



THE PORT REPORTER



DECEMBER 2005

SAVE OUR SEAPORT

VOLUME 1 NO. 11

**Openness ensures transparency in government.
Any institution that is not transparent is
not trustworthy or believable.**

Openness gets rid of perceptions that backroom deals are being made and that certain people are going to profit from secrecy at the expense of others. The flip side of openness is secrecy and secrecy begets mistrust. Bureaucratic secrecy refers to the conscious or unconscious hoarding and withholding of information from the public. Political secrecy features restrictions on disclosure that are driven primarily by a desire to gain political advantage by shielding an official or a program against public embarrassment or controversy.

Common sense and good public policy says that municipal governments must attempt to inform their constituents to the greatest extent possible of their deliberations and actions. Doing so reassures the electorate that their actions and policy decisions are free from "back-room favouritism" and have been made on the basis of defined and established public policy, the community's established comprehensive official plan and adopted zoning by-laws

Those city councillors who voted to withhold the reports on the PDVC application, gave flimsy rationales for doing so and many tried to hide behind the Freedom of Information Act. The following are extracts from comments made by Ann Cavoukian, Information & Privacy Commissioner in 1999 regarding freedom of information:

The overriding goal of freedom of information legislation is to change the very culture of government organizations - to foster a greater willingness to share information with the public - and to replace, what in some cases may be a habit of secrecy, with an active commitment to openness.

....Opinion polls have repeatedly shown that, for a variety of reasons, public cynicism is rampant and faith in various levels of government is low.

.....The ultimate goal of freedom of information legislation is to reshape the culture of government organizations - to foster a spirit of openness and a willingness to share information with the public as an ongoing mode of operation in a democratic society.

Freedom of Information means the public has the right to demand information from its elected officials, not the other way around.

Governments which allow citizens to see what is going on are those that can expect to be supported. Doing business in secret or making it difficult to access information on issues that concern the public creates contempt for government. The following councillors need to be held accountable in the next election for the unconscionable withholding of information from the public:


- Cam Donevan, St. Andrew's Ward
- Brian Dorsey, Grantham Ward
- Sue Erskine, Port Dalhousie Ward
- Charles Gervais, St. Patrick's Ward
- Sheila Morra, Merriton Ward
- Peter Secord, St. George's Ward
- Greg Washuta, St. George's Ward
- Mayor Tim Rigby

"Secrecy, once accepted, becomes an addiction." *Edward Teller*

"On behalf of our now over 500 members, we thank everyone in the Niagara Region for their support during the past year and wish you all a most enjoyable holiday season. May the wonderful community spirit we all enjoy, live on for many years to come.



David Bergen, President
Carlos Garcia, Executive Vice-President
PROUD Port Dalhousie
A PROUD History as a
Volunteer Community Organization"



THE PORT REPORTER
A Publication of
PROUD Port Dalhousie

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Port Dalhousie's Historic Canals Area -- An Important Heritage Landscape

The historic canals/port/lakefront area of Port Dalhousie is an extremely valuable heritage landscape with great historical significance which must be preserved as an integral place and setting. This heritage area includes a number of extremely significant historic elements associated with and representative of the canals era in Port Dalhousie (1826-1932).

- These include:
- the mouth of Twelve Mile Creek (the Lake Ontario entry of the early canals)
 - remnants of the Harbour Lock (entry lock) of the First Welland Canal (1826)
 - Lock One of the Second Canal (1848)
 - Lock One of the Third Welland Canal (1887)
 - harbour and piers
 - two historic lighthouses: outer range (1879), inner range (1898)
 - lockkeeper's shanty (1887) – the only one remaining from the first three canals
 - Customs House building (1845)
 - Muir Shipyard office and storeroom building (1867) – the last vestige of Niagara's booming 19th century shipbuilding industry(Dalhousie House)
 - jail (ca 1845)
 - 19th century canal village streetscape with its Italianate and vernacular commercial buildings (1860s-1880s, one of the few surviving relatively intact 19th century canal streetscapes, according to delegates of the 2004 World Canals Conference)
 - turn-of-the-century industrial building from Third Welland Canal period (1900, now Lincoln Fabrics)

Together these comprise a unique heritage landscape which presents an extremely important part of the story of the canals era in Port Dalhousie and in the Niagara region as a whole. This historic place is remarkable, unique, irreplaceable, and critically important to the story of the Niagara region and those who shaped it

Nowhere else along the canal route today does there exist in one location such an enduring and authentic physical record of the early canals era in the Niagara Peninsula.

In the Niagara Peninsula as a whole, relatively little of the extremely significant early canals period survives. Yet in this one area of Port Dalhousie, one can physically and authentically trace the evolution of the first three Welland Canals.

The Historical Significance of the Welland Canal

Locally –The history of the major communities in the Niagara region is closely tied to that of the canals. Port Dalhousie owes its establishment, early growth, 19th century development and prosperity, physical layout, canal village streetscape, and much of its heritage character to the early Welland canals
Regionally – For the entire Niagara Peninsula, the Welland Canal was the greatest development agency of the locality. It facilitated transportation and reduced transportation costs, which stimulated development, growth, agricultural production, development of services, and settlement. Water from the canal powered hundreds of millsites by the mid-19th century. The canal was also the stimulus for the development of a large and prosperous shipbuilding industry centred in communities all along the canal; there were at least 26 significant shipbuilders along its route, and for most of the 19th century, the Niagara Peninsula was the centre of marine activity in the Great Lakes region. The Welland Canal changed the landscape of the Niagara Peninsula, determined where settlement would be, and permanently altered the area's settlement pattern. The Canal was the making or breaking of every town in the Niagara Peninsula; proximity or distance to it were the determinants of a community's development or decline.

Provincially – The Welland Canal was not an isolated phenomenon. Its impact extended outward to influence the development of southern Ontario and the entire Great Lakes

region.
Nationally – The early Welland canals played an important role in Canada's industrial growth. The recognition of the importance of the Welland Canal to the Canadian national interest is evident in the government's financial support of the First Welland Canal, and subsequently, government control and operation of the Second, Third, and Fourth Canals from 1841 to the present. Today the construction of the First Welland Canal is recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as an event of national historic significance.

Internationally – The Welland Canal has always been a key artery of international commerce. With the opening of the First Welland Canal in 1829, navigation of the Sr. Lawrence was extended to nearly 1000 miles into the interior, and a new era dawned in North America. The Welland Canal was always viewed as an essential part of the international waterway route for exports and imports between the Great Lakes and Europe

From its beginning in 1829, the Welland Canal has been used extensively by American vessels, and figured significantly in the growth and development of American Great Lakes port cities such as Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago. The canals also facilitated the transport of settlers, contributing greatly to the settlement of the American Midwest and the Great Lakes region.

The early canals made an immense contribution to the North American economy. Today the Welland Ship Canal is part of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system which is the commercial waterway of the world's richest economic region, within which lie the industrial heartlands of both Canada and the United States. The present canal is essential to the movement of bulk cargo to and from this region whose economic significance to North America is staggering. It was the first three Welland Canals that laid the foundation for the present canal and its operation.



Vandalism: The recent episode of vandalism at the corner of Main and Martindale Rd. raises many questions for our community. Is the issue resolved with the arrests made? Do we need to be more watchful as we travel and report quickly any questionable activity? Can we get a quick response when we do so? Is the issue of vandalism bigger than controlling the destructive tendencies of our youth? Do we have sufficient activities for youth that reinforce positive community behaviour? Do we need to channel the artistic gifts of youth and provide opportunities to use their artistic abilities in a general way? How can we develop a forum of interested residents to explore these questions and others and follow up on suggested directions?

The next general meeting of Proud Port Dalhousie will have this as one of the items on its agenda. Stay tuned.

WHAT'S UP?

ANGELFEST - A FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE!

*A seasonal celebration of Glittering Lights,
Relaxed Shopping and Special Events!*

November 16, 2005 - January 22, 2006

FOOD AND WINE
ARTS AND CULTURE
MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
LIGHTING AND DECORATIONS!

*Angel Glow Christmas lighting in downtown areas
and along the route from Stoney Creek to Port Dalhousie!*

The Historical Society of St. Catharines Upcoming Speakers Program

(All programs start at 7:30 p.m.)

at the St. Catharines Museum

Jan. 26, 2006 - Maurice Gomme:

Steep Names of St. Catharines

Feb. 23, 2006 - Brenda Zadoroznij: **History
along the Bruce Trail**

March 23 - Alun Hughes: **Too Many Catharines-
The Founding and Naming of the Garden City**

OPEN HOUSE OLD PORT DALHOUSIE

A number of shops in Port's commercial core held
an Open House on December 3, 2005

Winter is an ideal time to support those shops who supported
Proud Port Dalhousie through advertising in our paper. Eat at:

The Spice of Life

DaPizza Joint

and don't forget to drop into the Scrap Shack and sip a cup
of Maple Tea while shopping.

Finish off your day with a brew at the Kilt & Clover
and Lions Hotel

The St. Catharines Skating Club, a pleasure
skating club for adults with live band music, meets
at Ridley College Sports Complex, 8 to 10 PM,
Wed. and Sat. nights to Dec. 21

Visitors are welcome (\$7). Call 905-682-0869 for
membership information, and to arrange visits.

Visit our web site: [http://people.becon.org/
~scskate/](http://people.becon.org/~scskate/)

**November 4th, 2005 to Monday, January
2nd, 2006**
23rd Annual Winter Festival of Lights

Saturday December 10th, 2005
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Santa Claus Parade
11:00 AM

Saturday and Sunday, December 10-11,
A Garrison Christmas at Fort George
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
Celebrate Christmas 19th century style
Make decorations - enjoy glass/cider

**Walker's Creek Neighbourhood
Association**

Next Meeting Tuesday Jan 10 2006 at
Ina Grafton Gage Village, Building B,
413 Linwell Road, St. Catharines,
7:15 p.m. social time,
7:30 pm meeting start.

VOLUME 1-PORT REPORTER COMPLETE

The first issue of the *Port Reporter* appeared in February of this year. Eleven issues later and the 'little paper that could' has evolved from a 4 page spread to an equivalent 24 page paper (12 large pages) with a distribution of over 12,000. All of this happened thanks to many volunteers who have contributed articles, helped distribute the editions, collated pages, etc. It truly is a newspaper of the community and for the community.

So as this, the final edition of Volume 1, 'hits the streets' and we start on the Volume 2 edition for January 2006, this is the time to say a heart-felt *Thank You* to those who made this success possible: to our contributors who have so selflessly shared their expertise, to our readers, who have given us valuable feedback and support, and to our volunteer editors and proofreaders who have given their time and effort to make this publication even better. We especially wish to thank our advertisers who stepped out on the limb with the community and supported the community's right to have its voice heard by directing their advertising dollars to help cover some of the costs associated with the publication of this community newspaper. For some, it was a difficult step that led to receiving unpleasant phone calls and comments. The following is a list of our advertisers who deserve community support:

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Spice of Life
Stable House Studio
Stone Road Dental
TDH Web Graphics
The Barber of Seville
The Lion Tavern
The Rubanesque Woman
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A little old lady goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor, I have this problem with gas, but it really doesn't bother me too much. They never smell and are always silent. As a matter of fact, I've passed gas at least 20 times since I've been here in your office. You didn't know I was passing gas because they don't smell and are silent.

The doctor says, "I see. Take these pills and come back to see me next week."

The next week the lady goes back. "Doctor," she says, "I don't know what the heck you gave me, but now when I pass gas, although still silent, they stink terribly."

"Good," the doctor said, "now that we've cleared up your sinuses, let's work on your hearing."

A Question of Accountability

Deborah Kehler

On Monday November 21, 2005 the Mayor and seven members of City Council abdicated their responsibility as our elected representatives to share information with their constituents. They preferred to take their instructions from a former city solicitor, now acting in his capacity as the lawyer for the Port Dalhousie Vitalization Corporation (PDVC). They were told very firmly that as the PDVC proposal had been withdrawn and was effectively "dead," the Planning Report that had occupied the efforts of the planning department staff for over a year no longer served any purpose. Council was advised that Mr. Richardson's client might feel compelled to seek redress if the Planning Report has a negative effect on their property values. Following this presentation, Council was, uncharacteristically, speechless; reserving their comments and questions for subsequent presentations by PROUD's volunteer lawyer Callum Shedden and private citizen and lawyer, David Black. There have to date been several applications under the Municipal Freedom of Information Act (MFIPPA), including one by PROUD, through Mr. Shedden, and one by myself.

Our lawyer has just received a response from the City Clerk denying release of the Planning Report and the peer review completed by E.R.A. This refusal shifts the onus to the person seeking information, in this case, PROUD, through Mr. Shedden, to appeal to the Privacy Commissioner. The reason given by the City Clerk is that the "contents of the requested records are exempt from disclosure pursuant to: Section 7 (1) of MFIPPA" which permits a head [of a department] to refuse to disclose a record if the disclosure would reveal advice or recommendations or an officer or employee of an institution or a consultant retained by an institution." The legislation actually reads:

7. (1) *A head may refuse to disclose a record if the disclosure would reveal advice or recommendations of an officer or employee of an institution or a consultant retained by an institution.*

Total reliance on this discretionary exemption would make virtually anything other than the most objective data unavailable for public access. What is not mentioned in the Clerk's denial is that the legislation provides very clear guidelines not just permitting the release of information, but making release mandatory.

What follows is the lengthy list of exceptions to this discretionary exception. Note the language:

- (2) Despite subsection (1), a head shall not refuse under subsection (1) to disclose a record that contains,
- factual material;*
 - a statistical survey;*
 - a report by a valuator;*
 - an environmental impact statement or similar record;*
 - a report or study on the performance or efficiency of an institution;*
 - a feasibility study or other technical study, including a cost estimate, relating to a policy or project of an institution;*
 - a report containing the results of field research undertaken before the formation of a policy proposal;*
 - a final plan or proposal to change the program of an institution, or for the establishment of a new program, including the budgetary estimate for the program;*
 - a report of a committee or similar body within an institution, which has been established for the purpose of preparing a report on a particular topic;*
 - a report of a body which is attached to an institution and which has been established for the purpose of undertaking inquiries and making reports or recommendations to the institution;*
 - the reasons for a final decision, order or ruling of an officer or an employee of the institution made during or at the conclusion of the exercise of discretionary power conferred by or under an enactment or scheme administered by the institution.*

With all due respect to the wisdom of our Council and Clerk, I see approximately ten criteria that would make the release of the planning report mandatory.

So, we have a Council that is not prepared to act accountably and responsibly and direct that the Planning Report be released. Indeed some members of council, notably councillors Secord and Donevan, seemed to believe that they would be interfering with a process already in place, i.e. MFIPPA applications, were they to make a decision that they are fully authorized to make. They seem to be unaware that MFIPPA exists to address the atmosphere of secrecy, which all levels of government are wont to generate. MFIPPA is remedial legislation. It is there to provide the public with a remedy to the parochial abdication of accountability demonstrated by [this] Council. Now it appears that the City Clerk is taking his lead from this ineffectual Council, and making the decision not to make a decision.



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RECIPES

Since it is holiday season, we have chosen to use local recipes. The recipes are included in RECIPE FAVOURITES, St. Andrews United Church UCW.

HERBED PORK TENDERLOIN WITH WILD BLUEBERRY SAUCE

- 1/2 tsp dried thyme
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 Tbsp sugar
- 1 pork tenderloin (about 12 oz/375 g)
- 1 tsp grated lemon rind
- 1 1/2 tsp cornstarch
- Wild Blueberry Sauce:**
- 1/2 apple, cored, chopped or
- 3/4 cup dry red wine
- 1/4 cup applesauce

Rub thyme, salt and pepper over the pork. In a large oven proof skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; brown pork all over about 4 minutes. Transfer to 350°F oven; roast for about 30 minutes. Transfer to a cutting board and tent foil over it for 5 minutes before slicing.

Wild Blueberry Sauce: Meanwhile, drain any fat from skillet. Pour in the wine and bring to a boil over high heat, stirring to scrape up brown bits • from bottom of pan. Boil over medium high heat until slightly reduced, about five minutes. Stir in sugar, blueberries and lemon rind. Return to boil. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 tablespoons cold water; stir into sauce and simmer just until clear. Stir in apple or applesauce. Pool on 3 warmed dinner plates and top with pork slices.

ORANGE NUT POUND CAKE

D. Hamilton

- 1 cup butter
- 1/4 tsp orange extract
- 1 1/2 tsp grated orange rind
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp grated lemon rind
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 5 eggs
- Vanilla ice cream

Grease well and lightly flour a 9 1/4x5 1/4x2 3/4 inch loaf pan (note: all of the ingredients should be at room temperature). Cream butter and orange and lemon rinds. Gradually add sugar. Beat mixture until it is light and fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Add orange extract. Sift flour and baking powder together. Gradually add to egg mixture. Add pecans. Spoon into prepared pan. Place in a cold oven. Turn oven on to 325°F and bake for 70 minutes or until done. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack.

ENJOY!..



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I want my husband to pay more attention to me. Got any perfume that smells like a computer?

My computer says I have to upgrade my brain to be compatible with its new software.

"Dear Andy: How have you been? Your mother and I are fine. Your little sister has grown so much since you last saw her. We miss you. Now please sign off your computer and come downstairs for something to eat. Love, Dad."

"We can't solve the problems we face by using the same thinking we used to create them".

Albert Einstein

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PROUD PORT DALHOUSIE CORRESPONDENCE

Carlos Garcia and David Bergen
PROUD Port Dalhousie

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

November 8, 2005 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROUD: PLANNING REPORT SHOULD BE RELEASED; NEW PROPOSALS MUST RESPECT WISHES OF THE COMMUNITY AND PLANNING REGULATIONS

In its first official comments on the withdrawal of the Port Dalhousie tower proposal, PROUD Port Dalhousie, the volunteer community group, expressed relief that the developer had finally listened to the overwhelming majority of the city's residents. PROUD again wishes to emphasize that any new development application from PDVC or future owners of the properties must clearly respect Port's unique character and be consistent with the city's applicable planning regulations. It must also not unduly aggravate traffic/parking or accessibility by all residents. "We will be happy to work closely with any group submitting a new application and with city staff and Council. We have always worked closely with Council and we strongly encourage close consultation with the community starting at an early stage," stated PROUD President David Bergen.

PROUD regrets the developer's request that the planning report be kept secret. PROUD strongly urges the City to make this report public both to clarify what happened and to provide clear guidance from planners and other experts regarding future proposals. We strongly believe that the public has a right to know the contents of this report and have applied for its release under the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Despite the controversy, the process resulting from the now withdrawn tower application yielded major benefits for our City:

1. Increased awareness of the historical significance and heritage value of Port Dalhousie locally and throughout Ontario and Canada. This will lead to future economic benefit, as Port becomes an even more desirable heritage tourism destination.
2. The community, particularly in Port, is closer and more united than ever. Young and old, new and long-term residents, have united in their opposition to the tower project. Numerous new friendships have been formed and, contrary to claims in the Standard's October 28th editorial, relations are not strained and anecdotes of neighbour turning on neighbour are NOT prevalent.
3. All residents now know that Big Money does not always win. A proposal that is inconsistent with planning by-laws and heritage guidelines, could adversely affect quality of life and is opposed by the vast majority of residents, can be stopped. Our democratic system works.

By now some of you may have read the Standard article 'Let's Stamp Out Secrecy' or maybe you watched City Council (WHEN IT DECIDED TO KEEP THE REPORTS SECRET). Despite our lawyer's and a second independent lawyer's arguments to "end the climate of secrecy" Council decided NOT to decide. Instead of making a proactive decision to be open and transparent and release the report, a number of Councillors (including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor) opted to let the Freedom of Information process make the choice for them.

How much did the developer's lawyer's statement that his client "might sue city hall if the report was released and lowered the value of the company's property" influence our Councillors? We may never know. The developer has previously threatened to sue your community organization on several occasions and, we understand others have also been threatened so, they might as well add Council to the list. Who will they threaten to sue next: the provincial and federal governments? There are however major implications to last night's threat. Does this mean Planning Services may never again issue a negative report on a development proposal for fear of a lawsuit?

There is obviously something the developer really fears in those reports and we will keep fighting for their release. Criticizing our poll and the Heritage Committees is a smokescreen. Hopefully, everyone in the community will see through this and there will be a deluge of letters to the newspapers arguing for the release. The public must know the contents before any new development proposal is considered.

Official Plan Review Process – Meeting with Paul Chapman on November 24, 2005

On Thursday, Peter Connolly, Lorraine Cordner and I met with Paul Chapman, Director of Planning Services. Paul will be emailing us a copy of the report he submitted to Council on this. Some brief notes:

1. The process was initiated by Planning Services. As mandated by the Planning Act, reviews should take place every five years.
2. Paul anticipates there will be approximately 7 Issue Papers (identifying key issues/subjects that may require change). Target is to present these to Council by April 2006.
3. If we as a community organization want to submit an Issue, we are welcome to do so. He suggested we do this by the end of January.
4. The revised OP will have to reflect the direction of the new Provincial Policy Statement (March, 2005) and of recent Greenbelt Legislation. Paul expects the revised OP to be more directive and specific compared to the current. This will make it easier to identify what new development or changes may be allowed in a specific area of the City.
5. After Issue Papers are tabled, a detailed public consultation process will start. After revisions are approved by Council and the Region, appeals are possible. During the period while appeals are heard, applications must meet the provisions of both both the current and revised version.
6. The full process including any appeals will likely conclude in mid to late 2007.

I am copying Paul on this and asking him to please let us know if I misinterpreted any of his comments.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE FOR COMMUNITY GROUP: "UNOFFICIAL MAYOR" OF PORT DALHOUSIE IS PROUD'S 500th MEMBER

December 1, 2005

PROUD Port Dalhousie, the volunteer community group, announced today that membership has reached 500. "I am not the type to join organizations but this group has done so much for Port and it truly represents the feelings of the community", said long-time Port resident Huck Berry, known affectionately as Port's unofficial Mayor, as he filled out his PROUD membership application. "People have joined from throughout Port and all parts of the City" stated PROUD President David Bergen. PROUD, which has rapidly grown to be one of the largest community organizations in the Province, works to preserve and enhance Port Dalhousie's unique heritage for the benefit of all area residents.

"Being part of an organization with 500 members is both an honour and a major responsibility" continued Dr. Bergen. "We will continue to strive to represent the views of the community on important issues and this will be particularly important over the next year because of the upcoming Municipal Elections." he added.

"They're insidious"

I was reading the Standard on Thursday and was brought up short when I read a quote from one of the members of Niagara Citizens for Smart Development. It described PROUD members and our organization: "They're insidious. They're infiltrating groups in Port Dalhousie. They're infiltrating the churches. They're trying to infiltrate the seniors. They've co-opted the lawn bowling club."

It is actually much worse than that. As an organization of 500, we have members belonging to almost just about every group in Port. In fact, we are focused on the last holdout group "The Association of Early Morning Dew Worm Gatherers" which meets on Muir Street on the first Tuesday of alternate months. So far, the two charter, and in fact only members, Al Smedderington and Frank "The Coyote" Halfstaff, both in their late '80's, have rebuffed our every effort to join them. They say that things have been like this since the late 40's and see no reason to change them now.

We will endeavour to keep the Standard updated to any progress on this front.

David Bergen
PROUD President

community carol sing!

Hello volunteers and friends of Port Dalhousie. We have some exciting news for you.

Come and share in a community carol sing! Let's enjoy the festive season on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00p.m. by the library and senior centre on Brock St. All are welcome! Music will be provided but bring your singing voice. Hot cider and baked items will be available for a nominal cost.

Choir members are welcome. The first 16 people to respond will be our official "Port Carollers". Everyone else will join in and have lots of fun.

We are also looking for volunteers to bake some items for our bake sale. Please contact volunteer Marianne Kond at 937-8046 if you are interested in helping. Otherwise, see you on Dec. 15th!



New! Yoga for Back Care Wed.'s 9-10:30am
Traditional Yoga: Wed.'s 7:30 - 9 pm (2006)

"VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for 'an OUT OF THE COLD SUPPER'! St. Andrews will be hosting a supper at First United Church-King Street on Dec.28

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Christmas Eve Service: 7 p.m. - family, inter-generational service. Everyone welcome. This is our 153rd Christmas service
Christmas Day Service: 10:30 AM
Dec. 31st- New Year's Eve Brief Communion Service @ 6 p.m.
New Year's Day Service: 10:30 AM

PROUD UNDERTAKES A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDY

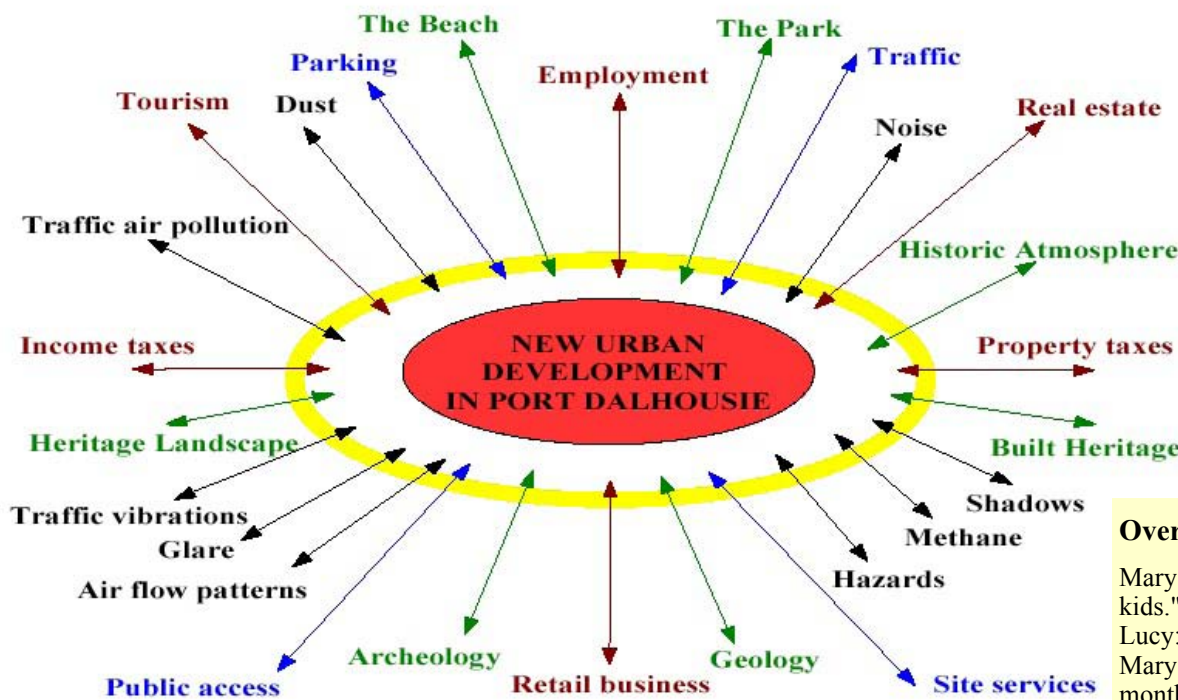
In spite of overwhelming evidence that close to 80 % of voters across the City were against the Tower Proposal for Port Dalhousie's commercial core, the Mayor has started an Action Committee to try and "re-ignite" it or a different version. This committee, he told CKTB Radio on November 16th, will be made up of his business and other friends who have not been identified. He made no mention of involving the community at large or your nearly 500-strong volunteer organization. This pronouncement about an unidentified committee reflects the way in which the City has operated in the past and has resulted, for example, in a downtown that is in terrible shape and an alienated electorate. Despite the above action and comments from certain councillors like "...will make up my mind based on expert opinion, not voter opinion." (Councillor Sue Erskine, St. Catharines Standard, October 25, 2005), Proud Port Dalhousie believes that any new development must be based on input from all stakeholders in the community and thorough consideration of all the factors impacting on any given area. This led us to initiate a study of all the economic and environmental impacts of any new development in the commercial core of Port Dalhousie. Over the next few issues, we will include information from the study. The environmental economic assessment is a multi-disciplinary study supported by PROUD experts and coordinated by Luisa Artuso. Luisa is a qualified professional in environmental economics applied to urban planning in which she earned a master's degree. She has international experience and is a published author.

VALUES AND IMPACTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PORT DALHOUSIE Luisa Artuso

Introduction

The implementation of any substantial urban development plan has environmental and socio-economic impacts to be considered at all levels: local, urban and regional. These impacts should be assessed from social, cultural and economic perspectives before any decision takes place. The effects of urban decisions are generally linked to the scale of the area, the type of development, the vulnerability of the environment and they vary throughout the phases of the project. Our Sustainable Development Study, currently being completed, highlights relevant variables, values and their interconnection in the case for a development plan in Port Dalhousie for the lakefront commercial core. These factors, which are numerous, are illustrated below.

In the January edition, the issue of potential tax benefits will be discussed.



Overheard in Playground

Mary (6+): "I'm never having kids."
 Lucy: "Why not?"
 Mary: "I hear they take nine months to download!"

GROAN AGAIN

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

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Unsung Pioneers In Our Midst: John Gleddie

So often we read about people in far away places who are doing miraculous things while we are unaware that right here, on our doorstep, we have such people. Today I'd like to talk about one - a health practitioner who is well known across North America in sporting circles. John Gleddie, a Doctor of Chiropractic practicing on Lakeshore Road, specializes in sports performance physiology. He has pioneered the application of this technology in Endurance Motor Racing, specifically with the Brumos/Porsche Racing Team, whose reputation in motorsport is legendary. His pioneering practice is also extremely successful in NASCAR RACING where he has been retained exclusively to give Tony Stewart, this year's NASCAR Nextel Champion, and that great racing team every possible advantage.

What type of care you ask? John specializes in mild pressure hyperbaric oxygen therapy. It involves the use of a hyperbaric chamber which is an enclosure that surrounds a person allowing the introduction of an oxygen rich mixture at a higher pressure than is possible at sea level. Oxygen permeates the body through the skin and increases the oxygen concentration available in body fluids. It is this extra oxygen that is essential in helping to return the neurons to normal biochemical function. The most valuable factors are the rapid removal of lactic acid from the blood stream, rapid re-hydration and a return to normal fitness levels.

Once a person is securely inside, the chamber is sealed and pressurized. Quality oxygen is added as you relax in the 7-foot long enclosure on your back during the treatment. Most find it soothing enough to sleep. In order to maintain pressure and constant flow there are calibrated outflow valves incorporated in the chamber. The time spent to achieve the maximum effect is between 40 and 45 minutes.

(continued on page 10)



Hello Volunteers and Friends of Port Dalhousie,

Have you come down to earth yet?

The I LOVE PORT concert was so much fun it is hard to describe. We had over 300 revellers there from throughout our City. People kept talking about the great time they were having BEFORE the concert started. The food was spectacular and the concert itself then blew us all away. People clapped, sang along, danced on stage and Jim Witter, his band and his music put on such a great show. This is what a fundraiser for a volunteer group should be like: first and foremost, a time for the community to get together and have a great time.

A HUGE thank you to Michael Reason and Sharon Jarvis who organized and produced the event. What a great job and all the hours of planning and hard work.

Then there was the food...and food and food. Our experienced volunteer caterer Sandy Slater led a team of volunteers that put some awesome hors d'oeuvres together FROM SCRATCH. So many volunteers worked on preparing, serving and cleaning up. This included (among others) Aty Anker, Sheridan Alder, Ruth Barclay, Julie Bessey, Rick and Christine Broughton, Rachel Brown, Lori Cordner, May Crawley, Claude and Monica Gidman, Cathy Hayes, Karen Lowen, Carol Jones, Deb Kehler, Hilda Regier, Mike Slater, Helen Szakacs, Margaret Upper, Pat Waters and Jocelyn Yeomans.

Our most important BAR team was anchored by Frank Caplan, Cathy and Megan Franklin, Marianne Kond and Ed Szaszi. Other volunteers like Bruce Cordner, Barb Day and Ian Goodwin help with the planning, ticket taking, etc. And...a group led by former Mr. Scotland, "Muscles" Ken Mackenzie (plus Mike Sullivan, Todd Hildebrand, Alex Crawley, Jim Vanderburgh, David Webb and others) moved tables and chairs and carried 500 lb. pieces of sound equipment up and down stairs.

Thank you all and those of you we may have missed. Everyone worked together and our community spirit lives on.
Carlos and David



Special thanks to our volunteer photographer, Amel Farag

COMBAT PLAN FOR HOLIDAY OVEREATING

Most people know that all it really takes to lose weight is to eat less and exercise more. That's the magic formula in a nutshell. How can you possibly manage this over the holidays when temptation runs high?

Holiday weight gain is a fact. The good news is that the average weight gain is a pound or two. The bad news is that studies indicate that the gain is usually permanent adding up to 10 pounds or more in a decade. One pound of weight gain is equivalent to 3,500 extra calories. To put this into perspective if you were to eat five homemade cookies every day for 10 days you will add one pound of weight to your frame. Taping these cookies to your thighs sounds like a better plan because they're easier to take off don't you think?

Losing weight during this season of cocktails, cookies, and fattening foods is probably not realistic. Maintaining your weight is definitely possible. Try to stick to healthy eating as much as possible. Make a commitment to eating three to four food groups at every meal. Include healthy choices of fruits and veggies, lean cuts of meat and low fat pasta dishes. Emphasize high fibre foods like veggies and whole grains. **They move through your system much faster than high-fat foods like red meats, rich sauces and gravies.** So even if you do over eat you won't feel as uncomfortable for as long.

With a little planning you can enjoy the foods of the season

without paying for your enjoyment long term.

SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

1. SNACK

Never skip meals to prepare for a feast. STARVING leads to STUFFING. Instead eat a small low fat snack like cheese or a couple of ounces of chicken

or nut butter. Eating a little SOMETHING **before going** to parties will take the **edge off your hunger** so you can **better control yourself** when confronted with temptation.

2. SMALL PORTIONS Use a small plate - your portions will look bigger! Denying yourself will only lead to frustration. There are usually acceptable lower calorie choices like veggies and dip, hummus, pickles and shrimp at holiday buffets.

3. SIP Starting off your evening with a glass of water will help. It takes the edge off your hunger and will help you to control your portion sizes. Since we're talking about sipping - remember that alcoholic beverages can be a large source of empty calories. Try to choose lower calorie drinks like light beers, wine spritzers, water, tomato or veggie juice. Treat eggnog as a dessert instead of a drink.

4. SAVOUR Eating your food SLOWLY and appreciating each bite will

increase your satisfaction with less food. Really taste and enjoy each mouthful - you'll actually eat less in the long run.

5. STOP When you no longer detect feelings of hunger STOP eating. Don't eat until you feel STUFFED - or you'll pay for it later.

6. SUCK IT IN This really works!

Before a big meal tighten your belt one notch, or wear



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7. SKATE, SKI SNOWBOARD. Keep moving, no matter what the activity. Try to incorporate some exercise into your holidays. Take a 20 minute walk every day. Check out the lights and decorations. Park your car at the rim of the lot - and walk carrying your bags when shopping.

SUCCESS? If your clothes fit the same after the holidays, you made it!

Kristine Leivonen-Broughton
Registered Massage Therapist,
Canfit Pro NWS

"Doc, I can't stop singing 'The Green, Green Grass of Home.'"
"That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome." "Is it common?"
Well, "It's Not Unusual."

GROANERS

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says "Dam!".

Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," says Dolly.

"It's true, no bull!" exclaims Daisy.

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

It's election time and once again I'm feeling like a cow experiencing Deja Moo - the feeling that I've heard this bull before!

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

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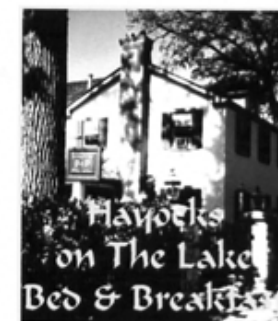
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Taxing questions answered about interest income, dividends and capital gains

There is no question: As a Canadian, it is virtually impossible to avoid paying taxes. And there are so many of them – from GST/HST and property taxes to all sorts of taxes on your income, whether you receive it through a salary, commissions, dividends or draws from your own business, or as returns from your investments. But, while it is virtually impossible to totally avoid taxes, it is very possible to reduce the tax bite on your income and ensure you don't pay more tax than necessary. The key is to make tax-wise income and investment decisions – and that takes an understanding of the various ways in which your income is taxed. So let's begin by answering a few basic tax questions that can help you keep more of the money you earn.

Are all types of income taxed in the same way? No. The amount of tax you will pay on your basic income depends on how much you make. The Canadian tax system uses progressive tax rates – meaning that your marginal rate of tax increases as your taxable income increases. Marginal tax rates, tax brackets and surtaxes vary by province, but you can expect to pay from 25 to almost 50 per cent of your income in taxes, as your income rises. Investment income is added to your basic income and can raise the amount of income tax you pay by increasing your total income and/or pushing your marginal tax rate into a higher bracket. But, your investment dollars are taxed in different ways that can help save on taxes.

I get most of my investment income from interest – is that a good tax-saving strategy? Not really. Interest income – from such fixed-income investments as bonds, Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) and term deposits – is fully taxable at your marginal rate.

I get dividends from my stock holdings – is that type of income tax-efficient? It can be. Dividend income is generally taxed more favourably than interest income. If you receive your dividends from Canadian corporations that qualify for a Dividend Tax Credit, you'll reduce your tax bite.

I sold some stocks and made a profit – is that income fully taxable? Not necessarily. When you sell a "capital property" for more than you paid for it – and that can be anything from stocks and securities like bonds and mutual funds, or real estate that you purchased as an investment – you may have to pay a capital gains tax. But capital gains get the biggest tax break – especially in higher tax brackets – because only 50 per cent of a capital gain is included in income for tax purposes. So, if you realize a capital gain of \$100, only \$50 of it may be subject to tax. Capital gains are not taxed until they are realized, so you can control when you pay taxes on your gains by deferring the sale of a capital property to a future year when your income will be lower.

Is there any way to totally avoid paying taxes on my investments? Not unless they always lose money and they produce no current income – and you wouldn't want that. But there is a very good way to defer taxes from income earned on your investments and it's simple. Just open a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP). Your contributions, within limits, are fully deductible from income and all earnings in the plan accumulate on a tax-deferred basis until you withdraw them as retirement income. But, because the government puts limits on your total RRSP contributions, you'll likely need non-registered investments to augment your retirement savings – and although these will be taxed at a rate that depends on the source of income, you can design your non-registered portfolio to benefit from certain tax deferral strategies. For example, by investing in a tax-advantaged mutual fund, you can accumulate and move assets among the fund's share classes while deferring capital gains. When it comes to tax-trimming strategies, you must be certain to follow the government's rules, and be sure the strategies are right for your overall financial plan and investment program. A financial advisor can help ensure you're taxed less and invested correctly.

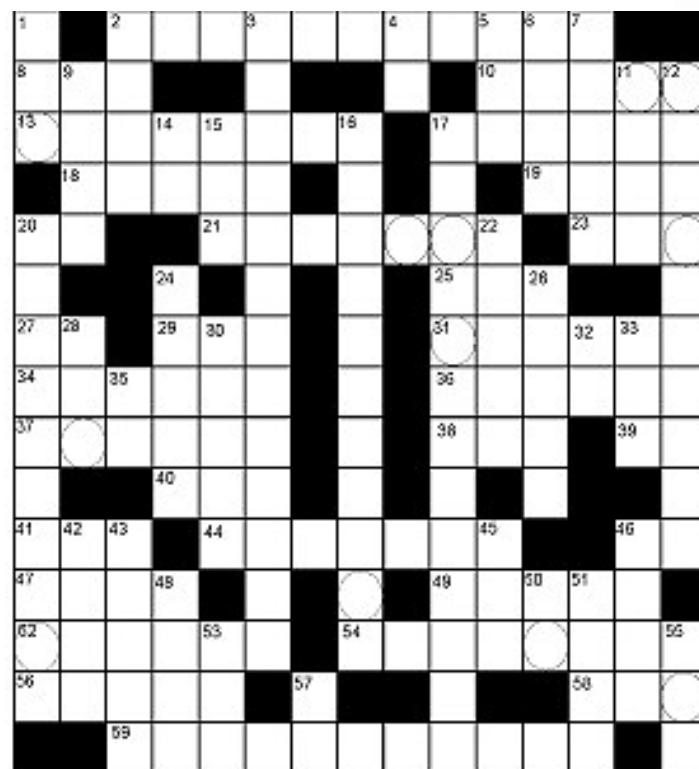
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anne.braithwaite@investorsgroup.com



Anne Braithwaite, BBA



ACROSS

- 2. FATHER XMAS
- 8. Large shoe size
- 10. New _____ Eve
- 13. Matriarch of Dogpatch
- 17. Apartment unit
- 18. Say what you have to say
- 19. Retail transaction
- 20. _____ Nicholas
- 21. Fortuneteller
- 23. Gift for Santa in Hawaii
- 25. American gun lobby (abb)
- 27. Compass point (abb.)
- 29. Common Market Org. (abb)
- 31. Reindeer Nationality?
- 34. Steak _____
- 36. This person is hard to find
- 37. Mysterious
- 38. Medical scan (abb.)
- 39. Musical note
- 40. German article
- 41. Science room for short
- 44. Highest
- 46. French article
- 47. Snobs put these on
- 49. European river
- 52. _____ we stand
- 54. What good children are doing on Christmas Eve
- 56. FATHER XMAS (var)
- 58. Verb for a chicken
- 59. FATHER XMAS

DOWN

- 1. Skirt bottom
- 2. Joke around
- 3. Main Street turns to this
- 4. California city (abb.)
- 5. See
- 6. Camera component
- 7. Deadly
- 9. Once, at one time
- 11. Heavy lung sound
- 12. FATHER XMAS' transportation
- 14. Affirmative
- 15. Ontario Teachers' Pension (abb.)
- 16. FATHER XMAS
- 17. FATHER XMAS' controls (2 wds)
- 20. FATHER XMAS
- 22. Yeom for
- 24. Group of eight
- 28. Word puzzles (abb)
- 28. Use this to listen
- 32. Ego
- 33. Pul down
- 42. What isn't isn't supposed to be
- 43. Edge
- 45. Twas _____ night before Christmas
- 46. _____ Home
- 47. Do this to a Holiday drink
- 50. Medical procedure (abb)
- 51. African river
- 53. Three letters with no meaning
- 55. Busy place after New Years' Eve
- 57. Affirmative

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BEING TAXED OUT OF YOUR HOME?

At the last general Meeting of Proud Port Dalhousie, I met a couple who seemed to be at their wits end. I would guess they were well into their senior years. He was a commercial fisherman who no longer fished as the demand for fish from our waters no longer exists, thanks to the pollution levels. They asked if there was help anywhere as their retirement RIFF was almost gone and their house taxes and the costs of services were 'eating' up their retirement funds and there seemed to be no hope. I am sure that there are hundreds of stories like that in Port and the surrounding areas. Market Value Assessment places great burdens on those in the now popular areas. The system takes no consideration of the years that people of lived and raised their kids in an area which was, at one time, not a desirable place to live. They, along with their neighbours worked hard to make the area a good place for all and their thanks from the taxing authorities is 'pay up or sell and move on.' This situation also affects more than just seniors. Single parents, single-income households, those on disability pensions etc.

I know there is no perfect taxing system but I expect our municipal and provincial representatives to keep working to improve the system and change a system that creates segregated areas for the rich and poor. As we head toward election years, I often read about discussions at the municipal level about ways to help, for example, seniors with some kind of tax deferment program. The reality is that the such discussions lead nowhere as both the provincial and municipal levels must work together to design a new support system for the municipalities (perhaps a 10 year support fund created for municipalities to draw from to allow deferment of tax increases caused by assessment to needy homeowners).

TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS - YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1. If you are a homeowner, you now have your 2006 assessment. Question the 2006 assessment figure. They do listen. (see the following article p.11). If you need help to understand how, ask a family member or a neighbour for help. Don't think the problem will go away. Your taxes will be affected by that assessment.
2. Municipal elections are coming up. Go to All Candidates meetings and ask each candidate if they are committed to working toward meaningful discussions with the Province to tackle these problems, including tax deferments. Only vote for a person that makes that commitment and hold the person accountable while serving the next term of office.
3. Call your provincial member and demand action on the tax assessment problems. Right now this is an annual process. What are the implications of carrying out assessments every 3-5 years instead of an annual assessment? When a provincial election is called, ask the each candidate the same (continued on page 11)

Unsung Pioneers In Our Midst: John Gleddie

(continued from page 6)

What mild hyperbaric therapy does is allow your body to absorb more oxygen at the cellular level. This has many positive health benefits as the body is able to carry out vital cell functions.

How did I learn about the pioneering work of Dr. Gleddie? My wife spent 10 months bedridden following a heart attack and small stroke. I made up a bed in my van and took her to John to help with the back pain associated with 10 months in bed. She convinced John to allow her to take the hyperbaric treatments to see if it could bring her back to a more normal existence. From the very first treatment, she began on the road to a more normal life. She has a treatment once a week monitored closely by Dr. John with his wide range of medical knowledge. The pain is almost gone now and the change in her energy level is unbelievable. This unassuming pioneer has made a significant difference in our lives for which we are truly thankful.

Hyperbaric oxygen treatment is just starting to get known for its many benefits. It is being used by all kinds of people for various reasons. John's approach is different from many others. He believes mild pressure oxygen treatment is more beneficial than high pressure treatment. His successes prove his approach. In sports, Nolan Ryan and many members of the Texas Rangers baseball team were under his care and thrived. Tony Stewart's turn around in the world of racing speaks volumes for the work of John Gleddie. As for Gloria, his care has allowed her to have a life.

John is now exploring opening up a Concussion Recovery Clinic, possibly in Port Dalhousie, to help athletes and others with the problems associated with head and other athletic injuries.

Next time you hear people talking about pioneers in far away places, you can now tell them that they only have to travel a few kilometers to find one right in their own hometown.

MARA ANGELOU

In April, Oprah interviewed Maya Angelou on her 70+ birthday. Oprah asked her what she thought of growing older. And, there on television, she said it was "exciting." Regarding body changes, she said there were many, occurring every day...like her breasts. They seem to be in a race to see which will reach her waist, first. The audience laughed so hard they cried. She is such a simple and honest woman, with so much wisdom in her words! Maya Angelou said this:

- "I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow."
- "I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights."
- "I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life."
- "I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as "making a life."
- "I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance."
- "I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back"
- "I've learned that when ever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision."
- "I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one."
- "I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back."
- "I've learned that I still have a lot to learn."
- "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees.

"Yes, sir," the new employee replied. "Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"

Geoff Szymanski,
ND, CMD, HD

Doctor of Naturopathy & Chinese Medicine
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only 14 to smile!**

'Out of the Cold' Special Christmas Donations

St. Andrews United Church and the Healing & Meditation group will be once again participating in making the Holiday Season a little special for the participants of the Out of the Cold program. We will be creating Holiday Stockings for all participants. We are seeking **new** men's & women's socks, gloves, toques and deodorants. Please drop off donations at St. Andrews United Church by December 24th. Call 935-7231 for office hours or call Gloria at 935-1168.

May the Holidays be loving, kind & gentle for you and your loved ones.

Port Dalhousie Seniors Centre

Contact Information

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday: 1-4 pm Bingo

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)**

CONCERT FEASTING

Dear Editor (Ted), I was one of the over 300 lucky people who attended the benefit concert - Pianomen - on November 19th with my son Jason and his girlfriend Amel. We had a wonderful evening and enjoyed a first class show. Cudos to the show organizers it was simply great and went off without a hitch.

However I would like to thank those volunteers who put in the tremendous effort in creating the mountain of wonderful hors d'oeuvres. I was expecting a few nibbles and so had eaten a light dinner before attending the concert. I managed to taste test everything but Jason and Amel being much younger and having much larger eating capacity, visited the food table several times and feasted on a wonderful selection of handmade treats. The hors d'oeuvres looked beautiful, tasted great and never ran out. I know it took considerable time, effort and skill to make them and I would like to express my sincere appreciation and admiration to those who created them.

Jackie Szymanski
Bayview Drive

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Built Heritage News Issue No 73

November 29, 2005

Published by CATHERINE NASMITH ARCHITECT

7. Port Dalhousie Tower Project - What next!

Catherine Nasmith

No sooner had the proponents withdrawn their application for the ill fated tower in the middle of a low rise heritage conservation district in Port Dalhousie than the Mayor of St. Catharines started to beg the developers to bring the tower back.

The public pressure, backed by peer review and planning staff reports were clearly negative enough for the developer to decide to abandon the application. 700 people turning up mad at a public meeting ought to send a message clear enough for any politician to switch positions.

Citizens have been brilliantly persistent and brave in their opposition to the tower. And it would seem that the peer review and staff reports agreed with them, but it will take a "Freedom of Information" application to reveal the contents of the reports. This week, in spite of editorials from the local paper supporting release of the background reports, yet also under threat of law-suits from the developer if the staff and peer review reports were made public, council voted against revealing them.

Can the Mayor of St. Catharines survive the next election? Can the citizenry stall long enough to stop the tower?

Watch this space, If you can, send money to Save our Seaport. They have a lot of work to do.

Letters to the Editor -

Running around saying the sky is falling now that the Port Dalhousie tower plan is dead is nonsense. Development will flow to any community that is good to live in, has a transparent growth plan and visionary leadership working with its citizens to make development happen.

The tower fell under its own weight for three reasons: arrogance, lack of respect and perceived dishonesty. The fact the citizens of St. Catharines felt it necessary to challenge their own elected leaders is really the sad part of the story.

They simply didn't trust their leadership to defend the very laws they, themselves, had unanimously passed, and feared that council might be seduced by alleged gains and behind-the-scenes manipulation of outside interests.

The developers were arrogant right from the start. They hired lobbyists and appeared to believe they could manipulate the city with big promises and intimidation via lawsuit threats to citizens.

The attitude was that St. Catharines is so hard up, that development should be accepted at any price. Some conveyed an attitude that citizens are too stupid to understand or be trusted with such an important decision. It appears citizens aren't so dumb after all.

The proposed development just didn't add up, even to the casual observer. The size, the numbers, the business plan, the parking - few believed the numbers anymore. We've seen so many of them and they were constantly changing.

We need to learn from this and move on.

Hopefully this experience has awakened the populace to be more involved.

Let's turn this new-found energy into a positive effort of citizens, councillors and developers working together to create a great city that all of us can be proud of, and that future generations can enjoy.

That way, we all win.

Hank Beekhuis

Thoughts from Northern France

"I was walking along the beach and I knew I was at home..." I am an exchange student with the Rotary Club from Northern France and I will spend this school year in Canada to learn about the country, its traditions, cultures, and etcetera. I am so happy to be here and I do not miss home often. One day, a friend asked me "What do you miss about France?" and after reflection, my answer was "the French beaches in the North". I often go with my family and friends during the summer to swim and tan. In the off-season, I go to walk in the wind and to hear the sound of waves and gulls. Even if it is cold, it is so nice to walk on the sand and have the beach all to ourselves.

I had the opportunity to live for two weeks in the pretty town of Port Dalhousie and I was feeling quite at home. It really looks like some towns on the Northern French coast, especially with its two piers and the lighthouses at their extremities. I enjoyed taking rambles in Port Dalhousie. The houses are so beautiful and it is very pleasant to be in downtown with the charming stores, cafes and restaurants.

One day I heard some people speaking about a tower that was to be built. I was there when the news of the projects withdrawal was released. I am happy about that. Why were they going to build this big tower? It will destroy the charm of this pretty town, this little part of my country in yours. It will be a big mistake, like the construction of the 210-meter Montparnasse tower in Paris. Do you know where the best place to admire Paris is now? On top of Montparnasse tower because at the top, you can not see it... So, please, do not do the same. Camille Genevieve, Niagara-on-the-Lake

It's house trimming time at Sue Salah's home in Royal Oak, Mich., and the neighbors are dialing 911. Salah eventually took down her little Christmas joke after police complained about all the "injury" calls they were getting. Daily Tribune photo by Dick Hunt via Associated Press



BEING TAXED OUT OF YOUR HOME? (continued from Page 10)

question that you asked municipal candidates. Only give a person your vote if they indicate a willingness to work on taxation issues throughout their term, not just at election time.

The Port Reporter will be following up on this topic in 2006 issues. If we don't speak out and act on community concern, it is likely many people will be forced to leave the area. It is an election issue. City and Regional politicians take note!

BOTTOM LINE - WE HAVE TO MAKE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES MORE ACCOUNTABLE. THEY NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOUR PRIORITIES ARE. CALL NOW!

Hello PROUD volunteers,

We have been informed by one of our members that many of the huge increases in assessments have already been changed (reduced) -particularly in Old Port. He was told this by one of the consultants at the local Mpac offices at 1 St. Paul St.

Everyone should check and find out if their individual assessment has indeed been reduced to an acceptable level. You can do this in person by going to the local office or online at their website .

The Mpac website allows you to check your own assessment and those at 6 more addresses of your choice (which you may want for comparison purposes) at no charge. Before you are given access to this information, you need to register with them and get a User Name and Password and you do this by phoning 866-296-6722 during business hours.

Remember, if you are still not satisfied with your assessment you can file a Request for Reconsideration. These forms were distributed at our last General Meeting or you can print them from the Mpac website.

Good tax assessment fighting,

Carlos Garcia and David Bergen
PROUD Port Dalhousie

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