



THE PORT REPORTER



**COUNCIL WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FOR TOWER PROPOSAL
Mayor Hopes for a More Acceptable Compromise from PDVC
But, Developer Vows to Forge Ahead to OMB With Same Tower Proposal
In Spite of Council's Position**

Hello volunteers and friend of Port Dalhousie Everywhere,
At its March 5, 2007 meeting, St. Catharines City Council voted to let the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) know it does not support the previous Council's approval of the condo tower development in Port Dalhousie's Heritage District. It further voted to require the developer to apply for Heritage Permits for its tower project BEFORE the OMB Hearings can proceed so that Heritage and Planning issues are dealt with simultaneously. This is a huge victory for democracy as the majority position of Council reflects the strong mandate they received at the November election that VOTERS DO NOT WANT THIS PROJECT AS PROPOSED. A big THANK YOU to those Councillors who are willing to stand up for our City!

The crucial vote came as Council reviewed a report from the Planning Department that recommended it support the previous Council's decision (a decision which was partly based on what we believe was a flawed report from the same Planning Department that relied on economic rather than planning arguments) and oppose the 26 appeals by the community before the OMB. Instead, Council voted against its Planner's recommendation and we believe this further strengthens our already strong case at the OMB.

As we previously told you, municipal law expert Jane Pepino has already made it clear that the OMB focusses on Planning Regulations like the Provincial Policy Statement, Official Plan, Zoning By-Law and Heritage Guidelines - NOT on economic issues which are not relevant. Since all of the above Planning Regulations would be contravened by the PDVC tower proposal, we continue to believe our case is extremely strong. In addition, according to Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs John Gerretsen, recently-approved changes to the OMB Act mean that: " Council members are the representatives of the public at any one given time, and it is the communities that should be planning their own development. It shouldn't be done by an outside agency (OMB)." (Toronto Star, February 10, 2007). This is also very significant since now our representatives will be on record as being opposed.

To be sure, the offending by-laws authorizing the tower project were not repealed. Nevertheless, it was very clear to those of us in the Council Chambers on March 5th that the votes were there for a full repeal had this softer motion not been introduced and passed first. The message to the developer is loud and clear: Council does not support their tower and they are encouraged to come back with a proposal that reasonably conforms to the applicable regulations. Mayor McMullan himself has stated: "I, as mayor, hope and am strongly encouraging, a made-in-St. Catharines solution". The mayor believes that the loss of Council's support should give PDVC "pause, a time to go back and, instead of forcing this to the OMB, to work with the city and the community to come up with a more acceptable compromise"... (Standard-March 7th). Will they do that? We certainly hope so and that they will be guided by the very clear message from Council. They have a golden opportunity to submit a new proposal that avoids a costly OMB Hearing for the City, taxpayers and themselves and they can still make a handsome profit by designing a low-rise development that fits with the heritage village.

The statements from PDVC since Council's vote have not been encouraging. Their lawyer has already stated "the matter is still headed for the Ontario Municipal Board" (Standard, March 7, 2007). PDVC are proceeding on to the OMB with their current 20-storey height tower regardless of Council's vote. This is such a pity as they could save the City, taxpayers and themselves a lot of money if they came back with an acceptable proposal. Instead they continue to cost everyone time, effort and money by pushing a proposal that is far in contravention of all applicable regulations.

Perhaps it is their hope that the community will go away and not be able to raise the estimated \$250,000 required to make our strong case at the OMB. Perhaps they are relying on the old adage that "Money always wins." Well, the citizens of St. Catharines are ready to prove that theory wrong. It is regrettable that the community has to raise a huge amount of money to get our City to enforce their own planning regulations but, we will be equal to the task. People Power will overcome Money Power.

Together we ARE Saving Our Seaport
David Bergen and Carlos Garcia
PROUD Port Dalhousie
A PROUD Eight-Year History as a Volunteer Community Organization

SPEAKING FROM THE HEART FOR ALL OF US
Councillor Bruce Williamson gave notice of the following resolution at the City Council meeting on March 5, 2007. Unfortunately his motion was pre-empted by another motion by Councillor Kushner, a motion which fell short of repeal of the "Tower By-Law" and which passed when the Mayor cast the deciding vote. Councillors voting in favour of Kushner's motion were: Jeff Burch, Mark Elliott, Joe Kushner, Peter Secord, Len Stack, Greg Washuta and Mayor Brian McMullan.
Councillors voting against Kushner's motion were Dawn Dodge, Heather Foss, Andrew Gill, Bill Phillips, Jennie Stevens and Bruce Williamson. Although Councillor Williamson's motion could not then be dealt with, it spoke for all of 'No Tower' supporters throughout St. Catharines.
For those not in attendance at the meeting or unable to watch the Cogeco telecast of the meeting Councillor Williamson resolution is printed below. We are proud of Councillor Bruce Williamson's stand on this issue.



Councillor Bruce Williamson

RESOLUTION
City of St. Catharines, March 5, 2007
WHEREAS the former Council of the City of St. Catharines enacted Official Plan Amendment 31 and Zoning By-law 2006-228 to permit, without amendment, a development as proposed by the Port Dalhousie Vitalization Corporation ("PDVC");

Next page

Inside.....

Big News: Council Withdraws Support for Tower Proposal1
Speaking from the heart for all of us.....1
Speaking from the heart for all of us(cont'd).....2
Canada's Heritage Buildings Still At Risk.....2
Protecting the Unique Identity of Canadian Communities.....2
What's Up?.....3
Remembrance of an Icon Mel Swart4
Wellspring Niagara Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show.....4
Speaking from the heart for all of us (cont'd).....4
Collingwood Mayor & Council" Walk the Talk"5
Do All Developers Use the Same Spin Doctors?.....5
V.O.T.E. Collingwood's Response.....5
Collingwood (cont'd).....6
"A Small Drop of Ink"6
Hospital News: Building for Today and Tomorrow – It's Our Time Building Project.....6
"Community".....6
Amazing Hubble Telescope Image.....6
Lateral Thinking7
Teacher Tips For Parents ..7
Climate Action Now8
Climate Action Now (continued).....9
Irish Blessing.....9
Region News:
'Move to Improve'.....9
Community Member Appointed to Niagara Police Services Board.....9
Crossword.....9
On the Lighter Side.....10
Hockey Quiz10
Crossword Solution.....10
Lateral Thinking (continued)10
The Black Aces - Unsung Hockey Legend.....11
Hockey Quiz Answers12
Herb Carnegie (Continued)12
Let's Party for Port.....12

AND WHEREAS this approval was appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board, and has caused significant debate and objection within St. Catharines;

AND WHEREAS a recent mediation by the Ontario Municipal Board failed to result in any changes to the PDVC development proposal;

AND WHEREAS there is substantial historical evidence, policies and material which establish and support the on-going importance of Port Dalhousie as a heritage area for the City, the Region and the Province;

AND WHEREAS the PDVC proposal would likely have a negative impact on the city's primary public lakefront recreational space; Lakeside Park;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Ministry of Culture recommended against approval of the PDVC development as proposed;

AND WHEREAS the Region of Niagara's Planning Department recommended against approval of the PDVC development as proposed;

AND WHEREAS the City's staff report recommending approval of the PDVC proposal did so, in large measure, on the basis of anticipated economic development to result from the development, as opposed to any consistency with approved Heritage Conservation and Planning principles and policies;

AND WHEREAS the City of St. Catharines must instruct its solicitor as to its position for purposes of a pre-hearing conference before the Ontario Municipal Board scheduled for March 13, 2007;

Council is aware that much information exists that supports refusal of the PDVC application and, therefore, this Council refuses the Staff recommendation, directs Staff to immediately prepare the necessary documents to repeal OPA 31 and By-Law 2006-228 for Council consideration, that those documents be processed in accordance with the law at the earliest opportunity, and that the OMB be advised at the Pre-Hearing conference of March 13, 2007 that Council does not support OPA 31 and By-Law 2006-228 and has commenced the process to repeal and oppose them.

Council also directs that for any new application within the Port Dalhousie Heritage Conservation District to be considered complete, it is to be preceded or accompanied by the necessary Heritage Act applications, and that any consideration by Council, or the OMB, of existing or new Planning Act applications alone, be considered premature.

Tonight this council has the opportunity to democratically serve the people we were elected to represent. Simply put, to do the job we were elected to do. The only available alternative to effectively carry this out is to support this motion which restores to the people of this city the power they were deprived of when an undemocratic and unjust decision was imposed last summer. I wish there was another alternative, a compromise position that would satisfy all parties, however it is clear this possibility does not exist. This is the opportunity to reestablish an even playing field and to demonstrate through our actions, not simply our words that we will serve the common good and do so in an open, transparent and accountable fashion.

Democracy in this country relies upon the three principles of the fundamental concept known as the rule of law. When a citizen arrives at city hall with a proposal to build something that is outrageously inconsistent with the land use planning bylaws that apply to their property they are informed that they need to come back when they have a plan that conforms, or comes closer to conforming, to the rules. This is accepted practice, and this is precisely what should have happened when this scheme arrived at city hall, but it didn't. If the same standards of justice were lived up to we would not have had the time, efforts and costs that have been expended throughout this ordeal.

The first principle of the rule of law is that citizens recognize and accept that we have laws necessary to guide a democratic society. Have the proponents and our civil servants passed this first test of the law? Absolutely, not. They have taken the stance that our bylaws, in the form of the Official Plan, the Port Dalhousie Secondary Plan, the District Heritage Guidelines, as well as, the provincial policies that underlie the municipal regulations do not matter. The proof of this is that they entirely disregarded these rules, or have interpreted them in such a way as to make a mockery of them. A three storey height limit translates into a twenty floor tower. This is not a minor difference; this is not pushing the envelope, this is a failure to acknowledge that we have planning rules of any sort or that they have any merit.

The second tenet of the rule of law is that the law applies equally to all, and that no one is above the law. This means that no matter how rich or poor you maybe, you are expected to follow the rules. Has this basic test been met? Definitely, not.

The third principle of the rule of law is that the law must not be used by individuals in government to arbitrarily use their power in a way which takes away or affects the rights and freedoms of others. Has this standard been achieved? Unequivocally, not.

The next aspect of democratic governance which must be considered is who is better equipped to make decisions on behalf of the citizens of St. Catharines. Is it our locally elected municipal council or a quasi-judicial tribunal called the Ontario Municipal Board made up members who are political appointees, and who may or may not have ever even heard of Port Dalhousie? Ontario policy direction regarding making sound democratic decisions sensibly prefers decisions that are made close to home by elected representatives over decisions made by appointed, unaccountable agencies disconnected from the community. If a locally made solution is not possible because the developers persist on going to the OMB we at least would have our position represented and under the new rules the adjudicator is compelled to give greater credence to the municipality's position. The only way to get the developer to negotiate is to bring this back into the jurisdiction of the duly elected council of the people of St. Catharines. Anything less is an abdication of our responsibility to the voters and says that a nameless OMB hearing officer, a political appointee from afar, who likely knows little, if anything about this municipality, has greater democratic worth and decision-making capability than our council. In other words you would be making the statement that the role of this municipal council is meaningless. By extension you would be saying that the people you were elected to serve do not deserve a voice on what is the single biggest issue this council faces.

While we should be greatly concerned about the consequences to an important block of interesting nineteenth century buildings, my major concern about this proposal is the negative impact it would have on the city's primary lakefront recreational space, Lakeside Park, the carousel, the piers, the harbourfront walkway and the loss of access to this area since residents from across St. Catharines will be deprived of the availability of parking because the increased demand for parking which would result from the proposed scheme. To take away the privilege from current and future generations of local children and their families the opportunity to enjoy this place undiminished by a 20 storey high rise blocking a broad expanse of the sky over the sunny southern side of the park is fundamentally wrong. Our role as elected representatives is to serve the broad public interest, or the common good of the people who elected us. (continued on page 4)

Auditor General's Report Finds Canada's Heritage Buildings Still At Risk

Ottawa, ON - February 13, 2007 -The Heritage Canada Foundation today welcomed the Auditor General's ongoing critical appraisal of heritage stewardship by the federal government.

"The Auditor General acknowledges the link between conserving historic places and protecting the environment," notes Natalie Bull, executive director of the Foundation. "It's clear that with the current regime, Canada's landmarks are still at risk of becoming landfill."

In 2003, the Auditor General noted that federally owned heritage buildings would be lost to future generations unless action was taken. Today, the Auditor General says that "Canada's built heritage is still afforded only uncertain protection."

Ms. Bull welcomes the Auditor General's recommendation for a stronger conservation regime: "What we really need is statutory protection. Canada is the only G-8 country without a binding law to protect historic places owned by its national government."

The failure of the status quo is starkly evident in the crisis facing federally owned lighthouses. The government's 'general obligation' to conserve historic places gets short shrift when funding is limited, with the result that icons like Cape Sable Lighthouse in Nova Scotia and B.C.'s Race Rocks Lighthouse are at risk of demolition by neglect. Bill S-220, introduced in the Senate in December 2006, is the sixth attempt to achieve statutory protection for lighthouses. Meanwhile, other federally owned historic places, including armouries and canals, fall under a policy that the Auditor General calls 'weak' and 'passive.' Federal post offices, port structures and archaeological sites are not even covered by policy.

HCF encourages Canadians to call for the long-awaited Historic Places Act, and to demand that it include statutory protection and maintenance standards for federally owned historic places.

PROTECTING THE UNIQUE IDENTITY OF CANADIAN COMMUNITIES*

Canada's communities are made up of historic places that define our cultural identity, give shape and texture to our urban and rural communities, and attract tourist dollars. A poll conducted in 2000 found that 91% of Canadians believe heritage conservation is important, and more than six in ten believe that built heritage is important to them. A recent survey conducted by the Strategic Council demonstrates that 75% of Canadians believe that "well preserved historic buildings and older neighbourhoods" are important or very important as desired features in their communities.

The Canadian Tourism Commission reports that heritage tourism enthusiasts represent a potential market of 34.5 million Americans and 2.6 million Canadians. The Canadian culture industry generates approx 3.8% of Canada's annual GDP, or \$39 billion annually, 1 billion of which is attributed to that segment of the cultural industry identified as heritage.

Yet every day, these places are being destroyed through desertion, decay, and demolition.

*One of HFC's Effectiveness Indicators to Determine Canada's Effectiveness in Protecting Historic Places

WHAT'S UP?

Tickets are now Available for The 2007 Spring House Tour of Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed & Breakfasts SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL OF RESTORATION ARTS & RED ROOF RETREAT

Saturday, May 12th, 2007, 12 pm to 5 pm
Tour both modern and historic lodging establishments, as well as two National Historic Sites, Willowbank Heritage Estate and Laura Secord House, in the village of Queenston.

12 pm to 6 pm: Enjoy the reception at Willowbank featuring Reif Estate wine tasting, classical music, hors d'oeuvres, an enticing Marketplace, and an Artists & Antiques Showcase.

Start off the day with a buffet lunch at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club at a special price of \$12.95.

Reservations can be made by calling 905-468-3424. Tickets for the Spring House Tour are only \$20.00

Call Willowbank at 905 262-1239, or see the spring tour website for a list of other convenient ticket locations. www.springhousetour.com

You could Win the Romance Getaway Package that includes an indulgent array of prizes, Valued at \$1500.

Proudly sponsored by The-Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed & Breakfast Association
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www.redroofretreat.com
www.springhousetour.com

WINONA: Beams of Light Presents...

Event 1: March 21st 2007, the United Nations designated "Day to End Racial Discrimination."

Beams of Light Studio has joined forces with HUG, a registered Canadian charity, whose mission is to educate children of the world about each other's cultures and faiths, to emphasize the common threads that bind humanity, and to foster understanding, with a goal to break the cycle of violence and hatred passed from generation to generation.

As a YOGA-THON participant choose to do 2 or 3 consecutive yoga classes on March 21st starting at 4:15pm. or 5:30pm. Suggested donation from sponsors \$10 for 2 classes and \$20 for 3 classes. All donations over \$20 will receive an instant tax receipt from HUG's secure on-line donation system.
905-520-7932 905-643-6298

Event 2: Vegetarian, Vegan or Raw Potluck

Saturday March 24th 5:30pm-7pm

FREE of Charge. Just bring along your favorite dish to share with others.

Drumming Circle starts at 7pm. Bring a drum or other instrument and help us create some amazing energy to fill the space. No drumming experience necessary. Just a willingness to have fun, share experiment and learn. FEE: \$5.

BEAMS OF LIGHT STUDIO

1304 HIGHWAY 8

Located on Highway 8 in Winona, just West of Fifty Road. The studio is in the lower level of Natural Therapies Clinic. Please go around the right side of the building to find entrance.

For more information www.beamsoflight.ca or call 905-520-7932 or 905-643-6298

HENLEY ISLAND

LET'S PARTY FOR PORT

April 14, 2007

7:30 p.m.

OMB Fund Raiser

See page 12

THOROLD: The Niagara Region Orchid Society is an association of people from all walks of life interested in growing orchids.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month from September to June at the Holy Rosary Church Hall, 21 Queen St., Thorold, Ontario. The meeting starts at 7:30pm.

Next Meeting: March 14

NIAGARA FALLS

FILM FESTIVAL

Mar 29, 2007 - Mar 29, 2007

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM Niagara Falls IMAX Theatre

City of Niagara Falls Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee hosting the 2nd Niagara Falls High School Student Film Festival.

Featuring short films by Niagara Falls High School Students.

Sponsored by:

Bell, Cataract Savings & Credit Union, City of Niagara Falls, Niagara Falls Rotary Club, Young Drivers of Canada, Artista Design & Print, St. Paul Media Tech Society, Stamford Collegiate, Studio 55 Digital, The Review, TVCOGECO

Website: <http://www.nfmyac.com>

Email: jalbanese@niagarafalls.ca

Phone: 905-356-7521&3332

Saturday Night Bandstand

Mar 31, 2007 - Mar 31, 2007

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM Kingston College

You have asked us to make a place for The Voices of Showtime and we have answered! The Voices of Showtime return to our stage with their Saturday Night Bandstand show. Featuring sounds from the 40's, 50's and 60's, these singers will return you to a time of Dick Clark and American Bandstand! You know how much you enjoyed Showtime a few seasons ago, they're back with another evening of pure entertainment. Please join Niagara Concerts for our fourth show of the 2006-2007 series.

Website: <http://www.niagaraconcerts.ca>

Email: niagaraconcerts@cogeco.ca

Phone: 905-358-6174

Brock Niagara Penguins

Monday April 2 at 6:00 PM

Niagara's premier swim and gym team for children & young adults with physical disability are holding a Fund raiser & Awareness Evening at Stonechurch Vineyards

Meet the Penguins and join us to hear Vicki Keith, Canada's most successful Marathon swimmer. For more information or to purchase tickets for \$5.00/person call 905 359 6283.

Please call Uwe Natho at 9056 646 3014 if you have any questions and/or suggestions

The St. Catharines-Thorold Super Cities WALK for MS

Sunday April 15, 2007

Early Check-In: Sat., April 14 10am-2pm

Walk Day Check-In: 7:00 am

Start Time: 9:00 am

Location: Port Dalhousie Lions Club

Route Length: 2km, 5km, 10km

This year's honorary chair is Jim Bradley MPP

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PORT COLBORNE

Mon, Mar 26

2007 Roselawn Juried Amateur Photography Show at the Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Avenue, Port Colborne, ON. Check out website at www.freewebs.com/roselawnphotoshow.

CHIPPAWA LIONESS PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Apr 01, 2007 - Apr 01, 2007

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM CHIPPAWA LIONS HALL

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NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Reservation Offices Open at Long Beach
and Chippawa Creek
April 11th, 2007

The Reservations Offices at Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas will start accepting reservations for camping, pavilion rentals and special events (like company picnics, family reunions, weddings, etc.) for the 2007 season on the second Wednesday in April (April 11, 2007).

For Camping Reservations, don't forget: You can now e-mail your "Reservation Request Form" to us, too; which will be responded to beginning April 11!

HALDIMAND

March 11

Habitat Haldimand's Environmental Workshop for Young Students

Haldimand Agricultural Centre - 1084 Kohler Road, Kohler, ON at 1:30-4 p.m.

Colouring, crafts, building nest boxes, bird feeders, fly tying, seed to tree exhibit, many other displays, videos and movie on environmental awareness. Everyone welcome. Free. 905-772-3706 (Wade) or 905-774-7845 (Jane)

Historical Society of St. Catharines

St. Catharines Museum (Lock 3) 7:30 pm

March 22, 2007

Brian Nahri: "The Court Records of Niagara"

April 26, 2007

Walter Asbil: St. George's Church and the Church of England in Niagara"

EMILY CARR

Lecture by Joan Murray

Author, art historian and past curator of the AGO

Thursday, April 12, 2007 7pm to 9pm

Learn more about one of Canada's most renowned artists.

\$15 admission includes refreshments

Please call or email to confirm attendance.

Limited Seating.

905.262.1239 or willowbankschool@bellnet.ca

At The Pumhouse April 19, 2007

Bus Trip to the AGO's Emily Carr Exhibit

Thursday, April 19, 2007 8:30am sharp

\$85 (Lunch not included)

Please call 905.468.5455 to confirm attendance.

Proceeds to benefit The Pumhouse, Willowbank and the Museum

Wellspring Niagara

Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show

April 22, 2007

Queen's Landing in NOTL

Special three course luncheon and a men's, women's and children's wear Fashion Show.

Tickets are \$50 each

**speaking from the heart
for all of us (continued from page 2)**

This proposal clearly runs contrary to carrying out this responsibility. Make no mistake, the people of St. Catharines enunciated this point strongly in the recent election results and it is elections which are at the cornerstone of democracy. If you are serious about adhering to democratic process this is our only opportunity to ensure this starts to happen. I witnessed the previous process and if secret committees, suppressed reports, campaign contributions, professional lobbyists, hired spin doctors equates to a balanced or fair process you are dreaming in Technicolor.

These developers have from the beginning given the ultimatum that this was a take it or leave it proposition and they have never made any attempt to negotiate on their original plans until the first proposal was denied by then long time Director of Planning John Rodey. Only then after the former Mayor's secret committee went to work did they come back with a proposal that turned out to be as massive and as incompatible as the first. When were elected or reelected in November we accepted the responsibility for making decision on this issue on behalf of the people of St. Catharines.

This is a defining moment for this council, a clear opportunity to distinguish ourselves from the way this matter was handled by a slim majority of members of the last council.

I encourage councillors to act to serve the common good tonight. I ask that you vote with your conscience and the best interests of all the people in your heart.

Remembrance of an Icon of Social Justice, the Environment, and the Community

The Niagara region lost a hero on February 27th 2007, when long-time **Mel Swart** died at the age of 87 after a series of small strokes. Throughout his life Mel demonstrated a tireless commitment to the pursuit of social justice. He was tenacious and persevering in his quest for and maintenance of political office. As his daughter Melva Snowling said at his Memorial Service, his quest for office was not the pursuit of power or status, but rather, a deeply felt recognition of how he could most effectively serve his community.

It was standing-room-only at Trinity United Church in Thorold, the church he attended throughout his life, where high profile politicians from all parties sat next to parishioners, long-time friends and former constituents, and people whose lives had been touched by this extraordinary man. Several hundred people gathered on March 10th 2007 to celebrate Mel Swart's life, remember his achievements and to wish him farewell. Mel Swart was described by his successor and protégé Peter Kormos as an "icon," whose "commitment to his causes and his fearlessness have left a mark on not just this region, but the province." (Toronto Star, March 1, 2007)

Kormos delivered an eloquent and passionate description of Mel's commitment to his political beliefs during a time when those maintaining the values of a democratic socialist were subject to harsh scrutiny. Kormos read a letter from Stephen Lewis, former leader of the Ontario NDP that described the numerous ways in which Mel Swart raised the standard for political stewardship among his peers.

Mel Swart will be remembered for his many achievements as a preserver of farmland, a vigorous environmentalist, a committed family man, a friend of many and a statesman.

John Bacher, environmentalist and political historian, has recently completed a biography of Mel Swart, with an introduction by Stephen Lewis. Publication by McGill-Queens University Press is anticipated in the near future.

Deborah Kehler

Not being family owned means you probably won't meet their owners at any of the other events in your life requiring flowers, either.

However, being family owned means you get invited to family gatherings because you know those families; you serve them, shop at the same store or even go to the same church. Unlike other local funeral homes, we take pride in being part of the community.

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Taking the Time to Care.

Stunning Senior Moment

Apparently, a self-important college freshman attending a recent football game took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

"You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one," the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear. "The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon. Our space probes have visited Mars. We have nuclear energy, ships and electric and hydrogen cars. Computers with light-speed processing, ..and more.

"After a brief silence the senior citizen responded as follows:

"You're right, son. We didn't have those things when we were young.....so we invented them. Now, you arrogant little numskull, what are you doing for the next generation?"

The applause was surprising..

RETRACTION: Beacon Financial Group did not give final approval to their ad's inclusion in the Feb. Reporter. Our apologies for not understanding that official venue approval was required, not just content.

DISCLAIMER

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Deadline for posting of community events and advertising for the next issue is MAR.. 25. Call Jim Vanderburgh 937-5608.

The Port Reporter will occasionally distribute brochures to help offset our costs. To submit requests for rates-please call Bruce (646-1264, Jim 937-5608)



Could the Groundhog be right?

THE PORT REPORTER

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Monday

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ... Bingo
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. . Quilting

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
... Crafts and Social Time
Third Tuesday only - Luncheon

Wednesday

Second Wed. 12:30 - Pot Luck
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Euchre

Thursday: 1-4 pmBingo

Saturday

(1st Saturday of each month)
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.... Euchre

Note: Foot clinic every 6th Thursday - - \$10.00

Call for dates and time (646-8000)



Ruth Beekhuis, B.A., M.S.W., R.S.W.

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PROUD PORT DALHOUSIE PAGE

COLLINGWOOD MAYOR & COUNCIL "WALK THE TALK"

Below is the latest article on the Collingwood heritage story. The new Mayor indicated that he initiated the vote to rescind approval because he listened to the people during the election campaign and they wanted development to be consistent with Heritage Guidelines.

David Bergen and Carlos Garcia
PROUD Port Dalhousie

Mayor wants OMB on side with Admiral project

Author: John Edwards
Date: Feb 09, 2007

Collingwood Mayor Chris Carrier believes the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) will agree with the recent decisions by council regarding the Admiral Collingwood Place development.

"I am confident of the decision the majority of council who voted in favour of rescinding the approval of the developer's HIA (heritage impact assessment) and I believe if an OMB decision is required it will concur with the recent decision of council," he said.

This statement was made in an e-mail interview with The Connection and comes after Admiral Collingwood Place developers Steve Assaf and Scott Strandholt announced they had filed an appeal with the OMB.

The developers have proposed development of a multi-million-dollar residential, commercial and retirement residential development at the corner of Hurontario and Hume streets on the site of the former Admiral Collingwood School.

The central issue is the proposed six-storey height of the complex which exceeds the town's guidelines for the heritage district.

The previous council gave the developers the green light but council voted Jan. 15 to repeal the heritage impact assessment and site development agreement for the project.

In a press release, the developers said they have been working "in good faith" with the municipality over the past two years, "agreeing to every single request that has been brought forward."

According to the release, the hearing is slated for April or May.

"We remain committed to creating a development that will be the pride of Collingwood and an anchor that any downtown core in Ontario would be proud to host," said Assaff.

"That being said, we are also committed to working with this council, if they are willing, in order to secure a solution that will save the taxpayers and ourselves hundreds of thousands of dollars at the Ontario Municipal Board."

Carrier said that council is not against the development but they believe it should follow the heritage district guidelines.

"Where we draw lines of distinction in this debate is whether or not the proposed development is acceptable under the heritage guidelines. I respect and concur with the opinion of the peer reviewer of the proposed development," he said.

"I listened to many people during the election campaign and I participated in all the public meetings I received invitations to. The overwhelming opinions I received were in support of a development that was respectful to the heritage guidelines and the downtown heritage conservation district."

More on Collingwood: Do All Developers Use the Same Spin Doctors?

We are copying below two press releases to do with the Collingwood situation: one from the developer and one from V.O.T.E., the community organization opposing the current proposal for the City's Heritage District. V.O.T.E. supports development on the site in question but opposes the current proposal because it violates the Official Plan and Heritage Guidelines. Of course, in our case the Port tower proposal would also be contrary to the Provincial Policy Statement, Secondary Plan for Port Dalhousie and Zoning By-Law.

You will find the similarities very interesting.

On January 30th, the Admiral project developers sent out an angry media release venting their frustrations about V.O.T.E.'s decision to drop their appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board. V.O.T.E.'s decision to withdraw their appeal came as a result of council's decision to revoke their acceptance of the developers Heritage Impact Assessment. As that decision by council addressed V.O.T.E.'s principal concerns, V.O.T.E. dropped its appeal. **It is our position that the developers' comments in their media release are both misleading and unfounded. A rebuttal release was issued by V.O.T.E. the following day and both releases follow.**

News Release

ADMIRAL COLLINGWOOD/ADMIRAL VILLAGE

FRUSTRATED WITH VOTE GROUP

January 30, 2007

Collingwood: Admiral Collingwood and the Admiral's Village developments are frustrated by V.O.T.E.'s involvement in their development process.

V.O.T.E. waited until the last day possible to file their OPA appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) after the developments received approval from Collingwood Council and unanimous support from County Council. They then waited until the second last day to file their Zoning By Law appeal to the OMB. Both of these tactics have caused the developments lengthy delays.

After having filed appeals in July and November of 2006, V.O.T.E. withdrew their appeals on January 22nd, 2007. This creates a situation where the Town, taxpayers and the developers are left to pay for the appeal. V.O.T.E. is no longer responsible for any of the costs associated with the OMB hearing that V.O.T.E. originally requested.

To date the actions of V.O.T.E. Collingwood have delayed the Admiral projects by over one year and have cost the Town an estimated \$750,000.00 in lost tax revenue.

ED. NOTE: SOUND FAMILIAR?

The developers, Scott Strandholt and Steve Assaff have received numerous calls and emails from the community offering support for their project since the new Council voted on January 15th to rescind their Heritage Impact Assessment and Site Development Agreement and in response to V.O.T.E. withdrawing their appeal. Even those originally opposed to the six storey proposal are now offering their support after witnessing Council rescind all of the agreements that had been put in place by the municipality.

"Scott and I are proud of the developments that we are working on. We are planning a world-class development for Collingwood and are investing millions of dollars in the future of our Downtown and community," stated Steve Assaff.

"V.O.T.E. has clearly demonstrated a manipulative political approach throughout the development process. This special interest group has now strategically transferred their OMB costs to the taxpayers of Collingwood and will stop at nothing in

pursuit of their agenda", said Strandholt.

ED. NOTE: SOUND FAMILIAR?

V.O.T.E. Collingwood's Response to Developer's Media Release

I will begin by saying that it is unfortunate that any private citizens' group should ever have to go the OMB at their own expense to uphold the Planning policies of the municipality because the elected officials of the day did not do so. In any case, why should a group of ratepayers pay to defend a Heritage District that just a few short years ago was passed unanimously into law by the very same Council. That being said, the developer's media release is grossly misleading in stating that VOTE, by dropping its appeal, has transferred costs associated with the OMB hearing to the taxpayer. In fact, by withdrawing our appeal, there will be no hearing, unless the developer himself chooses to file a new appeal of his own. And there will be no hearing if the developer chooses to comply with the Heritage Conservation District policies.

We remind you that VOTE has always expressed support for the developers plan to redevelop that corner with a mixed residential and commercial use. Our objective in filing an appeal of OPA 5 was to ensure that the Town's Official Plan and its Heritage Conservation District Guidelines were upheld, because the Council of the day had ignored the guidelines, its own Heritage Advisory Committee and its own consultants. Appealing to the OMB is a legally sanctioned process under the Planning Act for the purpose of arbitrating between the municipality and any local interest when there is a dispute. It is entirely within the rights of any organization to file an appeal with the OMB if they feel that the municipality has erred in its decision making. To imply otherwise is erroneous and deceptive. We received an enormous amount of support for our appeal, and our initiative in bringing this issue to the forefront of the community.

This new Council has made a firm commitment to heritage preservation by initiating the process of enshrining the current guidelines into an official bylaw, and by ensuring that other new construction, such as the new Library, will adhere strictly to the guidelines. They exercised their proper authority and right to review disputed decisions of the previous council and have enforced correct implementation of the Heritage District Guidelines



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(Continued from page 5)

by rescinding the developers Heritage Impact Assessment and therefore, the Site Development Agreement. While there will always be differing viewpoints, we know from correspondence with our members and with others in town that there is a tremendous amount of support among the community at large for Council's initiative here. Council has dealt with the main concerns of our appeal, which were height and design, and we see no reason to take the issue gratuitously to the province for mediation.

Authority for approval of the project is once again where it should be – with the Town.



Hubble's new image of the Antennae galaxies is seemingly a violent clash between a pair of once isolated galaxies, but is in reality a fertile marriage. As the two galaxies interact, billions of stars are born, mostly in groups and clusters of stars. The brightest and most compact of these are called super star clusters.

Credit: NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration

Public Service Announcement:

Building for Today and Tomorrow – It's Our Time Building Project

* Date of Issue: Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Community Information Open Houses

Members of the public are kindly invited to attend a community information open house on the development of the "Building for Today and Tomorrow – It's Our Time Building Project to create a new state-of-the-art health-care complex at the First Street and Fourth Avenue location in west St. Catharines.

The complex when completed will be home to a new local hospital to serve the residents of St. Catharines, Thorold and immediate area; the new Niagara Regional Cancer Centre; Regional Cardiac Catheterization Centre; and Tertiary Mental Health Centre.

St. Catharines Ontario Street Site
Ontario Street Site
155 Ontario St. St. Catharines, ON L2R 5K3
Tel: 905.378.4647 Fax: 905.682.5533

The information open house will be held on:
Thursday, March 8, 2007
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Niagara Health System Ontario Street Site – 6th Floor Board Room
155 Ontario Street, St. Catharines
Call 905-378-4647 ext. 47579 for more information.

A LETTER FROM GRIMSBY

"A Small Drop of Ink..."

by Dorothy Turcotte

Wed. January 24, 2007

A few weeks ago, a group of Niagara area citizens attended a dinner to celebrate a wind change in the fortunes of PROUD, the citizens' group which is opposing the construction of a 17-storey tower in Port Dalhousie's Designated Heritage District. In the recent election, the mayor and most of the councillors who approved of the development were ousted from their seats, while new pro-heritage people were elected to replace them. "A triumph for Democracy," says David Bergen, co-chair of PROUD.

Many people will say "So what? I don't live in St. Catharines or Port Dalhousie. It doesn't make any difference to me what they do there." As a matter of fact, it makes a great deal of difference.

In the larger picture of Canada as a whole, it matters when the wishes of the majority of voters are ignored, and when plans are made behind closed doors without even a trace of transparency. It's alarming when the basic tenets of democracy are ignored so that developers can achieve their goals.. We simply can't allow that to happen if Canada is to retain its reputation for freedom and honesty.

The Tower issue is going to the OMB this summer. If the project is allowed to go ahead, it will open the door to similar inappropriate developments all over the province. No doubt there are developers waiting with baited breath to snap up prime properties and create architectural monstrosities that will ruin heritage areas and destroy cherished vistas. Once a precedence has been set, local municipalities won't be able to deny these blots on our countryside. So this issue is of importance to those of us in Grimsby, as well as to citizens all over Ontario.

Developers sneeringly say that PROUD and its supporters are anti-development. That is not true. But they are to a man (and woman) against inappropriate development.

Away back in 1624, John Donne wrote "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the main; if a clod be washed away by the seas, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were..."

That's as true today as it was 400 years ago.

COMMUNITY

The physical rules of responsibility in a community are obvious. Clean up after yourself; put tools away; if you break it, you fix it. The psychological rules are similar. Clean up your misunderstandings. If you break someone's trust, fix it. Those rules aren't easy to follow, but it's amazing how much better the world works, when people even try.

I suppose the real secret of community is the same as the real secret of marriage: commitment. Be in it for the long haul. Do everything in my power to make it work. The minute I start playing the "you'd better shape up, or I'm out of here" game, I'm undermining community, standing on the sidelines, feeling superior, not helping. Just look around and watch how many people in their families, workplaces, neighborhoods are playing that game.

Donella H. Meadows (1941-2001)

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LATERAL THINKING

Many years ago in a small Russian village, a farmer had the misfortune of owing a large sum of money to the village money lender.

The money lender, who was old and horrible, fancied the farmer's beautiful daughter. So he proposed a bargain. He said he would forgo the farmer's debt if he could marry his daughter. Both the farmer and his daughter were horrified by the proposal.

The cunning money lender suggested that they decide the matter this way: He told them that he would put a black pebble and a white pebble into an empty money bag. Then the girl would have to pick one pebble from the bag.

1. If she picked the black pebble, she would become his wife and her father's debt would be forgiven.
 2. If she picked the white pebble, she need not marry him and her father's debt would still be forgiven.
- But if she refused to pick a pebble, her father would be thrown into jail.

Standing on a pebble-strewn path in the farmer's field, the money lender bent over to pick up two pebbles. As he picked them up, the sharp-eyed girl noticed that he had picked up

two black pebbles and put them into the bag. He then asked the girl to pick a pebble from the bag. Now, imagine that you were standing in the field that day. What would you have done if you were the girl? If you had to advise her, what would you have told her?

Careful analysis would produce three possibilities:

1. The girl should refuse to take a pebble.
2. The girl should show that there were two black pebbles in the bag and expose the money lender as a cheat. But he will not forgive the loan.
3. The girl should pick a black pebble and sacrifice herself in order to save her Father from his debt and imprisonment.

Take a moment to ponder over this story.

Experts use it to make people appreciate the difference between lateral and logical thinking. The girl's dilemma cannot be solved with traditional logical thinking. Think of the consequences if she chose any of the logical choices. What would you recommend the girl do? Do not look at the answer yet, give your advice after a few minute of your own lateral thinking....(see page 10)

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Angela Saleta

TEACHER TIPS FOR PARENTS

Subject- Lunches -age 5-10

During my many years teaching I have noticed that there is a large amount of waste from food and drinks during the lunch time. Juice containers were often half full or just tasted when thrown away. Sandwiches were often put into the garbage undetected. Students who were filling up on their snack food at recess wouldn't attempt to eat their healthy food at lunch. Children are bringing commercially prepared meals that which I agree are better than candy, chips or raw noodles, are still high in salt and fat. Our children are becoming heavy and many live on a diet consisting mostly of sugar, salt and fat.

Nutrition was always an ongoing topic during the year and I like to think I changed the future of some of my students. For Halloween and Easter we had healthy buffet lunches, no junk food allowed. If I knew then what I know now, bowel health would have had a more predominant place in our discussions.

Here are a few suggestions for lunch.

Discuss what will be made for your child's lunch ahead of time so that comments such as "This has mayo on it. I can't eat it like that." are eliminated. Juice or water in a reusable bottle or container will cut down on the waste and is able to be stored safely for future use during the day. Planning for lunches ahead of time takes some time and effort. Think of your child as a beautiful flower in your garden. You have the power to turn that child into a strong healthy adult.

For your future and theirs, it's worth the effort
Mrs. O

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CLIMATE ACTION NOW

On a per capita basis Canada is the largest consumer of energy in the world and the second largest producer of greenhouse gases. With just over 30 million people, we use as much energy as the entire continent of Africa, home to 700 million people.

Canadian emissions have yet to lessen. While here in Niagara, as elsewhere, some of us have turned down our heat, drive less frequently and with closer destinations, use fewer lights and dry clothes on an indoor line. While it seems little has changed, that's not so.

The new city council of St. Catharines has opened the doors of communication. It's a huge step that fosters community and stewardship in residents who love where we live. Through the Official Plan Review process, the Planning Department has encouraged us all to look at our use of land and just how few acres are available to pass on to our children undamaged by human activity. The process of infilling, joining commerce with residential, and locating wasted resources is finally begun and none too soon. There will be developers who read Jane Jacobs, Food for a Changing Climate or Plan B, who will step up to create what is needed and with greater profits.

By thinking globally and acting locally a proliferation of like-minded people are choosing to act at all levels. One such groundswell of people that are taking initiatives is St. Catharines CAN (Climate Action Now).

This group of St. Catharines volunteers has created an agenda to initiate additional greening as well as encourage carbon emission reduction. The Anti-Idling Campaign with community and civic involvement is one such project. Another project assists Green Communities Canada to locate and assist homeowners of low income to apply for the Energy Efficiency Assistance Program offered through the Ontario Power Authority.

Some projects of St. Catharines CAN are decidedly homegrown. An example of this is the pruning and harvesting of our boulevard fruit trees for local shelters and food banks. Anyone with fruit trees on their boulevard or in their backyard, who would like to be included in this endeavour are encouraged to contact us. Another project currently underway is Circle Greening. The use of native and naturalized plant species, that can tolerate greater zone temperature fluctuations, will assist in taking the heat off the streets and the continuation of diverse species. We will require a number of volunteers and associations for the support and maintenance of these projects. We welcome new members and encourage your input.. Contact information is listed below.

Today's column is 'Choosing an Energy Efficient Home', another of David Suzuki's Top Ten Points of Action.

I offer my sincere thanks to those who have lent assistance, information and support thus far, and especially to the Port Reporter for enabling this column and forum.

J Hanlon, Niagara 905-938-8882 or energynspired@yahoo.ca

Choosing Energy Efficient Homes & Appliances

Stats reported in Tyee (Mike O'Connell) state that a rough estimate of world coal consumption is 6098 million short tons, producing 3049 Million tons of carbon a day. We'd have to plant 122 million new acres of forestland **daily** to sequester the carbon from that coal. With Ontario coal fired plants being slated obsolete while relying on aging nuclear plants

to provide the majority of our power, serious reductions need to occur.

Our daily activities, turning on lights, watering the lawn, flushing the toilet, home purchases, showering or bathing, and killing pests have an environmental impact. Multiplied by 11 million Canadian homes and over the course of a year the impact is enormous. The 2004 (Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency) breakdown of home energy use places space heating at 57%, water heating 22%, appliances 16%, lighting 4% and space cooling at 1%.

We've made inroads into the efficiency of furnaces and appliances, however the increased number of households, the sheer size of new homes along with increased window space have offset the energy reductions. "Increasingly, we need to adopt lifestyles that move toward comfort with increasing density and shifting away from a demand for single detached homes" Single homes use a whopping 27% more energy than attached housing such as condos and duplexes.

New homes that meet the R2000 standards set by the federal government to promote energy efficient construction cost approximately 4 - 14 % more than (sub) standard homes. They have lower utility bills and increased resale value. These homes use 2/3 the energy of conventional homes. While we credit builders for achieving the new standards we can do better yet. All new residential construction in Britain must add more to the energy grid than it removes. Italy, Britain and the United States are making great inroads at increasing energy efficiency where entire industries have sprouted up in an effort to find wasted energy within the home.

Inside the home:

Don't buy or rent a home larger than you need.
Seal drafts around walls (outlets), windows and doors with caulking.
Apply weather stripping and caulking.
Add a solar attic fan.
Improve roof insulation.
Use a light colour for roofing shingles.
Insulate floors and basements. Use carpets.
Install storm windows and doors.
Apply draft stop window film in winter.
Apply film in summer with UV/heat inhibitors.
Use blinds, heavy drapes that cover the complete window area, not just the inset.
Use a programmable thermostat and program the setback.
Employ the same strategy for air conditioning.
Wear a sweater and slippers in winter.
Turn off computer monitor when not in use.
Dismantle the clocks in your microwave, VCR, DVD, stovetop, ...
Use microwaves instead of the stovetop. Stop using them for defrosting.
Use a clothesline during the summer and a drying rack in winter.
Use energy saving settings on dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer. Wash only full loads.
Leave leftovers on the counter until they reach room temperature before putting into freezer.
Turn off appliances and unplug when not in use.
Replace old furnaces, refrigerators or freezers to energy efficient ones (at least newer than 1993).
Use solar energy to supplement hot water heating and heat the water used at source.
Choose a low flow toilet.
Use only 100% recycled toilet paper.
Install low flow showerheads and faucets.
Wrap hot water pipes.
Reduce the temperature setting on your water tank.
Launder clothes less frequently.

Wash clothing in cold water.

Ener Guide labels have been a great beginning and the Energy Star Appliance Feebate program (Suzuki Switch Green) will have additional impact. This program aims to add a modest fee to appliance and furnace models that don't meet Ener Guide standards while offering a consumer rebate on Energy Star approved appliances. This contributes to energy conservation, energy costs, greenhouse gas emissions, smog, water consumption and maintains a neutral revenue outcome for government. It implements the adjustment needed to the price of goods and services to reflect costs born by society as a whole.



Outside the Home or Nature Unhampered:

Native plants are the trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses that have grown wild in Niagara for centuries. They're adapted to the local environment, are less susceptible to insect and disease damage. They provide food sources and shelter for local wildlife, provide species diversity, beauty and much needed carbon sinks and are a boon to our health.

Get a head start THIS spring.

Install motion sensor lighting.
Use native and naturalized plants to provide shade and a windbreak.
Use softwoods and hardwoods.
Use a diversity of tree species to assist survival rates.
Use Carolinian species as well as cold tolerant species.
Plant nut trees, pines, berry bushes and fruit trees.
Plant both sexes of a tree species (reduces asthma levels)
Encourage wildflowers, weeds and long grasses along roads and highways.
Stop using pesticides, weed killers, acidifying agents (health issues, water contamination).
Incorporate edibles as ornamentals.
Allow dandelions to grow (give a rabbit a good meal, make wine)
Make your own compost.
Convert an area to shrubbery to assist birds and small animals.
Encourage your workplace to do the same.
Plant trees in groves or groupings (increases carbon uptake).
Dig only where you plant.
Leave leaf litter where it belongs, in the garden.
Allow nature to compost at its own rate.
Leave lawn clippings on the lawn.
Don't use overhead watering.
Reduce lawn size, replace with groundcovers.
If you must mow, use a lightweight push mower.
Mow over leaves instead of bagging.
Use an arbour, trellis, large shrubs and trees to take heat off patio and home.
Encourage attractively planted shallow swales instead of concrete curbing.
Use gravel drives instead of concrete or paving.
Use a snow blower when your neighbourhood teen can't shovel.
Cover your pool when not in use.
Lastly, when the heat waves are on, provide relief for your neighbours as well

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CLIMATE CHANGE NOW (continued from page 8)

UP FOR DISCUSSION FORUM (Where we encourage Niagara residents to put forward concerns and ideas with regard to land, air and water stewardship).

Current water use increases by 50% during summer months. This is an area we can surely make a dent. We can reduce the heat within our city by establishing an urban canopy. We can implement healthier surroundings as soon as the weather permits. By using native or naturalized plant species, by allowing a corner of every city lot to go native, we'll be promoting diversity, saving much needed water and assisting our own health.

Hospital and Environmental Implications

The St. Catharines 'hospital location' plows full-steam ahead regardless of environmental implications. Developers and several officials view green land as expendable being wrapped in appropriate zoning. They're working quickly to solidify the supposed 'done deal' of land never before built upon including 20 acres for parking, with the privately owned but publicly funded LHIN. This proposed location slams Smart Growth objectives. The media assisted this moneyed corporation this week by printing a quote that suggests we should let it go and stop discussing it! Only a full review with cost projections by an unbiased third party for the current Queenston Street location will satisfy many local residents. Many envision a hospital built across from the current one (reducing disruption) with an overhead corridor for crossing into the Cancer Centre. Parking isn't covered in the current sticky deal and there may not be unlimited space for the profiteers of the sick and elderly but there's got to be trade-offs somewhere.

In response to last month's column which explored 'Preparing Meals with Locally Produced Food' in a Niagara context

Elaine, St. Catharines ---writes about bike safety and bike racks at local malls. "I would love to leave my car at home but I don't want my bike stolen".

Are there business owners and mall managers that would like to step up with service?

Bob, St. Catharines ---writes about selection at supermarkets. "The Lakeshore No Frills only carries Ontario mushrooms. Even the squash and apples are from the States".

No Frills is making a tidy profit as one of our supermarkets. Will they also learn to invest in our local food economy and health? I've been informed that the Vineland Grower's Cooperative supplies local Zehrs stores in season. Check out www.niagaracooks.ca for a listing of local culinary suppliers.

On the global front, Bangladesh, with a population of 150 million people, is seeing rising sea levels that are contaminating the fresh water supply.

Contact information for St. Catharines CAN (Climate Action Now)
Next scheduled presentation is Tuesday March 6, 2007, limited seating.
Write or call energyinspired@yahoo.ca or 905-938-8882

A Traditional Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



ACROSS

- 1 Frantic
- 4 Related to reggae
- 7 Slang for a jail
- 10 French gold or silver coin
- 11 A mischievous person
- 12 Fixed routine
- 13 Stretchable
- 15 Yuck!
- 16 Reparation
- 18 Vent
- 21 Scrimp
- 24 a.k.a. Song thrush
- 26 Fluctuate between normal and falsetto
- 27 Notches made to keep a tally
- 29 Extremely
- 30 Rechristen
- 32 Communications company
- 34 Warned
- 38 Pastry
- 39 Nurse-patient relation
- 40 Baseball stat.
- 41 A basic state of matter
- 42 A bud on a tuber
- 43 ____ Robinson

DOWN

- 1 The Metropolitan Opera, informal
- 2 One or eleven in Blackjack
- 3 Make persistent demands for payment
- 4 Do the crawl
- 5 Varieties of cabbage
- 6 William Morris ____
- 7 Vigorous movement for a cause
- 8 Cal. mo.
- 9 Last in an indefinitely large series
- 14 Type of literature
- 17 Cattle or sheep driver
- 18 River in West Germany
- 19 A British raincoat, or a computer
- 20 Slang for piano keys
- 22 ____ Cent
- 23 Tarzan actor Ron
- 25 Upper house of U.S. Congress
- 28 ____ Forth
- 31 Aromatic spice made from nutmeg
- 32 Seen on an automobile's dashboard
- 33 Started as the OSS
- 35 Memphis, Tennessee airport code
- 36 Violate accepted moral standards
- 37 Prosecutors, informal

REGION NEWS

'Move to Improve' Hopes To Change Smoking Behaviours

NIAGARA REGION, February 12, 2007 – A free smoking cessation program aimed at residents of Niagara who wish to change their smoking behaviour is now operating in Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland.

'Move to Improve' was developed to address an unmet need identified for social assistance participants as a specific population. However, the program has since been broadened to ensure that no one wanting to quit smoking will be turned away.

The support groups are led by trained volunteer facilitators and are conveniently located where other community support programs are offered. Written and audio program materials are available in English, French and Spanish. The 'Move to Improve' smoking cessation program is fully funded by Health Canada, delivered by Community Services and supported by a number of Niagara community agencies and volunteers.

"Regional Council recognizes that changing behaviours can be the key to a healthy lifestyle, said Regional Chairman Peter Partington. "We don't want anyone turned away from access to this free cessation program if they wish to improve their health and well-being."

John Mutikani, a social assistance recipient and former smoker, participated in the training course and is now a volunteer motivator, leading one of the 'Move to Improve' group support sessions. John holds a PHD in Nursing, and noted that the motivator training helped him to see smoking as an addiction and the importance of the whole group in finding the appropriate solution and support for the individual. "Ultimately, it's the individual who must be ready to cut down the amount they smoke or quit completely. The group is there to encourage the individual to take the next step and there to lend their support each week."

All cessation support groups run from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.:

- * Tuesdays at Project S.H.A.R.E. in Niagara Falls
- * Wednesdays at the Folk Arts Centre in St. Catharines
- * Thursdays at Centre de santé communautaire du Niagara in Welland
- * Fridays at Adolescent Family Support Services of Niagara in Niagara Falls.

Program information is available by calling 905-354-3561 ext. 256 or toll free 1-877-403-8799 ext. 256.

Community Member Appointed to Niagara Police Services Board

NIAGARA REGION, March 1, 2007 – This evening Regional Council approved the recommendation to appoint Mr. Thomas (Todd) Shoalts to a four-year term as the community member to the Niagara Police Services Board.

Mr. Shoalts is currently Vice President and General Manager of Lester Shoalts Ltd., a real estate development, construction and property management company based in Port Colborne. Mr. Shoalts is a qualified Chartered Accountant, and is recognized as a specialist in investigative and forensic accounting.

The appointment is for the period from March, 2007 to November 2010, and follows the six-year term of Mr. Larry Iggulden as community member and Chair of the Police Services Board.

"We look forward to working with Mr. Shoalts through the Board," said Regional Chairman Peter Partington. "We would also like to thank Larry Iggulden for six years of dedicated service. His contributions and leadership have been immeasurable, and I thank him on behalf of the residents of Niagara."

The Niagara Regional Police Services Board is comprised of three Regional Council representatives, three Provincial Government appointees, and one community member.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

WESTJET

The Canadian Style of Humour
Judith Sudes <toonssudes@gmail.com

Westjet is an Airline with its head office situated in Calgary, Alberta. Their flight attendants make an effort to make the in-flight "safety lecture" and announcements a bit more entertaining.

Here are some real examples that have been heard or reported:

On a Westjet flight there is no assigned seating, you just sit where you want. Passengers were apparently having a hard time choosing, when a flight attendant announced, "People, people we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!"

On another Westjet flight with a very "senior" flight attendant crew, the pilot said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we've reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your flight attendants."

On landing, the stewardess said, "Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane."

"Thank you for flying Westjet Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at an Alberta airport (horse country), a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"

After a particularly rough landing during thunderstorms in Ontario, a flight attendant on a Westjet flight announced, "Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted."

"In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling, stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite."

"Weather at our destination is 50 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money, more than Westjet Airlines."

"Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments."

And from the pilot during his welcome message: "Westjet Airlines is pleased to announce that we have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

Overheard on a Westjet Airlines flight into Regina on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the Flight Attendant said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Regina. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"

Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing:
"We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while the Passengers exited, smile, and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?"
"Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?"
The little old lady said, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"

BABY BOOMER HIT PARADE!

It's been fun being a baby boomer ... until now. Some of the artists of the '60s are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate aging baby boomers.

They include:

1. Herman's Hermits--- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Walker
2. The Bee Gees--- How Can You Mend a Broken Hip
3. Bobby Darin--- Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' a Flash
4. Ringo Starr--- I Get By With a Little Help From Depends
5. Roberta Flack--- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face
6. Johnny Nash--- I Can't See Clearly Now
7. Paul Simon--- Fifty Ways to Lose Your Liver
8. Procol Harem--- A Whiter Shade Of Hair
9. Leo Sayer--- You Make Me Feel Like Napping
10. The Temptations --- Papa's Got a Kidney Stone
11. Abba--- Denture Queen
12. Willie Nelson--- On the Commode Again

LOGICAL THINKING (continued from page 7)

Well, here is what she did.

She put her hand into the moneybag and drew out a pebble. Without looking at it, she fumbled and let it fall onto the pebble-strewn path where it immediately became lost among all the other pebbles. "Oh how clumsy of me," she said. "But never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked."

Since the remaining pebble was black, they had to assume that she had picked the white one.

And since the moneylender dared not admit his dishonesty, the girl changed what seemed an impossible situation into an extremely advantageous one.

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Most complex problems do have a solution, which you can find if you stretch your mind. If logic isn't working, try lateral thinking. Lateral thinking is a creative exercise.



HOCKEY QUIZ

1. What arena do the Toronto Maple Leafs play?
Air Canada Centre Maple Leaf Gardens
Continental Airlines Arena Bell Centre
2. In which arena do the Colorado Avalanche play?
Savvis Center Mellon Arena
Pepsi Center HSBC Arena
3. What team plays its games in the Gaylord Entertainment Center?
Tampa Bay Lightning Nashville Predators
Columbus Blue Jackets Calgary Flames
4. In what arena do the Boston Bruins play their home games?
TD Banknorth Garden Reunion Arena
GM Place Wachovia Center
5. The Toronto Maple Leafs played in the _____ for most of the 20th century?
Leafs Arena Maple Leaf Gardens
Canada Place Air Canada Centre
6. Of these four, which is the oldest NHL arena?
Philips Arena Mellon Arena
United Center Staples Center
7. The Pengrowth Saddledome is the home of what team?
Calgary Flames Pittsburgh Penguins
San Jose Sharks Minnesota Wild
8. Which arena is in Kanata, Ontario?
GM Place Air Canada Centre
Corel Centre Maple Leaf Gardens
9. The New York Rangers have played in what building since 1968?
Joe Louis Arena Nassau Coliseum
RBC Center Madison Square Garden
10. In which arena did the Montreal Canadiens play in for several decades of the 20th century?
Quebec Centre Canadiens Gardens
The Forum Habs Arena

ANSWERS ON PAGE 12

HANDS ON TREATMENT
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THE BLACK ACES - UNSUNG HOCKEY LEGEND

Feb 28, 2007

February is Black History Month in North America. After reading many excellent articles regarding the contributions of black residents in St. Catharines, I hesitated to write another article about a black athlete as my experience has been that the contributions of the black community spread across the entire spectrum of our daily life. Academia, theatre, politics, social work,...the list goes on and on. However, I would be remiss if I didn't talk about the contribution of one particular gentleman to what is considered Canada's main sport – hockey. His story is only one example of the obstacles facing black athletes in this sport. When you look at professional hockey in North America, the visible message is that black athletes do not excel in that sporting arena. That message needs to be re-examined across North America and part of the story took place in St. Catharines.

I met Herb Carnegie in my fourth year of teaching in North York, now part of Toronto. Herb was promoting a new program called Future Aces and selling a board game to assist that program. I spent many hours listening with fascination to his hockey story. I had no knowledge of Herb and yet I have no doubt that I would have heard of him if he was a member of the mainstream white population. I could hear the hurt in his voice as he told me his story. At that time (early 1960's), I, like many others at that time, made the assumption that black hockey players were not good enough to play in the National Hockey League. I learned that day that I had a lot to learn.

If you have not read "Breaking the Ice: The Black Experience in Professional Hockey" by Cecil Harris, it is a worthwhile read that tells the story in detail. I have included excerpts (bold type) from that book and encourage you to pick up the book and enjoy the whole story. Herb Carnegie and his older brother, Ozzie, grew up playing hockey on frozen ponds in Toronto. Like most boys of that era, they dreamed of playing in the NHL. From the time they started playing organized hockey, Herb was a standout. When he and his brother failed to draw interest from the NHL teams, he became a star in the minor leagues.

Instead, Carnegie achieved a measure of popularity in lesser leagues while teaming with his older brother, Ozzie, and Manny McIntyre to form a potent all-black line known from 1941 through 1949 by various nicknames, including The Black Aces. Herb wore No. 7, Ozzie No. 10 and Manny No. 11..... An all-black line was unprecedented. Ozzie Carnegie, the right wing, possessed a crackling slapshot. McIntyre, the left wing, provided the muscle. If one of the trio was going to answer a racial slur from an opponent or spectator with his fists, it would likely be McIntyre. And there was no shortage of racial slurs directed toward The Black Aces. Audrey Redmon Carnegie, the light-skinned daughter of transplanted Chicago natives, sat in the stands on many occasions and heard her husband Herb called "nigger" and sundry other words of hate by spectators seated nearby, people who did not realize she was black and married to the best player on the ice. She managed to hold her tongue while in the company of haters, because that is how blacks generally dealt with hate in that era.

The Carnegie brothers went on to star in the 'mines' league beginning in 1941. They played for the Buffalo Ankerites, a team owned by a group of Buffalo-based businessmen. The salaries of hockey players of that era, even NHL players, were so low that the players often worked for the team owner's companies. Many a Maple Leaf worked for Conn Smythe's company. The Carnegie brothers were no exception and they worked as machine operators for the Ankerite company. The Carnegie brothers' outlook brightened considerably when Murray McIntyre from Fredericton, New Brunswick joined the

Ankerites and they formed a potent line. "They were good enough as a line to play in the American League, which was a level below the NHL," said Red Storey, a Hall of Fame referee who played against Herb Carnegie in junior hockey. "But Herbie was the leader. They couldn't have gone anywhere without Herb. He was good enough to play in the NHL. It was strictly colour, not talent, that kept him out."..... the all-black line made a profound impression on Mahovlich, a Hall of Fame forward who first saw them in 1942. "The black line was so amazing because of their great skills-the skating, the passing, the goal scoring," he said. "I was a centreman for many years. I might have envisioned myself going down the ice like Herb Carnegie. In my mind I said, 'I guess if I ever become a hockey player, I'm going to be playing against a lot of blacks.' However, that was the only time I ever saw three blacks on the same line." Mahovlich would never see any of The Black Aces in an NHL game. Herb Carnegie, the most gifted of the trio and the finest black player of the pre-expansion era (before 1967), would never display his considerable skills as a puckhandler and playmaker in his sport's premier league. And many who watched him perform under dimmer lights and before lesser crowds in other venues believe hockey fans themselves were cheated for having missed him.....

Some who saw Carnegie perform in person-including Jean Beliveau and Frank Mahovlich, two of the greatest centres in hockey history-marvelled at his multi-faceted skills and considered him among the finest players of his time.

The Black Aces Line remained as a unit until the late forties when Ossie and Mannie retired. Herb continued playing for the Quebec Aces, in the powerful Quebec Senior Hockey League, where he out scored the Hall-of-Famer Jean Beliveau in each year the pair were teammates, despite being in the twilight of his career.

Unfortunately for Carnegie, he would never perform on his sport's premier stage, the NHL. And for that, the gatekeepers of the NHL must bear most of the blame-and Carnegie himself must bear at least some..... Had his pursuit of an NHL career not been derailed by a league-wide policy of exclusion that may have been given public voice in 1938 by Conn Smythe, the powerful and influential owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Carnegie likely would have become the NHL's first black player. The history-making ascension would have occurred more than a decade before Willie O'Ree broke the league's colour barrier in 1958. Carnegie's debut in hockey's major league also could have occurred during the 1948-49 season, or shortly thereafter, were it not for his own bold, but ultimately self-defeating decision - a decision that may have done irreparable harm to his candidacy for the Hall of Fame..... In September 1948, however, the NHL pried open a door just wide enough to acknowledge Herb Carnegie. But instead of doing his utmost to kick the door down, he unwittingly closed it on himself. With no advance word, a letter arrived at the Carnegie home one August morning in 1948 from the New York Rangers, inviting the twenty-eight-year-old Carnegie to report to the team's training camp in Saranac Lake, New York on September 14. Carnegie had not even been aware the NHL was paying attention to him.... The missive from the Rangers was a form letter sent to twenty Canadian amateur or semi-pro players inviting them to try out for berths on the NHL team's roster.... The signing of Robinson by Brooklyn and his extremely successful debut with the Dodgers undoubtedly emboldened a few other team executives in major pro leagues to give an opportunity to black athletes. Carnegie said he had followed Robinson's career during the 1940s and often wondered which of the two would be the first to break the colour barrier in his sport. However, the events at Rangers' camp in 1948 strongly suggest Carnegie had not followed Robinson's story closely enough.... Muzz Patrick offered him \$2,700 to play for Tacoma, and indeed Muzz Patrick coached Tacoma at the time. But why were the Rangers making such lowball offers to Carnegie in the first place? Surely they must have known he had made \$5,100 the season before at

Sherbrooke. Simply, the Rangers knew they could get away with it. The NHL had only six teams in 1948. There were only 126 jobs for hockey players in the premier league. No player had an agent, and an NHL players union would not exist until 1967. Hockey teams wielded a mighty hammer in 1948. And if Carnegie, just another nail in the board, truly wanted to fulfill what he had described as a lifelong dream to play in the NHL, then it would have behooved him to get the best deal he could, swallow hard and try to make the best of it. While he is deserving of credit for not jumping at either of the first two lowball offers, he seriously overplayed his hand by turning down the third....Again he was offered \$4,700 to begin the 1948-49 season with the Rangers' top farm club in New Haven, just one notch below the NHL, just two hours away from Madison Square Garden if he needed to be promoted in a hurry. Again, he declined.... The final deal offered Carnegie by the Rangers was essentially the same deal the Brooklyn Dodgers had offered Robinson.... Baseball players had no agents or union representation at that time, either. There were no salary negotiations. A player took whatever money he was offered, or he left the room and looked for other work. So when Rickey told Robinson to start in Montreal-just to be sure-Robinson, already a star in black baseball, did not take offense to being asked to spend a year in the minor leagues. He took the deal, for it would benefit not only him but also the black players who would follow him.... In Herb Carnegie's own words, Boucher wanted him to start in New Haven "just to be sure." The Rangers likely had a legitimate concern about how well Carnegie would play with linemates other than his brother and McIntyre who, in the opinion of Hall of Fame referee Storey, were not of NHL potential. A strong start by Carnegie in New Haven would have eliminated that concern. Boucher also said he would "make every effort" to promote Carnegie during the 1948-49 season. Had Carnegie taken the offer, he would have been on the cusp of an NHL career while making the ice somewhat more solid for other black hopefuls..... The major difference, then, between sports pioneers Robinson and Carnegie was this: Robinson took the deal and Carnegie did not.... Carnegie said on April 10, 2003 that he did not recall expressing any regret about his decision. Asked if he would have signed with the Rangers organization if he had it to do over again, he said emphatically, "No. I don't even have to think twice about that. I'm at the end of my career and it's no time for me to be going to the minors to start a new career with teenagers and twenty-year-olds. I didn't think it would have made any kind of sense."..... Carnegie, for his part, refused to be treated like just another nail in the board. If only he had had the leverage to match his intractability. He will be remembered as the best black player never to reach the NHL, partly because of the racism that circumscribed the lives of all blacks in North America during his athletic prime and partly because of an insistence on trying to dictate the terms under which he would sign with an NHL organization in 1948-a year in which hockey players, black or white, could not dictate anything to management.

Herb was not just a great hockey player, he was a great athlete. Later on in his life he won the Canadian Senior Golf championship in 1977 and 1978 and the Ontario Senior Golf Championship in 1975, 1976 and 1982."

I recall in our lengthy conversation that day in North York, Herb mentioning that the Black Aces line had played in St. Catharines. Like many of the minor leagues in the 40's and 50's, stats were not given the attention that they are today and the only mention I could find in the records available to me, listed Ozzie Carnegie as a member of the St. Catharines G.M. Chiefs in the OHA Senior league (Rudy Pilous was a player on that team as well). If anyone has more local information on this line, it would make an interesting addendum to the April edition.

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Herb Carnegie (continued from page 11)

I met Herb several times in the 80's and 90's when my employer endorsed the Future Aces program for use in the schools. I came away from those meetings with the impression that while Herb was denied access to the NHL, his gentle but determined spirit led him to a rewarding, successful life. His support to young black athletes is legendary. In 1987, he established the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation to provide bursaries for college and university. Herb Carnegie was named to the Order of Ontario in 1996 and the Order of Canada in 2003. On May 2, 2005, the North York Centennial Centre was renamed the Herbert H. Carnegie Centennial Centre in his honour. On June 12, 2006, he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from York University. His marriage to Audrey lasted 60 years until her passing in 2003.

A great athlete, a great gentleman!
.....Ted Gould

HOCKEY QUIZ ANSWERS (page 10)

1. Air Canada Centre
2. Pepsi Center
3. Nashville Predators
4. TD Banknorth Garden
5. Maple Leaf Gardens
6. Mellon Arena
7. Calgary Flames
8. Corel Centre
9. Madison Square Garden
10. The Forum