

THE REPORTER

VOL.16 NO.1

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

SPRING 2021

Will Port Return to Normal This Summer? And What are MZO's Anyway?

I hope the pandemic eases. There are positive signs that the COVID pandemic is slowing, but your guess is as good as mine as to whether we'll be back to "normal" by the summer months. So we will cross our collective fingers and hope for the best. But just in case, keep up those all important COVID protocols.

This issue has our regular features such as the restaurant review, Hank Beekhuis' From Where I Sit opinion column, The BWC Report, the Councillor's Report and various historical articles, poems and photos we hope you will enjoy.

But I would like to use some of my allotted space here to write about an important issue that one way or another could ultimately affect our common natural environment. The Port Dalhousie Conservancy obviously deals with issues that will negatively alter the architectural and cultural heritage of Port, but also are active in advocating on larger issues that impact the wider population. One of the most pressing issues is the unprecedented use of MZO's (Ministerial Zoning Order) by the Ontario Government. The MZO allows the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to unilaterally overturn any and all land use policies adopted by municipal and regional governments, as well as invalidating decisions of public commission hearings or collective

Continued on page 2

The Port Mansion - Gone But Not Forgotten

It has been ten years since the Port Mansion was unceremoniously torn down and many citizens are still angry and upset at its loss.

Somehow the Port Mansion always seemed to fit nicely into the popular vision of Port Dalhousie despite the changes it had undergone over the years. Some claim the changes weakened its historic authenticity by converting it to fit an era more in keeping with honky-tonks and the Great Gatsby. True enough, its façade did become more early twentieth century than part of the gritty pioneer times of its origin. The structure dated from 1860 and it started as two separate buildings. The first was the Union Hotel, erected by Squire Nathan Pawling who was Port Dalhousie's most prominent land owner. The second and neighbor, was the McGrath Hotel, built the same year by Bernard McGrath who, as a relatively recent immigrant, had left Ireland looking for a better future. Whatever he was seeking he clearly found it in Port Dalhousie for he never returned to his native land. The McGrath family had been attracted to the area by the Welland Canal, and their hotel was also the head office for their ship-towing business. What we now know as Lakeside Park was in those times a newly created land extension built from dredging to clear a navigable entrance, with a 14 feet draft, for the entrance and the harbor servicing the Second Canal (opened in 1845) from Lake Ontario. During the prime years for the

Continued on page 2



"These are three prizes from my dad's game stands that I have kept all these years. I remember driving to Toronto with dad to pick up boxes of "slum" as it was called. I believe the man's name was Jack. Small little trinkets, monkeys on a stick, and plaster." - Robin Cudney Cosoletto

Secrets of the Lakeside Park Midway

Step Right Up, Ladies and Gents, Win a Prize!

All of the prizes for the Lakeside Park midway games were as cheaply made and obtained wherever possible. As I recall, they were usually made in Japan and/or China. The prizes were bought by the boxful from a supplier in Toronto. Each concessionaire ordered, and paid for, the supplies that were needed for his own games since one concessionaire could run more than one midway game. I believe that, if there were to be discounts for quantities, then the owners would get together and send in a large order and

then split up what came and pay for the prizes accordingly.

There was a wide variety of prizes to be won. The most sought-after prizes were stuffed animals. I seem to recall that these took the form of teddy bears and rabbits. They were seldom won by anyone and it was a thrill on the midway to see that someone had won one. The stuffed toys were usually awarded as a "come on" and were given out as encouragement for others who would pay to play the game in the hope of winning one too.

It seems that the N.S.& T. Railway (Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Railway), that owned the park when Sid was manager, had a policy that prizes must be awarded to players for every game and that the price for a game could not be over ten cents. This applied to any games where "luck" was the criterion for winning a prize. With these rules, the N.S.&T. sought to protect its customers, and patrons, from unduly being taken advantage of by carnies who might be tempted to

Continued on page 3

input from citizens. The use of MZO's is nothing less than a subversion of the democratic process and the marginalization of Municipal and Regional government's control over local land use policy.

In a recent case illustrating the blatant overreach of Premier Doug Ford's government, it ordered the Toronto Region Conservation Authority to issue a permit to allow the Triple Group of Companies to build an Amazon distribution warehouse of up to four million square feet on protected wetland in Pickering. The conservation authority voted against it, and a nearby golf course which could have been used for the development was rejected. Thankfully Amazon it seems, realizing the impending public relations disaster, withdrew the proposed project.

Since the Ford government has taken office, it has reduced the influence of provincial conservation authorities to a dangerous degree. It has instituted provisions that constrain the ability of the province's authorities to protect the natural environment and regulate development. It has also introduced new channels through which developers can obtain permits. Former Toronto mayor David Crombie resigned as chair of the Greenbelt Council in protest along with six members of the council, which advises the province on land use planning issues across the Greenbelt. The bill, Crombie states, "will cut the heart out of watershed planning, which is vital to environmental planning in the province of Ontario". Enough said.

But now on to the Spring issue of the Reporter, which we hope you will find informative and entertaining. And please stay safe out there! ■

- Peter Wing

towing business more than 150 teams of tow-horses were stabled on this newly reclaimed land we now know as Lakeside Park. This land formed the home base for hundreds of stablemen, hostlers and tow-team drivers and their boy helpers. From 1850 the major cargoes were moving westward bound, carrying grain from Europe to feed settlers in the heart of the North American Continent. Within ten years the flow was reversed as Canada's prairies were opened for settlement

"The people of Port have determinably fought to preserve its central beauty. That is why today it offers strolls along the harbour piers, picnic spots along the beach, lovingly preserved nineteenth century homes and public buildings and tree-lined streets with a succession of vistas overlooking Lake Ontario."

under the Homestead Act, and started producing grain. This was also the opening years in the era of technological advancement. Just as the Second Canal with its 28 professionally crafted stone locks was so vastly superior to the original canal (1829) which operated with 40 wooden, and leaky, locks, so year by year the steam powered ships, the screws, were increasing in numbers

on the lower lakes. Their greater carrying capacities equipped them to out muscle the sailing ships for cargoes and, being independently powered, these steamers could complete passages through the 28 canal locks without assistance. Gradually the need for towing was phased out. Even though change comes inevitably with the passing of the years, Port has demonstrated a remarkable resilience in its survival. One of the biggest changes and major set-backs was the transfer of



the Welland Canal which had been the sole reason for Port Dalhousie's creation. The moving of the Canal understandably triggered the loss of many associated industries and suppliers. The resilience behind Port's survival has been based on the simple principle of avoiding architectural destruction as the times changed. The people of Port have determinably fought to preserve its central beauty. That is why today it offers strolls along the harbour piers,

picnic spots along the beach, lovingly preserved nineteenth century homes and public buildings and tree-lined streets with a succession of vistas overlooking Lake Ontario. It seems that everyone in our broader community knew the Port Mansion, from kids heading for the beach and carousel and amusements, and every age in between including parents and grand-parents, rowers from around the world, and boaters visiting the marina from around the Lakes. Its theatre was a boon. Being so cozy made it the perfect fit for Port Dalhousie, and for many years the third-floor-theatre had proven its worth as a popular social meeting place that kept delivering to our doorstep a remarkable range of talents and performances at reasonable prices. And so with a sigh here is a tip of the hat to Bernard McGrath and to Squire Pawling, plus a sad fare-thee-well to a popular landmark and a heck of a happily enjoyed attraction for so many of us. ■

- Brian Leyden

The Port Mansion was demolished by the developer of the ill-fated Port Place project. The reason for its destruction and why the demolition permit was approved by the City of St. Catharines is still a painful mystery for many residents. - Ed.

Reprinted and Updated from The Port Reporter, 2011



The view from our chair

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

Dr David Bergen



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

Port Dalhousie Volunteers Get it Done!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; but they have the heart."

– Elizabeth Andrew

Port Dalhousie residents have never been shy about volunteering in the community. Jim Rennie was one of the longest-serving volunteers in Port Dalhousie. He was born over the old Community Grocers (that was located at the corner of Gertrude & Main St.) in 1908. Raised in Port, returning in 1939, he was one of the founding members of The Lions Club and worked with the Scouts on paper drives. He devoted endless time to St. Andrew's Church, The Port Dalhousie Quorum, and the Port Nipper. When a park was created on the former site of Muir Drydocks, it was named Rennie Park after Jim to honour his many years of service to the community.

Indeed, many Port residents were deeply involved in the local rowing scene. The Dick family stands out as one that involved the entire family in rowing. Mildred Dick was the matriarch of the family; her husband Charlie was a director of the St. Catharines Rowing Club and club captain in 1952 and 1954. Her two sons, Bill and Gerry, became coaches after their respective oarsmen years and club captains as well (Bill in 1958 and Gerry in 1960-61, 1976). Their respective spouses Joan and Shirley were also active volunteers with the Henley Island Helpers. Shirley was also a member of the only girls rowing crew in the year 1948. Mildred's grandchildren were all active volunteers; granddaughter Lore has been a member of the Henley Island Helpers for many years. Some other Port residents who also served as club captain were Joe LeBlanc (1972-73) and Jim Minards (1955-57).

"Swimming lessons were always a huge hit during the summer, especially if you made it off the beach and onto the pier. Many memories exist of the Volunteer lifeguards Rodger and Nancy Coons, Sue (Stout) Erskine, Joan Kent, Anne Martin and Martha Stuart."



Lacrosse was another Port mainstay with members of the Port Dalhousie Lions Club and others contributing many volunteer hours. When the old sand floor bowl needed to be lined before a game, Lions member Clarence Jones would bring out the lime bag and sift straight lines, circles, and goal creases and pull out the odd weed or remove some debris to ensure all was ready. When the bowl needed replacing, again volunteers such as Bob Makins and John Stevens sprang into action. Teams were fortunate to have some of the best coaches in Lacrosse; Doug Blackwood, Brian Greer, and Ron Winterbottom quickly come to mind.

May Brown was a Volunteer who started the St. Andrews Church Jr Badminton club and coached it for over 40 years. Every kid who came to the club were "Her Kids" and she knew all their names. The church was closed in 2014 and then sold. An unfortunate ending to a great sport for many young people to enjoy.

Every Saturday morning you would see smiling faces at Latcham Lanes with kids enjoying YBC bowling with volunteers like Shirley Carr, Doris Eckhardt, Marg Summers, and Bill Latcham. Some of us believe that we invented Salt & Vinegar chips, right here in Port Dalhousie. We would purchase a bag of plain chips and then proceed to pour vinegar and salt into the bag and sit back and enjoy the new taste, along with a glass of swamp water from the soda fountain.

Swimming lessons were always a huge hit during the summer, especially if you made it off the beach and onto the pier. Many memories exist of the Volunteer lifeguards Rodger and Nancy Coons, Sue (Stout) Erskine, Joan Kent, Anne Martin, and Martha Stuart.

Port also had a baseball league for both boys and girls. For many years Harry Turton, Joe Jenckes, and Larry Cadot could be found behind the plate calling the pitches for many of the games. Coaches for some of the teams included Gord Argue, Don Truesdale, Huck Berry, Jimmy McGrath, Pal Tice, Frank Robertson, Garry Carr, Jim Leish and Gerry and Donna Wing.

Many of the girls would remember going to Brownies and then Girl Guides at the Lions Club under the watchful eye of Volunteers Marion Waldeck, Wynn Wheeland, and Phyllis Berry. Some of the boys of that era might remember "Akela" Mr. Patterson, along with Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Leish, Jim Rennie, and Fred Jackson.

Besides sports, Port Dalhousie had the Lions Club, as mentioned above, which in conjunction with the volunteer firefighters held the annual Halloween Parade along Main Street, just one of many activities the Lions Club undertook to benefit the community. Volunteers from the Lions would flood the lacrosse bowl so we could skate there during the winter. In the 1960's the Lionesses paid to have the tennis courts put in as per Susan Erskine who held the position of treasurer for

Continued on page 4

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.

Editorial Board Hank Beekhuis / Deborah Kehler/ Peter Wing

Editor/Production
Peter Wing

Copy Editors
Bram Hoff/Deborah Kehler/
Henry Knoop

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

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

Deadline for posting of community events, advertising, & article submissions is the first of the month prior to printing (February 1st, May 1st, August 1st and November 1st). Late submissions are considered at the discretion of the editorial board.

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

The Port Reporter is a volunteer run publication. If you are interested in joining our team please contact Allison Beekhuis at editor.portreporter@gmail.com. Email contact is preferred, however if you wish to contact the Port Reporter by phone please call 289-213-3391 and leave a message. Website: www.pdconservancy.org

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

14 years. The Lions were instrumental in putting in the wading pool in 1963 with monies they had raised throughout the years.

The local library branch is located in the former town hall, which was lovingly restored by volunteers, and the Seniors Centre, located in the former fire station, is still active due to people like John Brands who took an active role in the centre. John also provided the speaker system for the annual Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350 Remembrance Day parade, one of the many community activities of the Legion.

When the Merry-Go-Round at Lakeside Park was vandalized in 1970, students from Lakeport High School volunteered to help repair the horses and vintage chariots. With the huge outpouring of volunteers and monies raised through Dorothy Crabtree, the Friends of the Carousel was formed. To this day, the Friends offer: Volunteer Recruitment, Training & Mentorship, also a Niagara Region Schools promotional program.

So, if there is anyone of you that is reading this article and has the "Heart" for Volunteering, there are many areas in Port Dalhousie that would love your time and input: Port Dalhousie Lions Club, Port Dalhousie Legion, Friends of the Carousel, The Beautification and Works Committee, Port Dalhousie Conservancy, The Port Reporter, Port Dalhousie Lawn Bowling, St. Catharines Rowing Club, The Henley Island Helpers, Dalhousie Yacht Club, and the Kiwanis.

One of the benefits of volunteering is meeting new friends with like-minded interests, and of course the satisfaction and gratification that comes with assisting in the cultural improvement of the Port Dalhousie community. ■

- Wendy Holmes Stafford & Bill Stevens

not give out prizes to innocent, trusting game players. Sid Brookson maintained this policy. To counter this, the game operators developed a "system" whereby the winner could "put back the prize and try again for a nickel". This meant that the owners could actually end up getting more than ten cents for any prize awarded. Many people, especially children, "tried again" and the nickels added up.



A small gold coloured glass piggy bank prize could cost the concessionaire as much as 25 cents!

As memory serves, some of the lesser prizes, and the ones most commonly given out to kids, were such things as:

- paper whistles that would unroll as you blew into them
- whistles
- cellulose kewpie dolls
- very thin bamboo canes sometimes with brightly coloured feathers and/or a kewpie dolls attached to them
- small rubber balls attached to paddles
- all manner of garishly feathered gewgaws
 - lead pencils in various bright colours.

In the Ball Game, where I worked, the prizes were a little better and much harder to win. After all, they could cost the concessionaire as much as twenty-five cents. A win was not promised with each try since "skill" and not "luck" was supposed to be the criterion. These prizes consisted of such things as:

- plaster figurines usually in the form of lithe young ladies in all sorts of graceful poses and wearing long dresses. They were painted but only on one side.
- plaster figures of baskets of flowers, monkeys, and pigs, all painted on one side.
- lesser prizes were small rounded vases in dark green or red glass. These had fluted tops that curled outward. In my opinion, they were quite attractive and were sometimes chosen as a prize (for girlfriends) over the plaster figurines.
 - small gold-coloured glass piggy banks.

Just as a note of interest, I sometimes see these glass vases and piggy banks in local antique shops on the shelves of glass offerings. Few people including the dealers know where they came from. For those who worked the Lakeside Park midway, however, the artifacts jump off the shelves and yell, 'Here I am! Try the Ball Game! Win me!' ■

- Fred Tripp

As a young man Fred Tripp worked with Sid Brookson at Port Dalhousie's Lakeside Amusement Park. This is the first in a series of articles "Secrets of the Midway".

Laurie Sprague Designs
 Interior Decorating and Design
"Let's create your very own happy place!"
 www.lauriespraguedesigns.com

Kitchen Design / Colour Consultations / Space Planning / Custom Window Coverings / Lighting / Fabric / Furniture

Port Dalhousie - St. Catharines
 Email: info@lauriespraguedesigns.com
 Phone: (905)687-2192

Bruce Williamson
 Councillor,
 Port Dalhousie Ward
 City of St. Catharines



Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee Spring Report

Greetings from your BWC!
We hope everyone is keeping well. Of course, there is not much to report on again this time. However, we have received many positive comments on

We have traditionally organized an Earth Day clean-up in Port which would be on or around April 22nd...It might be that we ask that the community participate as individuals rather than



both the Christmas decorations which were followed up with a Valentine's Day theme. The team needed to get this done before the Ontario "lockdown" and while the weather remained mild. Thank you to all who helped.

There seems little hope of organizing any events in the first half of 2021, or until we are all safely vaccinated.

in groups. Since the City has not committed to this, we suggest that we hold our clean-up on Saturday, April 24th. We will try and get some supplies and simply use existing garbage bins as drop-off points.

We will review the "Bike Swap" possibility as and when the situation changes.

BWC- Gardens - Appeal

The BWC's volunteers have continued to spearhead the work in the commercial core of Port, with different themes throughout the year. Especially, the planters along the railings on Lock Street, opposite the Kilt, down at the old Port Mansion site, and in the Lock. Notably, this year we also took on the flower gardens surrounding the Cenotaph on Main St. This is normally a city responsibility but the Covid pandemic forced



them to reduce their workload and the Cenotaph gardens were not on their list for care. We feel that this memorial is of critical importance for our community and should not be neglected, we thank the volunteers who invested so many extra hours at this memorial garden and we thank the Versluis family for watering it all summer at their own expense.

As many of you know, we were unable to hold any fundraising events last year, no BBQ, no concerts, NO FUN

At All !! We are sure that you will agree the BWC did a great job with flowers last summer, but, we are concerned about how to match our efforts this coming summer. The BWC bank account is depleted and needs your help. Good quality plants are expensive, we need to budget approximately \$3,000 per year for the gardens and planter boxes. Normally we would hold fundraising events, however, we don't expect to be in that position again until 2022 ...so we need your help for this spring.

Any donation is helpful and can be made by interac E transfer (password BWC) to gary@garyvaneyk.ca or by cheque to PDBWC c/o M. Slater, 181 Main St., St.Catharines, ON, L2N 4V7. This is our community and we all love living here, so please consider helping us ensure the beautification work can continue through 2021. ■

Many Thanks, Your BWC

Move-In Ready

Royal Henley
Retirement Community *by Signature*

Full Service Retirement Living

Discover Today
Safe On-Site Tours Available

Find Us on Facebook

582 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 0A2 | 905-935-1800 | www.RoyalHenley.com

KAISERHAUS.CA 289-213-1292

WINE BAR BISTRO

KAISERHAUS

38 LAKEPORT RD · PORT DALHOUSIE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

AS A THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PORT DALHOUSIE CUSTOMERS & NEIGHBOURS, TAKE 10% OFF ORDERS WITH DISCOUNT CODE **PORT-10** APRIL 1ST-15TH, 2021

DINE-IN, ON-LINE ORDERING, PRIVATE DINING & CATERING
KAISERHAUS.CA



Kewpie Doll Midway Prize

The Welland Canal - Beginnings

- Part One

It was on the frosty morning of November 27, 1829, that the British schooner "Ann & Jane", closely followed by the American schooner "R.H. Boughton", entered Lock One in Port Dalhousie and began the historic ascent of the locks to Port Robinson. Colours were streaming from all parts of their rigging and the "Ann & Jane" carried a silk flag with the words 'The King, God Bless Him' imprinted in gold letters. Once in Port Robinson they passed into the Welland River and arrived in Buffalo on December 2nd.

As it was so late in the season, the ice in some parts of the canal was two to three inches thick. In order to allow the passage of the schooners, the ice had to be broken up by a scow.

The inclement weather did not deter the great numbers of people who crowded the banks firing muskets and hailing the vessels as they gracefully made their way through each lock. The canal was marked by the angular silhouettes of these two ships with their majestic sails.

They began the return journey the next morning and the "Ann & Jane" safely arrived in Port Dalhousie Harbour Saturday, December 5th. The "R.H. Boughton" docked for the winter in Centreville, her captain,

Issac T. Pheatt stating that the trip to Port Dalhousie would be made if desired. It marked the beginning of an era of transportation and commerce that would bring prosperity and rapid growth to the settlement of Port Dalhousie.

The idea of the waterway was born as early as 1710 when Louis XIV's engineer, De la Mothe, believed that a canal could be built to bypass the cataracts at Niagara. Also, Robert Hamilton, over a decade before his death in 1809, conceived the idea of a waterway around Niagara Falls. But it wasn't until William Hamilton Merritt became interested in the prospects of an inland channel that real progress began.

In 1796 when Merritt was three, his family, United Empire Loyalists, brought him to the area near the Twelve Mile Creek. He fought in the War of 1812 and upon his return purchased land on the banks of Twelve Mile Creek. In 1816 he began operating a sawmill and soon discovered that the Creek could not supply sufficient water during the summer months to run his mill. By 1818 he owned several mills

and was in search of a steady and abundant source of water to maintain his operations effectively. Initially, he intended to convey water from the Welland River to his mills which were often idle. The idea of a channel to connect the lakes came later.

So, in the fall of the year, with the aid of two fellow mill owners, John DeCew and George Keefer,



Tony Akerman

and a borrowed water-level, Merritt conducted the first surveys for the water route. He believed a feeder canal could be cut from the headwaters of the Twelve Mile Creek through the Short Hills of Pelham to Chippawa Creek. As his business was suffering he was personally unable to finance

the construction, so he developed the idea of a commercial waterway carrying ships of trade.

Another element served to generate interest in the peninsular waterway. As work on the Erie Canal (1817-1825) had commenced the year before, it was believed, and rightly so, that unless an internal seaway was developed, much of the upper lake traffic would be diverted to New York via the Hudson River. The government of Upper Canada had to act in order to thwart American encroachment.

On June 19th, 1824 a charter was granted to the Welland Canal Company, a private enterprise, and George Keefer became its president. After several surveys were conducted, amendments to proposed plans and actual routes were made. Stage one construction of the first Welland Canal was completed in 1829 and ready to receive the numerous sail craft which would ply the waters and ornament the landscape in the years ahead. William Hamilton Merritt and other mill owners on the Twelve Mile Creek were now provided with a regular supply of water to ensure survival, continual operation, and success of their mills. ■

- Christine Robertson

Excerpt from "A History Outline of Port Dalhousie"

Jennie Stevens
MPP FOR ST. CATHARINES

We will get through this, together!

SUPPORT LOCAL

Please continue to support Port Dalhousie shops and restaurants, let's all help drive the recovery!

jstevens-co@ndp.on.ca
(905) 935 - 0018

From Where I Sit... *The Powerful Myths of Population Growth*



**Hank
Beekhuis**

There have been a number of articles in the Standard recently about anticipated population growth in St. Catharines and the Region. Some sources indicate that we need 67,000 more housing units in the Region to handle all the new people coming to our area as well as some 272,000 new jobs by 2051. The Region indicates that St. Catharines can expect some 36,000 more people by 2041. It's all a bit confusing.

The city's enthusiasm for these numbers is likely driven much more by the desire to spur development and construction than by any desire to reflect what is actually going to happen. It becomes very dangerous when the city uses these dubious projections to make major financial commitments. We should remind ourselves as was

reported last issue, that St. Catharines was projected to have a population of 201,000 by 1991!

Population growth in St. Catharines has actually been anemic at best, and the major growth in St. Catharines came largely from the amalgamations of the '60s. During the period 2011-2016, the overall growth was only 1.3%. Current projections to 2041 have us growing at rates of almost 27% over the period. Enthusiasm notwithstanding, where will this growth come from? At best, it is aspirational but at worst it could artificially inflate housing and land prices to the point where St. Catharines becomes unaffordable. Biking around the peninsula, I see lots of growth happening in Fort Erie, Port Colborne, and Ridgeway, Smithville, and Grimsby but not necessarily in the Garden City.

Anemic growth rates are actually quite understandable. If you talk to senior Port Dalhousie residents they will tell you that in the early days there were kids running all over the place. In fact, it was not unusual for

families to have 5-7 children or more. My generation of baby boomers usually had 2-4 children. Our millennial children however have 1-2 or none, driven either by concerns about the future, climate change, or just plain affordability.

Housing construction in the past was driven largely by the fact that these children needed homes and our

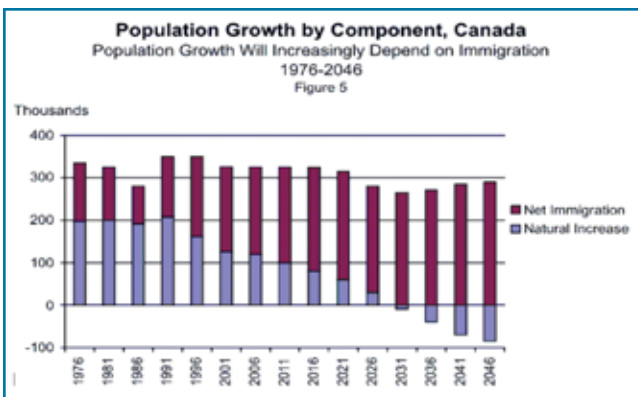
growth is also leveling off.

In the past, we heard a great deal about the baby boom generation and the coming tsunami of growth in population. This growth however is a bell curve and you don't hear nearly as much about what comes after the bubble passes through. None of us like to contemplate our own mortality very much but by 2041 many of us will be gone as we hit and surpass the average age of 82. The fact is, Canada is not growing and according to Professor Linda Duxbury, a demographer from Carlton University in Ottawa, the population of Canada is actually in danger of shrinking.

So, for St. Catharines, where will growth come from if our population is not growing? There are only two options, the first is migration as people move from expensive high-density areas to cheaper lower-density areas. This and downsizing is the basis for much of the condo and small semi-detached complex developments that we see now in the city. This also has its limitations, because when people move here to live out their remaining years, that in itself is temporary, as we can expect constant turnover to occur.

The second source is immigration.

Continued on page 11



housing wishes rose from a 750-square foot post-war bungalow to 3,000 square foot homes for two. That, however, is declining as aging boomers look to downsize and avoid maintenance. We also had the additional phenomena of the rise of single homeownership which now comprises a full 28% of all homeowners; however, this type of



LAKESHORE

CHIROPRACTIC GROUP

Innovative Health Care for YOUR Needs







Dr. Albert Scales, DC
Dr. Scales has been in private practice for over 40 years in Niagara. He first attended the University of Toronto before graduating from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.



Dr. Brendan Macoretta, D.C. BHSc
Dr. Macoretta is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and the chiropractic program at D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y. He is proficient in sports/orthopedic rehabilitation, including soft tissue work, kinesiotaping and developing exercise programs.

Thank you everyone for doing your part with Covid-19 as we continue to do our part making you feel better and function higher!

- *Comfortable Chiropractic Treatment*
- *Spinal Decompression*
- *Laser Therapy*
- *Shockwave Therapy*
- *Sports Injuries*
- *Custom Orthotics*
- *WSIB/Car Accidents*
- *40 Years Serving Niagara*



Alana Goertzen, B.Sc.Kin.(Hons), RMT
- Registered Massage Therapist
- Prenatal Massage
- Infant Massage



Dr. Kewei Ma, Ph.D., M.D., N.D.
- Acupuncture
- Naturopathic Doctor
- Homeopathy
- Asian Medicine/Nutrition
- Chronic Conditions



Phyllis Bubnick, RMT
- Registered Massage Therapist
- Sports Injuries/Senior Care
- Cranio-Sacral Therapy



We're **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** by Locals on Allergable

Check us out on Facebook, Google and RateMD

lakeshorechiropractic.ca

• 905-935-3355
• 126 Lakeshore Road, St. Catharines
• Like Us on 

The Heywood Generating Station - To Be or Not to Be

The Port Dalhousie Generating Station Has Proven To Be a Wise Investment For The City

To be an owner of a public asset or not to be, is a frequently asked question. Years ago, St. Catharines City Council debated the possible sale of St. Catharines Hydro. The discussion was initiated by Ontario Hydro offering to buy local utilities. The offer was conditional on a window of opportunity for sales which would be tax exempted. Thorold City Council decided to sell but St. Catharines City Council did not. I held strong views in support of the decision not to sell the utility based on the argument that our Hydro Utility would pay dividends to the City, similar to a financial annuity which provides a steady income stream to the owner of an asset.

Proponents argued that the sale would go into a Hydro Fund which would yield a market rate of return. True, but my concern was that the Hydro Fund would be a financial cookie jar that would be dipped into to finance pet projects of Councils, and in the long run, new Councils would no longer have an income stream to assist in controlling taxes. "Blessed be our children, for their inheritance has vanished".

No longer does the sale of our Utility surface, probably because of the \$3.7 million annual dividend stream from Hydro (which is expected to be reduced in 2021 due to Covid but to increase in the following years). However, the possible sale of one of the Utility's assets, the Heywood Generating Station, resurfaces every so often.

Heywood was built in 1988 and became operational in 1989. At the time "the mission of St. Catharines Hydro Generation Inc. was to invest in, maintain and operate its generation facilities in an ethical and responsible manner that maximizes its present and future value to the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines". By all accounts, the Heywood Generating Station has certainly fulfilled that mandate.

In the next four years, projected dividend payments by Heywood to the City will increase from \$340,000 in 2021 to \$620,000 in 2024. Why then would a Council want to sell an asset which provides a steady income stream to the City? The reasoning is exactly the same as that suggested many years ago to sell the entire Utility. Likewise, my objection to selling Heywood is based on the same objections that I had to the sale of our entire Utility.

In 2017, the Board of Directors of St. Catharines Hydro commissioned Ernst and Young Global to evaluate the Heywood facility, not necessarily with

"The mission of St. Catharines Hydro Generation Inc. was to invest in, maintain and operate its generation facilities in an ethical and responsible manner that maximizes its present and future value to the Corporation of the City of St. Catharines". By all accounts, the Heywood Generating Station has certainly fulfilled that mandate.

the intent to sell the facility. The valuation cost \$30,000 and in their presentation to Council, they recommended spending another \$ 250,000 for a more detailed valuation in order to get to a "letter of intent" stage to identify interest from potential purchasers. Council did not agree.

Changes were made to the Board of Directors and the three Council appointees, Carlos Garcia, Matt Harris, and I, advocated for the reduction of the expensive ten-member Board to the three Council appointees and to



have senior city staff provide administrative support to be paid by Hydro. The result was a \$300,000 annual operational cost savings (which is expected to be reduced to \$200,000) and capital cost savings of \$4.8 million by refurbishing, instead of replacing, the spillway gates. Reddick Contractors, a local firm, continue to operate and maintain the station.

In their 2017 valuation, Ernst and Young estimated the sell value of the Heywood Station to be in the \$30-35 million range; an update in 2020 by city staff estimated the value to range from a low of \$6.9 million to a high of \$26.0 million, depending on the methodology used and the business plan assumptions made.

When a business buys another business, it must offer a higher price than what the owner places on their business. And in fact, this is often the case when the targeted firm operates inefficiently or if there are synergies or economies of scale. For Heywood, there are neither. So why would one consider selling this efficient cash cow? To obtain a higher return from a risk-free investment? I doubt it, otherwise, the buyer would do the same.

What do you think? ■

-Joseph Kushner

Voted Best Lawyer

The Standard READERS' CHOICE 2020 DIAMOND WINNER

It is an honour to serve as an advocate for injured clients and their families across the Niagara Region.

Rand Meshki

FREE NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION

GRAVES & RICHARD PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

OFFICE LOCATIONS:

ST. CATHARINES: SUITE 800 - 55 KING STREET ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2R 7K1. TEL (905) 641-2020 FAX (905) 641-0484

NIAGARA FALLS: SUITE 200 - 6387 MORRISON STREET NIAGARA FALLS, ON L2E 7H1. TEL (905) 641-2020 FAX (905) 641-0484

gravesandrichard.com

Niagara's Premier Affordable Funeral Alternative

Considerate CREMATION & BURIAL SERVICES

Compassionate Service For Considerably Less

Holly Prince Jensen Licensed Funeral Directors Owners Burial & Cremation Options Offered

Bruce Keating McClelland

Typical Savings of 30-50% Vs. Traditional Service Providers

Transparent ... Practical ... No Pressure ... Just Your Wishes

Pre-Arranging Options Available Pre-Arranged Elsewhere? You Can Transfer To Us

Serving the entire Niagara Region

289-362-1144 info@CCBSCares.ca CCBSCares.ca St. Catharines

ACCESSIBLE

Licensed by BAO (Bereavement Association of Ontario)

The Poetry of Norm Paterson

The Boats

Of all the ships that sailed the lake,
I'll name you two that take the cake,
The great Northumberland was one,
That did the Port-Toronto run.

Dalhousie City was her mate,
Together they would operate,
From early summer to the fall,
Dalhousie was their port of call.

The modest fare most could afford,
Oh what a thrill to go on board,
And let those lovely steamers take,
You for a trip across the lake.

The owners did not seem to mind,
If passengers were so inclined,
They let you watch the fiery hole,
Where sweating sailors shoveled coal.

Those raging fires must be fed,
To keep the ship full steam ahead.
It was as far as I could tell,
The hottest place this side of hell.

Remember exhibition trips?
Crowds would fill the sturdy ships,
With people hanging off the beams.
The ship was bursting at the seams.

Everyone who came ashore,
Had sample give-aways galore.
At least a shopping bag or two,
Of advertising ballyhoo.

Many times when winds would blow,
And decks were heaving to and fro,
Folks would gather at the rail,
Some were green and some just pale.

Stomachs braced to keep things still,
Trying not to "Call for Bill",
While others sitting with a friend,
Were praying for the trip to end.

Pain and pleasure often mix,
Call it one of nature's tricks.
On smoother trips the band would play,
And couples danced the night away.

I loved to wander out the pier,
The ship's outline would disappear.
And even after it was gone,
Soft sounds of music lingered on.

Today those ships are history.
All that's left is memory.
The only signs of yesteryear,
Brass letters fastened to the pier.



Report from Councillor Carlos Garcia Port Dalhousie Ward



The following is my report on my work on behalf of the residents of Port Dalhousie Ward and all of St. Catharines as your representative at City Council over the period from mid-September 2020 through late-February 2021.

New Deputy Mayor Schedule.

At the October 5, 2020 meeting, Council approved a schedule of rotating one-month appointments to the Deputy Mayor position throughout 2021. This is meant to ensure every one of the 12 Councillors serve as Deputy Mayor for one month. We will review this at the end of 2021. Prior to 2020, Deputy Mayors were elected for the term of Council and I am concerned that the monthly rotation will not allow each of us the time to really participate and make a proper contribution. My turn will be in November.

Full Council to Consider 2021 Budget Items.

Also on October 5, we approved a motion for the full Council to consider and review items that would normally be considered by the Budget Standing Committee. This was done because of the unprecedented budgeting situation as the result of the pandemic. Several full Council budget meetings were then held in October and November with the final operating budget for 2021 being approved in December. We managed to hold the increase in operating expenses to a relatively low 1.8% - although zero increase would have been preferable given the financial pressures on our taxpayers.

Extending Mask By-Law to Apartments and Condominiums.

At a Special Meeting on October 13, 2020, we approved expanding the mask-wearing requirement to common areas of residential apartment buildings, condominiums, hotels, motels, rental, and other accommodations, such as lobbies, elevators, meeting rooms, restrooms, laundry rooms, gyms, and kitchens or other common use facilities. This was approved to help further protect our residents from Covid19 as physical distancing is difficult to maintain in enclosed common areas such as those of apartment buildings and condominium buildings.

Additions to the Register of Non-Designated Heritage Properties.

On October 19, Council approved my motion supporting the Heritage Committee's recommendation to add a number of properties to the St. Catharines Register of Non-Designated Cultural Heritage Properties. The Register includes properties that research by the volunteers on the Committee indicates may merit designation at a future date. This listing does not add any restrictions to the properties except that they will be subject to further review for heritage significance if they are proposed for demolition or removal.

Parking Deficiencies at New Condo at End of Dalhousie Ave.

Council received many complaints from residents regarding parking issues at 6-10 Dalhousie Avenue. Residents are

concerned about on-site accessible parking, the potential for increased on-street parking on nearby streets, and the building inspection and Committee of Adjustment process that allowed significant parking deficiencies to be approved. On October 19, Council passed Councillor Williamson's motion, seconded by me, that the staff report "regarding 6-10 Dalhousie Avenue, Existing Residential Condominium Apartment Building, Undersized Parking, be received and forwarded to the provincial ombudsman's office requesting a review of all of the planning and building processes involved in this project, including those of the Committee of Adjustment." We have yet to receive a report from the ombudsman's office.

Snow Event Parking Restriction.

At our November 9 meeting, we unanimously approved a motion "that Council proceed with on-street temporary event-based winter parking restrictions (S'no Parking); and that the on-street temporary event-based winter parking prohibitions be applied across the city." Vehicles parked on the street during a snow event make it difficult for plows to clear the street and can cause safety issues.

Re-Designation of Some Employment Lands to Allow Alternative Uses.

On November 30, following several presentations and lengthy debate, Council approved an amendment to the City's Official Plan to re-designate certain existing Employment Lands within the municipality for alternative use permissions. This amendment allows the GM Lands on Ontario St. and a large parcel bounded by Vansickle Rd., First St. Louth, St. Paul St. W and the CN right of way, to be available for mixed-use development, thus significantly increasing land available for development in our largely land-locked City.

Short-Term Rentals By-Law.

At the November 30 meeting Council also approved an amendment to the City of St. Catharines Zoning By-law to permit short-term rentals (such as Airbnbs) as a home-based business, subject to certain conditions. Short Term Rentals, defined as those for fewer than 28 days, are currently illegal and we receive numerous complaints about these illegal uses. The By-Law has provisions to regulate these businesses recognizing they are a fact of life. I tried to make the provisions more stringent but my amendment failed.

Request for Province to Fund Hospice Health Care Workers.

These are the only health care workers not funded by the Province and they provide such a critical service. Also on November 30, Council unanimously passed my motion: "that the City of St. Catharines recommends that Ontario's Health Ministry accept Hospice Niagara's request and start fully funding all hospice health care workers, and right away."

Continued on next page

Report from Councillor

GM Lands Clean Up Update.

At a special council meeting held on December 22, we received a presentation from Kim Groombridge, Manager, Niagara District Office, Drinking Water and Environmental Compliance Division, Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks. The presentation reviewed the ministry's monitoring of water, air, and land on the site and concluded that, despite all the years of industrial work, there are no immediate health dangers to those living near the site. Then, on February 5 of this year, the tall smokestack on the property was suddenly taken down. City staff confirmed there was no permit for this and they will be investigating as there was some interest in keeping the stack as a focal point in the City. The site is a major blight on our City and an eyesore so I strongly support efforts to improve the situation.

Consolidation of Public Transit Across Niagara.

At the February 1 Council meeting we received a presentation on the Niagara Transit Governance Study. There were many questions about the study - mostly centred around ensuring that St. Catharines is properly represented in the governance of such a consolidated system and that our taxpayers do not end up unfairly subsidizing the larger system. Eventually, Council passed the motion

that: "Council supports in principle the Full Commission Model as the recommended governance model for the consolidations of Niagara's public transit system." Councillor Williamson and I voted against this motion as we believe that, as recommended by the St. Catharines Transit Commission, all the questions should be answered BEFORE approving anything in principle.

Pier Reconstruction Update.

I continue to represent Council on the Task Force that meets with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) monthly. At our first meeting of 2021 in February, DFO reported that all decking has been poured on both East and West Piers and the contractor is now finishing addressing some safety issues and cleaning the site. The safety issues delayed the full opening of the West Pier but they are still on target to complete the full project (both sides) by some time this spring -including the reopening of the Lakeside Park parking lot.

Interim Control By-Law Regarding Cannabis Grow-Ops Update.

At the February 24, 2020 meeting Council unanimously passed the motion: "that an Interim Control By-Law be applied to Agricultural lands within the municipal boundaries of the City of St. Catharines to prohibit cannabis production facilities,

effective immediately." The By-Law prohibition, pending the results of a study that will lead to appropriate regulations, was set to expire on February 24, 2021. Work on the study has been delayed due to the pandemic so, at its February 22, 2021 meeting, Council extended the By-Law and prohibition for one year to ensure the study can be completed.

Support for Our Businesses during COVID-19 Pandemic.

As the pandemic continues, Council and the City's Economic Development staff are doing everything possible to support our struggling businesses. Staff have created the LoveStC website (<https://lovestc.ca>) that lists numerous local businesses, provides information on each, and encourages local shopping. In addition, Council has extended the patio program for our restaurants and bars through January 2022 and forgiven any associated fees, as well as waived 2021 business licence fees. I strongly support our local businesses and forward new information on government assistance programs directly to those whose contact information I have.

As always, a very special thank-you to my fellow Port Dalhousie Ward Councillor Bruce Williamson for his invaluable advice and support. ■

Norm Paterson, Port's Poet

We are pleased to present his poems & drawings over the next few issues.



Norm & Bonnie Paterson

Norm Paterson was born in Scotland on January 20, 1927. He came to Canada with his family at the age of 2 spending his childhood living on Wiley Street. In 1939, the family built a home at the corner of Lake and Scott Street. He married Bonnie in 1953.

Norm and Bonnie had four children and lived on Chatham Road for 66 years. Norm was a very talented man and Port Dalhousie Memories was just one of his creative keepsakes. Noticing there did not seem to be any Port Dalhousie souvenirs available to visitors of Port, he created his little book of memories. He was a member of the Craft Guild Treasure Box in Port.

Norm was a talented artist working in oil and watercolour and always had a pen in his pocket ready to sketch whatever inspired him at that moment. Sadly, Norm passed away this past December but his creative spirit lives on in his little book of memories. ■

The Best Port in Canada!

- New Port Piers set to open this summer
- Renewed Lakeside Park featuring Neil Peart Pavilion
- New businesses opening in the core
- New places for residents to call home
- New Canada Games 2022 Rowing Centre at Henley Island

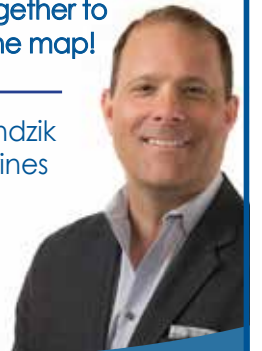
Port Dalhousie is an amazing part of St. Catharines. I am proud of all the people working together to put Port back on the map!

Mayor Walter Sendzik
City of St. Catharines

f /MayorSendzik

t @WSendzik

i @wsendzik



mayorsendzik.ca

Canada currently welcomes about 250,000 immigrants a year, not necessarily because Canada is so magnanimous as much as we have come to realize that as our infrastructure costs continue to rise and our social safety nets are becoming so strained that we need new taxpayers. The ratio of working people to retirees is set to decrease to as low as 2 to one. Without immigration, our standard of living is not sustainable.

What does all this mean for St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie?

We do need to densify and infill our housing in order to be able to sustain the infrastructure that we already have. St. Catharines does not need to pave over more Greenfield or annex valuable farmland. We already have lots

of developable property sitting idle, but unfortunately, these pieces may be slightly more awkward or brownfield. Holding open land for industrial jobs within city limits makes little sense since there is plenty of marginal lands available elsewhere in the Region. With an adequate transportation system, the industry can locate anywhere in Niagara. When one community obtains a new factory, it helps everyone since many of the employees will likely choose to live in an attractive city. It should not be a competition.

We may also have to slightly adjust our expectations with respect to regulations and building requirements to allow some more flexible housing options in existing buildings. If we look at countries in Europe whose densities are more than double ours they are still able to sustain their existing heritage buildings and densify without lots of condo towers, keeping growth at a human scale. Condo development is already slowing in Toronto as rents have dropped 20% in 2020 and CMHC is warning of a coming drop in house prices.

The city may need to look deeper and examine who our new residents will be. Do we need more hockey arenas? Or would a soccer stadium or cricket pitch be more appropriate? Maybe we need to focus on long-term care temporarily and plan for these properties to be recycled as affordable housing in the future? Should we be focusing on new buildings or

better maintenance of what we already have?

We have to stop using housing statistics and blind growth as a measure of our success. Turning over dollars is not necessarily good growth. We should re-focus our energies on creating sustainable, walkable, and enjoyable communities. Therein lies the real attractiveness of growth. People will always come to a community that is well equipped, has lots of green space, good transportation, and attractive and interesting heritage areas to enjoy. There is a lot of prosperity to be had in renovating, infilling, and maintaining, and renewing our infrastructure. In fact, that type of work has proven to create a lot more sustainable jobs and is a lot greener than new construction. ■

VERSLUIS BROS.
CONTRACTORS INC.

26 John Street
St. Catharines, ON L2N 4P1
Telephone: 905-646-0892
Email: versluisbrothers@bellnet.ca

CUSTOM HOMES ADDITIONS RENOVATIONS

Port Dalhousie: An Intimate History
Available at: Avondale Store 359 Main St
Forget-Me-Not Gifts 33 Lakeshore Rd.
Glitzzy Jools/Antiques 50 Lakeport Rd.
\$29.99
Online at Lulu.com \$25 + shipping

Port Dalhousie Reimagined
80 Colourized & Enhanced Vintage Photos
Dated & Described
Free eBook at Smashwords.com
Print Book at Lulu.com \$25 + shipping

RIGHT AT HOME
REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

James Vanderburgh
Sales Representative
D: 905-325-0354
O: 905-356-8558
F: 905-637-1070
E: mr.real@sympatico.ca

rightathomerealty.com Right at Home Realty Inc. Brokerage
5111 New Street
Burlington, ON L7L 1V2

WOLFGANG GUEMBEL
Realtor®

Mobile 905.931.3472
Office 905.688.4561

wolf@royallepage.ca
@WolffofLockStreet

wolftherealtor.ca

ROYAL LEPAGE
NRC Realty, Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated

PORT DALHOUSIE'S FLOWER SHOP

stems etc.
101 lakeport road
st. catharines

FLOWERS, GIFTS
DECOR, AND MORE!
CURBSIDE PICKUP
DELIVERY
289-438-2235

f i

SEEKING HOUSE SITTING OPPORTUNITY

Enthusiastic, Polite & Responsible
Young Professional

Flexible from June to December, 2021
to keep your house clean, safe & maintained.
Ideally in Port Dalhousie or surrounding areas.
Please Contact 905-325-6842 or Scott.Robinson@hotmail.ca



UP HOUSE
REALTY / BROKERAGE

KARL VANDERKUIP
BROKER OF RECORD

73 QUEEN ST.
905-704-8701
KARL@CALLKARL.CA
CallKarl.ca



TIMMS
HOUSE & BUILDING INSPECTIONS

D. BRUCE TIMMS, P. Eng.
C: 905-651-2861 F: 905-934-1295
brucetimms@yahoo.com

145 Carlton Street PO Box 29021
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P9

www.TimmsHouseInspections.com



CPD

The Port Dalhousie Conservancy

A Special Thanks to John House and the Vintage Port Dalhousie Facebook Page

Let's Keep Port Dalhousie Clean!

The Reporter has received a few complaints from residents about some people not cleaning up after themselves. Dog walking is a popular pastime in Port and most dog owners do a great job; however, there are always the few who leave their "presents" along the road, or some who pick it up but leave it in a bag on the street or in front of the garbage can. Community volunteers have worked very hard at building and maintaining the wooden garbage bins around Port. They are meant for the dog walkers and people who are out walking with coffee or who just need to have a place to put the garbage they pick up along the way. These bins are NOT for household garbage or old lawn chairs you want to get rid of. Please let's all make the effort to keep Port beautiful and clean. Thank you so much!

- Place Garbage in the bins provided.
- Recycle when possible.
- Don't flick your butts.
- Pick up after your pooch and dispose of at home.

Earth Day this year is on April 22nd and the BWC is coordinating an area clean-up on April 24th. If you want to join the Beautification Committee or help with

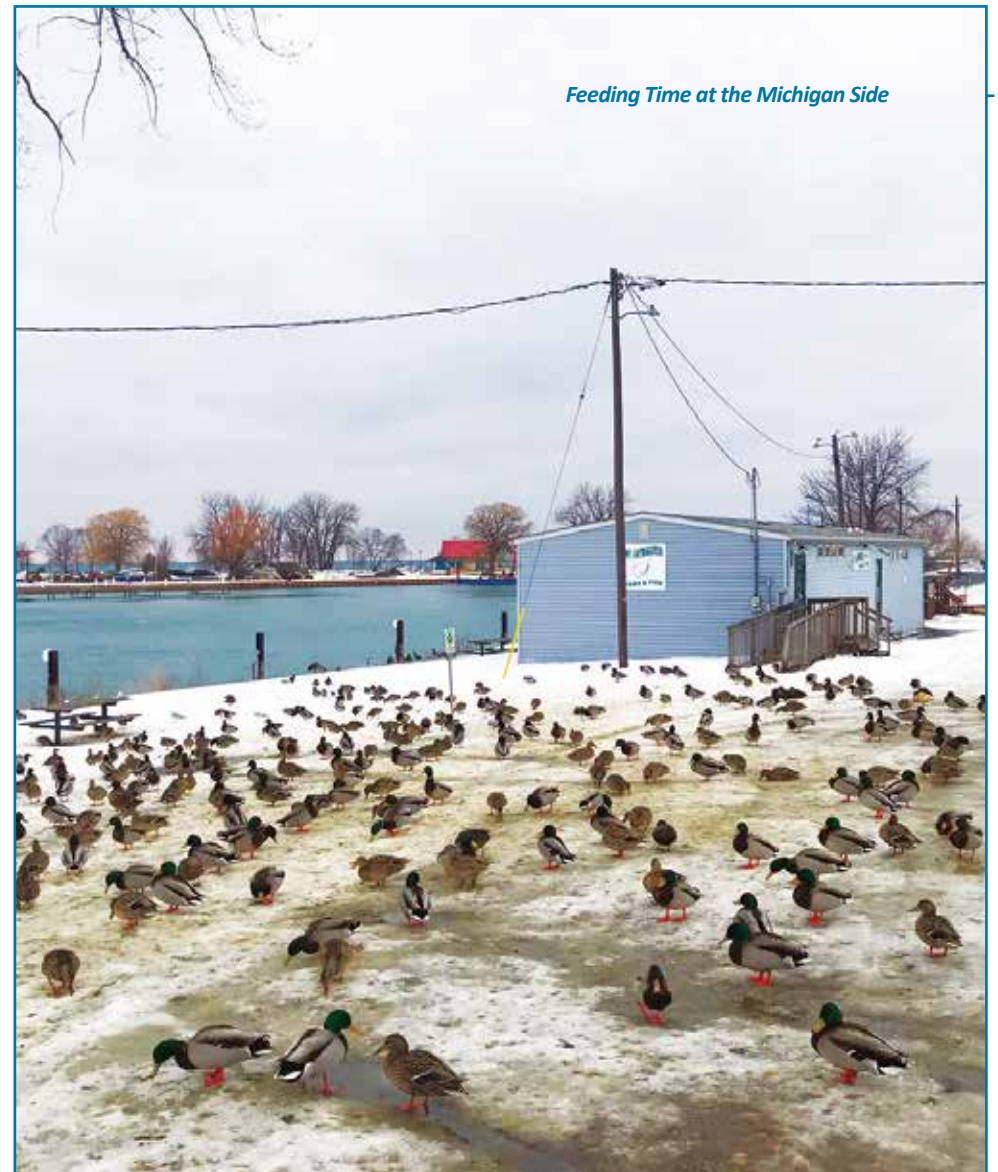
spring cleanup please contact: Ed Buchan. Ph: 905-650-2942

In case you see a full or overflowing can please call:

Citizens First:
905-688-5600; there is also a garbage complaint form on the city website.

Region of Niagara: Waste Info Line-
905-356-4141

If you see Illegal Dumping-
1-800-594-5542



Feeding Time at the Michigan Side

Doug's
QUALITY MEATS

**FRESHLY CUT MEATS
GREAT QUALITY · HONEST VALUE**

905-937-6327
dougqualitymeats.com
info@dougqualitymeats.com

224 Lakeport Rd,
St. Catharines, ON
L2N 4R5



Even though travel is not safe during times of the pandemic, our appetite for travel still grows, so we begin to look for flavours of foreign lands in our own backyard. Just as this reviewer's blues kicked in due to an inability to visit family and enjoy their home-cooked meals in Bavaria, Bohemia, and the Austrian Alps, another shade of blue appeared. This shade of blue, however, was on freshly-sided building located at 38 Lakeport Road. The building was attached to The KaiserHaus European comfort food which promised to open soon. Could it be that a taste of home would be available right here in Port Dalhousie, or was this just a mirage? After a few weeks passed by, an open sign in the window answered my burning question: it was real.

Stepping into the KaiserHaus' beautiful interior transports you

away from the pandemic blues to another place altogether. It might just be my nostalgia-fueled imagination, but I could almost hear recently departed Christopher Plummer singing "Edelweiss" in the background as I admired the perfectly appointed décor in this new space. This is extra fitting seeing as the Edelweiss flower is a survivor, known for its strength and toughness, a symbol of courage, bravery, and love. If you're going to open a restaurant mid-pandemic, you better have all four of these fine qualities, and put love into everything you do.

So the real question is; were these new restauranteurs up to the challenge?

First, let's consider access. Orders during lockdown may be placed both online on the KaiserHaus website as well as by calling the restaurant. Friendly staff are very helpful and everything is delivered as promised. Walking in the doors for pickup offers

a safe experience with hand sanitizer readily available and social distancing practices in effect.

Menu items include exactly what you may expect and find in Central Europe, but there is one improvement here: heaping North American style portions. Massive schnitzels with generous amounts of butter-fried spaetzle, braised cabbage, bean and onion salad in vinegar, and a grilled lemon to kick things up a notch. Vegetarian options for many of the plates are also available and are equally delicious. If you're in the mood

for snacks, the homemade Bavarian pretzels served with mustard are an absolute treat, but save a little room because the full KaiserHaus European experience is not complete without a home-baked apple strudel with fresh cream and mint.

So what's wrong with the KaiserHaus? I'd be hard-pressed to think of anything, other than having to add an extra notch in my belt. If I were

forced to be really picky, the only area where the KaiserHaus may improve is in its beer selection, though it pains me to bring it up when the restaurant is just so great. The perfect streak of authenticity and ambiance is slightly off by their offering of Ontario craft beer instead of authentic European Brands like Stiegl, Becks, Kozel, or Hacker-Pschorr.

Aside from the beer selection, my only hope in the future for the KaiserHaus after enjoying many meals since opening may be found in the lyrics of Edelweiss:

*"Blossom of snow may you bloom and grow,
Bloom and grow forever,
Edelweiss, Edelweiss,
Bless my homeland forever."*

Port Dalhousie is better for having The KaiserHaus, and my extremely content gut tells me that these restaurateurs are certainly up to the challenge. ■ ★★★★★ out of 5

Edelweiss Flowers

- Adam Cooke



MEET KRYSTINA WALER

YOUR FEDERAL CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR ST. CATHARINES



Krystina Waler was born and raised in St. Catharines and lives in the Facer Street area.

Her career has been centered around helping people who need it most. She's organized 7 medical missions overseas to treat persons injured from military conflicts. She has also served as the director of a surgical education & training partnership in association with Sunnybrook Health Sciences.

Krystina is currently the executive director of a foundation that focuses on helping children who are orphaned abroad with mental health supports and learning skills and trades to prepare them for life as adults.

Krystina attended Sir Winston Churchill high school, and continued her studies at Laurier and ultimately earned her Master of Science from the University of Toronto with a focus on how to best use health care technology to improve the quality of life of people around the world.

Krystina's grandparents were immigrants who came to Canada to find a better life. Through learning of their life struggles, Krystina grew up with a strong sense of responsibility and giving back to her community and country.

She values public service because she was raised in a family whose careers have been dedicated to public service in medicine and education.

Krystina's goal is to be a strong voice for St. Catharines in Ottawa, and she will be an effective federal representative that you can be proud to have representing you.

Please consider supporting Krystina in the next federal election, when that time comes. Learn more or get involved by visiting:

www.krystina.ca



Authorized by the Financial Agent

From our Rozie's family to yours!
Made Fresh To Order and made with Love!

Serving delicious breakfast and brunch since 2011.



Let's go to
Rozie's for
Ice Cream!

Still here for our
FAMOUS BREAKFAST
and now available for
ICE CREAM!

Did you know...

Rozie's offers Vegetarian, Vegan and KETO options for breakfast and ice cream!



Serving our family-favourites from Kawartha Dairy, Chapman's Premium, and Central Smith Dairy.

Visit our website and social media for current hours and more information.



(905) 938-0479



<http://roziescafe.ca/>



@roziescafe

Every Tombstone in the “Silent Land” Has its Own Unique Story to Tell

Behind every tombstone there is a biographical account of the deceased individual that is waiting to be revealed.

Part of the allure that every taphophile experiences when visiting an old cemetery is the knowledge that behind every tombstone there is a biographical account of the deceased individual that is waiting to be revealed. In the south-west corner of St. John’s (Anglican) Cemetery in Port Dalhousie there was a tombstone inscribed to the memory Dorothy, wife of Columbus Gildea, who died May 2, 1850, aged 66 years and 6 days. The surname Gildea is certainly uncommon in the Niagara area, and this prompted Janet Carnochan of the Niagara Historical Society about a century ago to ponder “from what distant lands came these?” (Inscriptions and Graves in the Niagara Peninsula, p. 109.)

Surprisingly, Dorothy Gildea did not come from any far distant land. She was one of nine children born to Richard (Derek) and Hannah (Annetja, nee Vollick) Hainer (UE), and born at Schoharie, New York, on April 26, 1784. Richard (1760-1801) was the son of Henry Hainer (UE), a German emigrant, and had served as a private in Butler’s Rangers. Her grandfather, Isaac Vollick (UE), had also served in Butler’s Rangers and was an early settler in Louth. Records show that Isaac was at Niagara in mid-April 1784, and that Hain-

er arrived here with his family sometime shortly after Dorothy’s birth. Both Vollick and Hainer and their families were recorded in the “Victualling Lists” (for rations) in Duncan Murray’s district



Grave of George E. and Eliza Read, the daughter and son-in-law of Dorothy Gildea (“Read lot.”)

(Grantham and Louth Townships) in early December 1786.

Dorothy was married at St. Mark’s, Niagara, by the Rev. Robert Addison on Aug. 5, 1802, to John May. May (Feb. 29, 1776-November 8, 1812) was also a native of New York State, and the son of William and Lena (Jansen) May (UE.) William had also served in Butler’s Rangers and was one of the early settlers in Grantham Township. His house stood on the west side of Ontario Street, off Sparkes Street, until it was “accidentally” burned at Hallowe’en in 1984.

John May was a farmer, and he served as a Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment of Lincoln Militia during the first year of the War of 1812. He was taken ill in October 1812 and sent home where he succumbed to sickness. John was buried in the May family burial plot just off Ziraldo Road on the west side of Ontario Street. Dorothy was left as a widow to

raise five children on her own at the age of 28. She had had a total of six children, two sons and four daughters, who were born between 1802 and 1812; the eldest son died in infancy before 1805. In early 1817, the Kingston Gazette reported that Dorothy was awarded a pension of £32.19.2. as the widow of a militiaman. This would be approximately the equivalent of \$5,000 in today’s currency.

Sometime before April 1819, Dorothy was married to her second husband, Columbus Gildea (b. ca. 1780.) The Gildea family appear to have moved to Flamborough sometime between 1824 and 1828. Columbus signed a petition in No-

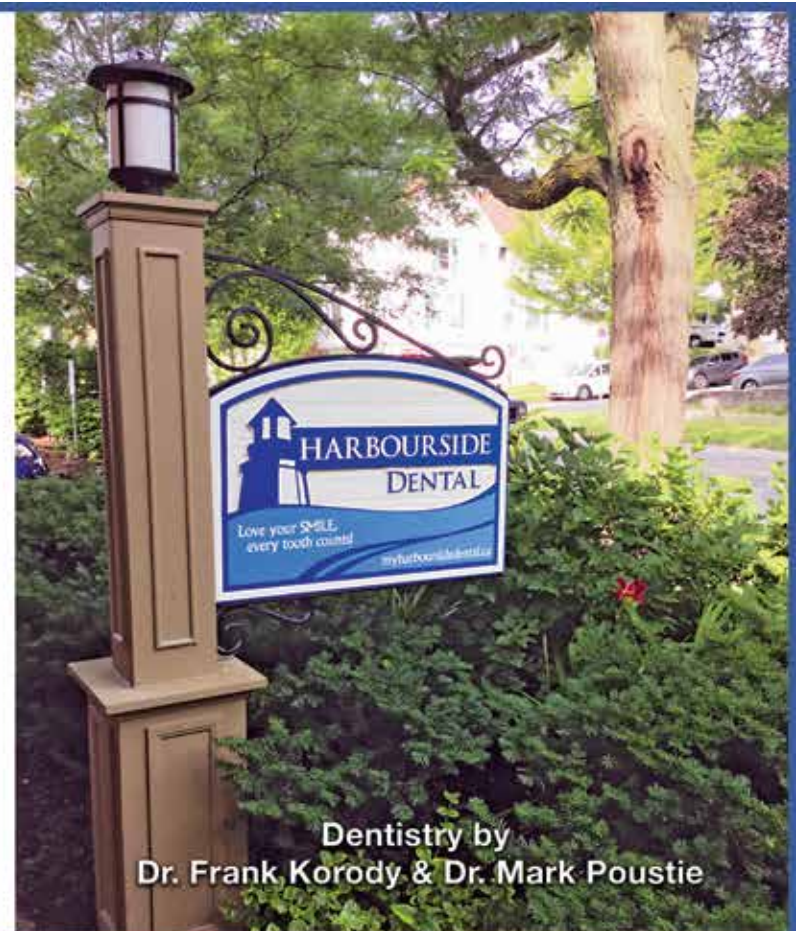
**TATTERSALL, BROWN
& LACAS**
905-329-1650
tblhandymen@icloud.com



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.



Dentistry by
Dr. Frank Korody & Dr. Mark Poustie

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

vember 1828 which was addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor by the "inhabitants of the Gore District" (now part of Hamilton-Wentworth.) They prayed that the prison sentence and fine imposed upon Francis Collins, the outspoken publisher of the Toronto newspaper the "Canadian Freeman," be remitted. Gildea signed the petition with a strong yet very neat hand, which was an indication of his good education. Columbus died sometime before 1838, possibly in Flamborough. His burial place is not known.

Dorothy returned home to the Niagara District and settled near her relatives in Louth Township. Colonel John Clark, who purchased the May farm, described her as "an exemplary woman in all her duties, altho' in the humble sphere of life."

Dorothy made out her last will in April 1850 in which she was described as "weak in body." She left her surviving son a nominal cash bequest of 10 shillings, while her daughters received her clothing, chattels, and the Flamborough farm. That land was sold to another owner soon after Dorothy's death.

Dorothy died on May 2, 1850, and she was buried near the westerly fence line in the "Read lot" at St. John's Cemetery in Port Dalhousie. She was buried near her daughter, son-in-law, and other relatives. Her unadorned, white marble tombstone could be seen there in good

repair until a few years ago. On a recent visit to the cemetery the stone could not be found. A "stump" of white marble near the fence now marks her final resting place. Fortunately, a scale drawing and a photograph of her tombstone



Broken marble tombstone base, probably that of Dorothy Gildea.

were made in the early 1980s when the Brock University Classics Department conducted its "19th Century Niagara Tombstone Project."

Dorothy was related to other early families, such as Pawling, Gould, Schram, Cook, and Read through the marriages of her children, and many people in the area claim their descent through them.

Every tombstone in the "silent land" has its own unique story to tell! ■

-Brian Narhi

We Invite You To Ring the Bells of Hope

In many of the world's religions the ringing of bells symbolizes a spiritual awakening through expressions of hope, peace and harmony.

The essence of all religions are one, only their approaches are different and St. John's reflects that spirit of inclusiveness through this inspiring community project.

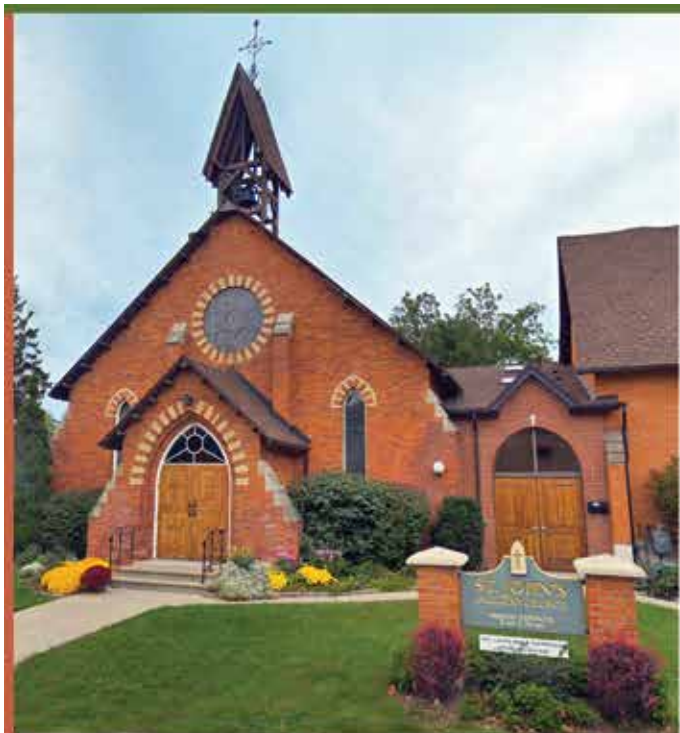
Maybe you would like to ring the bell in remembrance of a loved one, or ring the bell on behalf of friends or family that are facing personal misfortune. Possibly you would like to ring the bell for the end of the pandemic, or for world peace, or for the suffering of the homeless.

There are a myriad of personal reasons, and it's your choice.

So please join us in this uplifting community project and spread your musical message of comfort and goodwill throughout the village.

*Ring the Bell on Sundays at 12 Noon

To Become a Bell Ringer Please Contact
Colin Johnston @ 905-327-7555



For More Information
Contact us at 905.935.6021 or email: stjohnschurch@cogeco.net
Church Office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
www.niagaraanglican.ca/parish/st-johnsst-catharines

An Open Invitation to Join Us

The Historic Church With Heart!

A Wonderful Place to Spiritually Nurture Yourself and Your Family.

A Happy Easter and Healthy Spring To All!

- Listen to the **BELLS of HOPE** ring every Sunday at noon in memory of loved ones and for the well-being of all. Call Colin Johnston to be a ringer at 905 327 7555
- **HOLY WEEK SERVICES** and **EASTER EUCHARIST** will be offered In-Person if permitted + posted On-Line. Visit our St. John's Facebook and YouTube pages for up-to-date details.

Visit our Facebook Page to view and order from our **EASTER MARKET** throughout March, and notices for our **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** and **COMMUNITY CARE FOOD DRIVE** in May!

Sunday Services at 8:00 am and 10:00 pm

The congregation of St. John's wishes to extend to the Venerable **Bruce McPetrie** and his wife **Suzanne** a fond farewell. They have served our parish so well these last two years and will be dearly missed.

Our warmest wishes and hearty welcome to our new full-time rector the **Reverend Robert Towler** who began his ministry with us on March 15, 2021.

During the Pandemic:

Public Health approved protocols are in place for all in-person worship and entry into our facilities. Our Facebook Devotions continue with new postings every Sunday at 9 am. Outreach efforts to support Community Care and Dignity Kits for those at risk.

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



There are many questions to ask yourself
when prearranging a funeral;

coincidentally, there are many answers.

Who will you do it for?



GEORGE DARTE

Funeral Chapel Inc

For more information, please call

905-937-4444

www.dartefuneralhome.com

585 Carlton Street • St. Catharines



The Fish Pond

The fish pond was the sort of game,
Where children with their money came.
The water had a murky hue,
A deeper shade than navy blue.

A narrow circled water track,
Half in the front and half in back.
As unseen numbered "fish" swam past,
You had a pole and line to cast.

The tank contained one special fish,
And it was every youngster's wish,
To reel-in that elusive prey,
And take the biggest prize away.

But wishing's an elusive art,
And mostly only works in part.
"What if," you very often thought,
"The big one wasn't in the pot?"

One fish you were allowed to catch,
The fish's number had to match,
The numbered prizes on display,
And oh what junk they gave away.

You felt like you should give it back,
Found better ones in Cracker Jack.
The operator knew the look,
"What a useless prize to hook."

That's when they offered you a chance,
The prize's value to enhance.
One last attempt to ease your pain,
"Put it back with a nickel and try again."



The Port Dalhousie Conservancy www.pdconservancy.org

We All Live Downstream

Are Aquifers Polluted, and if so, Are They Seeping Into 12 Mile Creek?

Former US Secretary of the Department of Defense Donald Rumsfeld once remarked, "There are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns. That is to say, we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know we don't know." That pretty well sums up the contaminant situation on the GM site and how it affects Port Dalhousie.

First, the things we know we know. According to a comprehensive environmental assessment of the GM site conducted by Pinchin Environmental in 2014 when the property was purchased from GM by Bayshore, more than two dozen pollutants – including lead, arsenic, copper, several types of PCBs, cadmium, copper, and barium – are on the site, most in concentrations that far exceed provincial standards, in many cases thousands of times over allowable limits. From maps of asbestos sites completed before the sale, asbestos is also present in both undemolished buildings and some debris piles.

We also know that at least some of these pollutants are escaping the site into 12 Mile Creek. At the urging of

community groups, the city requested the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) to test for pollutants escaping the GM property. The MOECP conducted four tests over the past year measuring pollutants at outflow points from the



GM site and into 12 Mile Creek. (These included a snow melt, rain and dry event; a fourth test has not yet been reported.) The "wet events" showed consistent exceedances of PCBs and heavy metals in the surface water test-

ed. Toxins detected included copper, cadmium, zinc and PCBs.

Now we enter the realm of what we don't know. According to the MOECP, these numbers are nothing to worry about since 1) the concentrations are diluted downstream and are then un-

to a "total loading" that is potentially concerning. From the point of view of Port Dalhousie, more worrisome is that the bulk of these toxins would precipitate before reaching the Heywood Generating Station and collect in the sediment of Martindale Pond.

Evidence of concern for the water quality of Martindale Pond is contained in Ontario guidelines for fish consumption. For example, it is recommended that larger carp taken from Martindale pond not be eaten more than twice a month, and not at all by pregnant women and children. Largemouth bass is limited to four meals (and none for sensitive populations), and smallmouth to two and none.

By contrast, the limits for Little Lake and Otonabee River near Peterborough are 16 for carp and eight for largemouth bass. The Ausable River limits for carp consumption are eight a month and eight for smallmouth bass.

From a broader perspective, pollutants from the GM site and from other sources upstream are flowing through Martindale Pond and into Lake Ontario. Canada is a signatory to the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement,

Continued next page

A red banner for Chris Bittle, Member of Parliament - St. Catharines. On the left is a portrait of Chris Bittle, a man with glasses wearing a suit and tie. To the right of the portrait, the text reads "Chris Bittle" in large white letters, followed by "Member of Parliament - St. Catharines" in smaller white letters. To the right of the text is the coat of arms of St. Catharines. Below this, the text says "Vaccines are on the way" in white, followed by "Practise social distancing. Download the COVID Alert app." and "Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Save lives." in white. At the bottom, there is a white box containing contact information: "Community Office" and "www.ChrisBittleMP.ca" in red, and "61 Geneva St. Unit 1, St. Catharines, ON L2R 4M6", "905.934.MPMP (6767)", and "Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca" in black. At the bottom of the white box are three social media icons: Facebook (@ChrisBittleMP), Instagram (@BittleC), and Twitter (@Chris_Bittle).

Chris Bittle
Member of Parliament - St. Catharines

Vaccines are on the way
Practise social distancing. Download the COVID Alert app.
Wash your hands. Wear a mask. Save lives.

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

@ChrisBittleMP @BittleC @Chris_Bittle

Continued next page

which commits Canada to "... contribute to the achievement of the General and Specific Objectives of this Agreement by protecting human health and the environment through cooperative and coordinated measures to reduce the anthropogenic release of chemicals of mutual concern into the Waters of the Great Lakes." The agreement identified eight Chemicals of Mutual Concern that are a priority target for immediate cleanup. Virtually all of these are present on the GM site.

As for the exceedances being acceptable as they aren't really all that bad, the Canadian Environmental Law Association had this to say: "The PWQOs are supposed to be a minimum requirement and MOECP's attempt to dismiss exceedances as typical of urban settings is completely unsatisfactory. If PCBs are entering the Creek at levels above the PWQOs, the MOECP should be taking action to ensure that the water is not degraded any further (according to their own policy directive)."

There are also other concerns. Testing was limited to surface water at two outflow points on 12 Mile Creek. Data from the Pinchin report from sampling

wells indicate pollutants have penetrated as deep as 18 feet into the soil, well below the water table. No subsurface water sampling has been undertaken for at least five years. Are aquifers polluted, and if so, are they seeping into 12 Mile Creek? Also, there are more than 30 containment ponds on the site that were used to hold cutting oils and other toxic materials. Indications are that these ponds may be leaking. What is in them? Where is the liquid going?

So, should Port Dalhousie residents be worried about how pollutants from the GM site might be affecting them? As both an immediate health hazard in the form of pollut-

ants flowing and settling into Martindale Pond and concern for the health of Lake Ontario, yes, you should. Our city recently passed a motion recognizing that we are in the midst of a climate crisis. Taking responsibility for ensuring a major source of pol-

lutants affecting our lake and community is cleaned up in a satisfactory and timely manner would be a big step in demonstrating that they are serious. ■

- Don Sawyer

Tony Douvis
Financial Advisor


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

101 Lakeport Road
St. Catharines, ON L2N 7L7
Bus: 905-937-6990
Fax: 1-866-751-0759
Toll-Free: 1-877-711-0911
www.edwardjones.com
Member: Canadian Investor Protection Fund

Making Sense of Investing

Edward Jones®

GICs
ETFs
Stocks
Bonds
Annuities
Mutual Funds
Life Insurance





PORT DALHOUSIE
PIER MARINA

*We Are Open and Ready for
Spring & Summer 2021*

*We eagerly await the reopening of the
Port Dalhousie Piers this Spring!*

Port Dalhousie Pier Marina Offers its Customers Unparalleled Docking Facilities and Services!

- Complimentary weekend earlybird continental breakfasts • Community patio and bbq • Docks of all sizes available
- Air conditioned washrooms and shower facilities • Steps to bars and restaurants in historic Port Dalhousie
- Picturesque boardwalk sunsets • Minutes from the beautiful Lakeside Park beach
- Easy Walking distance to great local shopping and tourist attractions

Drop By or Visit our Website
www.portdalhousiemarina.com

* Please stay safe and healthy and follow all COVID protocols *

80 Lighthouse Road, St. Catharines, Ontario L2N 7P8 Phone: (905) 646-5515 Fax: (905) 646-5241 Mobile: (905) 380-2840 VHF: Channel 68

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING PORT DALHOUSIE WARD and ST. CATHARINES

19

Conserving and Restoring Historic Port Dalhousie One Project at a Time



Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
(St. Catharines Branch)

Since 1933 the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) has helped to save hundreds of historical buildings across Ontario and worked to raise awareness of the importance of preserving our built and natural heritage. The St. Catharines branch was established in 2006 to focus on our own area's built heritage. The St. Catharines branch's goal is to promote, protect and advocate on behalf of the unique and remarkable Heritage of our great city.

Our concern is not just buildings but also encompasses our common cultural and historical heritage which is an integral part of the rich fabric of our lives. We are progressive citizens who advocate for sustainable commercial and residential development sensitive to the unique environment that has made Port Dalhousie a jewel in the city and beyond. Join us in advocating and encouraging a new and exciting direction in the development of our area.

*Be a Sponsor of one of our local projects
and become a part of protecting Heritage in our area*

**Bronze - \$100 Silver - \$250 Gold - \$500
*Platinum - \$1,000**

**Will be named on a plaque mounted on the sponsored structure.
All sponsors will be recognized in the community newspaper/Website.*

You may donate **online** at acontario.ca or
phone us at 416-367-8075 ext.404 or 1-866-221-1420

ALL DONATIONS OF 20.00 OR MORE WILL RECEIVE A TAX RECEIPT
Be sure to indicate that you are donating to the St. Catharines Branch,
which project and at what level or amount you would like to Sponsor.

For Local Information Please Contact:

Colin Johnston

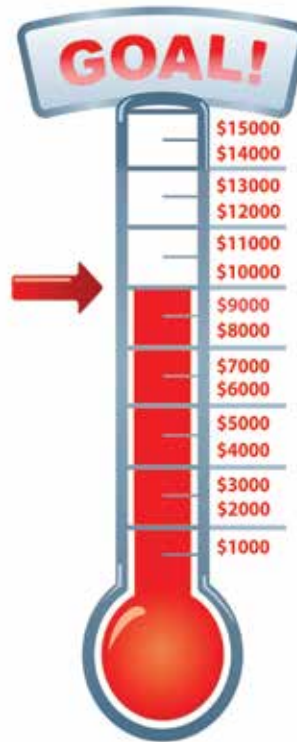
30 John St. St. Catharines

Email: colinjohnston@bell.net or Phone at 1 (905) 327-7555

Thank-you so much for your Support!

Fundraising is Heating Up!

As you can see we are well over half way to meeting our goal. Our many thanks to those of you who have supported the restoration of this unique and last remaining NS&T streetcar stop. Our discussions with the city regarding placement are ongoing! As with most things COVID; things have slowed down. These restrictions and closures have also put the restoration of the streetcar structure behind schedule. Given these difficulties we have decided to postpone the anticipated placement from the spring to the fall of 2021, when all the adjacent construction and landscaping is hopefully complete. Please consider donating to the continuing historical conservation of Port Dalhousie.



Help Restore the Last Remaining Street Car Stop of the Niagara, St. Catharines and Toronto Street Railway (NS&T)

In 1901 the Port Dalhousie Line was the first NS&T line constructed. In 1908 the Martindale Farm Located between the banks of Martindale Pond and the new rail line was inherited by the McSloy Brothers. They were a well known St. Catharines family who turned the farm into a nationally recognized showplace for their thoroughbred horses and Guernsey cattle. They built elaborate and unique barns, a Stone entrance archway as well as this Streetcar stop directly opposite their entrance. The unique design was made to match the style and architecture of Martindale farms.

It was heavily used by visitors to the farm. It is filled with history and if it could talk it would have many interesting stories to tell. It survived two world wars and served the City of St. Catharines right until the end of the Streetcar era in the early 1950's. It is currently under restoration at the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts in Queenston. Talks are currently underway with the city of St. Catharines to find a suitable location to allow this significant asset of the NS&T era to be able to tell its story for future generations of area residents and visitors to enjoy!

Please Become a Project Sponsor for this Amazing Project!

Estimated Budget - \$15,000 dollars.

← *Information on how to donate*

Let's Preserve and Secure Our Historic Lighthouses!

The Port Dalhousie lighthouses have been a major feature of the Port Dalhousie waterfront as far back as 1833. The current versions, dating back to 1879 and 1898 respectively, remain iconic features that clearly identify the Port Dalhousie and St. Catharines waterfront.

They are registered as "Recognized Federal Heritage Buildings". The inner lighthouse is one of only 6 wooden octagonal lighthouses remaining on the Canadian side of the Great lakes. In 2010 the city of St. Catharines restored the exterior of the inner lighthouse, but the interior has remained the same. Now that both Piers are being restored by the Federal government we believe these iconic features should be restored so that the public may enjoy them as well. In order to do so a lot of preliminary work needs to be done both to explore and secure these amazing Heritage structures. The outer light house is still owned and operated by the Federal government but may soon be declared surplus due to modern navigational technology and therefore is no longer required. The inner lighthouse is owned by the city and is no longer operational but is vulnerable to vandalism. The St. Lawrence Seaway authority has donated decorative surplus fencing that we hope to install around it. We also want to explore what may be required to be able to allow these heritage structures to be enjoyed by the public.

Please Become a Sponsor For This Important Project!

Estimated budget - \$25,000 dollars

So You Want to be a Volunteer...

Volunteering not only helps organizations, charities, etc., it also provides many personal benefits.

Volunteering helps you make new friends and contacts

One of the best ways to make new friends and strengthen existing relationships is to commit to a shared activity together. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, especially if you are new to an area. Volunteering also strengthens your ties to the community and broadens your support network, exposing you to people with common interests, neighborhood resources, and fun and fulfilling activities.

Volunteering increases your social and relationship skills

Volunteering as a family

While it might be a challenge to coordinate everyone's schedules, volunteering as a family has many worthwhile benefits. Children watch everything you do. By giving back to the community, you show them firsthand how volunteering makes a difference and how good it feels to help other people and animals and enact change. It's also a valuable way for you to get to know organizations in the community and find resources and activities for your children and family.

Volunteering increases self-confidence.

Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals.

Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy.

Volunteering is good for your health at any age, but it's especially beneficial in older adults. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not, even when considering factors like the health of the participants. Volunteering has also been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

Volunteering: The happiness effect

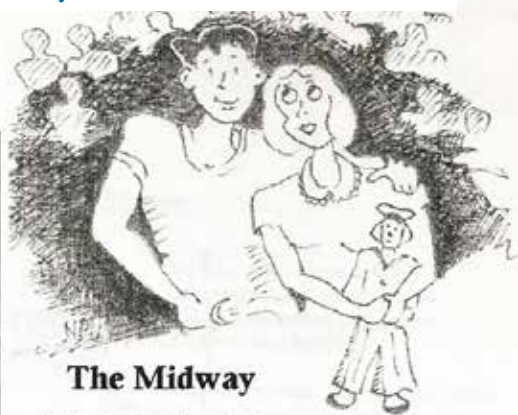
Helping others kindles happiness, as many studies have demonstrated. When researchers at the London School of Economics examined the relationship between volunteering and measures of happiness in a large group of American adults, they found the more people volunteered, the happier they were, according to a study in Social Science and Medicine. Compared with people who never volunteered, the odds of being "very happy" rose 7% among those who volunteer monthly and 12% for people who volunteer every two to four weeks. Among weekly volunteers, 16% felt very happy—a hike in happiness comparable to having an income of \$75,000–\$100,000 versus \$20,000, say the researchers.

Volunteering can teach you valuable job skills

Just because volunteer work is unpaid does not mean the skills you learn are basic. Many volunteering opportunities provide extensive training. For example, you could become an experienced crisis counselor while volunteering for a women's shelter or a knowledgeable art historian while donating your time as a museum docent.

Volunteering can also help you build upon skills you already have and use them to benefit the greater community. For instance, if you hold a successful sales position, you raise awareness for your favorite cause as a volunteer advocate, while further developing and improving your public speaking, communication, and marketing skills. When it comes to volunteering, passion and positivity are the only requirements

The Poetry of Norm Paterson



The Midway

Talk about a place to play,
You could easily spend a day.
It was a fun-filled path that ran,
From east to west without a plan.

Somehow it happened bit by bit,
And magic had a hand in it,
To duplicate the atmosphere,
Would surely take the gods a year.

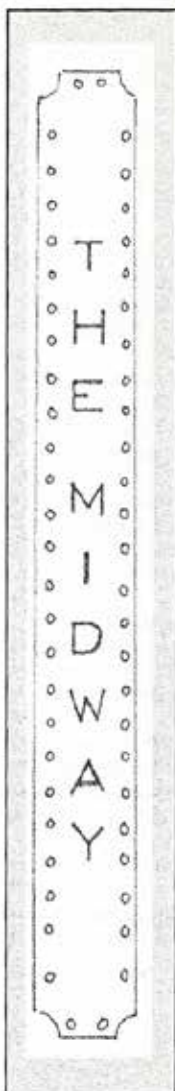
Games of chance, games of skill,
Swirling, twirling rides to thrill,
People, people, wall to wall,
From May the twenty-fourth till fall.

Candy floss and Honey Dew,
Hamburg's, hot dogs, ice cream too.
Ski-Ball, darts and archery,
And a shooting gallery.

On days Chief Smiley happened by,
To demonstrate his shooting eye,
They let him shoot, but just for fun,
To show the way that it was done.

The ball toss drew a lot of guys,
Who tried to win their girl a prize.
It didn't matter what it cost,
Until they won, they tossed and tossed.

And finally the cats would fall,
The prize: a plaster sailor doll.
A trophy that she felt proclaimed,
Her boyfriend's manhood was retained.

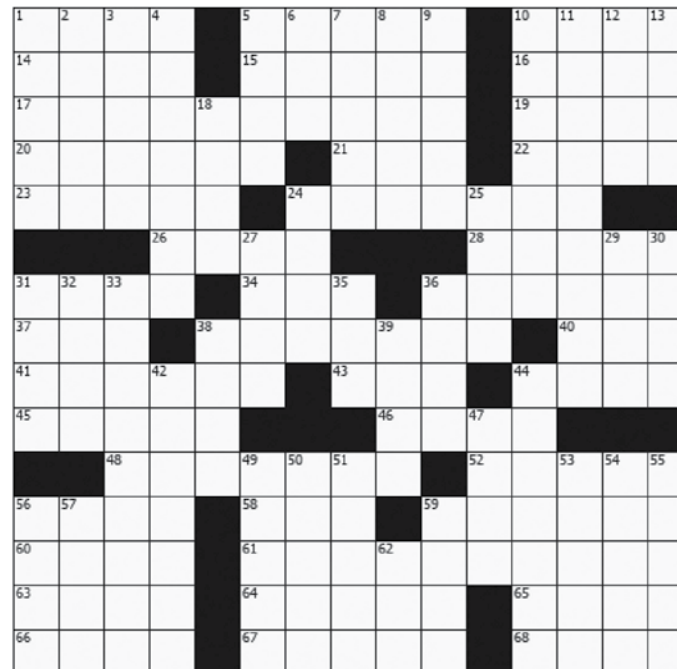


Spring Crossword



Across

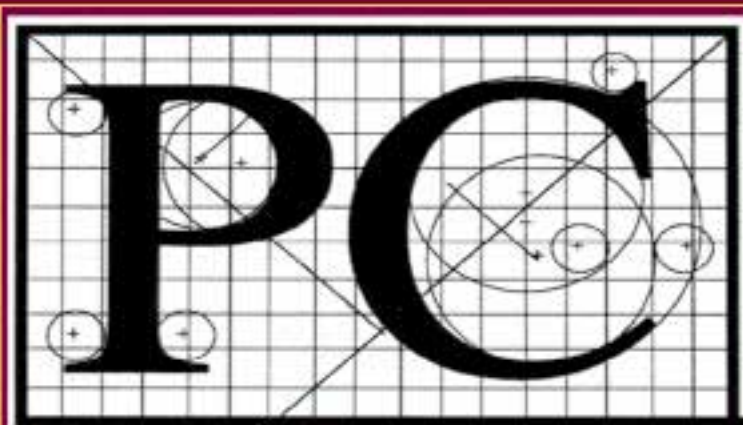
1. Splendid display
5. Pleasant scent
10. King Kong's cousins
14. At any time
15. Talked nonstop
16. Lacking color
17. H.S. gym instructors
19. Sibillant "Hey!"
20. Steal, as a purse
21. Summer shirt
22. Seaman's yeses
23. Spot in the ocean
24. Yells
26. Regal address
28. Do not disturb
31. Part of a GP's schedule
34. Prints and paintings
36. Mystery author Queen
37. "It's chilly out here!"
38. WWII vessels
40. Dogpatch's Daisy _
41. Pasta shape
43. Postpone, with "off"
44. Former fast fliers
45. Cook's cover-up
46. Robin's residence
48. Words of emphasis
52. Sported
56. Not punctual
58. Electrical unit
59. Picnic salad ingredient
60. Sandwich-style sweet
61. CRTs and keyboards
63. Brazil neighbor
64. Fished for morays
65. You, biblically
66. Bridge position
67. Coral phenomena
68. Teacup handles



Down

1. Soft drink since 1898
2. Where roasts roast
3. Silver or steel
4. Diagnostic school exam
5. Foot feature
6. Pep rally word
7. _ a customer
8. Edible mushroom
9. Photographer Adams
10. Clothing
11. Elec. announcement facilitators
12. Otherwise
13. Complete collections
18. Overture follower
24. Sage, for one
25. Angled additions
27. Charge
29. Tantrum thrower
30. Peepers
31. "Fernando" pop group
32. Gun on stage, e.g.
33. Promo pros
35. Blouse, say
36. Kitchen add-on
38. Cone bearer
39. Em, to Dorothy
42. Removed, as a magazine page
44. Enactment
47. In pumps, for instance
49. Staples staple
50. Game show host
51. Kind of butter or brandy
53. Russian country home
54. Aquatic fun lover
55. Pries (into)
56. Easy stride
57. General vicinity
59. Pea containers
62. Flag thrower

* Answers on next page



PHILBRICK
CONTRACTING

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

Call Us For an Estimate Today!

905-684-9485

"Renovating Port Dalhousie
One House at a Time!"

36 SCOTT STREET W, ST. CATHARINES, ONT

The Port Dalhousie Conservancy
www.pdconservancy.org

Hainer's
AUTO REPAIR • TIRES
TUNE UPS • BRAKES

HARVEY HAINER

1198 THIRD ST. LOUTH RR#3
ST. CATHARINES, ON L2R 6P9

TEL: 905.934.2331

FAX: 905.934.5642

hainersdiscount@bellnet.ca

FOR ALL YOUR
AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS



Residents, Municipalities, and Development

I have been a keen observer of the process of development in St. Catharines for 15 years now, and am becoming increasingly discouraged by how the process of development effectively disempowers citizen involvement and frustrates those who care deeply about how they want their community to develop. The evidence is all around us. Community groups are rising everywhere as they react to particular developments in their neighbourhoods. We have seen this in Port Dalhousie but also in Port Weller, Walkers Creek, Merritton, Western Hill, the GM lands--- one group for almost every ward in the city. It is also becoming increasingly clear that residents have little to no say over development and are not taken seriously when they oppose it. It is easy to blame residents as being obstructionist when their control of what is going on around them is rapidly being eroded. So what is going on?

There are a number of poor practices that have developed: Municipalities pretend to be powerless and say that there is little they can do about what people do on private land. This is nonsense of course because the city has ultimate power over almost everything that goes on within its

boundaries. Just try to build an addition without a permit, or park your RV in front of your home for a week, or break the noise by-law and see what happens. The city has incredible power over development if only they decide to use it. Fear of liability or legal fees ought not to drive our responses. There is often a lack of

“The most controversial part of the Planning Act is Sec. 37 where a developer can exceed the law provided there is some social need that is being met or they are willing to provide public amenities which the city can’t afford. This is usually where conflict with the community begins.”

transparency from the perspective of the public, about what is really going on. The increased use of “in Camera” sessions, the lack of regular and proactive communication about what is

happening in a particular community foments suspicion. Sometimes justified, sometimes not. However, it’s clear that signs and a Zoom meeting are inadequate to explain the vagaries of planning rationale.

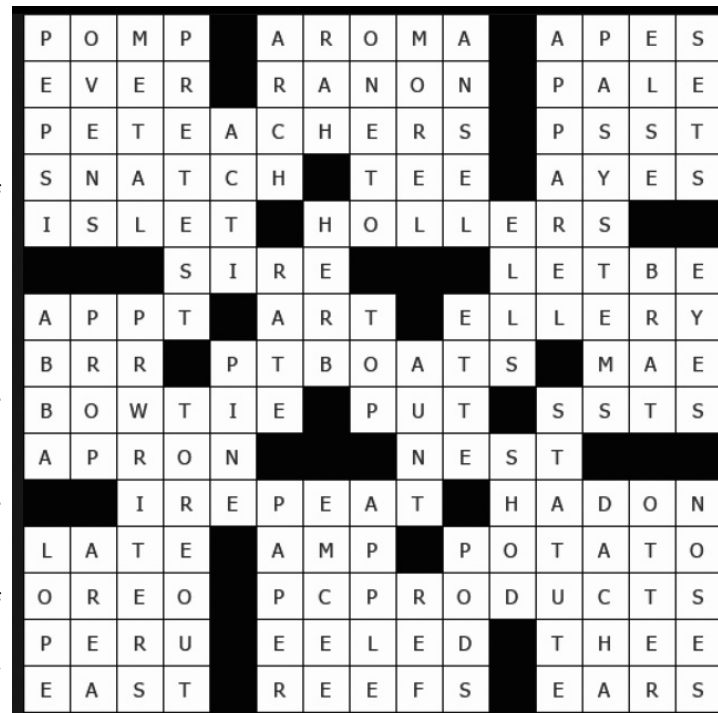
There are often opaque dealings surrounding the sale of public land, greenspace and the trading off of By-law enforcement or Zoning Plans, parking removal in exchange for “community amenities”.

The creation of complicated tax incentive and subsidy programs about which residents have little understanding as to their ultimate revenue or cost implications on future taxes or budget.

The passage of Secondary Plans and Zoning By-law Amendments that are found to be acceptable by residents and duly passed by Council, are subsequently rarely fully enforced especially when a developer has deep pockets to challenge them.

In all of the above situations, the city is fully in control of the process. Thousands of hours are spent preparing reports, thousands of dollars are spent on expert consultants to justify recommendations and proposals as to why there is a need to break the by-laws that Council has in good faith passed in order to accommodate a

Continued next page



Carlos Garcia
Councillor, Port Dalhousie Ward
City of St. Catharines

Independent Seniors Apartments

1&2 BEDROOMS 700-1000+ SQ FT
FULL KITCHEN | IN-SUITE LAUNDRY
5 APPLIANCES INCLUDING DISHWASHER
COMMON ROOM | FITNESS ROOM

The Rennie
Seniors Apartments *by Signature*

Call today to discover
905 935 1800

584 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, On, L2N 0B2
www.RennieApartments.com

Contact me for all your MORTGAGE NEEDS

- ✓ Purchases
- ✓ Transfers
- ✓ Refinancing
- ✓ Debt Consolidation
- ✓ Self Employed
- ✓ Good/Poor Credit

At Dominion Lending Centres -
Canada's #1 national mortgage brokerage -
I have access to Banks,
Trust Companies, Credit Unions
and Private Lenders.
More lenders translates into better options
and added savings for my clients.

Toni Tosti
MORTGAGE AGENT | Licence# M20000783
Cell: 289-213-8547 | Email: tonitosti@dominionlending.ca
Website: www.mortgagesbytoni.ca

Dominion Lending Centres (Canada Mortgage Group) | Independently Owned & Operated | FDIC/AMP2008

Port Library Savers Savour Their Accomplishment

Following Up On the Article we Published in the Last Port Reporter, We Present the Following Reprint

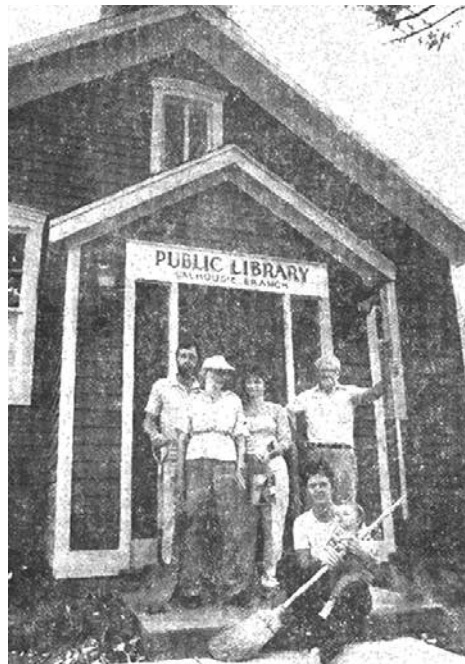
It took a determined citizens group, some hefty grants and months of hard work, but the historic Port Dalhousie library has been saved. "It feels great, just great" says construction co-ordinator Tom Challen as workers put the finishing touches to the tiny building. Just about a year ago city council voted 7-6 in favor of tearing down the former town hall to make way for a new fire hall on the Brock Street site.

But the Port Dalhousie Quorum (PDQ) a local citizens group rallied the town residents, raising more than \$7500 through fundraising drives, "fun runs" bake sales and other events, as well as rounding up a team of volunteers for the project.

Canada Works then came through with \$25,000 to hire unemployed workers for the refurbishing and city council eventually reversed its decision granting \$8,900 toward a new addition to serve as a reading room.

The new fire hall which is about a month away from completion and the refurbished library now stand side by side on the small Port Dalhousie side street. The community really came through for various reasons said Mr. Challen who is the vice-president of the PDQ. Most people didn't want to

lose library service and if the building had been torn down the library service would have gone too.



PDQ members and their cherished old building. L-R: Tom Challen, Donna Dalton, Shelley Carriere, Cliff Bennett and Susie Challen with daughter Katie.

City Staff originally estimated that refurbishing the run-down building would have cost about \$70,000 dollars. The PDQ finished the job for about 41,000 said Mr. Challen. The PDQ originally told council it could do the job for about \$7000 dollars but that figure only

represented essential repairs using volunteer labour explained Mr. Challen. A structural engineer has pronounced the building structurally sound and the building has been completely renovated with a new heating system, a wash-room accessible to the handicapped and insulation throughout.

New pinewood siding was installed on the outer walls to maintain architectural authenticity and a bell donated by a local antique business will soon be installed in the libraries tower said Mr. Challen.

"It's a real feather in our cap when you think about the work that has been done. The building is now good for another 100 years.

Ron Gill the cities facilities maintenance manager said " the building is now "200 percent better than before since the building had previously contained no insulation". "They've done an excellent job" said Mr. Gill.

Port Dalhousie Ward Ald. Brian Baker also commended the group for its work, although he felt the city staff could have been more helpful considering the PDQ was volunteering its time and labor. I think the staff tended to be a little over protective and gave

the volunteers too hard of a time while the construction was going on" commented Ald. Baker. I know they (Staff) have to follow the bylaws and other things, but restoring a city owned building at their own cost, they should have been a little more lenient. Some members of staff may not have been in agreement with the Library remaining on site and they presented a lot of headaches to the group and the ward aldermen"

Mr. Challen admitted that city bureaucrats provided a number of hurdles. "If it wasn't for our tenacity, the project could have been lost" said Mr. Challen. Ald. Baker said council should give the Port Dalhousie residents a "strong commitment" that the building will stay, even if the Library eventually pulls out in favor of a larger facility. Meanwhile, work on the new firehall is still proceeding at the site. The final cost should be slightly under the estimated \$237,000 cost, said Mr. Gill.

The PDQ plans an open house at the Library sometime in the next few weeks before turning the building back over to the city. ■

- Brian Collins

Reprinted with permission of the St. Catharines Standard

Residents, Municipalities, and Development ... Contd

particular development. Hopefully, Councillors have the time to read these multi-page reports between Thursday and Monday and, if fortunate, a concerned resident may have their 10 minutes of fame to speak to these often very complex issues before Council. There has to be a better way! It is no wonder that residents often feel manipulated and sometimes brutalized by the process.

Development needs to be bridled by strict laws to protect citizens. In health terms, unbridled cell growth is called cancer. Just drive down the Gardiner Expressway in Toronto and see where that malignancy has led them. As a City, we need to be far more proactive than we are if we are to preserve the communities we love.

The city has clear decisions that can be made on every application: The answer to an application is YES if it fits into the existing by-law and Zoning framework. These applications ought to be rapidly expedited as their respect for the law ought to be rewarded. The second answer could be MAYBE if some minor rounding off or common-sense solutions can be recommended, that respect the Guidelines and spirit of the By-law. These should be able to be clearly communicated. The third answer is NO which ought not to cause any controversy because the developer knows full well that they are well beyond the law when they bring the application. This is also an acceptable answer. The ability of a

developer to make a large profit should not come into it.

In all of the above scenarios, the city is in complete control. The most controversial part of the Planning Act is Sec. 37 where a developer can exceed the law provided there is some social need that is being met or they are willing to provide public amenities which the city can't afford. This is usually where conflict with the community begins.

It becomes a complicated and often opaque process of negotiating away public protections in exchange for monetary or societal gain. This is also why communities feel betrayed, because the laws that were passed to protect them are sold away. It also leaves the city open to manipulation by developers and artificially increases the value of the land because the main object of the developer's exercise is to have Council change their by-laws and approve a project. This reduces Councillors and citizens to either being cheerleaders of development, rubber stampers or being accused of being irrational Nimbys. These decisions can then go on to be monetized and resold to other developers who then can come back to the city and argue that they need just a bit more, and on and on until our planning regime becomes unrecognizable. It is high time for us to re-examine the role of residents in our democracy and their ability to hold the city accountable at times between elections. ■

- Hank Beekhuis



PHARMASAVE®

 *Canada's
community pharmacy*

Port Health Pharmacy

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

Your
Health and Wellness
Destination



**David Costiniuk &
Jennifer Nitsopoulos-Bruder**
Your Community Pharmacists.

www.pharmasave.com