corresponding lots in Allanburg. If this reflected the future prospects of the two places it made sense, for Port Robinson soon outstripped Allanburg in importance.

Chippewa

Chippewa is possibly the oldest of the First Canal communities and certainly the one with the oldest name. The village developed alongside Fort Chippewa, a storehouse-cum-blockhouse built in 1791 at the southern terminus of the west bank portage around Niagara Falls. The village took its name from the Fort, and this in turn took its name from the river, which before Governor Simcoe introduced the Lincolnshire name Welland River in 1792 was known as Chippewa Creek.

The earliest known reference to the name is in a travellers account for 1785, and in old documents it is spelled in various ways, among them Chippawa, Chippewa, and Chippeway. It is often mentioned as being an Indian name and in a sense it is, since "Chippawa" is a corruption of "Ojibway". However the Indians would not have called it this—it was a name introduced by the British.

The original native inhabitants of the area were the Neutral Indians, and it is not known what name they had for the river. In 1649 they were wiped out by the Iroquois from the Finger Lakes region, which left the Niagara Peninsula uninhabited. During this period the French called the river Chenondac, and some time after the capture of Fort Niagara in 1759 the British substituted Chippawa. Why they chose this name is uncertain, for the Ojibway were not native to the area. There are reports, however, of their camping alongside the river when visiting Fort Niagara, and over time the two may have become associated. Some say that there was an actual native village on the creek in 1788, but this is unconfirmed and is probably not correct.

In the late 1980's local barrister Romaine K. Ross mounted a campaign to make the official spelling Chippewa on the grounds that this was the more authentic version and the one currently used by the native peoples, but he was unsuccessful. ■

- Alun Hughes

Reproduced with minor changes from the Newsletter of the Historical Society of St. Catharines, June 2007

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Voices of the Past



Mrs. Dudley was born in 1914 and her sister Mrs. Dunn was born in 1919. They grew up in St. Catharines as children and as teenagers were frequent visitors to Port Dalhousie, hitching a ride or traveling by streetcar. Mrs. Dunn met her future husband at the dance hall in Lakeside Park.

Joyce Dunn and Vera Dudley

The Dance Hall in the Park

"Vera: We used to go to the dance hall when we were just kids. Everybody went to Port Dalhousie. That was the place to be. Really there was no place else.

Joyce: We'd go for picnics, to swim and of course, to the dance hall. Live bands performed in the dance pavilion but only in the summer. Different bands played, but to us they were all great. A sax, drums, piano, about 6-piece bands, but of course there was no Sunday dancing. The girls would pay a dime to get in have their hands stamped and the fellows had to pay a nickel a dance. They would buy the tickets and then ask you to dance. Every time they took you onto the floor they'd give the ticket to a man that was standing there. The dance would end pretty quick for a nickel. That's where I met my husband. I was 16. He asked me to dance and then for a date. Three years later we married and I was never sorry a day. There was beautiful music played in the dance hall, mostly waltzes and foxtrots. This was around 1934. Those were depression years and most of the fellows were lucky if they had the money to go. There were no chairs or places to sit. We just stood around and waited for someone to ask us to dance. The dance pavilion had flaps that opened up just like a summer cottage and on the outside, it was low enough for people to see in. Crowds of people stood watching."



Above: Rendering of the proposed Carlos Garcia Park at Old Lock One Commons.



Left: Councillors Bruce Williamson & Marty Mako at the official opening of the Christie Street stairs.

Excerpt from *Port Dalhousie: An Intimate History*

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Summer Report

As summer approaches slowly, the BWC has been busy preparing for an active summer season filled with flowering plants, pond fountains, vibrant pollinator gardens, live music, regattas, bird houses, a new parkette from reclaimed green space, and a celebration of Port's 200th birthday! The BWC banner is among 20 you will find throughout Port to mark the celebration of this vibrant Port Town on Lake Ontario. In April, the BWC collaborated with volunteers from the Canadian Henley and the Port Dalhousie Lions Club to help with the gardens at the Craig Swazey Memorial Grandstand. Later that month, 25 volunteers came out to help with spring clean up (Earth Day) in Lakeside, Rennie and Howes parks. A first for the BWC, we initiated an online community survey to help the BWC identify project priorities. The survey results helped to inform our discussions with our City Councillors. We are pleased to announce our Councillors will support this year's Candlelight Stroll and have already provided financial aid for the renewal of our planter boxes (all replaced in May). The BWC has entered into an agreement with the City for the use of the Lock Keepers Shanty – a plan will be in place to paint and help maintain this wonderful building at the entranceway to Port Dalhousie. Tremendous progress has occurred with Carlos Garcia Park. In partnership with

the Port Dalhousie Conservancy, a three-phase plan was submitted to City Council, and we anticipate completion by early fall. The BWC also received a tour of Dalhousie House, and we have advocated for its potential future use and a resource for our community.

Summer Gardening

By the time you read this hopefully everything in Port has been planted and blooming well. We thank all the volunteers who came out in early May to help refresh the soil in our planters! You will have noticed our new wooden planter boxes in Port. Thanks to Councillors Mako and Williamson for financial assistance with this project, and a big thanks to Sandy Slater for coordinating the team. Our flower colour choices this summer (yellow and purple blue) will match closely the City's 150th celebration and honor Port's bicentennial! You can help us maintain our beautiful plants and flowers if you can help us with daily watering. If this is something you are interested in, sign up for a week, from Sunday through Saturday. You can water any time in the day to suit. We provide watering cans and water at convenient locations. Make it a family outing, finishing with a coffee at your favourite Port haunt, an ice cream or even a glass of wine. Contact us at portdalhousie@yahoo.com if you can help.

Also, the weeding of our gardens occurs Wednesday mornings. So if you're interested, we meet at the old Port Mansion site at 9:30 am for a morning of sun, fun and pulling weeds.

Summer Concert Series

We are incredibly pleased to welcome three new concert sponsors to our family – KaiserHaus European Bistro, Ellis Engineering, and Jim's No Frills (Lake St.). Join us June 20th for a great evening of Latin and Caribbean music with La Fondita Musical and the Revolution Steelband (sponsored by the St. Catharines and Niagara Regional Twinning Association). The following week (June 27th) will be Country night featuring Chippawa Dirty, and soloists Stevie James, Jay Nicholls and Stephanie De Shane. This concert is co-sponsored by the Royal Henley Retirement Community and The Rennie Seniors Apartments. For families and children, July 25th will be our Children's matinee featuring the award-winning Smudge Fundaes! Enjoy these upcoming shows. All our concerts are free, with donations accepted to help keep Port beautiful and vibrant all year long!



Pollinator Garden Glow-Up

The Howes Park pollinator garden is getting a glow-up! This garden features grasses and flowering plants that were found in Niagara before European settlement. These plants provide vital food and habitat for beautiful butterflies, birds, bees, and other pollinators, many of which need specific plants in this garden to thrive. We hope you will enjoy your walks by the garden this year! Interested in helping us rejuvenate it? Please reach out to us at portdalhousie@yahoo.com.

Rock on the Lock Concerts (7PM)

June 20 th	Latin and Caribbean
June 27 th	Country
July 25 th	Children's Matinee* (2PM)
Aug 22 nd	Jazz & Blues
Sept 12 th	Celtic Folk

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Photo by Lauren Garbutt

A Table Set Across *Generations*

On the morning that Chef Tolga Baykala first walked through Port Dalhousie, he stopped on the pier and felt something he hadn't expected: recognition. The lighthouse, the small harbour, the way the light moved on the water — it reminded him of home. Not just of Türkiye, where he and his wife Ada had built their lives with their young son, but of something older and deeper. The kind of home you carry in your bones even when the place itself no longer exists.

That feeling is at the heart of Lokanta Mediterranean. The local, family-run café officially opened its doors and its patio in old Port Dalhousie on Saturday, May 16, with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Mayor Mat Siscoe and Councillors Marty Mako and Bruce Williamson.

Tolga is Circassian, one of the world's least-known Indigenous Peoples, whose homeland in the Northwest Caucasus



Photo by Haskell Photography

was invaded by the Russian Empire in the 19th Century. The genocide that followed was catastrophic. Up to 97 per cent of the Circassian population was killed or displaced. Those who survived fled across the Black Sea and settled throughout the Ottoman Empire. Tolga's ancestors were among them.

"Most people have never heard of us," Tolga explains. "That's part of why I cook. Every dish I make is a way of saying, we are still here. This culture survived. It deserves to be tasted and known."

"We felt welcomed here from the very first day. That's not something you take for granted when you're far from home."

— Ada Baykala

Lokanta's menu is a living archive — Ottoman lamb stew slow-cooked from a recipe passed down through generations, börek stuffed with spiced beef, çevapi sausages served with ajvar, a red pepper sauce, and warm flatbread. These are memories made edible, carried across centuries and oceans to Port Dalhousie.

Lokanta, a Turkish word meaning "friendly, casual eatery serving homestyle food and a welcoming experience," aims to be just that. A home away from home.

"Our son is why we came to Canada," Tolga's wife, Ada, says. "We wanted him to grow up somewhere he could breathe and be free." Their nine-year-old son was born in Türkiye, shortly after the country took a turn toward authoritarianism.

They chose Port Dalhousie because it felt immediately like a place they belonged. "It feels like a small Mediterranean village," Ada says. "We felt welcomed here from the very first day. That's not something you take for granted when you're far from home."

A Place Where *Everyone Belongs*

Lokanta is not just a place to eat healthy, homestyle Mediterranean food — it is a symbol of a centuries-long struggle for belonging. It embodies the belief that food can do what little else can: reach across time, across oceans, across languages and cultures, and turn strangers into friends. Its doors are open seven days a week. Come hungry. Come curious. A table is waiting for you. For reservations or takeout, please call (905) 938-9772 or book online at lokantacafe.com.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

YESTERDAY AND TODAY:

Port Dalhousie's Maple Leaf Rubber Factory

The really big event came on the day after New Year's Eve in 1899 when the entire facility burned to the ground, writes Dennis Gannon

Our old photo this week, helps to tell the story of an important former Port Dalhousie industry. Those two huge buildings were built in 1900 to house what was probably the largest manufacturer ever to operate in Port Dalhousie — Maple Leaf Rubber Co.

Our old photo this week, taken around the year 1910, helps to tell the story of an important former Port Dalhousie industry, and also documents an important change that has occurred to the face of Port over the past 50 years.

Those two huge buildings were built in 1900 to house what was probably the largest manufacturer ever to operate in Port Dalhousie — Maple Leaf Rubber Co.

The site, next to Lock 1 of the third Welland Canal, had housed industries at least as far back as the 1850s, when the Norris (later Norris and Neelon) grist and flour mills were established there. Their old wood frame buildings were taken over in 1885 by Maple Leaf Rubber Co., a producer of all

kinds of protective rubber boots and shoes. Both industries — the flour milling and the rubber boot manufacturing — benefited from the power generation capability of the site, using water diverted from Martindale Pond.

The 1890s were an eventful period for the factory. The firm came under new ownership in the mid-1890s. In



Courtesy of Dennis Walker

This old photo, taken about 1910, helps tell the story of an important former Port Dalhousie industry. Those two huge buildings built in 1900 to house the largest manufacturer ever to operate in the town - the Maple Leaf Rubber company. Right: Lincoln Fabrics today.

1898 it and the 240 jobs it offered were almost lured away from Port Dalhousie by special tax concessions being offered by Peterborough. But the really big event came on the day after New Year's Eve in 1899 when the entire facility burned to the ground.

With that, Maple Leaf Rubber was back to square one. It started all over, with the construction of a much more modern facility, opened in 1900: two huge brick buildings,

situated on opposite sides of Lockport Road at the entrance into the village.

The manufacture of rubber footwear would henceforth be done in the building on the left, while the building on the right contained the offices of the business as well as its warehouse. The two buildings were connected by a double walkway between their third and fourth floors.



aerial passageway to it.

Lincoln Fabrics continued production there until 2016. In June 2017 the property was purchased by Port Dalhousie Harbour Club Ltd. of Toronto, with plans to make the old building part of an ambitious condominium project. The property is presently for sale.

Our "today" photo shows what remains of the former Maple Leaf Rubber/Lincoln Fabrics complex and also documents the vast changes that have taken place in the heart of Port Dalhousie.

The water in the foreground of the photo, extending to the base of Maple Leaf's office/warehouse building, was what was left of the first and second Welland Canals through Port Dalhousie.

In 1979-80 that old canal channel and the adjacent Muir Dry Docks were back filled in to create the grassy picturesque landscape of today's Rennie Park. ■


- Dennis Gannon

is a member of the St. Catharines Historical Society

Reprinted From St. Catharines Standard

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The Life of Benjamin Pawling

From Loyalist Soldier to Niagara Leader

In the turbulent years surrounding the American Revolution, few lives reflected the upheaval and opportunity of the era more than that of Benjamin Pawling. Soldier, settler, magistrate, and politician, Pawling's journey from Philadelphia to the Niagara frontier mirrors the story of many United Empire Loyalists who helped shape early Upper Canada.

Born around 1749, likely to a family of Welsh origin, Pawling spent his early years in Pennsylvania before the outbreak of revolution changed the course of his life. When rebellion spread through the American colonies, Pawling and his brother Jesse cast their lot with the British Crown. Their loyalty came at a cost: family lands were confiscated, forcing them northward.

By 1777, the brothers had reached Quebec and joined Butler's Rangers, a provincial corps known for its frontier warfare. Pawling served for seven years, rising to the rank of captain. Contemporary records described him as a "farmer," while his brother Jesse, who also served with the Rangers as quartermaster, was styled a "private gentleman." Pawling's military service included operations along the Susquehanna and later, duties connected to the western frontier, including Detroit.

With the war's end in 1783, Pawling—like many Loyalists—faced the task of rebuilding his life in unfamiliar territory. Though records suggest he intended to settle near Detroit, by 1783 he had already established himself in the Niagara region. Within a few years, he

was living between Four Mile Creek and the head of Lake Ontario, and by 1785 he was firmly rooted in what would become Grantham Township.

The Crown compensated Pawling for his loyalty with a substantial land grant. By 1792, he held approximately 3,000 acres in the District of Nassau. His property, situated near Twelve Mile Creek along the Lake Ontario shoreline, quickly became productive farmland. Within a few years, he had cleared significant acreage and planted crops, establishing himself as both landowner and agricultural pioneer.

But Pawling's influence extended far beyond his fields. As the Niagara region developed, he emerged as a key figure in local governance. When the Nassau District was established in 1788, Pawling was among its leading officials. He served on the land board alongside prominent figures such as Robert Hamilton and Nathanael Pettit, helping oversee land distribution and settlement—issues central to the colony's growth.

In that same year he was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas, and in 1789 he became a Justice of the Peace, a role he would hold for decades. His responsibilities placed him at the heart of early civic life in Upper Canada, dealing with land claims, disputes, and

local administration during a formative period.

Despite these positions, Pawling's record of attendance suggests a man stretched thin by competing demands. Of dozens of land board and court sessions, he attended only a handful. In 1793, he appealed to John Graves Simcoe to relieve him of some duties, citing the burden they placed on managing his private affairs. His petition offers a rare glimpse into the pressures faced by early settlers balancing public service with the realities of frontier life.

Pawling's political career reached its height in 1792 when he was elected to the first Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, representing the 2nd Riding of Lincoln. He defeated merchant Samuel Street by a wide margin. Although records of his activity in the assembly are limited, his election alone marked him as a figure of influence in the young colony.

In the militia, Pawling continued to serve his community. Commissioned a major in 1794, he later rose to lieutenant-colonel in the 1st Lincoln Regiment before resigning prior to 1806. Notably, he does not appear to have taken part in the War of 1812.

Beyond his public life, Pawling was a family man. He married Susan

Ballinger (Berlinger), and together they raised several children. As a recognized United Empire Loyalist, his children were granted land, continuing the family's legacy in Upper Canada.

In a surprising final chapter, Pawling's name appeared in December 1818 on the masthead of the *Niagara Spectator*, alongside publisher Bartemas Ferguson. This brief venture into publishing drew him into controversy linked to reformer Robert Fleming Gourlay, whose criticisms of colonial administration stirred unrest. A letter published in the paper led to charges of seditious libel, and Pawling was reportedly held on bail. However, the partnership was short-lived, and events soon overtook him.

Benjamin Pawling died on December 16, 1818, in Grantham Township and was laid to rest near Twelve Mile Creek. His wife was buried separately at Butler's Burying Ground in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

From dispossessed Loyalist to landowner, magistrate, and legislator, Pawling's life tells a story of resilience and adaptation. In the uncertain years following the American Revolution, he helped lay the foundations of a new society in Upper Canada—one shaped by loyalty, hardship, and the promise of a fresh start.

Along with grammar and spelling help from Chat gpt, my thoughts and research.

After all I did attend McArthur. ■

- Don Jones

"When rebellion spread through the American colonies, Pawling and his brother Jesse cast their lot with the British Crown. Their loyalty came at a cost: family lands were confiscated, forcing them northward."

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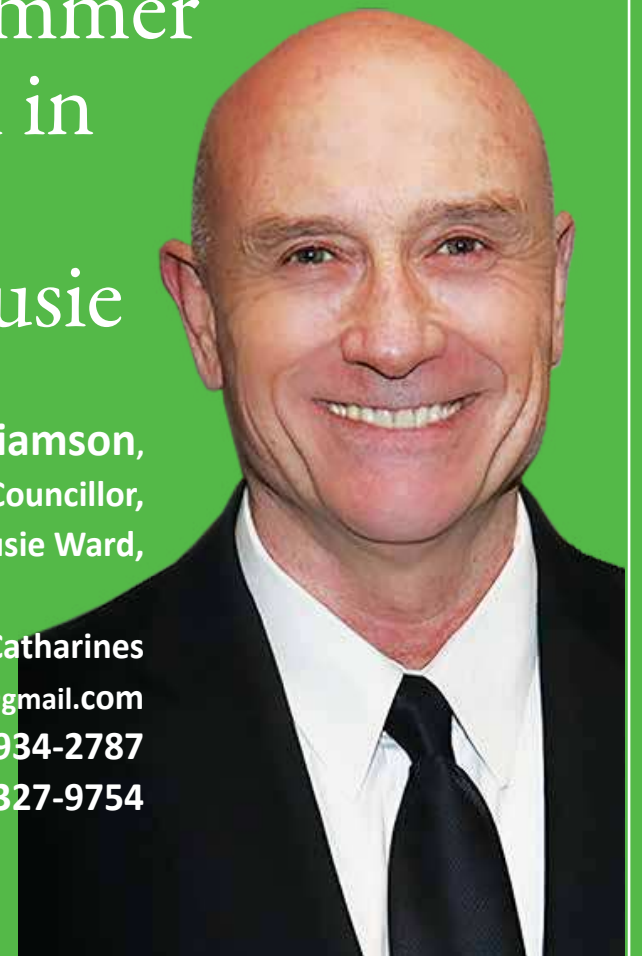
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Voices of the Past



A former Alderman for Port Dalhousie, Mr. Stevens, born in 1918, first began selling Christmas trees in 1934 and then in Port Dalhousie on Main Street beginning in 1937. It was a family business that involved his wife Marguerite and their three children.

John Stevens
1918-2003

A Christmas Tradition

"After I sold out of Fruit Belt Trucking in 1972, a friend of mine who was the head of Vineland Growers told me of some trees that had been planted in Fonhill by a grower who had died. They were looking for someone to handle the trees. Vineland Growers weren't interested so my friend asked me if I wanted to have a look at them. After that we had a cut-your-own deal in Fonhill from 1972 to 1981. We thought we had to do something to get this cut-your-own thing going. We talked to John Laroque at C.H.S.C., and he said his son was in the Scouts and if we wanted to give the Scouts a few dollars he would give us a little publicity. So we got a big soup kettle and had the Scouts serving hot dogs, soup and coffee on the weekends. We used to get a big kick out of the soup kettle. We had a sign that read 'Pay What You Wish'. Some guys would get a hot dog and a bowl of soup and throw in \$5.00 for the Scouts.

Another one would come in with a carload and be arguing about how much to put in the pot. Put in a buck for a carload. But it all wound up okay. One weekend we went through 75 gallons of soup. We put everything in it. Tomatoes and a lot of meat. It was good soup and everyone liked it."

Excerpt from *Port Dalhousie: An Intimate History*



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From Where I Sit ...

The City of Niagara? Nothing but bad choices!

Hank Beekhuis

It seems that amalgamation fever has hit Niagara once again. There were many amalgamations years ago when the Region was first created but now we are hitting the big time, under severe pressure from the province. The first proposal was to amalgamate into a single city which would be over 40% larger in surface area than Los Angeles, which has a population 8x times larger than Niagara, or a new proposed truncated four-city model which is likely to be very expensive and resolve little. Now the province has imposed a less democratic model which simply reduces the number of politicians arbitrarily and replaces them with appointed officials. Having 12 mayors hold two full-time jobs with no obligation to represent the positions of their respective councils, as well as a powerful appointed chair, is a recipe for corruption and lack of accountability. It should be noted that the city of Hamilton, which has a similar population base to the Niagara Region, has TWICE the cost of governance than Niagara, even though we have more elected politicians.

We would never say that no improvements can be made to any governance model, or that no improvements are required. These should, however, be based on evidence, not on the desires of a few to increase their power and control. Increased efficiency is not automatic and does not just fall from the sky when amalgamations or reductions happen. The excuse of increasing housing is laughable given that a city like St. Catharines has a large number of approved projects that are going nowhere merely because of market conditions, not decisionmaking.

Amalgamations, should they occur, ought to come naturally with the ownership and buy-in of residents.

What specific problem are we trying to fix? Niagara is not a singular city in any sense of the word. It is a Region of small Municipalities that are widespread, in some cases many kilometers apart, and have differing interests and ways of doing things. There must be a good reason besides "too many politicians" to force amalgamation, bypassing the input of local residents. In the past, it took many years for the resentment of residents to subside when Port Dalhousie and Merriton were forced to amalgamate with St. Catharines in 1960. Remember "Succession Day?" Let's not duplicate that.

Here are some Basic Do's and Don'ts of any attempt at amalgamation or streamlining:

A. DO streamline decision-making and avoid unnecessary duplication. It is, however, very important that municipalities have both the responsibility and the requisite authority within their own boundaries to be able to properly service their community. The Region should only look after what has been specifically uploaded to them by local municipal government and what is provincially mandated for them. That should be their sole responsibility. I have never understood or seen the sense as to why we have Regional roads within the boundaries of a local municipality. The effect of this is that a municipality loses control, not only over decisions about road maintenance, but also infrastructure, snowplowing, tree cutting etc.

We don't even know which telephone poles belong to whom, or which standards apply. Responsibility and authority belong together.

B. DO only those things that are within your responsibility, and don't second guess the legislative decisions of municipal governments. Each level of government should fund its own civic initiatives, and if they download or upload their obligations, the funds to accomplish these projects should accompany them. As an example, look at the Regional issues we have with police services, where we have local funding responsibility,



but little to no legislative authority. If the province wants to run it, let them and they can pay for it too.

C. DO question the motivations of those pushing for this and demand transparency and accountability from them. Force them to give you clear examples of increased efficiency and specific cost savings. There has been, for example, a push to consolidate fire dispatch with the hope of eventually amalgamating fire services. Most firefighters in Niagara, however, are volunteers. Does anyone appreciate the fact that a volunteer station is 1/10th the cost of a full-time station, or that rural fire services have different needs than cities?

D. DO keep asking the question "why". The onus should be on those proposing changes, not on those who are more or less content with the current set up, but who yet may want to see some improvements. No change for the sake of it. There are many reasons why costs are going up faster than any of us would like, but they often have little to do with the number of politicians.

E. DO make sure that the Province stops downloading services that ought to be paid by income tax which is paid by everyone to only property tax owners. An analysis of what has been foisted on the Region and Municipalities over the past decade should be done and restitution made.

F. DON'T insult our intelligence by claiming that money will be saved without direct and identifiable evidence. Studies by Brock University, the University of Western Ontario or even the right-leaning Fraser Institute have found NO evidence of savings for ANY previous amalgamations.

So what makes this any different? What happened to the costs of Niagara's public transportation when that service was uploaded to the Region? Bigger is not always better. Magna corporation for example stops building plants larger than about 100 employees because efficiency and oversight drops off after that.

G. DON'T take away our democracy and let the few rule the many! Things like elections and keeping the ward scale of representation where elected officials live and are well known is important. Some wards in St. Catharines are larger than some local municipalities. Access to the political process is paramount if the public is going to feel a part of what is happening in their own community. At-large elections are subject to financial and lobbying pressures that allow for all kinds of potential corruption as those politicians require major funding for their campaigns. The proposal to have only the municipal Mayors run the Region (many of whom are already conflicted in their full-time roles and have strong mayor powers) are placed in a position to overturn democratically

approved legislation. This is asking for trouble. Having Councils at least elect their representative to the Region may be a better choice. What do you think it will be like to have a chair and Regional Council that is completely unfettered in representing anyone but themselves.

H. DON'T confuse jurisdictions. Stay in your respective lanes! The region ought to focus on areas between municipal boundaries, and stick with Regional issues that have been specifically uploaded to them by the municipalities or the province, such as certain infrastructure, transportation and Health services. Decisions have cost consequences. For example, Niagara is legislatively required to have one Municipal Nursing Home. We currently have nine, which is more than the city of Toronto! Niagara's net funding of each facility is 30% higher than any private or charitable nursing home in the area. Both are funded by the province. That costs a lot of money that other Regions simply don't have to spend for the identical level of care!

I. DON'T allow any amalgamation to erode our valuable farmland and woodlands. There is no need for it and allowing for infill that could occur between communities will cause nothing but unnecessary urban sprawl. We all know that, for the sake of efficiency, we should be building up—not out. Suburban sprawl is only financially sustainable until the developer-paid infrastructure wears out. After that it becomes a municipal responsibility and is completely inefficient and unsustainable. The taxes paid won't cover replacement. Ontario currently has over 37,000 acres within Municipal boundaries that are still vacant and developable. We don't need more but we do need the nature and agricultural land we have left.

Some smaller amalgamations may make sense and be more natural, especially when towns are immediately adjacent and already share many services, institutions, industries and have more natural inter-connections. In those cases, they probably should discuss amalgamation between them. Towns many kilometers apart simply don't share services, industries, institutions or culture and will likely always need to be autonomous to not be dominated by those who don't understand their needs or unique situations. ■

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In His Own Words: Alexander Muir

As a Young Man He First Visited Port Dalhousie in 1837 and Was Impressed by its Location.

One of the useful documents for anyone interested in the early history of Port Dalhousie is the "autobiographical" sketch written in 1890 by Alexander Muir (1819-1910). His sketch provides us with his genealogy dating back to the late 18th century.



Alexander Muir 1819-1910

Muir left home in 1832 as an apprentice seaman, sailing between Great Britain and the Far East. In 1836 he sailed from Scotland to Quebec where he met with some of his family. Muir sailed as a captain on the Great Lakes between 1837 and 1847. Strangely enough, Muir as a mariner was unable to swim!

He first visited Port Dalhousie in 1837 and was impressed by its location. In 1841, he purchased a one-quarter acre lot on Queen Street (Dalhousie Ave.)

for \$60 where he built his house. Land registry records showed that Muir purchased various properties from Nathan Pawling between 1857 and 1862.

"That season I made up my mind that Port Dalhousie was the most convenient and best place on the lakes for a sailor, as trade would always be through the Welland Canal; so I purchased a quarter acre of land on Queen street for \$60 and built a small house on it."

In February 1845 Muir married Jane Lang of Kingston and the couple settled permanently in Port shortly thereafter.

Muir's recollections include some interesting anecdotal material. He recounted the story of Captain Scott of the schooner "Harriet Calvin." Scott somehow got his leg got into the coil of rope when he was checking the vessel's bow line. As a result, his leg "was cut off between the knee and the foot and the leg fell overboard into the canal." One wonders: was the leg recovered and buried in one of the cemeteries in Port Dalhousie? This happened in the early 1840s.

A major part of Muir's narrative concerned temperance. He observed that many sailors and captains lost their jobs through "strong drink" He

continued: "I then asked my God to help me and from that hour till the hour of my death I would drink no more liquor." He kept his vow and up to February 1890 claimed, "I have never touched the unclean thing." Muir recorded that there were three taverns in Port "to supply 14 families with the poison," and that in fifty years "there have been only about four sober old men died in Port Dalhousie."



Alexander Muir house, 43 Dalhousie Avenue (Queen Street)


Muir stated that there were "only 10 or 12 families" in Port Dalhousie in the early days. Some were emigrant families who worked on the Welland Canal. He listed the names of the first families: Pawling, Ingster, Woodall, Wood, Brown, Abbey, Alexander, Read, Irvine, Smiley, McGrath, Neelon, Sullivan, and Bruce. Muir carefully noted their religion, countries of birth, and whether they were temperate. Muir described most of them as drinkers (moderate to heavy), while



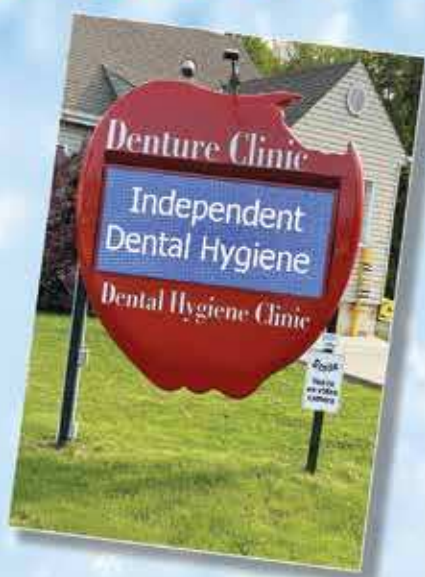
others were "drunkards." Only a few were "sober and industrious." Muir recalled that the men would gather on the beach near Lock 1 of the old canal where they would drink "then they would go home about midnight, shouting and singing, making all the dogs in the village bark." He specifically mentioned Mrs. McCullough who, after drinking at a ball, "was found lying dead on a bed...in a fearful state to look at."

Ships often waited to be repaired at Shickluna's drydock and Muir concluded that "more drydocks were wanted." He had saved \$4,000 and "I made up my mind that I would build a floating dry dock and give up sailing." In the autumn of 1850 Muir hired four local men to cut down elm trees and to hew them into square timbers. The trees, "three feet on the stump," were purchased for 75 cents each!


Muir stated that the floating dock was built where the Welland Railway Depot was located (on the Michigan side). It was 150 feet long, 43 feet wide, and 12 feet deep. The lower part was built out of 12-inch square pine logs and topped with oak planks. The dock had 100 tons of stone which served as ballast. The main gate was ten feet deep by the full width of the dock. Water was let into it through a two-foot square gate and drained from the opposite side. Muir installed two large pumps (at a cost

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of \$500) to help to drain it. The dock leaked “because of the straining it was subject to” and required day-round attendance at the pumps to keep the facility dry. Through the intercession of William Hamilton Merritt, Muir obtained permission to construct a ditch which would carry away any excess water from the dock.

Lock One of the Second Welland Canal was wide enough (45 feet) to allow the dock to be “locked up” into Martindale Pond. To get the floating dock into its permanent location required cutting through the tow path. Samuel Woodruff, canal superintendent, refused permission to do this. Squire Pawling came to Muir’s assistance. They obtained permission to cut a floating bridge (at Muir’s expense) by which means they got the dock through and secured into place with wooden pilings.

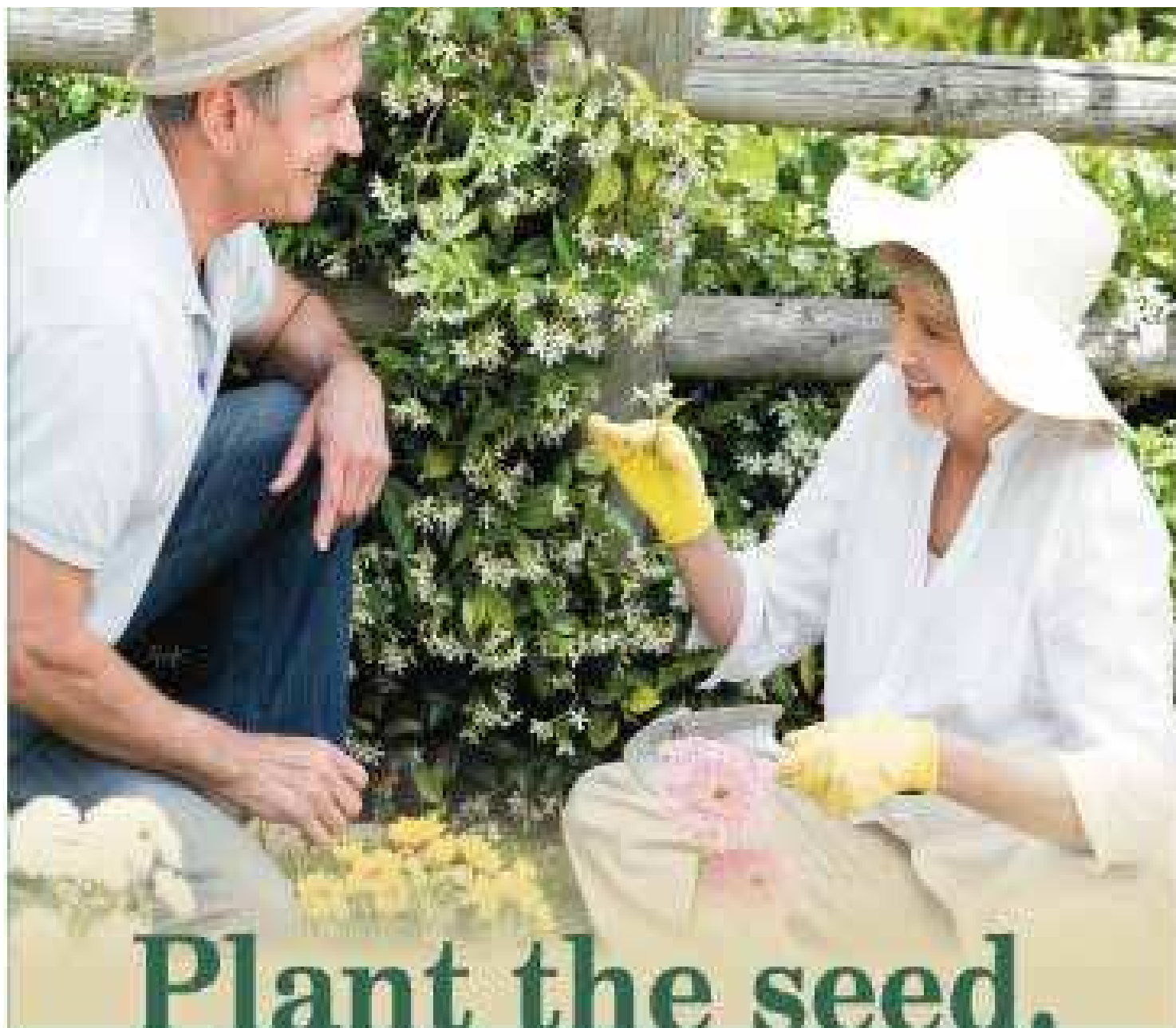
Louis Shickluna spread rumors that “the dock would upset with the first vessel that went into it.” This did not happen and the floating dock was used for the next fifteen years. The first ship to be repaired at Muir’s facility was the “Robert Woods” of Oswego. A few years later Muir built his first ship, a schooner named the “Ayr,” which took two years to complete at a cost of \$17,000 (approximately \$719,000 in today’s currency). The “Ayr” was launched in March 1855.

Eventually Alexander’s four brothers became partners to form Muir Bros. By 1866, Muir Bros. had built a permanent dry dock next to the floating dock. They worked for 15 years to “cut down” the hill beside their dock; the fill dumped into the water created an extra half-acre of land. The dock was constantly busy with ship repairs and building. During periods of financial hardship Muir had his men paid in produce which was a satisfactory solution.

In the spring of 1889, Muir fired most of his workers who demanded \$2.00 per day instead of \$1.50. Muir’s foreman, Samuel Perry, was the instigator and he was “always siding with the men against their employers” and favoured Catholic workers over Protestants. The dissatisfied workers were quickly replaced with “non-union men.”

The Muir brothers purchased wood lots to supply them with timber. Ships from the Muir fleet travelled far and wide, including American and European ports. Their third dry dock was built at Port Huron, Michigan. Muir’s memoirs included a list of all the ships that the firm had built down to the year 1890. ■

- Brian Narhi



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Random Reminiscences

Snapshots of Growing up in Port as an Unfettered Adolescent - Part One

Bappy, Bugsy, Bo, Nozzle, Tex, Thorpy, Doc, Doozer, Hector, Gig, Weasel, Hawkeye, Mouse, Tank, Speedy, Bonker, Deuce, Butcher, Corny, Twister, Frenchy, Hunky, Pop, Muggy, Buff, Chucker, Slip and Slim, Scotty, Fats, Pop, Saucer Eyes and Caterpillar Johnny.

These are the nicknames of people I had the good fortune to grow up with, a collection of post-World War II adolescents, teenagers and characters who inhabited this place we know as Port Dalhousie. Before amalgamation with St. Catharines in 1961, it was an incorporated town with a population of around 2,500 souls, with its own town council, post office, public utilities, fire department, policing, grocery stores, hardware store, bakery, barbers, churches, schools, hotels, restaurants, a dry dock, a Masonic Lodge, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350 and a laundry. All the fixings of a close-knit independent community. TV was a recent development that broadcast programs in fuzzy black and white on 10" screens mounted in big wooden cabinets. Stations such as the CBC, CHCH in Hamilton and WKBW and WBEN out of Buffalo, were our only viewing options, unlike the streaming digital universe of today, which offer a mind-boggling, even stupefying array of choices for viewers.

But that's another story. I hung out with a bunch of guys my age during that time. Our basic haunts were Lakeside Amusement Park, at the picnic tables in front of the Arcade, and if nobody was there, I could always check the benches at the corner of Lock and Main or Bucky's Variety on Main Street, where there was usually somebody hanging around, especially after supper. We'd smoke cigarettes, shoot the breeze, and watch the occasional car as it passed by. Not much happened in Port at night, but there was always something afoot. Someone would usually come up with an idea, a prank or some other form of mischievous behaviour. Anything for a laugh, anything to enliven the quiet, and as far as we were concerned, boring hometown.

One night as we were killing time at the benches at Lock and Main, Tex, (full nickname Tex Ritter... don't ask me why) had a brainstorm. His eyes had drifted to the top of the telephone pole on the corner where he spotted a photocell. He decided to scale the pole and check it out. We all watched him climb up by the steel footholds which had been conveniently installed by the Port Dalhousie Public Utilities Commission. He got to the top then reached up and lit a Zippo lighter in front of it. Lo and behold, all the streetlights of Main Street winked off in

park grounds at night. One of them, I can't remember which, was always chewing on the stump of an unlit cigar. They reminded me of the old cartoon characters Mutt and Jeff.

Caterpillar Johnny ran - you guessed it - the Caterpillar Ride, and Big Hank Lemon oversaw the bumper cars across the midway, beside the arcade. Muggy worked in the pinball arcade. One time he noticed a group of boys surrounding a pinball machine for what seemed like a long time and they won a lot of free games. They returned regularly and he

and Doc, who, for no particular reason, hated each other. Teenage boys... go figure. Now don't get me wrong, fights were few and far between, although the town had built a bit of a reputation as a rough and tumble place, what with the amusement park attracting drifters and the like.

Mr. Howard, the custodian at McArthur Public School which stood at the corner of Main and Pine, used to go up to the flat roof of the new addition once a year and throw down all the baseballs, lacrosse balls, and assorted rubber balls that had accumulated from the adjacent playground and baseball diamond. Guys like George Upper and Sam Robinson could hit the baseball far enough to land on the roof, and if I remember correctly, I once saw George hit one over the school's roof. Anyway, a bunch of us would gather on that day to catch the balls Mr. Howard threw down. Whatever you caught you kept.

Speaking of baseball, as kids we played organized little league softball and practiced at the Gracefield schoolyard. Our coach, Miss Groman was a sturdily constructed, no-nonsense woman who had her old spaniel at her side all the time. Eddie the cop, who walked the beat in town was the assistant coach and the rumoured paramour of Miss Groman. He mostly stood by and watched the action during practices.

She was lobbing balls to hitters while others shagged the fly balls in the outfield. My older brother stepped up to the plate, a notorious line-drive hitter. On the first pitch he tattooed the ball, it glanced off Miss Groman's forehead, and she collapsed to the ground. Eddie ran to her and helped her up, checking to make sure she was ok. She shook him off, composed herself, and despite the protestations of Eddie and others, continued with the practice. With Miss Groman's encouragement, my brother, rattled by the episode, stood up to the plate and she lobbed the ball, which he crushed. The ball hit her in virtually the same spot and she went down again. Eddie waved his arms frantically and called off the practice as she struggled to her feet. Then with a smile on her face and a lump on her forehead said: "Bet you boys haven't seen that before eh!" We were all dumbfounded. I mean, what were the odds of being hit by a ball twice in a row, and in the forehead no less? She was a trooper, Miss Groman.

At another practice I was hitting balls to teammates in the outfield. I threw one up into the air, swung my bat and knocked out her spaniel. The dog, who I wasn't paying attention to, thought I was playing with the ball and just as I tossed it up in the air she jumped to catch it. I swung the bat and hit her. I can hear that "thunk" sound even now. Pandemonium erupted and Miss Groman rushed over and picked up her dog, which was woozy but conscious. I was completely mortified, even though she said it wasn't my fault. Luckily the dog fully recovered, but from then on the spaniel side-stepped me whenever I got too close to her.

For the most part Port was quiet and peaceable, an idyllic place for kids to grow up. Some of my friends who have moved away comment about how



"There was always something afoot."


unison. He flicked the lighter on an off so many times, people came out of their houses to see what was going on.

The streetlights also made attractive glowing targets for BB guns at night, so it wasn't unusual to see a Port PUC crew replacing the incandescent lightbulbs on a semi-regular basis.


Slip and Slim were a couple of older guys, who with Slip's old black mongrel dog in tow, worked at the amusement park doing odd jobs, and generally looked after the place for Syd Brookson, the owner. They chased more than one of our brat pack off the amusement

became curious how they were winning so many games. He walked by and saw that one of them had a large magnet with which he guided the steel balls to the point-producing bumpers. Talk about homegrown ingenuity.


The sandy space in between the arcade and the bumper cars was the site where I watched one of the occasional fist fights that broke out, a particularly bloody one between Scotty and some guy from Western Hill, our avowed enemies along with the Facer Street boys. Another vicious fight I watched was outside McArthur School at recess, between Bo



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fortunate we were to have experienced this special place during those times. Times before cellphones and computers, digital tv and the internet, where a phone was attached to a wall, not to ourselves. We had milk, eggs, bread, and ice for the icebox delivered to our door. McMahon's Dairy, who used to have a farm at the west end of town, delivered milk by a horse-drawn wagon, and the delivery man never had to touch the reins. The horse knew every stop along the route.

With the lake on one side of town and Martindale Pond on the other, there were a myriad of options for adventure and exploration. Read's Island, (now Henley Island) where Chief James Smiley, a conscientious objector, hid out from government agents during WW1, was a favorite place to explore. We never did find the tree he was rumoured to have shot down with his 22-caliber, sharp-shooting rifle, although some people

remember him shooting small glass balls off the hat of Roy Henderson, and picking off dimes thrown in the air from a floating dock in front of the Grandstand, all for the entertainment of the Henley Regatta audiences. He owned a canoe livery on the bank of Martindale Pond, just west of the grandstand. At one time he was a barber in town as well as a police officer, and he walked around with his ivory-handled six-shooters holstered to his legs and a ten-gallon cowboy hat, offering up quotations from the classics, ancient philosophers, Greek mythology, and the Bible. He was self-taught and seemed to possess encyclopaedic knowledge. He lived and died on Martindale Pond, and is buried in St. Andrews Cemetery at the end of Johnston Street, not far from Alexander Muir's grave. ■

- Peter Wing



McArthur School stood at the corner of Pine and Main.

Photo courtesy of Michaela Plante



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Let's Celebrate 200 Years of Port Dalhousie!

Port Dalhousie is turning 200, and the community is invited to celebrate this historic milestone with a full day of festivities at Lakeside Park on Saturday, July 18, 2026, beginning at 12:00 pm.

Hosted by the volunteer-run Port Dalhousie Bicentennial Committee, this signature birthday celebration will bring together residents, visitors, families, and local businesses for a vibrant day of live music, food trucks, merchant tents, carnival games,

inflatables, children's activities, and a special Port history area showcasing the rich heritage of this lakeside community. The festivities will continue into the evening with a movie night in the park after dark.

Admission to the event is free, making this a fun and accessible event for the entire community to enjoy. Residents and visitors alike are encouraged to come out,

celebrate, and be part of this occasion honouring 200 years of history, connection, and community spirit in one of Niagara's finest neighborhoods.

For updates and event information visit www.pd200.ca



Happy Birthday Port Dalhousie!
1826 - 2026

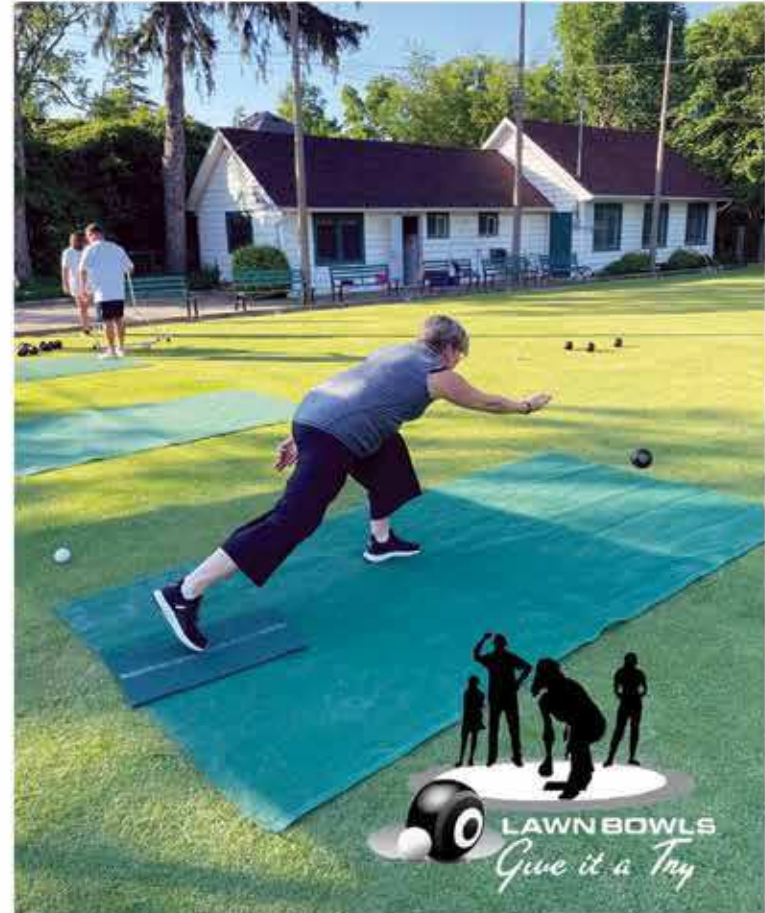
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS AT
Lakeside Park

Live Music Food Trucks Kids Crafts Inflatables
Carnival Games Merchant Tents Port History Area
Movie Night in the Park after Dark

SAVE THE DATE **SATURDAY JULY 18, 2026**
12:00 PM - 10:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION **PORT DALHOUSIE** EST. 1826
www.pd200.ca more details to come...

Join Us at the Port Dalhousie Lawn Bowling Club



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Come out and support your local club

Open House and BBQ
Saturday, June 6, 2026, 10 am-1 pm

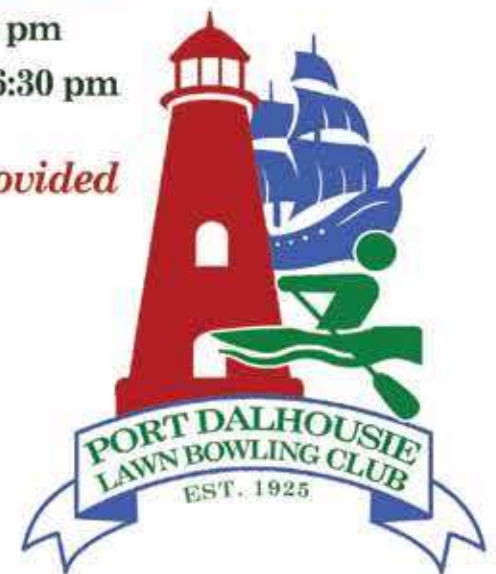
Regular Lawn Bowling nights

- Mondays & Fridays at 6:15 pm
- Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Instruction and bowls provided for first year members on Tuesday nights!

** Please wear flat shoes and comfortable clothes*

Questions?
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Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community.



Marty Mako
City Councillor, Port Dalhousie

Another Successful Trivia Night

The Sold Out Event Was Another Great Night of Trivia



On March 27 the Port Dalhousie Conservancy held its 17th Annual Trivia night at the Armenian Centre on Martindale Road. We had a new trivia master this year due to the retirement of Ron Newton. Mike Balsom of "Your TV" fame stepped in and did a marvelous job for us! We also wish to thank the Armenian centre for their continued cooperation and support.

This event would not have happened, however, without the hard work of many often under-appreciated volunteers. A heartfelt thanks go to the following volunteers who continue to make this all possible: Esther Chadwick, Marianne Kond, Sheridan Alder, Barb McLeod, Ed Szaszi, Christine Rossetto, Jackie Szymanski, Amara Szymanski, Mike Balsom, Kris Broughton, Rick Broughton, Bruce Williamson and Marty Mako.

The PDC plans to use some of the funds raised to support the Carlos Garcia Parkette project as well as our ongoing work with the Trolley Booth, the Port Reporter and other projects that enhance the heritage of Port Dalhousie.

Thank you for your ongoing support and We hope to see all of you again at next year's trivia night!

Pd The Port Dalhousie Conservancy

Voices of the Past



An amiable gentleman, Mr. Cox grew up on his family's farm to the west of Port Dalhousie, likely part of a tract of land granted to United Empire Loyalists. His memories reflect the country life that included fishing in the creeks, swimming in the lake and playing hockey on the pond.

Ernie Cox
1913-2007

Fishin' and Swimmin'

"We had a great time as kids. There were about five or six fellows around here my age and we did a lot of fishing. We caught perch, catfish, sunfish and other small fish down here on Martindale Creek. They dumped a bunch of carp in there and they started doing away with all the small fish. From then on it wasn't the same. When they closed the weir down in Port Dalhousie the fish couldn't get up into the creek from the Lake. A lot of guys in Port Dalhousie were mad about that.

There was a step there for the fish just the other side of the Fabric Works. They'd jump up. They closed that all off and that stopped the fish from coming up here. A lot used to come up when they brought boats through the old locks. There were a few of the Read boys that were my dad's age and they would fish off the bridge on Martindale Road. They would fish all night with dip nets catching suckers, pike and catfish. They would take a big wash tub down there and throw them all in and take the horse and wagon and haul them all back.

They do refer to this as Richardson's Creek, but it's been Martindale Creek, not Richardson's Creek as far as I can remember. Richardson's Creek is on the other side where the Henley Regatta course is from Martindale Road on down the other way, around where Read (Henley) Island is.

Our gang used to walk down Read Road (now Courtleigh) and down the bank to the lake for a swim. The water was nice and clear then. We'd also swim from this bridge over to the railway bridge and back. When we'd get out, we'd climb up through a bunch of bulrushes to get up to the road. Then the water became polluted. But it would clear up some in mid-summer when the rain had stopped."

Excerpt from *Port Dalhousie: An Intimate History*

A Delicious, Nutritious Summer Recipe



Easy Tostadas

Total Time: 15 minutes mins
Serves 4 to 6

We love this easy tostada recipe! It's a great flexible weeknight dinner—set out the crunchy tostadas with toppings and let everyone assemble their own.

Ingredients

- 8 to 10 tostada shells
- 3 cups homemade refried beans, or 2 (16-ounce) cans refried beans, warmed
- 2 avocados, pitted and thinly sliced
- 3 cups mixed shredded iceberg lettuce and red cabbage
- 1 cup crumbled Cotija cheese
- Sea salt
- Lime wedges, for serving
- Other Topping Options
- Chopped fresh tomatoes, Pico de Gallo, or salsa
- Mexican crema or Cilantro Lime Crema
- Pickled Jalapeños or Pickled Serrano Peppers
- Fresh cilantro leaves

Spread each tostada shell with a layer of refried beans, about ¼ to ½ cup.

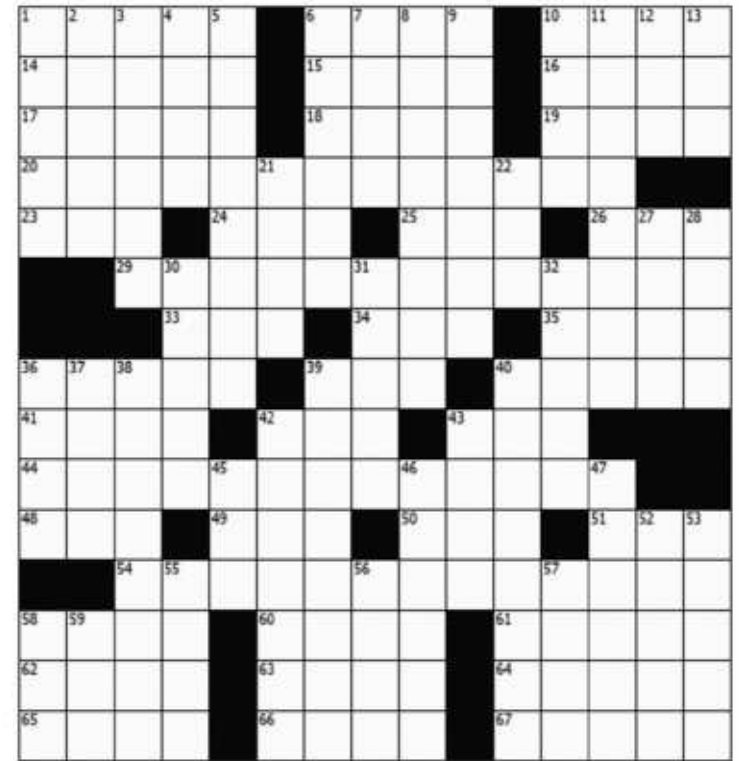
Top with the avocado, lettuce and cabbage, and Cotija cheese. Add other toppings as desired. Season to taste with salt and serve with lime wedges for squeezing.



SUMMER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Sandbar
- 6. Takes the bull by the horns
- 10. Portent
- 14. First in a series
- 15. Fingerboard ridge
- 16. Hemingway, for one
- 17. Profit
- 18. Memorization by repetition
- 19. Canyonlands locale
- 20. Home cook's low-cal staple?
- 23. System starter?
- 24. It often comes to a stop
- 25. A guy on the green
- 26. Landmark Supreme Court name
- 29. Home cook's salad choice?
- 33. Albanian coin
- 34. Join forces, in a way
- 35. Chihuahua snack
- 36. Revise
- 39. Word with cap or coat
- 40. Country on the Irish Sea
- 41. TV's Roseanne
- 42. Honorarium
- 43. Tropical garland
- 44. Home cook's entree?
- 48. Title in India
- 49. Ward workers
- 50. Peachy keen
- 51. Historical period
- 54. Home cook's breakfast enhancement brand?
- 58. School visitor of rhyme
- 60. White wader
- 61. Aspirin targets
- 62. Jim Davis mutt
- 63. German actress Sommer
- 64. Tune for the unhip
- 65. Candlelike
- 66. Core element?
- 67. New drivers, often



Down

- 1. Sci-fi setting
- 2. Ruinous damage
- 3. Elocutionist
- 4. Quarreling
- 5. Sadie Hawkins Day originator
- 6. From the top
- 7. Gator cousin
- 8. On a short leash
- 9. Braced (oneself)
- 10. Numbered piece
- 11. Kind of witness
- 12. Fed. regulator since 1970
- 13. "Ixnay"
- 21. Thick, messy stuff
- 22. Double switchback
- 27. Without repetition
- 28. Things that may become bruised
- 30. Trouble indicator
- 31. Nerdy guy
- 32. Prepare a slide
- 36. How-to stuff
- 37. Co-star of a 1939 classic
- 38. Backpacker's fare
- 39. Fit for repeated service
- 40. Achilles' heel
- 42. Likes
- 43. Role for 37-Down
- 45. Work or energy unit
- 46. Upped the ante
- 47. Make fun of
- 52. Argument
- 53. Nave endings
- 55. Mind
- 56. Armstrong transport
- 57. Common ground for Bush and Kerry
- 58. Contemptible
- 59. Decay-fighting org.

*Answers on page 22

**our
common
ground
looks like this.**

It's the glow at the end of the day.
It's one more ride on the
Lakeside Park Carousel before closing.
It's the moment we all stop, look out,
and share the same view of cotton candy skies.
From beach days to chasing sunsets,
these are the spaces that bring us together,
season after season.
We're here to care for them,
so they're ready for you to enjoy them.

stcatharines.ca/stc150

COMMUNITY SUMMER CALENDAR

June 20

**Dalhousie Yacht Club
Sailpast 2026 2:00 pm**

The entire fleet of Boaters and Social Members are invited to join our Board of Directors and local dignitaries to participate in this year's blessing of the Fleet and Sailpast.

Rock on the Lock Summer Series

7:00-10:00pm

International Night featuring Revolution Steelband and La Fondita Musical

More information on Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee FB page!

Port Dalhousie Community Garage Sale,

8am to 2pm - Location: Your driveway!

Join the community for a day of garage sales throughout Port Dalhousie. We already have quite a few homes participating and are always looking to add more!

For details or to join:

• Facebook event: www.facebook.com/share/1B6Vsq3dnV/?mibextid=wwXlfr

• Email: port_is_home@hotmail.com or message through the Facebook event page

Come out to shop, sell, and connect with the community!

**St. John's Church
Strawberry Social and BBQ**

June 21

28th Annual Drumming Down the Sun

7pm to 9:15pm

Celebrate the summer solstice at the 28th Annual Drumming Down the Sun event at Lakeside Park Beach in Port Dalhousie. This family-friendly evening features beach drumming, a gentle "Yoga on the Beach" session from 7-7:45 p.m., and a vibrant community gathering to welcome the sunset. Participants are encouraged to bring drums, yoga mats, blankets, and donations to support beach rental costs. Event takes place east of the carousel near the beach access area. Parking fees apply. Find full event details and updates on the Facebook event page hosted by Niagara Nature Tours.

June 23

Food Trucks Supper Market - Lakeside Park

Starting every Tuesday (weather permitting)

Join us in Lakeside Park every Tuesday, starting June 23th, 2026. Grab a bite from one of the food trucks, sip on a glass of local wine, craft beer, or artisan cocktails, as you settle in for an evening of laughter and live music on the beach. We are family and pet friendly and strongly encourage you to bring a lawn chair or blanket!

Open for Business from 5:00pm, Music starts at 5:30pm
Closes at Sunset

June 25-28

TD Niagara Jazz Summer Festival

1-844-LIV-JAZZ (548-5299)

For more details: Check out the event page on their website: <https://niagarajazzfestival.com/schedule/>

June 27

Port Dalhousie Foodie Fest & Summer Market,

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Food • Sweet Treats • Handmade • Local Artisans.
Port Dalhousie Lions Club on Main
www.portdalhousiefoodfest.info

Rock on the Lock Summer Series

7:00-10:00

Country Night featuring Stevie James, Jay Nicholls, Stephanie De Shane (Ranger), Chippawa Dirty. More information on Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee FB page!

July 1st

**Lakeside Long Weekend
Fireworks and Drone Display**

Hosted by the city of St. Catharines.

Lakeside Park, June 30-July 1

More info on City website

July 11

Family Appreciation Day and Kidpreneur Market:

Grantham Optimist Club, 188 Linwell Rd.

Mark your calendars for a full day of festivities designed for the whole family. This event features classic fun including face painting, a dunk tank, softball skills competitions, alongside a full schedule of softball games. We are also proud to host our Kidpreneur Market and are looking for young entrepreneurs to showcase their businesses. Booths for children are completely free, and we are accepting applications for those interested in participating. For more information check out www.granthamoptimist.org. Be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram for all updates (@granthamoptimistclub)

July 18

Summerfest in Lakeside Park

Happy Birthday Port Dalhousie!

Celebrating 200 years! 12pm to dark

Live Music, Food Trucks, Carnival Games, Vendors, Inflatables
<https://pd200.ca/>

July 25

Rock on the Lock Summer Series

2:00-3:00PM.

Children's Concert. featuring the Smudge Fundaes.
More information on Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee FB page!

July 27

Emancipation Day "Big Picnic"

12pm to dusk

Lakeside Park, from 1pm to 9pm

Matter of Black will be hosting the annual "Big Picnic" Emancipation Day STC celebration at Lakeside Park on Sunday July 27th from 12pm to dusk. There will be a live DJ throughout the Day, live music from LMT and Rennatha and Vybe, a Black Owned 905 Market, food trucks and more! This is a free family friendly all day event, everyone is welcome!

August 2-9

The 142nd Royal Canadian Henley Regatta

MASTERS AUGUST 2 · OPENING CEREMONY AUGUST 3

RACE WEEK AUG. 4-9

Cheer on the crews at Canada's oldest and North America's largest rowing event.

www.henleyregatta.ca

Peach Festival & Bake Sale

St. John's Church

August date to be announced

Baking, preserves and dinner with peach dessert!

August 8

Grantham Optimist Club, \$5 Pasta Dinner & Raffle

188 Linwell Rd

Enjoy one of the best deals in town while supporting a great cause. For just \$5, you can enjoy a delicious meal of pasta, meatballs, and salad. This also launches our Basket Raffle, featuring over 35 incredible prize packages. Raffle sheets are available for \$5, and every cent raised goes directly back into our mission to support our community. For more information check out www.granthamoptimist.org. Be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram for all updates (@granthamoptimistclub)

August 15

53rd Niagara Barbershoppers Corn Roast

Port Dalhousie Lions Club 5:00 pm

Same great venue with loads of parking, same great food with lots of corn (we'll get even more this year!) and same great chorus, A Cappella Niagara as your hosts.

Put it in your calendars, bring your quartet or chorus or both!!

Remember to sign up to sing on the show by emailing Niagaracomroast@gmail.com

Watch their FB page for information on ticket sales.

August 22

Rock on the Lock Summer Series

7:00-10:00

Jazz & Blues Night featuring Danny Boy Phelan, Juliette Dunn Trio, Brant Parker Band.

More info on Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee FB page!

August 29

Friends of Youth Golf Tournament

Grantham Optimist Club, 188 Linwell Rd

Help us grow our park and youth programs by hitting the links. We are currently seeking sponsors and participants for this annual event. If you are interested in sponsoring or would like more registration details, please reach out to us at gofriendsofyouth@gmail.com. For more information check out www.granthamoptimist.org. Be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram for all updates (@granthamoptimistclub)

September 4-6

Cornucopia

Sailors and sailing enthusiasts, mark your calendars for September 4th to 6th, 2026 because Cornucopia is back! Its the DYC racing event of the year and a Port Dalhousie tradition! Our Racing Committee warmly invites racers of both PHRF and OD fleets and sailing enthusiasts for a weekend filled with competitive races and enjoyable social events. In addition to the great racing, there are always a variety of events around the club. Come join the racing and stay for the party. www.dalhousieyachtclub.com/cornucopia

September 12

Rock on the Lock Summer Series

7:00-10:00

Celtic Night featuring Daryl Gray, De Menezes Reilly Irish Dancers, Ceol Cara, Grass Mud Horse. More information on Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee FB page!

September 20

St. Catharines Terry Fox Run

Lakeside Park - Registration 9:00 a.m. Start Time: 10:00 a.m.
<https://run.terryfox.ca/129621>



Dalhousie Yacht Club Learn to Sail

Learn to Sail - 2026

Our Learn to Sail Mission: Promote the sport of sailing and sailing skill development in youth and adults through qualified instruction of Sail Canada curriculum in a safe, positive and inclusive environment. Check out the DYC website for more information: <https://www.dalhousieyachtclub.com/sailing-school>

Kids Summer Derby

July 1st - September 5, 2026

Kids Day - Saturday, September 12/26

In person, the fish from shore event is back!

All kids 2-16, free to participate

Details can be found on our Kids Summer Derby Facebook or Instagram page or at our <https://scgfa.ca/event/kids-derby/>

Regatta Parking

Various Rowing Events throughout the summer

Offered at St. John's for a free will offering

Check out their ad in this issue for more info!

The Friends of the Carousel's 26th Anniversary

"Keeping The Dream Alive!"

Weekend hours are 11:00am to 8:00pm

until Canada Day weekend.

Open DAILY from 11:00am to 8:00pm

beginning Canada Day weekend until Labour Day.

Open on Weekends from Labour Day until Thanksgiving

from 11:00am to 6:00pm.

THANKS for visiting and keeping the dream alive.

Port Dalhousie Legion Activities

Check out their website for more details: <https://www.rcd350.ca/events> on any events happening this summer

City Events

Check out the City event page for summer events throughout the city of St. Catharines

lovestc.ca/upcoming-events/

Music in the Square

Come down to Market Square and enjoy local live performances. More details:

<https://www.stcatharines.ca/en/arts-culture-and-events/summer-concert-series.aspx>

Available Self Guided Heritage Tours in St. Catharines

Explore the City of St. Catharines' rich history and take one of our heritage tours. Whether you're traveling by foot, bicycle or car, our tours will take you to some major historic attractions. This is a great way to learn about the history of our community. Both tours below are self-guided

Walking Tours

There are two self-guided walking tours. Review each of the tours and plan your route.

Victoria Lawn Cemetery Walking Tour

Downtown Heritage Corridor Walking Tour

Canal Driving Tour

The Canal Driving Tour in Merriton Ward gives visitors information about the history of Merriton and highlights some of the interesting sites along the Welland Canal. The tour starts at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre and there is interpretive signage installed along the route.

Check out the city of St. Catharines website for more details on these self guided tours to learn more about the history and legacies of your community!

www.stcatharines.ca/en/arts-culture-and-events/heritage-tours.aspx

St. Catharines Museum

Stay in the know on upcoming museum events and programs. Check out the museum events and calendar for virtual lecture series schedule and as well as when in person events will commence.

www.stcatharines.ca/en/arts-culture-and-events/museum-events.aspx



October 2 & 3

Cicada Music & Arts Festival

Henley Island

St. Catharines' premier indie music festival returns to Henley Island in Port Dalhousie

Watch their website for updates and tickets: <https://www.cicadafestival.ca/>

Ongoing Events

Port Dalhousie Lions Community Update:

Please note there will be no spaghetti dinners in July and August as we take a summer break. Join us for our Labour Day Celebration, presented by Portfolio Realty, on Sunday, September 6, a great way to wrap up the season with the community! We'll also be bringing back our popular spaghetti night in September (date to be announced). For the latest updates and event details, be sure to check out our Facebook page. Have a safe and wonderful summer!

The Port Reporter provides free listings for any Port Dalhousie (or vicinity) area events that benefit local charities or community organizations and would be of interest to Port residents, vendors and visitors. It is at the discretion of the editorial team to include or exclude submitted events. Readers are strongly encouraged to check directly with the organizers prior to the event as details do change because of weather etc. Submissions are due by the 1st of the month prior to publication and can be sent to : advertising.portreporter@gmail.com.



Voices of the Past



Mr. Johnston was born On February 28th, 1920. He and his wife Gloria both grew up in Port Dalhousie were active in many aspects of the community including rowing, sailing, church and business. The Johnston family has resided in Port Dalhousie for nearly a century and contributed conomically, politically and socially to the community.

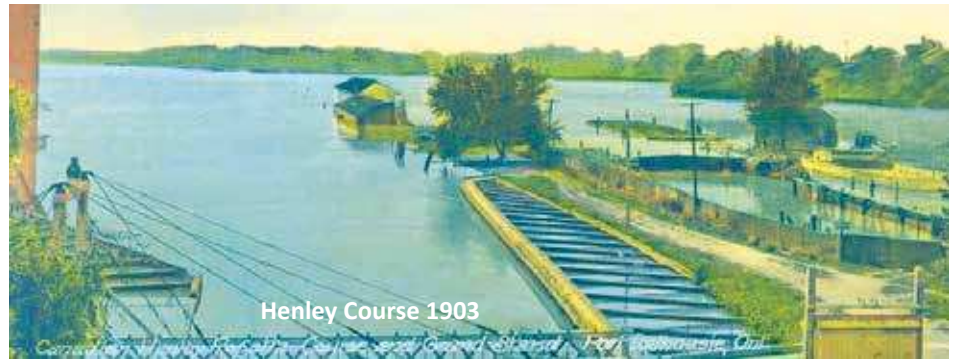
Colin and Gloria Johnston
1920-2004 1922-2016

Colin Johnston Sr.: *"The fruit farmers would ship the fruit to Toronto on the Dalhousie City first thing in the morning. The freight train would come down here at 10:00 at night loaded with fruit. It would be put in the freight shed that ran northerly from the ferry landing. The freight train would come in on one side of the shed and put the fruit in. Then they put it through the other side and on the boat to Toronto in the morning. They used to go at 8:30 in the morning. You could set your clock by it. I can remember hearing the whistle blow. It was the signal that it was time to get to school. The Northumberland blew the whistle coming into the harbor at 4:30 PM, that was the signal to get home for dinner. This would have been in the early 20s and 30s."*

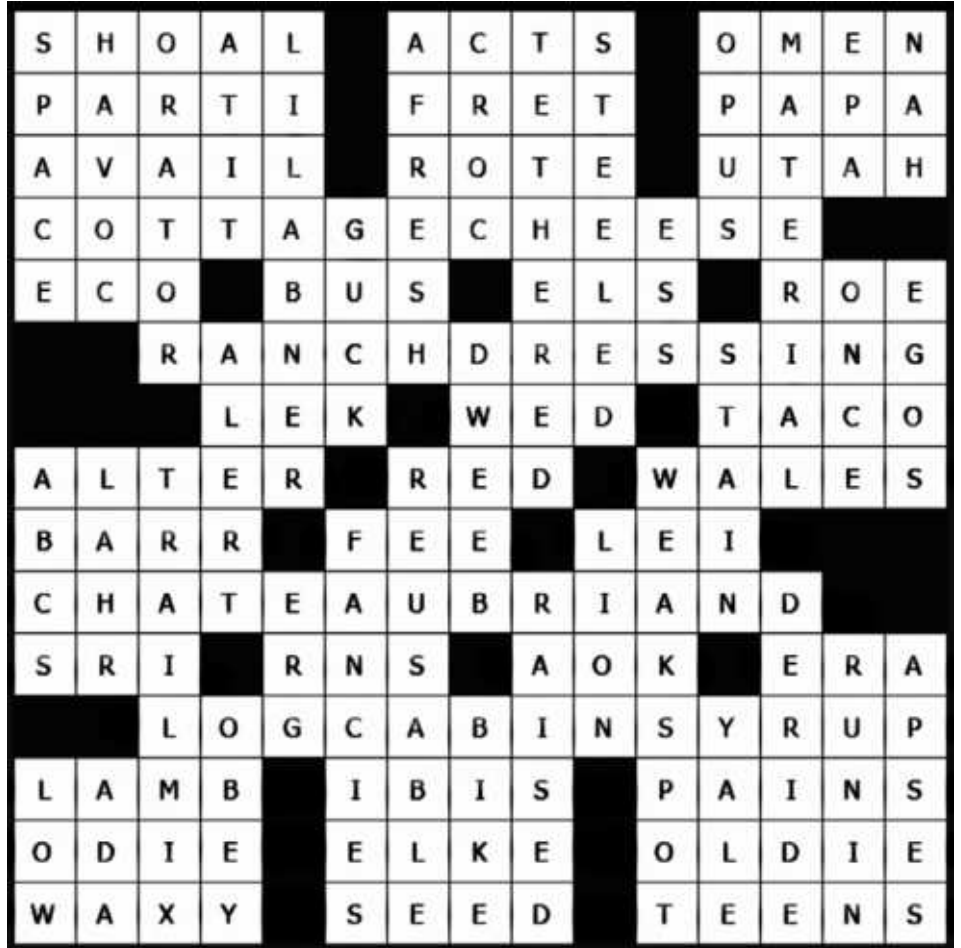
When I was a little guy, they had ice boats out on the pond just for sport. They had races but it was short lived. They were homemade affairs with skates; 3 skates, two in the front and one on the back that they steered with, and a sail on it. I can remember when coming about they would shout, "Heads down. We're coming about." and the boom would swing over top. The conditions had to be just right. You had to have a winter with lots of ice and wind but no snow.

Gloria Johnston: *"Rooms for rent to summer people was quite a popular enterprise. At the foot of Main Street there was a whole bunch of shacks and cottages (Gary Road). All down in there, below the hill, were all these little dwellings with one or two rooms. It was called Berryville because the family by the name of Berry owned it. People used to come over on the boat and rent those places for a weekend. Mostly they were vacant in the winter. One or two of them were well constructed and there was a man and his son that lived year round in one of them."*

Excerpt from *Port Dalhousie: An Intimate History*



Henley Course 1903



HARBOURSIDE DENTAL

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

Doctors Mark Poustie, Frank Korody and our team of dental professionals pride themselves on providing our patients with only the best dental services.

We have an active Facebook page which is informative and also allows our followers to provide feedback. See our website for a list of comprehensive services, photos of our beautiful office and the smiling, friendly faces you'll encounter when you visit Harbourside Dental. We encourage anyone who is thinking of becoming a patient to stop in, take a look around and meet our friendly staff.

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

Dentistry by
Dr. Frank Korody & Dr. Mark Poustie



Photo by Cathy Hammond



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Chris Bittle

Member of Parliament - St. Catharines



Wishing you a happy summer as we welcome longer days and new beginnings.

Have any federal issues, reach out to my office, we would be happy to help!

Community Office	www.ChrisBittleMP.ca	
61 Geneva St. Unit 1, St. Catharines, ON L2R 4M6 905.934.MPMP (6767) Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca		
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