



# PORT REPORTER

APRIL 2007

VOLUME 3 NO.4

Free: Take me home!

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CELEBRATES 100 YRS**

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**This is a scene of Front Street (now Lakeport Road) and Lock One of the Second Canal (the stone lock in front of what is now Murphy's) which was in operation from 1848-1885.**

**This page sponsored by Dr. David Bergen**

## COUNCIL SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENS OPPOSITION TO TOWER

### Developer Continues to Forge Ahead to OMB Ignoring Council's Opposition

Our proactive City Council passed a very special motion regarding the Port Dalhousie condo tower application on Monday night, April 2, 2007. The motion by Councillor Kushner makes quite clear why Council does not support the previous Council's decision on the Port tower proposal and specifies how this Council's position would be supported at an OMB Hearing. With this vote, Council was acting on the strong mandate it received from the voters across the City and sending a very clear message that our City welcomes development but that such development must be consistent with applicable planning regulations and Heritage Guidelines. **Thank you to the strong majority who voted for the motion for listening to their constituents and standing up for approved planning principles and regulations (the vote was 9-3 with only Councillors Stack, Secord and Elliot voting against).**

No, it is not a repeal but, YES it really clarifies Council's opposition to the tower proposal and, in our view, weakens the developer's position. They (developer) will most likely press on to the OMB since they can still claim Council hasn't actually repealed the offending by-laws. In fact, we understand that the developers are determined to ignore Council and the public and forge ahead regardless. This will force the community to a very expensive OMB Hearing and the developer seems to think that Big Money Will Always Win (please see HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE PORT DALHOUSIE below). However, Council will now call evidence at the OMB from the Regional Planner and others against the previous Council's position. As you may recall, the Regional Planner submitted a very professional report that recommended denial of the application based on sound planning principles, and included comments from the Ministry of Culture and other experts.

Here is the text of the motion which volunteer Deborah Kehler transcribed from a video recording:

"THAT this council does not support the decision made by the previous council as it pertains to Official Plan Amendment No. 31 and Zoning By-law #2006-228, for the following reasons:

Official Plan Amendment No. 31 and resulting By-law 2006-228 conflict with the Port Dalhousie Heritage Conservation District Guidelines for Conservation and Change and the Provincial Policy Statement 2005. The Provincial Policy Statement requires that significant built heritage resources and significant cultural landscapes be conserved, and further the PPS refers to Heritage Conservation Districts designated under the Ontario Heritage Act is an example of this. The Port Dalhousie Heritage Conservation District study provides the cultural and historic importance of Port Dalhousie. Further, the proposed 17-storey, approximately 17-storey building, approximately 207 feet [sic] is not in keeping with the Port Dalhousie Guidelines for Conservation and Change as the height is not compatible nor is it in keeping with the intent and purpose of the existing Official Plan and By-laws.

The proposal is not consistent with the Provincial Policy Statements, nor does it conform with provincial plans, the City's Official Plan, and Port Dalhousie Secondary Plan.

It is this council's position that the proposed development will have a negative impact on the heritage of Port and on the City's primary public lakefront recreational space in Lakeside Park.

Further, this council having read the Regional Planning Report dated October 12 2006, identified as DPD 110-2006, concurs and with the position taken by the Regional Planner and directs the City Solicitor to subpoena the Regional Planner for purposes of providing planning evidence to support this council's position;

AND THAT the City Solicitor be given the necessary discretion to subpoena other witnesses which may support positions provided for in the regional planner's report to support this council's decision. Forthwith"

## HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE PORT DALHOUSIE

Many of you are asking how YOU can help Save Port from inappropriate development. Like the vast majority of the residents in the City and Region, you support appropriate development in the commercial core of Port Dalhousie's Heritage Conservation District, but overwhelmingly oppose a tower and the massive scale of development proposed by the current application. Unfortunately, the developer forges ahead and it is left up to us the residents of Niagara to stop this development. The OMB has scheduled 50 days (10 weeks) for a hearing to deal with this potentially precedent setting case and we now need to raise \$300,000, which is the anticipated cost of an effective 10-week appeal. Without this, the developer's legal team will likely win the day, and the massive redevelopment of Port Dalhousie may be free to proceed.

Big money will not win if we all help. Here is how you can help:

The St. Catharines Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) has established the Port Dalhousie Heritage Fund to help preserve the integrity of the Port Dalhousie Heritage District. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is a 75-year old registered charity committed to the preservation of buildings and structures of architectural merit and places of natural beauty. The ACO assists communities like ours in efforts to preserve our heritage endowments. Your donations to ACO-St. Catharines, from \$20 to \$1,000 or more, are tax-deductible. If you want to help by making a donation, please fill out and send in the Pledge Form on the back page with your donation.

David Bergen and Carlos Garcia  
PROUD Port Dalhousie

A PROUD Eight-Year History as a Volunteer Community Organization

## COUNCIL TAKES MAJOR FIRST STEP TO SOLVE PORT "BAR" PROBLEM

At the April 2, 2007 meeting, our new City Council took a first major step towards solving Port Dalhousie's 10-year old Bar problem by approving a Residents Only Permit Parking System (ROPPS) for the early morning hours on summer weekends. This is a sign of a proactive new Council since our community organization had been pushing previous Councils to take action for several years to no avail. The details have yet to be finalized but there will be a public meeting to get everyone's input. Below is the email we sent to Council urging them to act, followed by the information we have on what was decided.

April 2, 2007

General Agenda #4 - Report on Port Dalhousie Parking - Port Needs Help NOW to Solve Ongoing "Bar" Problem

Dear Councillor Williamson and Councillor Stack,

We are writing to you as our ward Councillors to express our extreme disappointment, and strong disagreement, with the subject report. The Old Port area of the ward needs help NOW to solve its ongoing "Bar" problem and we urge you to reject the conclusions of this report and take immediate action as recommended below.

### A. PARKING

**1. The Problem.** Everyone knows there is a late night problem caused by spillover bar parking -primarily from My Cottage. As the largest community organization in the area, with more than 40 % of our over 600 members residing in Old Port, we hear the concerns like you do. The report confuses the issue by getting into whether there is enough parking or not. If bar patrons cannot park on our streets between 12 and 6am on the nights identified (Sundays are not necessary unless Monday is a holiday), likely 70-90% of the problem will disappear. They will not be returning to their cars inebriated at 2-4 am wreaking havoc!

**2. The survey.** The survey quoted was never distributed to our individual households and we have heard from others who did not receive one either. There was likely also confusion over an earlier, more limited, survey and about the cost to residents. Even then, 50% were in favour and this can certainly justify a test this year. If there were not that many complaints last year it is only because people have given up and feel their complaints accomplish nothing.

### 3. Recommendation

We recommend the following system be implemented in time for this year's Victoria Day Weekend. The first year would be a test and refinements can be introduced next year. We would work with Transportation Services to finalize the details, get feedback from the community and monitor success.

a) Same times days as in the report excluding Sundays (except before a Holiday) and only May 15 to September 15. Residents affected must be fully informed and our volunteers can help with this. Most businesses would not be affected by a ban after midnight. Neither would any deliveries.

b) Residents should NOT have to pay and they should easily be able to get extra permits for visitors. Why would anyone park on the street instead of their own driveway with a permit anymore than they do now? This problem was created by the City going along with a capacity that is way too large at My Cottage. Affected residents should not be penalized for the City's mistakes. In addition, \$15,000 in signs is a drop in the bucket. What about the \$ being spent in other areas by comparison. How much are our residents worth?

c) Area covered should be out to Martindale -not just Johnston- and include Main St. The drinkers will easily walk 10-15 minutes so Johnston is too close. If this means some park on the Michigan side (and some do now), the program can be extended. Main St. MUST be included. They are residents also and usually suffer the most. If the City has the will, the Region will cooperate.

d) **Enforcement is critical.** Tickets should be much more than \$20 (to avoid carpooling) and towing must be heavily used. This may require a new by-law which should not be difficult. The revenue will pay for the signs and the program.

(Continued on page 4: What Was Decided?)

# WHAT'S UP?

## ST. CATHARINES

### 2007 Niagara Folk Arts Festival

Friday May 11th – Sunday May 27th

Welcome to the 39th Annual Niagara Folk Arts Festival, everyone's festival. One of Canada's oldest heritage festivals, this year promises to be a broader representation of the cultures that make up our community and the world. Refocusing our mission of presenting and preserving our heritage, please join us as we celebrate our diversity with our all new, sampling of World Food, larger International Craft Bazaar, interactive arts and world class entertainment.

### Downtown Photo Contest

Thursday, March 1st ~ Saturday, September 1st

You may submit current or historical photographs from the Downtown core. Photo's may be from St. Paul, King or Church Streets and any of the cross streets in between.

Submission requirements are a professional 8x10 print, include your name address, phone and email and the location of the photograph.

Entry deadline is Sept. 1/07, all entries become property of the St. Catharines Downtown Association and will not be returned.

Winning entries will appear in the 2008 Downtown Calendar.

## ST. CATHARINES GAME & FISH ASSOCIATION

### KIDS DAY MAY5/07

First Saturday of the Month, May 5th/07

Pre register Sat. April 21 st. From 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. One Day only and the first 150 to pre register will receive a \$1/Wendy's coupon

### O.F.A.H. Wild Turkey Seminars

Attendance at a seminar is mandatory for anyone wishing to hunt wild turkeys in Ontario for the first time. However, these seminars are also open to non hunters interested in the wild turkey.

### What will I learn at an O.F.A.H. Wild Turkey Seminar?

The seminar will provide information on the natural history of wild turkeys, hunting safety and ethics, hunting regulations, hunting techniques, equipment and calling. All seminars are taught by experienced wild turkey hunters. At the end of the seminar day, the Ministry of Natural Resources gives a written, multiple-choice test. Everyone who passes the test will receive the certificate necessary to purchase a turkey hunting licence.

Seminar fees are \$35 and are non-refundable

## Chippawa Apr 15, 2007

### Sunday Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Chippawa Legion

Sunday Breakfast (\$5.00) 9am - noon at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 396, Chippawa, 3860 Legion St., Niagara Falls, Ontario (905)295-4451. Regular breakfast includes bacon & sausage, eggs, homefries, toast, coffee or tea & juice. Heart Niagara breakfast includes ham, omega3 eggs, homefries, whole wheat toast, coffee or tea & juice. Everyone Welcome.

Website: <http://legion396.bravehost.com>

Phone: 905-295-445

### May 13, 2007

### Mother's Day Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Chippawa Legion

Mother's Day Breakfast (\$5.00) 9am - noon at The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 396, Chippawa, 3860 Legion St., Niagara Falls, Ontario (905)295-4451.

Regular breakfast includes bacon & sausage, eggs, homefries, toast, coffee or tea & juice. Heart Niagara breakfast includes ham, omega3 eggs, homefries, whole wheat toast, coffee or tea & juice. Everyone Welcome.

Website: <http://legion396.bravehost.com>

Email: [danicholson@canada.com](mailto:danicholson@canada.com)

## Foresters BIG Swim for Arthritis

Date(s): April 20/21, 2007

National Swimming Fundraiser - helps Canadians living with Arthritis

Calling all swimmers! Foresters BIG Swim for Arthritis needs you!!

Register early and be ready for this amazing event in St. Catharines & across Canada! Be part of the Aquafit Aerobics Workout, or the main-lane Swim Challenge! Go to [www.bigswim.ca](http://www.bigswim.ca) to choose your Aquafit or distance event. Foresters BIG Swim for Arthritis will take place on Friday April 20 & Saturday April 21, 2007 at West Park Pool & Premier Fitness on Bunting Road (as below). Lane challenges are: Individual 5000m, Individual 2500m, Individual 1000m, Individual 30 minute Swim Team 5000m Swim. The Aquafit class is suitable for everyone....you don't even need to know how to swim to benefit from the great in-water exercises. You'll have fun & help a good cause at the same time!

St. Catharines- Premier Fitness (You don't need to be a member to take part!)

Saturday April 21st, 2007

Lane Challenge ----- 11a.m.- 2 p.m.

Aquafit -----10 a.m.-11 a.m.

OR

St. Catharines- West Park Pool

Friday April 20th, 2007

Lane Challenge -----6 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Aquafit -----8:30 a.m. -9:30 a.m.

For more information and to register, visit [www.bigswim.ca](http://www.bigswim.ca) or call 1-877-BIG-SWIM (244-7946)

## The Friends of Malcolmson EcoPark

Invite you to:

### EARTH DAY

Sat., April 21, 2007 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Malcolmson EcoPark, Lakeshore Rd./ Niagara St.

Parking: Grantham Lions Club & Port Weller

Elementary School

### ACTIVITIES:

- mulching trees & shrubs
- spreading stone dust on pathways
- garbage clean-up
- tree, shrub, flower planting
- snacks

REMEMBER-Dress appropriately and bring a shovel, rake or fork

RAINDATE – Saturday April 28

### Native Plant & Tree Sale

April 21 & May 5, 8 am-1 pm at the park

For more info:

Mike Anderson: 905-688-5601 ext. 3140

Josh Diamond: 905-646-4810 (Malcolmson Advisory Board)

[www3.simpatico.ca/jkdiamond](http://www3.simpatico.ca/jkdiamond)

## Opening of Trout Season at St. Johns Conservation Area

April 28th, 2007

St. Johns Conservation Area Pond Opening

Open for fishing 12 noon April 28, 2007

Fishing Licence is required.

Maximum Daily Fish Limit for St. Johns Pond is 2 rainbow trout for a Conservation Licence and 3 rainbow trout for a Sport Fish Licence.\*

## NIAGARA FALLS May 04, 2007

### Lunch at Allen's

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM Kingston College

Calling all jazz fans! Niagara Concerts' final show of our 2006-2007 series returns a little bit of jazz to the Kingston College stage. Canada's favourites Murray McLaughlan, Cindy Church, Marc Jordan and Ian Thomas come to Niagara Falls with this four person show that showcases the artists and their music. This will truly be a celebration of Canadian musical talent that will have you begging for more!

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

Email: [niagaraconcerts@cogeco.ca](mailto:niagaraconcerts@cogeco.ca)

Phone: 905-358-617

### April 14th-18th, 2007

### Annual Seafood Gala

Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort

Niagara Falls

905 735-2211 ext. 7773

### April 22nd, 2007 Restaurant Ride

Legends on the Niagara Golf Complex

Niagara Falls: 905 357 5121

### Niagara Falls Super Cities WALK for MS

Toll Free: 1-888-822-8467

Event Date: April 15, 2007

### Antiques Appraisal Show

Phone: 905-562-3535

Event Date: April 28, 2007

### The Gallery Players of Niagara - Chamber Music Series

Concert Four

Phone: (905) 468-1525

Event Date: April 29, 2007

### May - August 2007

### Waterfront Park Concert Series

Waterfront Park in Crystal Beach

905 371 0254

## WELLAND

Friday, Apr. 13 '07

### Multicultural Open House

Heritage Council 905 732-5337

## LINCOLN

Antiques Appraisal Show

Phone: 905-562-3535

Event Date: April 28, 2007

## 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!

U.S. Customs Entry  
and Release

Custom Bonds

Warehousing and  
Freight Forwarding

**NORTHERN**  
Customs Services

STUART A. CRAWLEY

905-933-5349

[scrawley@northerncustoms.com](mailto:scrawley@northerncustoms.com)

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

6391 Walmore Road

Niagara Falls, New York 14304

## 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

News Release:

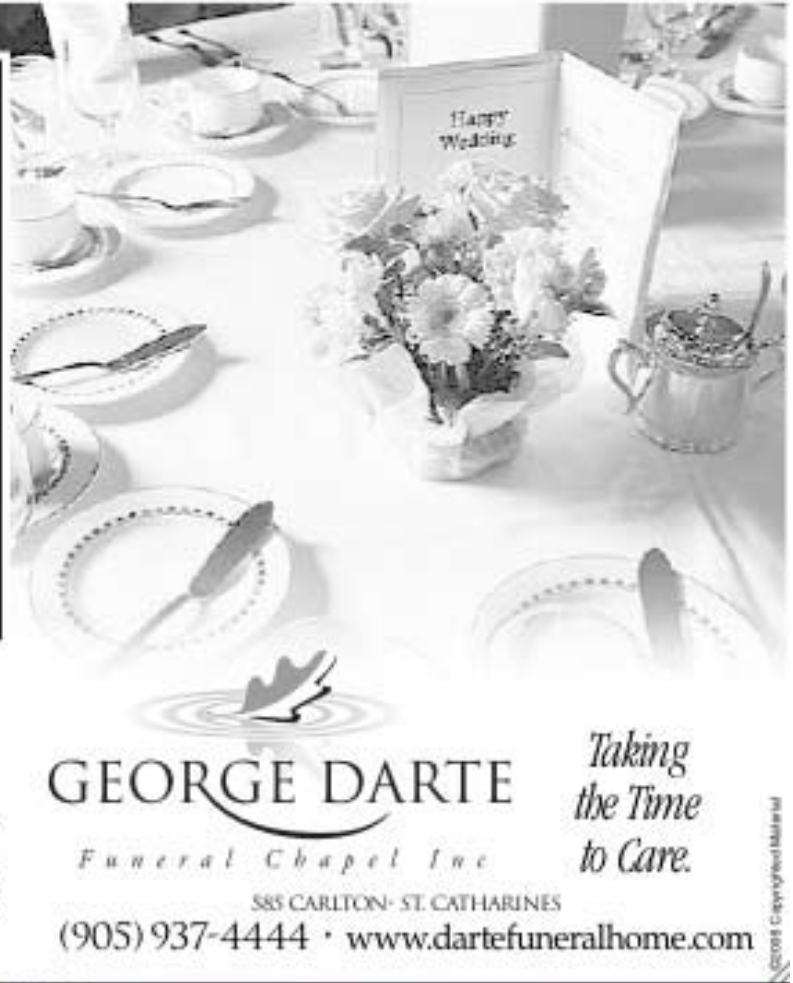
**LAKEPORT HIGH SCHOOL REUNION**

A Lakeport high school reunion is being held on Saturday, June 23rd in Port Dalhousie. This will be the first Laker reunion held since the 25th anniversary in 1986- 21 years ago! The organizers are trying to hit the grads from 1970-1980 but anyone graduating from the 1960's and early 80's are most welcome to join in, as are all the teachers. It will start at 3 pm, and continue through the entire evening. This celebration will be held in Port Dalhousie at the following places inside and out: Murphy's, ScoreCard Harry's, The Kilt and Clover, The Lion's, The Rum Jungle, and The Pier Cafe. Terri Snell, Marilyn Mason and Brian Pfizenmaier are organizing a sign-in table in Hogan's Alley for names, phone numbers and/or emails, and to give you your name tag. This will help everyone recognize each other as Lakers, and any personal information will be useful for possible future annual Lakeport reunions. This will be part of the preparation for the big 50th anniversary reunion for 2012!

Ms. Mason states, " We are very proud to be holding this Lakeport Reunion in our beautiful village of Port Dalhousie. We hope everyone will enjoy seeing long lost friends, exchanging old memories, telling new stories, and having a wonderful evening. Lakers-please come on down to our seaport and have a great time. And don't forget to sign in and pick up your name tag!" More info? Ms. Snell [snell\\_3@sympatico.ca](mailto:snell_3@sympatico.ca)

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.



**COUNCIL TAKES MAJOR FIRST STEP TO SOLVE PORT "BAR" PROBLEM (continued from page 2)**

**B. CAPACITY OF MY COTTAGE**

1. **The Problem.** Most of the Bar problem is created by one bar having a licence for over 1,600 (way more than police could control in the event of a problem). There is another part of the solution we have been asking the City to take action on for years with no results. The AGCO will change the approved occupancy level based on input from the city and in February, 2006, a report from Transportation Services recommended the capacity should be cut to approximately 1,000 persons (about a 40% reduction). As you have seen in the email we received from the AGCO's Mr. Baxter in 2004: " Should one of these agencies advise us of a change to the occupancy level we will change the licence accordingly."

2. **Recommendation.**

That Council direct staff to ask the AGCO immediately to review the licenced capacity in light of the recommendation by Transportation Services.

Sincerely,

David Bergen and Carlos Garcia  
PROUD Port Dalhousie  
A PROUD Eight-Year History as a Volunteer Community Organization

**WHAT WAS DECIDED**

According to published reports and those who watched the meeting, City Council took decisive action -with strong support from Councillors Stack and Williamson who made the case for long-suffering residents. Council approved the ROPPS for Port Dalhousie from Corbett Avenue (instead of Martindale) in the west to the Michigan side in the east.

The parking restriction will start at midnight on Friday, Saturday and holiday Sunday nights and end at 6 a.m., from May 15 to Sept. 15 and it is expected it will be in effect in time for the May long weekend. Port residents can buy \$35 annual passes to park on the streets. NOTE: We feel one permit per household should either be free or the cost should only be \$10 since the restriction only applies for less than one third of the days in a year

City staff will work with Niagara Region officials to include Main Street in the program and the city will spend more than \$15,000 to install new posts and signs. NOTE: Tickets and towing fees should more than pay for these costs.

Councillors also voted to ask representatives of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to appear before council to discuss the size of the biggest bar in Port, the 1,980-seat My Cottage. "It's the massive increase of liquor licence capacity that has spawned all these other problems," said Councillor Williamson.

**The public will have an opportunity to comment at a meeting planned for St. Ann's School (218 Main Street) on: Wednesday, April 25, 2007 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**Senior Humour**

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.. Today, it's called golf

Lord, Keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

**THE PORT REPORTER**

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Ted Gould

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Deborah Kehler  
Frank Caplan

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

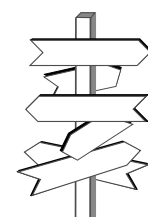
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**Ruth Beekhuis, B.A., M.S.W., R.S.W.**

195 King Street, Suite 201,  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 3J6

905-646-3507  
Fax: 905-988-6051

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# PROUD PORT DALHOUSIE PAGE

## COUNCIL TAKES MAJOR FIRST STEP TO SOLVE PORT "BAR" PROBLEM (continued from page 2)

### B. CAPACITY OF MY COTTAGE

1. The Problem. Most of the Bar problem is created by one bar having a licence for over 1,600 (way more than police could control in the event of a problem). There is another part of the solution we have been asking the City to take action on for years with no results. The AGCO will change the approved occupancy level based on input from the city and in February, 2006, a report from Transportation Services recommended the capacity should be cut to approximately 1,000 persons (about a 40% reduction). As you have seen in the email we received from the AGCO's Mr. Baxter in 2004: "Should one of these agencies advise us of a change to the occupancy level we will change the licence accordingly."(SEE BELOW)

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Sincerely,

David Bergen and Carlos Garcia  
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**The public will have an opportunity to comment at a meeting planned for St. Ann's School (218 Main Street) on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

May 20, 2004

N. Carlos Garcia and David Bergen  
Co-Chairs, PROUD (Port Realizing Our Unique Distinction)

Re: My Cottage BBQ and Brew Licence #011076

Dear Sirs;

With regards to your email regarding the above establishment and its occupancy.

The capacity of an establishment is determined by either;

- 1) The Building Code Act
- 2) The Fire Prevention and Protection Act
- 3) The Health Prevention and Protection Act, or if non of these are applicable;
- 4) An architect or professional engineer

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission does not determine the occupancy of an establishment,

however, the commission does require that the establishment complies with all applicable zoning by-laws, and the above Acts. Further details of this can be found in section (12) and (50) of Regulation 719/90.

In this instance an architectural company provided the occupancy figures, and subsequent to the receipt of letters from the building, fire and health departments of the City of St. Catherines confirming that the premise is in compliance with the zoning by-laws and the above Acts, the licence was issued in 1997.

As we do not calculate the occupancy levels, but rely on the expertise of other agencies to provide these numbers, may I respectfully suggest you contact these agencies if you wish to confirm the occupancy levels. **Should one of these agencies advise us of a change to the occupancy level we will change the licence accordingly.**

Yours truly,

David A. Baxter  
Manager, Liquor Sales Licensing  
Ph: 416-326-0440

## Green Committee Report

March 28, 2007

Now that the warm, spring weather is arriving, it's time to think GREEN. We're in touch with the Niagara Region (see below) and hopefully Port Dalhousie will be included in the 2007 tree planting programme. Mayor McMullan is very environmentally conscious and perhaps St. Catharines will restore it's reputation as "The Garden City". It's time to start planning your gardens. The nurseries are just about ready to open and the weather is going to co-operate.

Lorraine Cordner  
Chair

Mr. Ron Davidson,  
Associate Director Transportation Services,  
Niagara Region Public Works,  
2201 St. David's Road,  
P.O. Box 1042,  
Thorold, Ontario.  
L2V 4T7.

Dear Mr. Davidson,

Now that warmer weather is finally here, we are hoping to work closely with you in our efforts to keep Port Dalhousie green. I hope the regional budget was kind to your department.

Global warming is a major concern and every tree we plant is a step in the right direction. We are waiting to see if our four donated trees survived the winter.

Could you give us some indication of your upcoming planting plans for this area.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Lorraine Cordner, Chair  
Green Committee.



## OLD PORT CONSTRUCTION

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL  
CONTRACTING  
905-964-6666

GEOFF BROWN

St. Catharines, Ontario

## A NEW ERA: MAJORITY OF COUNCIL STAND UP FOR APPROVED PLANNING PRINCIPLES AND REGULATIONS

April 3, 2007

Dear Mayor McMullan and Members of Council,

Last night's motion by Councillor Kushner makes quite clear why Council does not support the previous Council's decision on the Port tower proposal and specifies how this Council's position would be supported at an OMB Hearing. **On behalf of our over 600 members from the City and Region, we want to thank those of you who voted for the motion for listening to your constituents and for standing up for approved planning principles and regulations.**

**We believe Council has sent a very clear message that our City welcomes development but that such development must be consistent with applicable planning regulations and Heritage Guidelines.** The ball is now squarely in the developer's court and we hope Council's motion will lead to their submitting a new proposal which is consistent with the intent of the regulations, satisfies the concerns of the community and is still very profitable since they could likely fit most, if not all, of their condos in a low-rise building. This would be a win-win for the City, the community and, most definitely, the developer.

As our lawyer Jane Pepino stated in a letter to PDVC's lawyer prior to the failed mediation: "...our client has, since the outset of this process, been willing to mediate the issues raised in its appeal and to explore possible revisions to the development proposal in order to ensure it conforms not only to the applicable Official and Secondary Plans policies, but also to the general spirit and intent of the Heritage District of Port Dalhousie."

It is our hope that a new proposal will be forthcoming that will achieve the above.

Sincerely,

David Bergen and Carlos Garcia  
PROUD Port Dalhousie



The canopy in Port keeps disappearing in the face of global warming. When will our decision makers at the Region awaken to see the need to keep our communities green and cool?



# OUR 'LADY OF THE LIGHT' CELEBRATES 100 YRS

*Early in June, 1969, this message was broadcast to all ships on the St. Lawrence Seaway, - - - "NOTICE TO MARINERS, As of June 23, 1969, the Main Light at Port Weller Lighthouse will be extinguished, and the tower and markings subsequently removed from that location."*

*The closing down of the main light tower marked the ending of another chapter of our lives. It has been the focal point of all our activities for nearly twenty-five years.*

Ethel Williamson and her husband, Cyril, were St. Catharines' last lighthouse keepers, responsible for the light at Port Weller until 1970, when the beacon was replaced with an automated signal.

**Cy, was the Lightkeeper and I, the Light Housekeeper of the Port Weller Light.**

Ethel is also the author of numerous stories and a book about her lighthouse years called 'A Light On The Seaway'.

The following information was taken from the Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club website ([http://nparc.on.ca/www/n1\\_0\\_1.d/home.html](http://nparc.on.ca/www/n1_0_1.d/home.html)).

### Ethel, VE3DTW, Celebrates Her 100th Birthday with NPARC

Ethel, VE3DTW celebrates her 100th birthday. There was a great turn out at the Parkway Quality Inn in St. Catharines for Ethel's 100th birthday. Almost 30 amateurs, short wave listeners and friends attended the luncheon. Dave, VE3FOI was our MC for the luncheon and opened with introductions. Jim, VE3BCA managed to get everyone on their feet for a rousing toast to Ethel. After everyone seated themselves, the youngest member of NPARC, Daniel, VE3LCJ presented Ethel a gift from the club. Ethel then presented Daniel an autographed copy of her book, "A Light on the Seaway".

Dave, VE3FOI took some time to read telegrams and emails from well-wishers that could not attend the luncheon. The luncheon was then opened up to anyone who had a story to share. Dave, VE3BBN mentioned one of his first experiences with Ethel almost 20 years ago when he had his copy of "A Light on the Seaway" signed by Ethel. Stan, VE3TW, RAC Assistant Director for Ontario South offered best wishes on behalf of the entire Radio Amateurs of Canada Executive. Coincidentally, Stan has been using the call sign VE3TW for the past twenty years which was the call sign of Ethel's late husband Cyril.

Ethel thanked everyone for their best wishes and commented, "I had never expected so many people".

Lunch followed and everyone was very pleased

with the food. The luncheon was brought to its feet again for a loud chorus of "Happy Birthday to Ethel" as the birthday cake entered the room.

Dave, VA3UL, President of NPARC, closed the luncheon by thanking everyone for attending and thanking the staff at the Parkway Quality Inn for their great service and fine food. A special thank-you goes to Dave, VE3FOI for organizing the luncheon.

Peter, VA3WET

March 21st, 2007

Ethel Williamson, VE3DTW

100 Years Young: A Brief History

The following was published at Ina Grafton Gage Village and was not signed, so we cannot take credit for this article.

Ethel was born in Manchester, England and immigrated to Canada in June, 1911 when she was four years old. Her father was transferred to Canadian Crocker Wheeler (English Electric), which brought them to St. Catharines, Ontario. Ethel married Cyril in 1927 and they had two sons. After WWII, the family moved into the Port Weller Lighthouse, now a part of St. Catharines, an event that shaped and enriched their lives. Those were the days when the lighthouse keeper had an important role in guiding ships. Ethel had many stories to tell of these years and in 1972 published the book, "A Light on the Seaway". Ethel spoke of her book at many venues, locally and out of town. She remembers having many of her short stories published over the years. Her very first story was published in "The St. Catharines Standard", now the "The Standard". She also wrote and published the children's book, "The Little Seamstress".

Ethel was also a hairdresser and when she retired from this, she volunteered and gave haircuts at places like the Salvation Army, Bethlehem Place, and the John Howard Society. Cyril, her husband of 61 years, taught her how to operate a ham radio as a hobby. She has a lifetime license, with the call sign of VE3DTW. She was a member of the Trilliums, the Canadian Ham Radio Club for Ladies.

In the Fall of 2002, Ethel was the recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. This medal was created to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ascension of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the throne. The medal was awarded to Canadians who made outstanding and exemplary contributions to their communities. Ethel was honoured to be a recipient of this medal.

On July 26th, 2005, Ethel was again honoured when she was asked to christen the new Canadian Coast Guard vessel "Cape Storm" at the Port Weller Coast Guard Station - the site of the old lighthouse where she and

her family spent so many years.

Ethel has led a very interesting life. These days, she is still independent and as charming as ever, buzzing around on her walker. In her apartment, she is still cooking meals, doing laundry and getting some assistance with housekeeping. Friday is banking and grocery day with her son. She enjoys attending Village meetings and parties. Ethel is writing the "Highlights of My 100 Years" and getting used to her electric typewriter. She will then try recording these highlights.  
Good Luck Ethel!

On March 24th there was a special celebration held at the auditorium of the Ina Grafton retirement home where she resides. Many people attended including Mayor McMullan, Minister Bradley, Deputy Mayor Washuta, Councillor Kushner and, of course, grandson, Councillor Bruce Williamson.

She sat at the front while presentations and speeches were made celebrating her life. Jim Bradley spoke of the many years he had known her and how much he appreciated that she considered him a member of the family. In front of her were scrolls from: the Mayor, Bradley, Premier McGuinty, the Lieutenant Governor, MP Dykstra, the Governor General, the Prime Minister and yes, the Queen.

In her book, A Light on the Seaway, Ethel writes about the ending of her family's days at the Port Weller Lighthouse and gives us a glimpse of how she coped with life:

**Most of the giant lake freighters sailing by are decorated for Christmas with strings of gaily coloured lights. They run the full length of the ships, and up and down the masts. Christmas trees and huge Santas, aglow with green and red spotlights add an early harbinger of the festive season, when the sailors will be free to return to their homes and families, and this will be our last Christmas at the Port Weller Lighthouse.**

**And so, life goes on; - -  
GOD BLESS**



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**PALZ St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser**

Kaz's Pub owner Anna Kasowski presented PALZ members with the proceeds from a St. Patrick's Day fundraiser at the popular downtown club toward the city's next leash-free dog park. From left to right are Carol Disher, Jim Steel, Doug Disher, Suzanne Mason, Anna Kasowski and Cathy Steel-Ewart. (story on page 11)

**Did you clean the basement yet?**



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**TEACHER TIPS FOR PARENTS**

**Subject- phonics-age 5-8**

Your child has completed Kindergarten, Grade 1 and possibly Grade 2 and is still having difficulty with reading. Talking to your child's teacher would be my first recommendation. Also if the school suggests testing that would help identify weak areas I would pursue this opportunity. Often a Language assessment will help to pinpoint a specific problem and give teachers the knowledge they need to help your child. Checking your child's hearing should be done before any testing.

Is there something you can do at home to help your child with reading-Yes. Our language is made up of sounds. If a child knows these sounds then they can sound out words. For example let's take the letters "igh". If a child saw the word "high" and tried to sound it out letter by letter it would be impossible to come up with the word 'high'. But if the child knew the letters "igh" made the sound of a long i then it would make sounding out that word easier. Let's look at the letters "ew" and "ue" both are pronounced as a long u as in the words 'few' and 'argue'.  
**(continued on page 11)**

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**In Memory of all those who love their bosses!**

A guy phones up his Boss, but gets the bosses' wife instead. "I'm afraid he died last week." she explains. The next day the man calls again and asks for the boss. "I told you" the wife replies, "he died last week." The next day he calls again and once more asks to Speak to his boss. By this time the wife is getting upset and shouts, "I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU TWICE, MY HUSBAND, YOUR BOSS, DIED LAST WEEK! WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING?" He replied laughing, "I just love hearing it..."

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# Climate Change In Niagara ... Part Three

It seems appropriate, having just celebrated World Water Day, to delve this month into issues relating to pesticides, water pollution and water usage, especially as the summer season is fast approaching. While researching global water shortages, agricultural instability and pesticide usage, I can't help but make comparisons and be grateful.

On the global front, with populations that have risen beyond capacity in the last century, the water deficit is relatively recent. The drilling of millions of irrigation wells has pushed water withdrawals beyond the recharge of many aquifers. Governments failure to limit pumping to the sustainable yield of aquifers means that water tables are now falling in countries that contain more than half the world's people.

Visible water scarcity is rivers running dry and lakes disappearing. Some Saudi farmers are pumping from wells that are 4000 feet deep, adding to the cost of supply. Here, irrigated agriculture can only last another few years. Deep wells around Beijing and Shanghai pump a distance of over 1000 meters! Political macerations between those living upstream and those at deltas and shorelines are appearing daily. Difficult choices between industry and crop irrigation are reducing food production. An example is China's wheat crop, which has dropped significantly 6 of the last 8 years.

Since expanded irrigation helped to triple the world grain harvest from 1950 to 2000, it's no surprise that water losses are shrinking harvests. It takes 1000 tons of water to produce 1 ton of grain. China's shortfall has been taken up by using previous stores (depleted in 2004) and by importing grain. China's shortfall in 2005 was equivalent to Canada's entire wheat output. Over 400 cities in China are already facing a chronic shortage of water. India and Iran have no such reserves to fall back upon.

In North America, Mexico City augments its supply by pumping up a kilometer and transports it from 150 kilometers away. Los Angeles draws much of its water from the depleted Colorado River. Obviously, we would do well to rethink the designs of our cities, our flush-and-forget mentality, our penchant for trendy manufactured goods, and begin to capitalize on our local ecology.

The serious consequences of the privatization of water are of concern globally and locally. The Council of Canadians hopes for a Canadian National Water Policy asking that we protect our water from being over pumped by our thirsty southern neighbours and disallow bulk water exports. They can be contacted as below, every voice counts. The NAFTA PLUS agreement federally and the TILMA agreements provincially will reduce our federal, provincial, municipal and individual ability to protect water consumption and pollutants if they interfere with profit. Ask your MP and MPP what they're doing about this one.

We've taken much for granted in Niagara and the lake levels are decreasing. Does it need to be stated again that as lake levels decrease, algae and bacterial levels increase? Niagara trees that we've assumed would always be here are showing signs of stress. Toxic waste discharged into Lake Ontario between St. Catharines and Hamilton last year laid to waste several birds and closed beaches. Toronto runoff in the summer extreme storms of last year created havoc.

The one time use of water to disperse human and industrial waste is an outmoded practice as cities can largely live on recycled water that is cleaned and used again and again. Composting toilets can become the norm. Urban food production will expand in vacant lots and rooftops setbacks are

wasteful practices as well. Remember, carbon uptake is compounded by large tracts of plant cover instead of scattered patches of green now commonly used. By building 3 and 4 story homes closer to the street, right up to the city-owned easement with minimal parking, we can unhamper land. Long driveways on single-family residential lots, street curbing and circle lots are outmoded and wasteful. We use 50% more water in summer, much due to lawn watering, another practice we can ill afford. Several rain-barrels can be linked together to provide for outside water. We have the technology to heat and cool larger buildings utilizing nature.

It's time to treat our water with a great deal of respect.

To get in touch with the council of Canadians, call 1-800-387-7177 or visit [www.canadians.org](http://www.canadians.org)

## Stop Using Pesticides

**The results of pesticide use needs to be of concern to anyone who purchases food, maintains or treats lawns, takes anti-biotics or other medications, uses paints, hair treatments, gels and sprays, and treat lawns, use repellants, polishes, cleaners, and the list goes on and on. It's ending up in our water, air, soils and bodies.**

The National Institute for Public Health Quebec published the results of pesticide contamination in our children (Oct.04). It found 98.7% of children have pesticide residues in their bodies, at levels higher than those found in American children. Several routes of exposure were implicated including our food supply, air, water and soil!

David Suzuki's organization requested a Special Review of Pesticides (June06) already prohibited by other nations and yet Canada had accepted. **There are 60 active ingredients authorized for use in pest control products in Canada that are banned elsewhere for health and environmental concerns.** The health concerns associated include increased risk of breast cancer, acute toxicity (creates risk of pesticide poisoning), developmental disorders, reproductive problems, organ damage, and interference with the human hormone system.

If a Special Review is initiated, the burden of proof is placed on the registrants to prove that their product does not cause unacceptable health and environmental effects; thus, the lack of scientific certainty is not used to postpone actions to avoid environmental contamination. The response has been qualified acceptance, that is, the Institute has allowed continued use while waiting 3 years to hear from suppliers and sales agents. Such are the priorities in Ottawa. Once again there's a major gap between Smart Growth Vision and the policies implemented.

It would be great to have these active ingredients taken off the shelves but in the event Ottawa stalls and leaves it for the next group, we can take action ourselves. During our previous council's term in office, a by-law that would ban the use of cosmetic pesticides was turned down, much to the surprise of residents. In January/07, councilor Greg Washuta requested a report on the pesticide by-law. Let's ensure that the current council is aware that continued use of cosmetic pesticides endangers our water quality, our health and our future so that they will be better able to protect.

There's a plethora of good articles and books on the market and the net that have recipes for pesticide alternatives. Before we consider alterna-

tives to pesticides to eradicate a species in a given area (either a weed or insect) there are several courses of action that we can implement.

### Consider:

- Is the plant cosmetically damaged or is the plant itself under threat. Is the insect/weed population rampant or is it tolerable?
- Is the plant in the right location? Many insects are condition or site specific.
- Is the plant of a native species or is it already at a disadvantage, trying to adapt?
- Is the insect a pest at all? A sow/pill bug, the ones that curl with a shell like an armadillo actually feed on decaying vegetation and not about to damage any crop. Harmful insects only account for 1 or 2% of the population.
- Wait to give predators a chance. Birds, dragonflies, frogs, rove beetles, spined soldier beetles, tachnid flies, parasitic wasps, ladybugs and their larvae, ground beetles and lacewings are beneficial insects and skilled predators.
- Can the insect be picked off or sprayed with water to keep the population under control? Inspect the underside of leaves as well.
- Can the insect/weed's life cycle be interrupted instead of eradicated? E.g. Pheromone traps?
- Can another beneficial insect or environmentally safe alternative be introduced to combat the problem? E.g. Nematodes for grub control, corn gluten meal and live worms for fertilizer.
- Regular garden clean up prevents many unwanted pests, moulds from over-wintering. Compost spent plants. Bury the bottom of your composter 6" down to deter pests.
- Can the section of damage be cut away for green recycling? Pull up infested plants.
- Build bio-diversity. Provide host plants for beneficial insects. These include butterfly weed, clover, cilantro, cosmos, dill, feverfew, goldenrod, lavender, lemon balm, marigold, mustard, nasturtiums, parsley, queen anne's lace, rose scented geraniums, spearmint, sunflower, sweet alyssum, sweet fennel, tansy, thistles, thyme, white sage and most wildflowers.
- Don't over plant one variety; insects are less likely to shelter. Use a cover crop.
- Young seedlings can be protected with a simple ring around it when planted. Toilet paper or paper towels cylinders will do.
- Rotate your Crops to prevent nutrient deficiencies.
- Healthy Soil. By buying organic, grass cycling, using compost, choosing only organic fertilizers and leaving clippings on the lawn, choosing slow-growing grass seeds we can perpetuate a soil that worms would love to call home.
- Get your garden off chemicals.
- Remove the mosquito habitat: eliminate standing water.
- Prevent exposure to mosquitoes

**Jane Hanlon**

**St. Catharines CAN (Climate Action Now)**

[janehanlon@cogeco.ca](mailto:janehanlon@cogeco.ca)

See Jane's 'UP FOR DISCUSSION'

page 11

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# MAN NEEDS WIFE



**JUST A MOM?**

A woman, renewing her driver's license at the County Clerk's office was asked by the woman recorder to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. What I mean is," explained the recorder, "do you have a job or are you just a.....?"

"Of course I have a job," snapped the woman. "I'm a Mom." "We don't list 'Mom' as an occupation, 'housewife' covers it," said the recorder emphatically. I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation,, this time at our own Town Hall.

The Clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient and possessed of a high sounding title like, "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar." "What is your occupation?" she probed. What made me say it? do not know. The words simply popped out. "I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written, in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire. Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing program of research, [what mother doesn't] in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters, (first the Lord and then the whole family) and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money." There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up and personally ushered me to the door. As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants -- ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6 month old baby) in the child development program, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt I had scored a beat on bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another Mom." Motherhood! What a glorious career! Especially when there's a title on the door. Does this make grandmothers "Senior Research associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations" and great grandmothers "Executive Senior Research Associates"? I think so!!! I also think it makes Aunts "Associate Research Assistants". Please send this to another Mom, Grandmother, Aunt, and other friends you know.

May your troubles be less, your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door!

Jane D. Randal

**Country Funeral**

As a young minister, I was asked by a funeral director to hold a grave-side service for a homeless man, with no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery way back in the country, and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there. As I was not familiar with the backwoods area, I became lost; and being a typical man did not stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late. I saw the backhoe and the crew, who was eating lunch, but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

I apologized to the workers for my tardiness, and stepped to the side of the open grave, where I saw the vault lid already in place. I assured the workers I would not hold them up for long, but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. I poured out my heart and soul.

As I preached the workers began to say "Amen," "Praise the Lord," and "Glory"! I preached, and I preached, like I'd never preached before: from Genesis all the way to Revelations.

I closed the lengthy service with a prayer and walked to my car. As I was opening the door and taking off my coat, I overheard one of the workers saying to another, "I ain't never seen anything like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years.

**Hazardous Waste Depots Resume in April**

NIAGARA REGION, March 29, 2007 - The 2007 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) mobile depots will be open for business starting next month. The first depot, located at the Region's Recycling Centre at 4935 Kent Avenue in Niagara Falls, will open on Saturday, April 7.

HHW depots are held in various locations across the region from April to November. Residents can refer to their 2007 Collection Calendar to determine the nearest depot dates and locations or call the Waste Management Services Info-line at 905-356-4141 or 1-800-594-5542. All mobile depots are open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The April events are well attended and residents are expected to encounter long line-ups.

Residents of Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham and West Lincoln only may use the HHW depot located at the Niagara Road 12 Landfill Site, 7015 Concession Road 7, West Lincoln. This depot is open year-round, Tuesday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents are asked to follow these guidelines when taking HHW material to the depots:

- \* Must be residential hazardous waste only.
- \* Materials must be in a well marked or original container.
- \* All containers must be well capped.
- \* For safety reasons no walk-ins will be permitted; residents must remain in their vehicles.

More info? Waste Management Services at 905-356-4141 or 1-800-594-5542..

**CITY NEWS****PITCH-IN CANADA WEEK**

Saturday April 22 to Saturday April 28, 2007

Joining with the rest of Canada, the St. Catharines Clean City Committee will co-ordinate efforts to reduce and remove litter by organizing Pitch In Week, 2007 in our City. Public events will occur on Saturday April 28, from 9:00 to noon, in designated parks, trails and areas. The Clean City Committee will supply garbage bags, gloves and instructions. Meeting areas will be designated in various parts of the City and announced on this web site and on the City page of the Standard the preceding two Fridays. You are asked to join us and arrive before 9:00 AM to register, get your supplies and instructions.

**The Mayor's 20 Minute Clean Sweep will occur on Wednesday April 25th at 2:00 PM.**

Everybody is asked to go out and pitch in to pick up all litter and winter detritus about their property. Adding it to the regular garbage collection will remove all this litter from sight. Businesses and schools are being asked to be involved and elementary school students will have the opportunity to sign the "Litter Not Pledge".

This combined effort will help make our City gleam as it should!! Plan on being a part of this annual clean up in St. Catharines... invite a friend, organize your neighbours and pass the word that we should have a cleaner City and that you are ready to do your part to make it so!

**THE MAYOR'S 20 MINUTE CLEAN SWEEP**

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Under the sponsorship of Mayor Brian McMullen, all businesses, companies, institutions, schools, stores and individual property owners will be encouraged to take 20 minutes at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25th to go outside and collect, bag and remove all litter at their location. Schools will be encouraged to clean their schoolyards. Companies and institutions will be encouraged to focus on their parking lots and adjacent streets. Stores and individual property owners will be encouraged to focus on the area directly adjacent to their establishment or property.

**PITCH-IN DAY, 2007**

Saturday, April 28, 2007

This initiative is now in its 9th year. On April 28, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., volunteer groups will tackle the collection and removal of litter that has accumulated over winter in areas such as parks, trails and roadsides not already covered by the "Adopt-a-Street" or "Adopt-a-Spot" programs. Individuals are encouraged to join a group at a location close to their home or any other favorite area of the City.

Safety instructions, safety vests (at roadside locations), appropriate hand protection and garbage bags will be provided free to all who register at their chosen site at 9:00 a.m.

**MASS SWEEP, 2007**

Saturday, April 28, 2007

Groups of volunteers, walking elbow to elbow, will sweep through designated areas collecting, bagging and removing all litter in their path. Safety instructions, safety vests, appropriate hand protection and garbage bags will be provided free to all participants.

In addition to the activities and events associated with Pitch-In Canada Week, the Clean City Committee has several other initiatives either under way or planned for 2007. The following initiatives highlight what the Clean City Committee will be busy working on in 2007:

**The "Litter Alert" Hot Line**

The Clean City Committee will be operating a phone-in "Litter Alert" hot line. Reports can be made regarding specific areas that require attention due to garbage or litter. Messages left on the "Litter Alert" hot line will be retrieved by a Clean City Committee member who will then contact the reporting person within a week, visit the location indicated, and wherever possible, initiate a volunteer clean up. The individual who reports the location will be encouraged to participate in any clean up efforts. The "Litter Alert" hot line will be available at (905) 688-5601, Extension 1630.

An email reporting system will also be operated. "Litter Alert" forms will be accessible through a link found on the Clean City Committee page of the City of St. Catharines Website. The Clean City Committee page can be accessed through the Committees link on the homepage of the City's website, [www.stcatharines.ca](http://www.stcatharines.ca) or through [www.YourNiagara.ca](http://www.YourNiagara.ca). It should be noted that action will only be initiated if the necessary contact information has been provided as requested in each of these reporting.



Sunday Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Church Office: 905-935-7231

**Mondays: 2nd & 4th:  
Course on Miracles**

Wednesdays: 1st & 3rd:  
Healing & Meditation  
Call 935-1168 for more info..

The above sessions are open at any time to anyone interested.

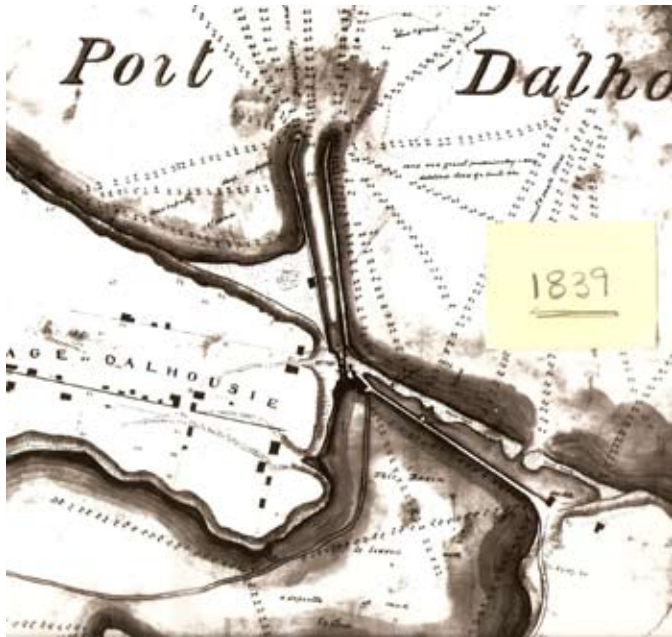
**ST. ANDREWS GYM**

**Aerobics Classes  
Tuesdays+ 7-8 pm  
Call Aly 935-0680**

**COMMUNITY  
Youth Basketball  
Thursdays  
5:30 - 7:30 pm  
ALL WELCOME**

# The Harbour Lock of the First Welland Canal: What Remains?

By Nancy Cameron



Sketch I (above): an 1839 map of Port Dalhousie which shows the First Lock, the piers north of the lock in Lake Ontario, and the harbour west of the lock (the harbour area is now Lakeside Park).

Every year through the 1830s and most of the 1840s, hundreds of schooners, scows, and rafts, with thousands of sailors and travelers from all walks of life, passed through the Lake Ontario entry lock of the First Welland Canal. This lock, known then as the Harbour Lock, was the reason for Port Dalhousie's establishment and early growth, and today lies buried somewhere about the northwest corner of Lakeside Park, although the exact location remains a mystery.

Today that area of the park is a quiet spot, but during the years of the First Welland Canal (1829-1848), it was the centre of the energetic activity and colourful life of the lively canal village of Port Dalhousie.

Recently, interest in the idea of excavating this historical treasure has been growing. An abundance of historical evidence shows that the area around the lock, because of its important role in the canal's construction period and its years of operation, could also prove to be an archaeological treasure chest of early canal artifacts and items of early 19th century life.

Construction of the Harbour Lock began in early 1826 and was completed late that year. It was a huge undertaking, with hundreds of men and many teams of horses involved in clearing, excavating, dredging and construction. The 1826 Report of the Welland Canal Company also noted that "the erection of buildings, stables, and outhouses necessary in the conduct of so great a work, forms no inconsiderable part of the operations."

The construction required a tremendous amount of materials. A canal contractor detailed what was needed for a lock: "The quantity of square timber ... was about 31000 feet to each lock—Round ties was nearly 7000 feet – the wrought iron about 35 or 36 cwt. – there was 30 cwt. of cast iron in each lock, contained in 4 paddle gates of 750 lbs each, and about 3000 feet of plank." (Cwt. = hundredweight.)

This describes the standard Welland Canal lock, but the lock at Port Dalhousie was of larger dimensions (32' wide and 130' long), so the amount of materials required would be even greater, moving up and down the canal.

The Harbour Lock also had the unique feature of a swing bridge designed by Marshall Lewis, the brilliant American engineer, mechanic and inventor who had designed the canal locks as well. The local newspaper observed that Lewis had "constructed a swing or turning bridge across the lock at the Harbour, on a new plan, by order of the Directors, as an experiment, ... it has a sweep of about 32 feet, it may be drawn either way by one man with ease, and is said to exceed everything of the kind heretofore generally known in this country." Towhorses needed to tow the schooners through the canal were brought down the hill from stables in the village and across the lock to the towpath, built on a raised embankment on the east side of the canal.

Once the construction of the lock began in 1826, local landowner Nathan Pawling had a village plan drawn up for the upland west of the lock and canal. He began offering lots for sale, and the village of Port Dalhousie began to grow. The area to the east of the lock (now Lakeside Park) was the original harbour area.

In August 1827, Pawling sold the lots immediately west of the lock and canal to William Budden of Quebec. These are now the properties on the east side of Lock Street and at the Dalhousie/Lock corner, which at that time extended down past the bottom of the embankment to the boundary of the canal property.

William Budden was a shareholder in the Welland Canal Company whose business in Quebec and Montreal involved the receiving, storing, forwarding, and transshipment of goods between Quebec and British ports. His name appears frequently on ships lists at the port of Quebec in the 1820s. He is noted in *Picturesque Quebec* (a history of the city published in 1881), as one of several men who acquired property "upon which they erected wharves, offices and large warehouses." Today in Old Montreal, one of the warehouses used by Budden still stands on Place D'Youville and is listed (with his name) on the register of historic buildings.

As a shareholder in the Welland Canal Company and in his occupation as a receiver and transhipper, Budden likely saw the opportunity offered by the creation of the canal for greater facility in shipping goods to and from the hinterland through the ports of Montreal and Quebec on to the British markets. A major impetus for the building of the canal had been to provide a more expedient means to move goods to and from the interior to the ocean and to transatlantic trade. In his line of business as a transhipper and forwarder, it is understandable that Budden sought to obtain property adjoining the Welland Canal at Port Dalhousie, the canal terminus and the port from which goods were transported to Prescott as the first step down the St. Lawrence, and on to Montreal and Quebec.

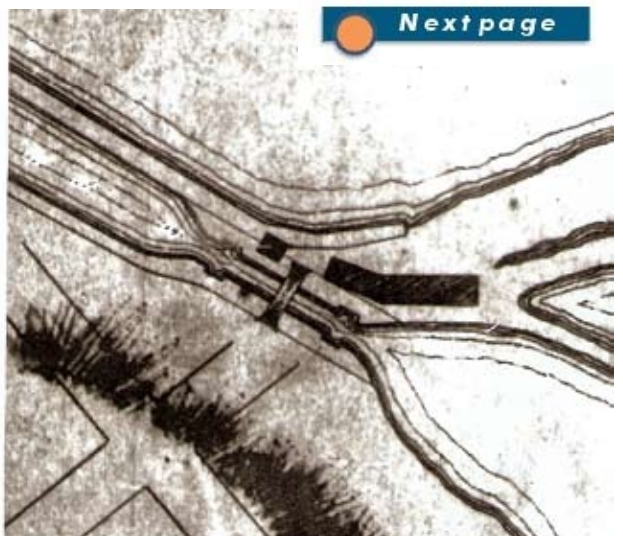
Storehouses for the reception of property carried on the canal were built at Port Dalhousie, Dunnville and Port Robinson, and from Lake Erie a daily line of boats plied to Port Dalhousie with property for transshipment. From 1831 boats were also engaged to run daily between the Grand River and Port Dalhousie with goods. The Welland Canal Company's annual reports provided continuous updates on the forwarding business, the appointment of forwarding agents and the increasing variety of goods

moving up and down the canal.

The local newspaper reported in November 1827 that at Port Dalhousie "a large storehouse for unloading merchandise and storing country produce is now erecting... and is a state of forwardness, on the margin of the canal at the foot of our village, and we understand others are in contemplation." This description indicates that the storehouse was being built on Budden's property by the lock, and there may have been several. The report of the meeting of the Welland Canal Company Directors on 30 July 1830, for example, notes an approved application by William Budden to erect a storehouse at Port Dalhousie.

Storehouses were much in use with the increasing traffic up and down the canal. By 1834, the annual traffic on the canal included 570 schooners, 334 boats and scows, and 66 rafts; in the next decade the numbers had doubled. Increasing amounts of cargo of a wide variety were shipped through the canal: annually over a million feet of lumber as well as pipe staves, square timber and logs; hundreds of thousands of barrels of flour, pork, beef, salt, whiskey, beer, and cider; kegs of lard and butter; fish, boxes of glass; grindstones; shingles, furniture, coal, iron, rope, pitch, potash, hay, hides, sheepskins, and so on.

William Budden died in Montreal in 1834 at the age of 41 and it is unclear if any of his relations carried on the forwarding business at Port Dalhousie. Ownership of his properties at Port Dalhousie, however, did remain in the Budden family, and were likely rented out. A notice in the *St. Catharines Journal* on 28 May 1835, for example, notes: "John Mosier, having rented the storehouses at the Welland Canal Harbour on Lake Ontario... is prepared to receive in Store, and forward to order, every description of Merchandise, Produce or Lumber." (cont'd page 11)



The above sketch shows an 1845 plan of lock one, with Lake Ontario on the left, and the canal/harbour on the right. The left hand bottom corner is Dalhousie Avenue (formerly Queen St) running down the embankment towards the lock, and to the right of Dalhousie is Lock Street (so at the top of the embankment above the lock is the intersection of Dalhousie and Lock). This plan shows the swing bridge that was constructed across the lock, and indicates several buildings close to the lock on the beach.

**HANDS ON TREATMENT**  
**Massage Therapy**  
 87 Lakeport Road  
 905-934-6803  
 ✓ Therapeutic Massage  
 ✓ Hot Stone Massage  
 ✓ CanFitPro Personal Training  
 relief from:  
 Acute and Chronic Pain • Headaches • Stress • Whiplash  
 Registered Massage Therapist: **Kristine Leivonen, RMT**

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**(905) 227-9344**

Want to contribute a story, photo, recipe, letter to the editor, etc. to the Port Reporter?

We can be reached by Email at [dalhousiecity@yahoo.com](mailto:dalhousiecity@yahoo.com), by sending a message through the [www.saveport.ca](http://www.saveport.ca) website or by snail mail by dropping off your material in the mail basket at 34 Bayview Drive. All input is welcomed and helps keep your paper sensitive to the needs of the community. Our sincere thanks to all those people who have contributed to the success of our paper. It is truly a community effort.

## The Harbour Lock of the First Welland Canal (continued from page 10)

Contributed by Nancy Cameron, historian

Budden's widow later married a prominent Montreal lawyer and the three Budden sons (William Charles, and Henry) became successful Montreal businessmen, most notably Henry Alexander Budden (1828-1900). He became vice-president of the Intercolonial Coal Mining Company, was one of the original petitioners for the incorporation of the Montreal Stock Exchange in 1874, and is listed in the 1898 Montreal Blue Book. The one daughter of William Budden, Agnes Elizabeth Budden (1832-1906) married Edwin Henry King, one of the first presidents of the Bank of Montreal. Photographs of Henry Budden and his family can be seen in the collection of the McCord Museum in Montreal.

The Buddens, a prosperous and successful commercial family, kept ownership of their canalside properties in Port Dalhousie for the entire period that the Harbour Lock served as the northern entry of the Welland Canal. In 1841, the government undertook to build a new canal with larger stone locks, and at Port Dalhousie the new Lock One was relocated south of the old lock with new piers and harbour, completed by 1848. The old timber lock at the beach was abandoned. Property adjacent to this old lock no longer had the same commercial significance, as canal operations and development shifted to the area adjacent to the new stone lock (in front of what is now Murphy's Restaurant). The Budden family sold their canalside properties at Port Dalhousie in 1854, not long after those lots had lost their commercial significance; another indication the properties were connected directly to canal activities.

The Harbour Lock is rightfully recognized for its enormous historical significance and as a tremendously important link with our canal heritage. The lock, however, did not function in isolation. It was integrally connected to its surroundings; the centre around which a wide variety of vital commercial and canal activities were continuously ongoing throughout the two decades of the First Welland Canal.

On property around the lock during the construction period, hundreds of men and many teams of horses moved huge amounts of materials and carried out all the heavy work of building the lock, harbour, piers, towpath, and related buildings. Once the canal was operating, countless sailors and travelers disembarked from their boats at Port Dalhousie and crossed this same area as they climbed the hill to visit the taverns and stores in the village. And goods of every description were loaded and offloaded between the boats and the storehouses built close to the lock and canal. It's fascinating to think of all the bustle and activity that once filled this corner of Port Dalhousie, and the thousands of travelers who briefly left their footprints as they passed through. How intriguing too to wonder what was left behind from that lively time, what might remain there still, and what might yet be found there beneath the surface.

## CLIMATE CHANGE (continued from page 8)

### Jane Hanlon's 'Up For Discussion'

Where we encourage Niagara residents to put forward concerns and ideas with regard to land, air and water stewardship.

Ethos Water sold by Starbucks promises to send 10 cents from the sale of every bottle to humanitarian efforts globally. Problem is, the water is bottled in Pittston, Pennsylvania and has cost the earth huge emissions already from being flown or trucked here. Starbucks, having omitted trans fats from their menu is appearing green-washed. Not that they portray themselves as eco-friendly. There is nothing to consume at this outlet that isn't imported except for their reverse-osmosis filtered water.

The last of our grape juice plants is closing and many are calling for gov't aid to replant to wine grapes. Instead of increasing our wine production, let's ask several levels of government to come together to rebuild our juice plant industry.

For cleaner energy, contact [www.bullfrogpower.com](http://www.bullfrogpower.com)

For organic food box delivery contact [www.planborganicfarms.ca](http://www.planborganicfarms.ca)

Gardeners are requested to once again Plant A Row for the local food banks and shelters. In St. Catharines/Thorold call 685-1349, 227-9240 or 935-4311 for the foods most welcomed.

St. Catharines CAN (Climate Action Now) requires assistance with naturalized plantings, door-knocking for an increased urban tree canopy and energy emission reduction projects. For information on meetings and projects underway, call 938-8882.

We've had a number of people contact us for the locations of local growers which we have directed to the web-site here. The Niagara Culinary Trail who are linking growers in the area with chefs and restaurants. See [www.NiagaraCooks.ca](http://www.NiagaraCooks.ca) for more information on these meetings or about other sources of local food.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has provided us with free booklets entitled 'A Guide to Celebrate Niagara Peninsula's Native Plants'. Call if you'd like a copy. They are only available while supplies last. 905-938-8882

## Teacher Tips for Parents (continued from page 7)

In the public board system many Kindergarten and Grade 1 teachers are using the Jolly Phonics program. This is a program I used for several years with amazing results. The big book comes with a musical CD and goes through all the sounds needed to sound out words in our language through songs, gestures and pictures. Be aware that there are still exceptions to the rules and because of the many foreign words adapted to our language over the centuries there will always be words that need to be memorized, but for many students who don't have the basics for reading, this program works.

I will always remember my first experience with the program. I was amazed at a young boy in my class who finally felt some confidence in reading when he realized he could break the 'code' of phonics. Standing in front of the Word Wall Board he tapped his arm for the "a" sound, cupped his ear for the "oy" sound etc. as he successfully named our small list of words. For most children this program works. It is especially beneficial for children who use English as a second language. It can be purchased at most teacher type stores or you can check it out online.

Mrs. O

### LOOKING FOR MURPHY

A secret agent was sent to Ireland to pick up some very sensitive information from an agent called Murphy. His instructions were to walk around town using a code phrase until he met his fellow agent. He found himself on a desolate country road and finally ran into a farmer.

"Hello, said the agent, "I'm looking for a man called Murphy."

"Well you're in luck," said the farmer, "as it happens, there's a village right over the hill, where there's a butcher called Murphy, the baker is named Murphy, three widows are called Murphy. In fact my name is Murphy."

"Aha," thought the agent, "here's my man." So he whispered the secret code. "The sun is shining... the grass is growing... the cows are ready for milking."

"Oh," said the farmer, "you're looking for Murphy the spy - he's in the village over the other direction."

**LET'S PARTY FOR PORT!**  
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Live Music by:  
"Gillian Dollar Babies"

APRIL 14, 2007  
HENLEY ISLAND CLUBHOUSE

**SILENT AUCTION**  
Cost: \$25/ person  
Doors open at 7:30pm  
Cash Bar and food provided

Tickets may be purchased at the door  
or by calling:  
905-937-0671  
or  
905-646-3282

SPONSORED BY: ACO ST. CATHARINES

## Port Dalhousie Earth Day Clean-Up

Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>



Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Hogan's Alley

To Register and for  
more information,

Call the Port  
Dalhousie Business  
Association at  
905 937-4783 ... or  
just show up!

Celebrate Earth Day this year by helping us tidy up the Downtown Core. The snow has blown, the wind has howled and things aren't quite where we left them. You will need work clothes, sturdy footwear and appropriate tools (leaf rake, broom, shovel, hard rake etc.) Upon check-in, you will be assigned an area that needs your attention. We will supply garbage bags, a large garbage bin and lunch.

Come out and help us dust off Port Dalhousie in time  
for a great summer!





The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) – St. Catharines Branch

**PORT DALHOUSIE HERITAGE FUND**  
 Helping Preserve Port Dalhousie's Heritage District

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2007 DONATION:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> 500	Other \$ _____	<b>Credit Card Info:</b>
Payable by:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	
2007 POSTDATED DONATION(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	Other \$ _____	Number: _____
Payable by: (please indicate date(s))	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque or <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card				Expiry Date (M/Y) _____

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 OR Phone ACO St. Catharines at 905-935-9407 to Make your Donation

*A tax receipt will be issued*

*Please keep a copy of completed form for your records*



**Port Dalhousie Seniors**

*The idea that grew to be a vibrant part of the Port Dalhousie scene.*

Years ago a group of Port seniors felt they needed a place to play cards have bingos, sit and chat or organize a trip for all seniors in the community.

After meeting in local homes and churches, the idea was born to try to acquire a place to call home and these seniors organized and through lots of fund raising, they finally got to use Dalhousie House as their home.

Today we have a new address - the Old Fire Hall at 19 Brock St. Every week we host bingos, euchre games, quilting, wood carving, pool and social teas on Tuesdays. There is a Potluck once a month and Special Teas put on monthly for everyone to enjoy.

Yes they are seniors who laugh, care and share with each other weekly and life hasn't slowed them down. They are a vibrant, caring

community. If there is an issue, they help if they can. Last year the women knit and crochet 12x12 inch squares and other women put them together to make Afghans. The 'Out of the Cold' program was the recipient of 20 Afghans to keep STREET PEOPLE warm. Other members knit mitts, hats and layettes for Community CARE. All this from wool donated by a very generous community. ARE they vibrant sharing and caring? - you bet!! These seniors moulded our Port Dalhousie area. They worked and lived here, protecting its unique community spirit for you and me.

Let's celebrate them. Come into Port Dalhousie Centre to see what seniors are capable of doing. Everyone is welcome. This year we hosted an Inaugural Tea to introduce the new executive. The special guest was the Mayor Brian McMullan. A Valentines' Tea was held hosted by two of our members. They served beef on a bun and carrot cake. March gave us Irish Stew and Soda Bread.

Come join us - there are lots of activities ahead.

Our Weekly Events are:

- Monday: Bingo and Quilting 12.30 - 3.30 pm
- Tuesday: Pool and Afternoon Social Tea 1.00- 3.30 pm
- Wednesday: Euchre 1.00- 3.30 pm
- Thursday: Wood Carvers 9.30-11.30 am  
Bingo 1.00-3.30 pm

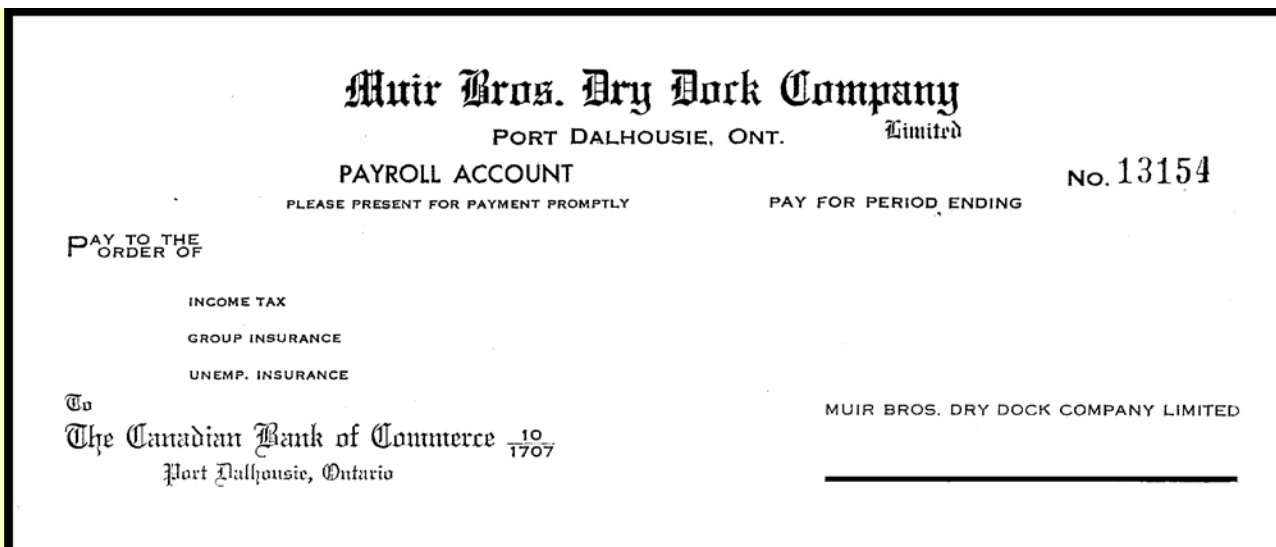
The 2nd Wednesday of each month is Potluck at 12.30 pm.  
 The 3rd Tuesday of each month - Our Teas are at 12.30 pm.

A foot clinic is held every 6wks.

A Card PARTY is held the 1st. Saturday of each month.

We have interesting activities planned for the future. Come and join us.

Submitted By; Bonnie Purser.  
 President, Port Dalhousie Seniors



**MEMORIES**

This photocopy of a pay cheque for work at the Muir Bros. Dry Dock was given to Donnie Baker by Jean-Marc Robert and forwarded to the Reporter to share with the community. If you have similar articles/memories and would like to share them with the community, please send them to the Port Reporter, 34 Bayview Drive St. Catharines L2N 4Y6