

# THE REPORTER

VOL.13 NO.4

SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF PORT DALHOUSIE SINCE 2005

WINTER 2018



## Christmas: Things That Matter

**Well,** again: Christmas. The older I get, the faster this season seems to come around. Christmas is a nostalgic time of year for many in our community. A lot of us take the time to remember the reason for the season and spend focused time with family and friends, relaxing and

enjoying each other's company and just taking a break from our daily work, and focusing on things that really matter. One of these is our relationships with others. Our children get excited about receiving gifts, but I think the gift of spending quality time with their parents is just as much of an attraction at this time of year.

As Brian's historical article tells us, Christmas was always a special time in Port. Today we look forward to the Lantern Stroll, the Christmas Market as well as spending time with friends in

our local establishments and shopping for those we love.

Be careful not to get caught up in the consumer traps that our society so often pushes on us. In researching the film the "Story of Stuff", Annie Leonard discovered that only 1% of a lot of the things we buy for Christmas is still in use after 6 months, and much of it can be found in the garbage or yard sales in short order. That "Terry the Swearing turtle" or that Darth Vader talking piggy bank is not the real stuff of the season. It contributes to landfills, uses up the earth's natural resources and is quickly forgotten by our children. Much better to take the family out for a memorable dinner, spend time around the fire, bake a cake, and write a poem, volunteer at "Out of the Cold" or give your children a lasting experience that they will never forget.

We should also do our best to

*Continued on page 2*

## Holiday History of Old Port

**What** happy memories are stirred up within us during the Yuletide season! For many of us, it's an opportunity to visit with family and friends and to enjoy all the best that the holidays have to offer. Despite the passage of time, this is as true for us today as it was for area residents during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Issues of the St. Catharines Standard would often refer to the churches in Port Dalhousie busily preparing for Christmas services, choirs and concerts. The social columns always reported on out of town friends and family who had returned home

to Port to visit with loved ones and to renew old acquaintanceships and about the various holiday parties that had been held.

Residents in Port knew the holidays were quickly approaching when an illuminated cross appeared atop of the Star-of-the-Sea church. Others fondly recall the Christmas chimes at St. John's Church which were played on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning, a tradition that was discontinued when some people complained about the noise (clearly, they were among the unhappy inhabitants of Whoville!). A few old residents remember that Santa Claus parades were held in Port. Charlie Ansell,

*Charlie Ansell,  
a former Reeve of  
Port Dalhousie and  
owner of the Port  
Weller Drydocks,  
used to dress up  
as Santa and hand out  
gifts to the children -  
both good and bad.*

*Continued on page 2*



remember those who are not as fortunate as most of us are and for whom this season is a time of great loneliness or painful memories. Reach out to a neighbour or stranger who has no family or place to go, buy them a coffee, shovel a sidewalk or invite them to your home. Nobody should be alone at Christmas. They will end up giving you back more in the long run than you ever give them.

Election season is finally behind us, at least here anyway. I am so impressed by the calm and efficient way elections are handled here in Canada. No line ups, no observers, a polling place within walking distance, no need for lawyers, and no hysteria, what a contrast from the USA.

We congratulate our newly elected Councillors and wish them well in their ongoing roles in the coming years. We also thank those who ran for office but didn't make it this time. Your effort and enthusiasm for Port are truly appreciated. As we face the New Year together, there is a lot to anticipate, including new construction, restoration of the piers, hearings on

Union Waterfront, etc., especially as this comes on top of all the normal activity in Port. There is a lot of work that remains to be done. Support your local businesses as they struggle to deal with all the new activity and congestion. Most of all, lets all work together to make Port a community we can all be proud of. We may have differing perspectives on issues, but we all share a love for this community and, if we keep talking and working together, the solutions we come up with for our community will be better as well.

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support, and we also thank all our community volunteers - we can't do it without you!



Hank Beekhuis  
President,  
Port Dalhousie  
Conservancy

a former Reeve of Port Dalhousie and owner of the Port Weller Drydocks, used to dress up as Santa and hand out gifts to the children - both good and bad - of the drydock employees. Mr. Ansell did not discriminate between them. Charlie Ansell was not, however, the first Santa impersonator in Port.

In a poem titled "Santa Claus," published in 1875, we read:

*Old Santa Claus was out last night,  
To every house in town,  
Dressed up in rags,  
...and such a fright!  
He looked just like a clown.*

*Sometimes he is running,  
other times walking,  
Sometimes he whistles or sings;  
Sometimes he is thinking,  
then again talking;  
Sometimes he spreads his wings.*

*He flies around to all the houses;  
If you see him please say nothing,  
Keep quiet, lay as still as a mouse,  
He will drop it in your stocking.*

*Then children be good,  
he will come around  
Once a year if he has cause;  
If you mind your parents,  
I'll be bound,  
You'll be loved by Santa Claus.*

The Santa in question was a gentleman named "Hare" and the poem may have referred to James Hare (ca. 1801-1880), who was a fruit grower/dealer in Louth Township. The author of this poem was named John Blair (1846-1918), the son of John and Margaret (Ross) Blair. The father of the poet was a native of Scotland who settled in St. Catharines sometime before 1842. John Blair Sr. later purchased farm land in Grantham and Louth Townships (near Martindale Road, between Grapeview and the QEW), where he engaged in farming but also worked as a blacksmith. Blair was an elder of St. Andrew's Church in Port between 1853 and 1872, and members of his family are buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery. Our poet, John Jr., attended school in Port during the 1850s and was apprenticed to a cooper at the age of 17. This was not to be his



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## What happy memories are stirred up...

vocation in life, since he was hired to work as a telegraph operator and station master for the Grand Trunk Railway. Blair published two books of poetry; the first was printed in St. Catharines in 1875, and the second volume was issued by a printer in Park Hill (north of Strathroy) around 1880.

Blair's collected works contain another piece titled "Christmas Day." This poem assumed a decidedly more somber tone bringing to mind those friends and loved ones who had "departed this life." Blair wrote:

*Twice welcome Christmas!  
Thou'rt as fair as ever;  
Since last we saw thee  
there are some who never  
Now will enjoy thee  
with those they love;  
They are happier far in  
the bright home above.*

In 1873, in a poem titled "Departing Old Year," Blair continued this theme:

*Farewell, old year, thou'rt  
gliding away;  
There are some now lying  
beneath the clay,  
Will cause us to mind thee  
while our life lasts;  
Thou hast swept them away  
with thy chilly blasts.*

One historic holiday event which took place annually in St. Catharines was the Martin Road Race. This was a 10-mile (16 km) marathon which was held for the first time on Christmas day in 1903. The first known entrant from Port in this event was John N. Paxton who competed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual race on Boxing Day in 1904. He represented the "Maple Leaf" Athletic Club; disappointingly he "ran well for about three miles but went down and out." In the third annual race, held on Christmas Day in 1905, Port Dalhousie was represented by Norman Paxton. He finished in second place, and won a gold watch and fob, a box of cigars, a pipe, a hat, an umbrella, a hair brush and comb set. The prizes were distributed later that same day during an intermission in a performance at the old Opera House on Ontario Street.

It is fitting that the last words here should be reserved for our friend John Blair:

*Then adieu, merry Christmas,  
we are loth to part  
With thee, but carry the hope  
in our heart,  
To meet thee again with friends  
we hold dear,  
Farewell, merry Christmas,  
till another year.*

■ Brian Narhi



Photo by Reid Mohr

## THE REPORTER

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

It is currently published quarterly, usually in March, June, September and December. Normally 3,000 copies are delivered to homes in Old Port and surrounding areas in Port Dalhousie ward. It can also be found at Avondale's, City Hall, public libraries and in various local business establishments.

### Editorial Board

Hank Beekhuis, Deborah Kehler, Peter Wing

### Production

Peter Wing

### Copy Editors

Bram Hoff, Deborah Kehler

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

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

**Deadline for posting of community events, advertising and article submissions for the Spring issue is February 1, 2019.**

Those interested in advertising should contact our advertising coordinator, Allison Beekhuis at [advertising.portreporter@gmail.com](mailto:advertising.portreporter@gmail.com) by February 15, 2019. Print-ready ads are requested where possible.

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# A Heartfelt Thank You to the Residents of Port Dalhousie Ward

*We both are very thankful to the residents of our Ward who chose to return us as your representatives on City Council.*

We have been busy both with the completion of duties from the current term of office and with ramping up for the new term. Our first informal session with the 2018-2022 Council took place Friday, November 9, 2018 and it was a pleasure to meet the five new members.

The inaugural meeting of the new Council is scheduled for Monday, December 3rd, at the Performing Arts Centre downtown. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We once again extend our appreciation to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350 for organizing and executing another meaningful parade and program of remembrance which was held Sunday, November 4th.

The practical concerns we heard commonly expressed directly by residents during the election campaign included:

Public safety issues related to vehicular traffic on both our arterial and local roads. The primary concern focused on inappropriate speeds relative to the road and neighbourhood conditions. The need for enforcement or means to control risk to pedestrians (particularly children), cyclists and occupants of other vehicles was frequently mentioned. As well, increasing traffic volumes on specific roads was routinely identified with apprehension.

Despite the fact jurisdiction over waste management and recycling resides with the regional level of government, we heard from many people who are dissatisfied with

the poor level of current service. We have passed these concerns on to our colleagues on Regional Council and encouraged residents to participate in the consultation exercise the Region was conducting on this very issue. They were hosting open houses in St. Catharines on Nov. 15 and 30. A survey plus a complete list of times and locations was posted online at [NiagaraRegion.ca/waste/lets-talk-waste](http://NiagaraRegion.ca/waste/lets-talk-waste).

Numerous people commented on the need for better maintenance and improvements in the state of our parks and in particular amenities which need to be restored or replaced. The tennis courts near the Port Dalhousie Pool being one notable example. Some folks in the Cole Farm area are experiencing pungent air. Many other issues were raised and we always welcome hearing from constituents in regard to ideas, concerns and opinions they wish to share.

We are working on the replacement of the accessibility ramp at the Port Dalhousie Branch Public Library and have been pressing diligently for the refurbishment and reopening of the stairs leading down to Lakeside Park from Dalhousie Avenue. Soon they will have been closed for two years due to the construction of the condo.

Concerns are being expressed about the loss of public skating at Bill Burgoyne Memorial Arena due to the closure of Rex Stimers Arena. The only indoor ice facility in the north end is also in desperate need of structural repair to its outside walls.

We also intend to work closely with the community, Council and property owners to ensure that:

1. All heritage buildings in the historic commercial block are properly restored and adaptively re-used for appropriate commercial purposes. We believe this is certainly feasible as they have all been occupied and used before and we previously had a vibrant area with retail and restaurants. This will go a long way towards maintaining the village feel and attractiveness that everyone enjoys.

2. New development in the core is consistent with the new Secondary Plan recently approved by Council. New development should provide sufficient parking on site so that free parking continues to be available. It must also be compatible with the current buildings and streetscape. It is critical that such development not overwhelm traffic, parking and supporting infrastructure. Lakeside Park, the beach, the village and our businesses must remain accessible by all of our City's residents. Port Dalhousie must continue to be for everyone!

We will work hard for all residents of the Ward and the City on other key priorities such as maintaining and enhancing green space and keeping tax increases to a minimum while providing essential services.

Wishing everyone a Great Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year,

Your City Councillors,



**Bruce Williamson**  
[cbucewilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:cbucewilliamson@gmail.com)



**Carlos Garcia**  
[GarciaPortDalhousie@gmail.com](mailto:GarciaPortDalhousie@gmail.com)

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# Winter in Port - Excerpts from the files of Sid Brookson.

*Sid Brookson was the Last Owner of Lakeside Amusement Park*

Except for about two weeks at the end of the Navigation season, the Village of Port Dalhousie was just a regular one in the winter months. The natives would go to the Post Office pick up their mail and meet the neighbours and chat, providing the weather would allow them.

The Post Office was located on Lock Street next to the drug store and barbershop. Wilfred Hart, who had a wooden leg as a result of the First World War, was the Postmaster for many years. The Post office was later moved from Lock Street to Ontario Street next to the Port Hotel and then moved from there to Main Street under the Masonic Hall. The post office was closed at the main street location, when post delivery was started.

Robert Gamble was the Post master at the time, he was a wounded veteran, loosing an eye during the 1939 war, and he was also the Life Guard at Lakeside Park during the summer vacation period from Ridley College.

During the two weeks at the close of Navigation the ships would come into Port Dalhousie and tie up to the Canal wall three or four abreast, some would go thru Lock one and tie up by the Martindale pond tow path. The crew would batten down the hatches for the winter but they would only work until 6 o'clock and then they had the whole evening to themselves.

Being as they had been tied up on the ship for the previous few months, they had to celebrate and their way of celebrating was drinking in the various pubs. Usually one or two would get too much to drink, get argumentative and want to start a fight, one fight often led to two or three. These

fight were usually quieted down by the crews of the ships, as there was only one policeman available, however it was often necessary to put a very unruly person in the jail and let him sleep off his drunkenness. More often than not these persons were let go the next morning and told to return to their ship. Other than that that they had to be taken to St. Catharines for a court hearing. This was quite difficult for the policeman as he had no transportation of any kind and had to use the street car with his prisoner so that is why if no damage, other than bloody noses and bruised egos resulted, no charges would be laid.

After the ships were battened down, the crews would be laid off and they all left for the various homes. One person, usually bachelor or widower, with no home would be kept on as ship keeper for the winter months. Ship keepers were watchmen in case of trouble and they all stayed on the ship usually with



a pot bellied stove with the smokestack going up above the deck. Most of them prepared their own meals and would buy their groceries from Murphy's.

Whilst shopping for groceries they would congregate in Murphy's "back room" and enjoy each others company.





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## If Walls Could Talk...

### The Port Hotel Lobby

Before The establishment of the Port Mansion, it was known as the Port Hotel, one of the last hotels that had seperate "Ladies" and "Gentlemen" entrances.

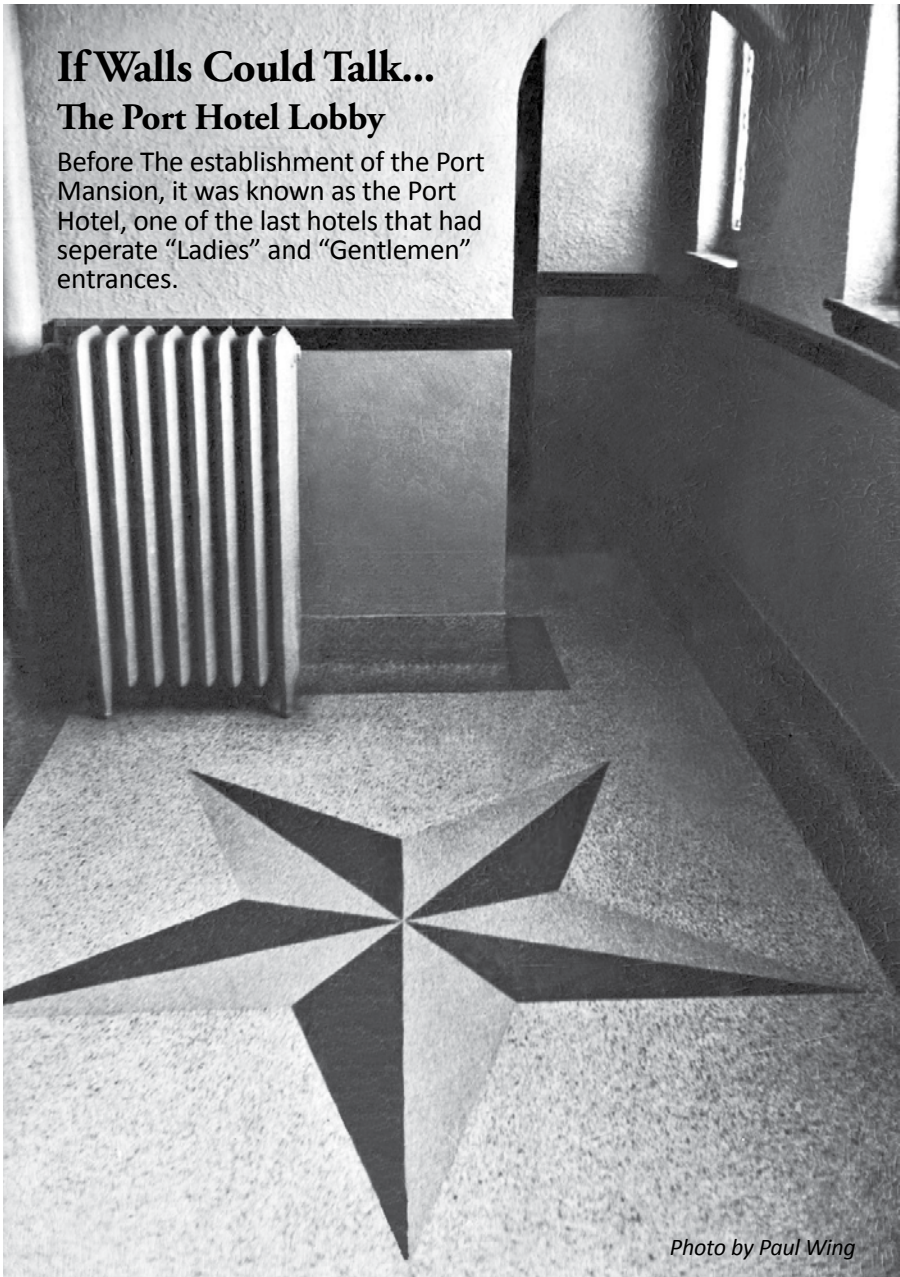


Photo by Paul Wing



# The Tiller Wreck

*Most of Us Are Aware of The Hamilton and Scourge shipwrecks, but the Little Known Tiller Wreck is Nearby.*

The “Tiller” wreck was thought to be the “Henry Clay” (1842) for some time until it was disproved, but is simply known as the “Tiller” because of the lack of a ships wheel as the ship was steered by a large wooden tiller at the stern of the vessel. As not much is known about the wreck, details of its origins and sinking are currently unknown. It does resemble work from ships built in the early 1800s, however, that is the extent of what is known. The famous wrecks of the The Hamilton and The Scourge, like the Tiller, began their careers as simple merchant ships. But when the need came, they were converted into war ships and pressed into service for the American Navy just prior to the War of 1812.

Located 6 km north of Port Dalhousie, The Tiller wreck itself is remarkably intact, listing at an angle on

its starboard side. The two masts have fallen over and lay to one side. About one half of the bowsprit remains, as well as much of the railing on the ship’s deck. The most remarkable feature of the wreck is the large wooden tiller at the stern of the wreck. There are a number of open cargo hatches in the deck, which can easily be penetrated. Care must be taken not to disturb the silt and proper caution exercised for diving in an overhead environment if penetration is attempted.

The site itself can have variable visibility, but typically is around 40-50 feet. Water temperatures generally don’t get warmer than the 50 degree range, and often times in the low 40s and high 30s, even in the height of summer. As the Tiller wreck is in the open lake, caution must also be given to the wind conditions to attempt to reach it.



Ship Type: Two-masted wooden schooner  
Built: Best estimates early 1800s  
Sunk: Unknown  
Length: 94ft Width: 21ft  
Depths: 110ft  
Location: 6km north of Port Dalhousie,  
Lake Ontario, Ontario  
GPS: N43.14.734 W070.17.064

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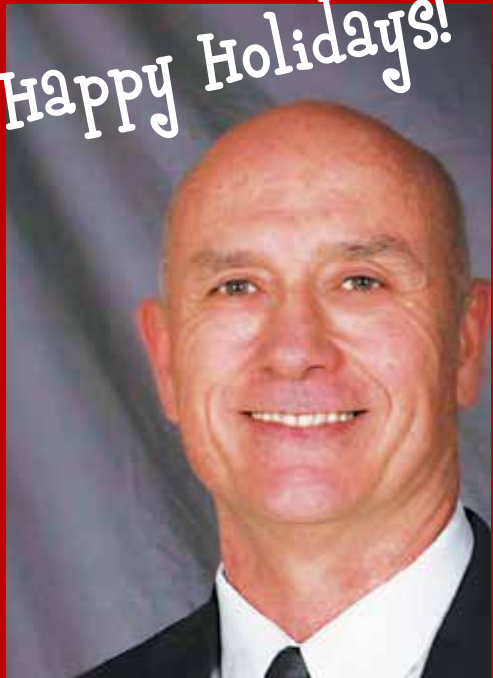
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Councillor, Port Dalhousie Ward  
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# Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Commitee Report

The BWC wishes to thank all of our volunteers that helped this past year and to extend our very best Christmas Greetings to all residents of Port.

The BWC has partnered with the Port Dalhousie Business Association to fund the upgrading of the lights in all of the trees (with available power) in Port. Where required, the City has checked and repaired the power supply to the trees.

We hope that you all enjoy the colourful display of tree lights, which are being installed by Mr. Wes Martens, a local resident and licensed electrician. Wes, through his experience, has brought some excellent ideas forward which, among others, use the very latest efficient LED technology, with stunning effect.

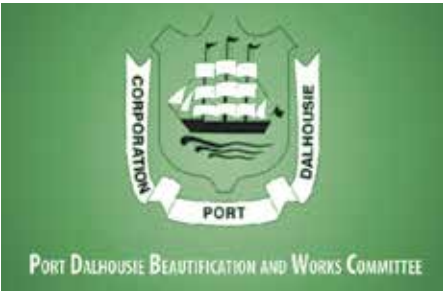
The new tree lights will officially be turned on at the BWC 4th annual Christmas Stroll, held on Saturday, December 8th. The event will commence at the Pavilion at 6:00pm and finish at the "Olde Lock Commons" stage area. This will align with the Port Dalhousie Christmas Market being held on that same weekend. Lanterns, candles and hot chocolate will be available for a donation. The proceeds will be donated to St. Catharines Community Care. Because of your generosity, last year, the BWC was able to donate \$800.00 to "Out of The Cold".

BWC wishes to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and performers for helping make this event another great success!

We urge all residents, organizations, and businesses to consider using the wonderful "Olde Lock Commons" area for events, fundraisers,

weddings and concerts this upcoming season....

The BWC gardening group hopes that everyone enjoyed the colorful flower displays and gardens this past Summer. Planning is already in the works for next Spring and they have saved many of the plants and bulbs. We are always looking for more volunteers for the gardening group, whether it be planting, watering, weeding, dead-heading, etc. If you are willing to help, we would love to hear from you!



Please contact:

Joanne - joanneazz@hotmail.com  
Marg - margwithnoe@hotmail.com  
Sandy- sandyofport@sympatico.ca.

We also wish to use this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of Mr. Tim Bell who single-handedly cleaned up the dead shrubs and weeds from the bank between Homestead and Dalhousie House. (Thanks Tim!) It is hoped that the City's Green Advisory Committee will be planting sustainable trees and shrubs on this bank shortly, as they have done at the parkette at the corner of Michigan Ave. (Thank you, Dick Thomas!)

Future events being planned include: in February there will be a BWC fundraising dance as well as the annual Earth Day clean-up in April, which is always very well attended. As always, find us on our Facebook page for more details on these and other happenings.

■ Your BWC Committee



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## PORT MEMORIES

### Reflections on Growing Up in Port

*Growing up in Port before the advent of video games, Facebook, Twitter and flat screen tvs, kids had to amuse themselves, especially during the Winter months. Most of the activities were in cold, snow-filled outdoor adventures.*

**Bumper hopping the bus from one end of Port to the other, hoping that you didn't hit any dry sections of road**

- John House

**Skating on the pond and taking the "short cut" crossing the frozen pond from the Michigan side to go to McArthur school.**

- Trish Carr Aubertain

**Skating from Rennie park to McDonald's on Ontario St via Martindale Pond. We would bring our old cougar boots lol. Tie the laces together and throw them over our shoulder until we got to the hill behind McDonald's.**

- Pete Higgins

**Standing at the top of the stairs on Berry's hill at the NE corner of Lock & Main, throwing snowballs at the city buses as they turned the corner.**

- Gary Rooney

**We had several green Christmases when we lived in Port. When we moved to Ottawa, my Mum promised a white Christmas. Guess what, it was green!**

- Penny Minter

**I remember the ice skating rinks, the lacrosse bowl, the McGarrs, the Howe's and I think Mike Hughes also had one, not to mention the unlimited skating on Martindale pond. No need for computer games!**

- Paul Croteau

Thanks to the Vintage Port Dalhousie Facebook page

**Playing hockey at the Crandel's rink. I remember one of the teams was the Rockets, we had Chicago jerseys with a big R on the front.**

- Terry Dokken

**Hiking all the way to Charles Daley to toboggan. Older kids dragging little ones home. Bet kids today would not think to hike half that distance now. How did we survive childhood.**

- Karen Oakes Robinson

**Skating at the port bowl and on the Henley.....good times.**

- Merilou Gilbert

**It was crazy but venturing out on the ice on Lake Ontario to climb on the ice formations created by the waves.**

- Dave Duhaime

**Remember my Dad outside with the hose every freezing night to create a rink in our backyard. I can picture him in the same jacket and cap he always wore.**

- Marilyn Dolyniuk

**We used to build large snowmen all the way across the bottom of Michigan hill and wait to see the reaction of drivers when they stop to move them.**

- Ron Graham



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OPEN YEAR-ROUND





# Tips For a Stress-Free Holiday Season

*The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. Here are some tips to help you make it through unscathed.*

## Prune the to-do list.

Ask, "If I don't do this, what will happen?" Aim to knock down the list of chores to the rock-bottom necessity.

## Cut the gift list.

Rein in gift exchanges that have been outgrown or lost their meaning. Limit gifts to children only, draw names, or organize a gift exchange.

**Wrap as you go.** Who needs to spend Christmas Eve catching up on wrapping chores? Sticky notes will help you keep track of gift contents.

## Buy, don't bake.

Turn your back on the oven this year. Supermarkets, bakeries and the freezer department of the discount warehouse are a great source for delicious, pre-baked holiday treats.

## Call, don't send cards.

Reach out and touch someone ... the easy way. Online greeting cards are easy, inexpensive and fun to send. No more lines at the post office!

## Scale back décor.

Substitute a simple door wreath for outdoor lighting, a tabletop tree for the over-the-top tannenbaum. Focusing holiday decor on the Big Three--front door, tree and focal point--can bring a festive feel to the house without day-long decorating sessions.

## Cut the clean-a-thon.

Focus cleaning attention on kitchen and public rooms; private areas can slide til season's end. Better to schedule deep-cleaning chores like carpet cleaning until after the wear-and-tear of the holiday season.

## Downsize dishwashing.

Hand-washing fine china is nobody's idea of a good time, so move to everyday stoneware. Simpler still: paper plates!

## Finger food, not feast.

A smorgasboard of tasty tidbits is easier on the cook and kinder to the waistline than a sit-down dinner. Share the work by hosting pot-luck events.

## Stay home!

Cuddling down close to the hearth beats holiday travel any day. A holiday "stay-cation" allows for evening drives to see the lights, family camp-outs in front of the Christmas tree, and evenings spent with carols and popcorn. Fun!



## Mayor's Message



CITY OF  
ST. CATHARINES

Hello Port Dalhousie! I'd like to thank you for your support in the election. It was a great opportunity to reconnect with many of you. As we begin this new term, I am looking forward to working with Council, staff and our partners to continue building on the progress we have made on our strategic plan and our vision for the future of St. Catharines. There is much more work to do on key priorities including transit, affordable housing, the Canada 2021 Summer Games, and the redevelopment of sites on Queenston and Ontario St. and in Port Dalhousie – including the rehabilitation of the piers, starting soon.

I look forward to connecting with you over the holidays – at the Christmas Market, The Lantern Stroll, and at the New Year's Levee on January 1st at the St. Catharines Armoury. As always, everyone is welcome. Take care and enjoy the holidays with your friends and family. It's a special time of year.

Cheers,

Walter Sendzik  
Mayor

mayor@stcatharines.ca  
905-688-5601 ext. 1540  
Facebook: /MayorSendzik  
Twitter: @WSendzik  
Instagram: wsendzik

*Seasons Greetings &  
Happy New Year*

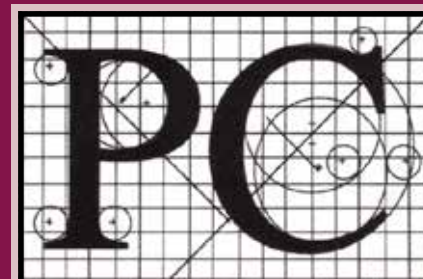


**Carlos Garcia**  
Councillor, Port Dalhousie Ward  
City of St. Catharines

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Happy picknickers from days gone by, about to spend a pleasant day at Lakeside Park.

The Park was a popular spot for company picnics from Canada and the USA.



### *The Future of Port Dalhousie 2050*

Are you interested in being part of a PhD research project focused on the future of Port Dalhousie?

Hello my name is Tara O'Neil. I am a resident of Port Dalhousie and I am working on a PhD. My thesis is looking at how we can create creativity. I am using the reinvention of the rural town as my focus for this work.

I would like to interview residents, business owners and local government to get your thoughts and feelings about the future. If you are interested in participating in a 1hr interview, please reach out to me via email [tara.oneil@ucdconnect.ie](mailto:tara.oneil@ucdconnect.ie) or contact me at 416-527-3664

I hope to meet many of you in the next 4-6 weeks.

*Happy Holidays*



### **Year End Greetings!**

Thank you, St. Catharines, for the incredible privilege to serve our community as your Member of Parliament, for which I remain eternally grateful.  
My wish for you is that your holidays are filled with many moments of laughter, love and goodwill, and that whatever brings you peace and happiness is yours in 2019.

Sincerely, Chris Bittle, MP for St. Catharines





# Chris Bittle

Member of Parliament - St. Catharines



## Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

Comunity Office

[www.ChrisBittleMP.ca](http://www.ChrisBittleMP.ca)

61 Geneva St. Unit 1, St. Catharines, ON L2R 4M2  
905.934.MPMP (6767)  
[Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca)

 @ChrisBittleMP

 @BittleC

 @Chris\_Bittle



# Levelling the Playing Field - A Fair Approach for Developers

*Adhering to existing bylaws and regulations is important for sustainable and principled development.*

What’s the problem with development in Niagara? The answer is simpler than you would think. It has to do with the fact that in some cases, Municipalities are reluctant to uphold established by-laws or listen to the collective voice of its citizens.

Here’s an example that has local implications.

A prime piece of property is up for sale and there are a number of local and out-of-town bidders. The developers apply their due diligence to determine how much they should pay for it. They discover that the property is located in a Heritage District and it would be difficult to develop due to its proximity to water, its constricted size and lack of parking area and services. There is a secondary plan in place designating the area with a three-story height limit and a by-law requiring a specific number of parking spaces per unit, as well as other restrictions.

When local developers decide to bid, they respect the bylaws and secondary plan governing the Heritage District. Out-of-town bidders consider not only the economics, but also the political climate. They have assessed that the Municipality has in the past been willing to waive by-laws and ignore their own heritage committees’ and outside advocates recommendations. If the city is hungry for development, they feel that they can bid well over the market value, and make up for that loss by increasing the size and height of the development. This places local developers at a clear disadvantage, simply because they followed the bylaws and regulations.

The Municipality knows full well the prevailing adverse reaction to the development, having held public meetings on a secondary plan, and contracted external heritage experts for

advice. The proposed project however, dismisses community consensus, expert opinion, and runs contrary to the heritage guidelines and bylaws which the municipality itself has established. The developer claims that this is the only way they can make a profit and deal with the difficulties of this development. They hold out the carrot; a new tax revenue source for the city. Past experience has taught them that municipal rules and heritage designations are open to negotiation. The municipality, eager to prove they are open for business, and hungry for an increased tax base, chooses to ignore the rules and citizens’ consensus, and paves the way to approval.

In Port Dalhousie we have a new Secondary Plan for the commercial core and harbor area: The initial three-storey height limit was adjusted during public consultation

to 6-storeys, and further increased to 8 stories by the Municipal Planning Department. However in conjunction with this, the new plan includes vague language allowing an opening to increase that height, resulting in approval for a 9-storey building.

These increasingly flexible rules have the detrimental effect of moving planning decisions away from the administrative realm to the political realm. Being “open for business” may be good for large corporations, but not at the expense of losing small businesses who experience their rents and business and property taxes spiraling out of control. It is not the fundamental responsibility of either the city or the community to ensure the financial viability of a project.

Perhaps the most negative effect

*Continued on page 19*



## LAKESHORE

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**Kaitlin Pavey, RMT.**

Kaitlin is the newest member of our team. She will be available to see patients during extended hours throughout the week so please give us a call to book an appointment

We now have extended massage therapy hours including evenings and weekends for your convenience.



**Dr. Brendan Macoretta D.C. BHSc**

Dr. Macoretta is a recent graduate from the chiropractic program at O'Yorville college in Buffalo. He specializes in sports/orthopedic rehabilitation which includes soft tissue work, kinesiotaping and developing exercise programs. He is proficient at Muscle Release techniques, and flexion distraction treatment for comfortable and effective relief of your pain.



**Dr. Albert Scales DC**

Dr. Scales has been in practice for over 37 years. He treats many injuries related to WSIB and motor vehicle accidents. Just recently added is our New Shockwave and Class IV Cold Laser Therapy. We also offer Spinal Decompression, Computer Assisted Manipulation, and Flexion Distraction Therapy to help with neck and back pain, shoulder and knee pain, plantar fasciitis and heel pain.



**Alana Goertzen B.Sc.Kin.(Hons), RMT**

Alana is a Registered Massage Therapist at Lakeshore Chiropractic Group. She graduated with a B.Sc. Kinesiology from Brock University and the Massage Therapy Program at Ontario College of Health and Technology.

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# In The Beginning - Part Two

## Continuing the Story of the Establishment of Port Dalhousie

In 1826, despite the encouraging depiction of Port Dalhousie by Nathan Pawling in advertisements, early settlers who arrived faced many hardships and met with misfortune in attempting to clear and cultivate the land, build homes for their families and establish businesses. The road was paved with tragedy and suffering, often resulting in the loss and abandonment of hope. The severe drought of 1818, the increases in population upon completion of each canal and the resulting poverty and starvation, the depression in the early 1830s and 1840s, and the Irish feuds and raids contributed to the drudgery and misery of settlement life. Their lot was difficult and bitter, and it was a struggle to merely stay alive.

Aside from these challenges of daily life, the opening of the First Welland Canal caused a migration to the area of a canal labour force, as well as industries and services to meet the needs of the growing settlement. Most of the men who had come to work on the canal were fortunate enough to establish

themselves in the settlement, some on canal and bank maintenance, and others on canal concerns and business.

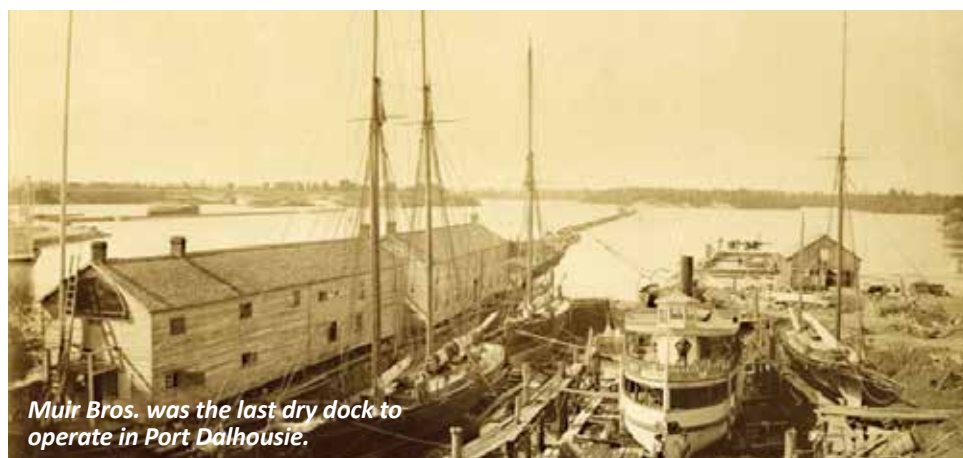
One industry which developed was shipbuilding. The abundant growth of virgin timber at the lake shore and the proximity to the canal, directly resulted in the birth and flourishing of this enterprise in Port Dalhousie and St. Catharines.

In 1837 Robert Abbey, a Scotsman whose trade was boat building, established a shipyard at Port Dalhousie,

building yawls, sailing yachts and steam yachts. In the same year, another immigrant, Alexander Muir, arrived from Scotland. Having come from a line of land workers, he took a position on board a sailing vessel and made several trips to China and India, discovering things that would be helpful in the establishment of his dry dock.

Muir bought ten acres of land on Queen Street (now Dalhousie Avenue) for \$60 and built a house on it. He did not settle there at the time, preferring to

continue sailing on the lakes. He noted there were twelve to fourteen families in the settlement. Squire Nathan Pawling, who since acquiring lands in 1821 had become a prominent and active member of the community, performed the duties of the Magistrate, postmaster, school teacher and storekeeper. Moreover, he operated a farm. Others were those of Captain Ingster, whose son delivered the mail by horseback twice weekly from St. Catharines, Richard Wood, Jonathan Woodall (lock tender), Mr. Brown, Robert Abbey, Robert Alexander, Thomas Read (hotelkeeper), William Read, Robert Irvine, Sampson Smiley, Bernard McGrath, Mr. Read, Mr. Nealon, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Bruce. These men and their families were to see many changes in their small settlement as the shipping trend in Port Dalhousie blossomed.



*Muir Bros. was the last dry dock to operate in Port Dalhousie.*

From "The History Outline of Port Dalhousie" by

■ Christine Robertson



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# RUNNING AND WALKING AT NIGHT

## TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

### 1. Be aware.

It's easy to zone-out or contemplate what's for dinner on a long run, but it's important to pay attention to your surroundings as well. Simply being aware can be the difference between minutes or seconds of preventing an accident, especially in the dark when it becomes harder to distinguish objects from people.

### 2. Run a familiar route.

Tonight is not the time to explore that remote trail or plan a new route through the neighborhood. Stick with the paths you've ran a million times to the point where you've memorized every tree, corner and building along it. However, don't run the same route every night either. This may create a pattern for unwanted creepers to track you. Instead establish the routes you're comfortable running and switch it up every other night to keep it random.

### 3. Carry an ID on you.

Whether it's a driver's license in your pocket or an ID bracelet, it will prove useful if first responders need to identify you and contact loved ones.

### 4. Run against traffic.

Facing traffic as you run not only provides drivers a clear view of what's ahead of them, but also gives you a visual of oncoming vehicles in case you need to make any last-minute maneuvers. If possible, try avoiding rush hour times—the less cars you have to deal with the better. If you find headlights blinding, wear a cap or visor.

### 5. Run with a buddy or join a running group.

### 6. Bring a cellphone.

A phone can prove useful for utilizing special tracking apps and/or simply to call someone when you're in a pinch. With a push of a button on your phone, the free bSafe app sends an emergency message or calls designated friends who can respond and even locate you on a map. You can also download the free Road ID app that allows emergency contact info to be displayed on a smartphone even when it's locked. It also has an additional feature called eCrumb that tracks runners via GPS, allowing friends and family to follow you during a workout. Luckily, many people tend to run with their phones, but if you're the type who likes to stay off the grid while running, perhaps it's wise to reconsider, at least for night running.

### 7. Ditch the headphones.

According to last year's study from the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, incidents involving pedestrians wearing headphones hit by cars and trains have increased threefold in the past six years. The worst part is that in 70 percent of those incidences, the runner or walker was killed.

### 8. Wear reflective or brightly colored clothing.

These days there's plenty of neon, light-reflecting run apparel and shoes designed for the night-conscious runner. Wearing a headlamp also helps to light the way and works to alert vehicles of your presence before it's too late.

Courtesy Women's Running Magazine



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# One Niagara: What Could be the Consequences?

*The Amalgamation of Niagara’s Municipalities is a Subject That Has Been Discussed Recently. But is it Really a Good Idea?*

Recently there has been a push by some to do away with one tier of government and just have the City of Niagara. There is little doubt that there is often misunderstanding and frustration with respect to the two tiers of government that we have in Niagara with 12 separate municipalities and Regional government. For many people, it is not abundantly clear who does what, sometimes it appears to be at a very significant cost to the taxpayer.

It can be argued that the history of municipal amalgamations in Ontario have not generally been good for citizens. The myth that a lot of money will be saved was exploded by a recent study by the Fraser Institute, a right wing think tank, who studied a number of amalgamations in Ontario that have happened over the last decade. Particularly when looking at smaller municipalities, they acknowledged that they could not identify any savings from any amalgamations they studied. The reasons are quite apparent.

- Larger bureaucracies cost more money. Salaries are determined by budget size and responsibility. A CEO or Mayor with a budget of well over 2 billion dollars would be expected to be paid accordingly and so would full-time councilors.

- Volunteerism dies as Councillors, volunteer firefighters and other positions become full time paid positions and additional staff need to be hired to support them.
- Due to increased complexity, more consultants and experts need to be hired, new wings go on existing buildings, additional structures are rebuilt to accommodate, etc.

What other possible effects could you envision?

- Politicians become even more distant from their constituents. Currently many citizens have no idea who they are and how to even reach them. Politicians in turn have a big investment in wanting to keep their full-time jobs and careers.
- Only the independently wealthy or those who receive donations from developers and businesses would be able to afford to run, shrinking the pool of available talent and leaving them vulnerable to being beholden to those who pay the bills or even worse, to corruption.
- Politicians in turn would likely feel less responsible to local constituents and more loyal to corporate interests, so that

communities can easily be bulldozed by interests other than the constituents.

- Citizen engagement would likely go down. At best, election turnout stands at about 30% and would likely erode further as people can no longer identify with a large central bureaucracy.
- Power would be concentrated a lot more than currently. As Lord Acton stated in the 19th century, and as Shakespeare’s Macbeth demonstrated in the play, “power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”
- It can be argued that in many respects, the most important level of government is municipal. Municipal elections have a very direct effect on constituents lives. Imagine once governance is further removed from the people.
- In the drive toward greater efficiency at all costs, there may be pressure to reduce municipal

*It can be argued that the history of municipal amalgamations in Ontario have not generally been good for citizens.*

*Continued on next page*

## The Niagara Regional Community Mortgage Plan

Dear Neighbours,

My name is Cameron Wilson. I care about our community and was born and raised in St.Catharines. I took History and Political Science at Brock University and learned that money is the difference between life and death in our society. This is why I entered the Financial World, as a mortgage broker. As a mortgage broker, I have immense freedom in my practice to allocate funds where I feel it is important.

I had no idea that hospitals in Niagara, like all Ontario hospitals, receive no funding from the government, through our tax dollars; for patient care equipment (x-ray machines, bandages, beds, CT scan, defibrillators, heart monitors, etc). This concerned me of course, as I am from Niagara and my family and I live in Niagara, as well.

When I learned this, I decided to create the Niagara Regional – Community Mortgage Plan. Through this program, 5% of the gross revenue from my mortgage practice, is directed to my partner, Niagara Health Foundation, to assist in purchasing the medical equipment that protects our families. The residential mortgage market in Niagara represents an estimated \$268,000,000/year in revenue that is available for the banking sector. Your participation would be greatly appreciated! We hope, with your help, to gain 10% of the mortgage market in Niagara because that would provide an estimated, additional, \$1,340,000/yr in funding for Niagara’s hospitals and with an aging population, now is when resources are needed most! Please share this program with family, friends, and co-workers. It is very important to give back to people in the community you work in.

My advice saves my client’s thousands of dollars on their mortgage. Making a positive impact in the world, drives me to write this letter to you because I know you feel the same as I do!

Information video: [dominionlendingniagara.ca/community-plan/](http://dominionlendingniagara.ca/community-plan/)  
- let’s chat sometime (800-969-0014).

Sincerely,  
Cameron Wilson





December

December 7th, 8th, 9th

**Lock & Main Winter Wonderland!**  
Welcome to the Lock & Main Marketplace 1st Winter Wonderland Event!! This Event will be held inside the Marketplace. There will be many talented Artisans displaying and selling their Handmade products...just in time for the Holidays!!  
**Friday 4:00 - 9:00**  
**Saturday 10:00 - 9:00**  
**Sunday 10:00 - 3:00**

December 7th, 8th, 9th

**Port Dalhousie Christmas Market**  
Join us for the Third Annual Port Dalhousie Christmas Market located at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350 Port Dalhousie, for an outdoor festival where city residents gather with friends and family to celebrate the tradition and romance of Christmas. Get some Christmas shopping done, whilst enjoying the tastes, sights, sounds and smells of the tradition of Christmas! Admission is free but a suggested donation of \$2.00 with a portion of proceeds to support the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee. Also we kindly ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for Community Care. Bins will be located at the Christmas Market entrance.

**Friday: 4:00 PM - 9 PM**  
**Saturday: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM**  
**Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**  
Stage schedule is posted under “information” at [www.pdchristmasmarket.ca](http://www.pdchristmasmarket.ca)

December 8th

**Port Dalhousie Lantern Walk**  
Please join us for the BWC’s 4th Annual Lantern Stroll.  
This year’s lantern stroll starts at **6:00pm** at the Lakeside Park Pavilion  
\$5 per lantern \$2 per candle- All proceeds go to Community Care and the Port Dalhousie Beautification and Works Committee.  
Everyone Welcome!!

December 15th

**Good Bye Blow Out Bash for the Legion**  
It is time to say “goodbye” to our current beloved Legion building to make room for the new one being built over the next couple of years. This will be the last party to ever be held in this building. All monies raised will be going directly into the Legion transition fund that will help hold them over and move into their new home. We are planning a full day and night of dancing, celebrating, and reminiscing while we are entertained with draws, meat & turkey raffles and all kinds of fun stuff. Tickets are a first come, first serve event as ticket numbers are limited due to space. This event is a being held by the volunteers of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 350 & your Port Dalhousie Reunion. Pick up your tickets from the Port Legion during business hours or arrange to pick up at the door by sending them a message through their Facebook page. They are \$10 and we are well on our way to selling out prior to the event. **3:30 PM – 12:30 AM**

December 15

**Launch Party!--The Official Beer of Port Dalhousie**  
Lock Street Brewing Company, 15 Lock Street, St. Catharines L2N5B6  
The Port Dalhousie Supply Company in partnership with Lock Street Brewery invite you to join us on Saturday, December 15th at 7:00pm to help us taste and launch a new Beer! Our flagship recipe is a “Blanche” style; A wheat beer that is brisk, light, and thirst quenching. It has a mouth-coating fluffy body with hints of orange peel and citrus notes. Designed to remind you of summer... even in December! So come out for some early Christmas Cheer! **7 PM – 11:59 PM**

December 16

**Snow Angels, Chorus Niagara Children’s Choir**  
The holiday concert of Chorus Niagara Children’s Choir.  
St.Catharines United Mennonite Church  
335 Linwell Rd. St.Catharines  
Adults: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door  
Kids (12 and under): \$5 **3-5pm**

December 27th

**Singalong Grease**  
First Ontario Performing Arts Centre  
Singalonga Grease a great chance for you the audience to be the stars! Sing along to lyrics on screen, live host who will take you through your interactive props bag and judge the fancy dress competition! Take you friends, family and anyone you know who loves a great night of singing and dancing!

December 29th

**OUTERBRIDGE – Clockwork Mysteries**  
First Ontario Performing Arts Centre, 250 St Paul Street  
Outerbridge a high-energy magical adventure for both adult and family audiences. A professionally orchestrated theatrical production with over 20 custom-designed illusions and world-class lighting and set design. **1-3pm**

January

January 1, 2019

**Annual Mayor’s New Year’s Levee**  
St. Catharines Armoury  
Check City website for times.

February

February 10th, 2019

**Valentine’s 5 KM Road Race**  
In 2019 our longest running race is celebrating its 39th year! Come out, run (or walk) a great course and enjoy Niagara’s best post-race party with the usual St. Catharines Road Runners’ hospitality. “Get Out There!” magazine calls it “a unique event” that offers “good value”, and said “It’s no wonder that people keep coming back year after year to this event.”  
All proceeds go to Gillian’s Place, empowering abused women of Niagara. In 2018, thanks to the outstanding support of our participants and sponsors, we donated \$4000. Questions? Email the Race Directors: [valentinerace@gmail.com](mailto:valentinerace@gmail.com) at thePort Dalhousie a the Lions Club,  
201 Main Street **11:30am (11:15 for Walkers)**

February 8-10th

**4th Annual Art Lovers’ Affair 2019**  
St. Catharines Art Association  
Save the date! The SCAA brings you the 4th Annual Art Lovers’ Affair - Show, Sale, Silent Auction, and Saturday Gala with Live Art Auction, Entertainment, and complimentary wine, food, treats, and surprises throughout the night. Check out their website for more details. Tickets to the gala are limited. Don’t delay! **10am to 5 pm**

Ongoing

**Motion Art Exhibition**  
St. Catharines City Hall  
St. Catharines’ Annual 2018 Juried Exhibition, “Motion” called upon artists to consider what movement in the everyday life of our community looks like. In an increasingly digitally connected age, which allows one to travel anywhere in the world instantaneously, the physical act of transportation is often taken for granted. Motion can be autonomous and self-directed, taking place on streets and trails, using feet or bicycles to transition from point A to B. It can also be directed by pre-designed and designated transportation vehicles and routes, creating a diverse range of interactions and experiences between individuals and their environment. “Motion” gives audiences an opportunity to consider what the process of movement means to them in their community. How does it feel? What does it sound like? Throughout this exhibit you will discover what motion in our City means to fifteen (15) local artists. These chosen artists have expressed their thoughts through a variety of artistic mediums, such as, textile, photography and paint.

**Heroes in Peace: Building the Welland Ship Canal**  
Exhibit @ Performing Arts Centre, Film House Gallery,  
Joy Williams Lobby **September 27 to TBD**

On the Down Beat Exhibition

Photographs and materials celebrate the 70-year history of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra, from a community ensemble to a fully professional regional orchestra. This local display is part of a larger project to document the NSO’s history in a comprehensive digital exhibit on the Virtual Museum of Canada’s website. [www.stcatharines.ca/](http://www.stcatharines.ca/)  
**April 24, 2017 to May 20, 2018**

Friday night Fish Fry, Port Dalhousie Legion

The ongoing is currently **suspended** due to the upcoming construction of the new building. This popular event is expected to commence again in approximately 20 months when the new facility is completed. Stay tuned!

We provide free listings for any Port Dalhousie (or vicinity) area events that benefit local charities or community organizations and would be of interest to Port residents, vendors and visitors. It is at the discretion of the editorial team to include or exclude submitted events. Readers are encouraged to contact the organizers directly as events do change. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication and can be sent to [editor.portreporter@gmail.com](mailto:editor.portreporter@gmail.com).



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governments even further to avoid tax increases. Note the Premier’s move to reduce the number of Toronto’s councilors to 25, which will increase the representation ratio to 1- 120,000 people which if transposed to Niagara would result in only 4 councilors if the same ratio were to be adopted. Good luck getting representation then.

Municipal government is very important and has the most direct effect on peoples lives, in terms of housing and planning what kind of community we want to live in. Democracy is precious, but it takes all of us to make it work.

The answer to efficiency is adherence to values of honesty, integrity, civility and working together for the common good, not concentrating more power in the hands of fewer people. ■ **Hank Beekhuis**







At the Architectural Conservancy Ontario - St Catharines, our goal is to promote, protect and advocate on behalf of the unique and remarkable architectural heritage within our great city.

Our concern is not just about buildings, but also encompasses our common cultural and historical heritage, which is an integral part of the rich fabric of all of our lives.

Throughout St. Catharines and particularly in Old Port Dalhousie the threat to extensively unravel this precious fabric is constant and needs to be defended.

We are concerned, progressive citizens who advocate for sustainable commercial and residential development sensitive to the unique environment that has made Port Dalhousie a jewel in the Niagara Region and beyond.

**We are very much in favour of appropriate development.**

Join us in advocating and encouraging a new and exciting direction in the development of the town of Port Dalhousie.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY ONTARIO, St. Catharines**

Please Donate to the Cause  
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For information about our branch contact:

Colin Johnston, President [colinjohnston@bell.net](mailto:colinjohnston@bell.net)



## Levelling the Playing Field

*Continued from page 14*

though, is the loss of cultural capital that would occur as heritage designation fades into irrelevancy and over-development gobbles up the remaining vestiges of the very architecture that makes Port Dalhousie the unique and beloved village we all know.

It's doubtful upholding the bylaws and Secondary Plan would cause all development to stop. Instead it requires developers to be more creative and imaginative in presenting proposals that are both profitable and respectful of the existing bylaws. Proposals that are sensitive to the distinct and precious architectural heritage that is Port Dalhousie.

Let's have the political courage to enforce our bylaws and see what happens. If they are inadequate, they should be changed in a transparent public process, not initiated by a private developer whose main goal is profit or Municipal entities that place an increased tax base before accountability. Adherence to the established rules works, it has been proven in many places in the world, and it puts everyone on a level playing field. ■

## Christmas Trees

Robert Frost, 1874 - 1963

The city had withdrawn into itself  
And left at last the country to the country;  
When between whirls of snow not  
come to lie  
And whirls of foliage not yet laid, there drove  
A stranger to our yard, who looked the city,  
Yet did in country fashion in that there  
He sat and waited till he drew us out,  
A-buttoning coats, to ask him who he was.  
He proved to be the city come again  
To look for something it had left behind  
And could not do without and keep  
its Christmas.  
He asked if I would sell my Christmas trees;

My woods—the young fir balsams  
like a place  
Where houses all are churches  
and have spires.  
I hadn't thought of them as Christmas trees.  
I doubt if I was tempted for a moment  
To sell them off their feet to go in cars  
And leave the slope behind the  
house all bare,  
Where the sun shines now no warmer  
than the moon.  
I'd hate to have them know it if I was.  
Yet more I'd hate to hold my trees, except  
As others hold theirs or refuse for them,  
Beyond the time of profitable growth—  
The trial by market everything must come to.

I dallied so much with the thought of selling.  
Then whether from mistaken courtesy  
And fear of seeming short of speech,  
or whether  
From hope of hearing good of what  
was mine,  
I said, "There aren't enough to be  
worth while."

"I could soon tell how many they would cut,  
You let me look them over."  
"You could look.  
But don't expect I'm going to let you have them."

Pasture they spring in, some in clumps too close  
That lop each other of boughs, but not a few  
Quite solitary and having equal boughs  
All round and round. The latter he nodded  
"Yes" to,  
Or paused to say beneath some lovelier one,  
With a buyer's moderation, "That would do."  
I thought so too, but wasn't there to say so.  
We climbed the pasture on the south,  
crossed over,  
And came down on the north.  
He said, "A thousand."  
"A thousand Christmas trees!—at what apiece?"  
He felt some need of softening that to me:  
"A thousand trees would come to thirty dollars."

Then I was certain I had never meant  
To let him have them. Never show surprise!  
But thirty dollars seemed so small beside  
The extent of pasture I should strip, three cents  
(For that was all they figured out apiece)—  
Three cents so small beside the dollar friends  
I should be writing to within the hour  
Would pay in cities for good trees like those,  
Regular vestry-trees whole Sunday Schools  
Could hang enough on to pick off enough.

A thousand Christmas trees I didn't know I had!  
Worth three cents more to give away than sell,  
As may be shown by a simple calculation.  
Too bad I couldn't lay one in a letter.  
I can't help wishing I could send you one,  
In wishing you herewith a Merry Christmas.

**Tony Douvis**  
Financial Advisor

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