



Year opens with good news for Centre Pier supporters

As the year begins we look forward to working with Council on a new Waterfront Plan, featuring a revitalized Centre Pier.

Our members are speaking out in support of recommendations by the Municipality's own Centre Pier Development Task Force. The Task Force Final Report emphasizes the essential role of the buildings on the Pier, and urges the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) to make Pier restoration a signature project of the federally-funded cleanup. We've collected hundreds of signatures in support of these recommendations.

The recent announcement of a new PHAI budget adds to our optimism about the waterfront. **PHAI's federally-approved budget has increased dramatically, to \$1.28 billion. This removes any doubt about PHAI's financial ability to properly repair the Centre Pier buildings and infrastructure.** (The highest cost estimates for Pier building remediation in the Task Force report are a fraction of 1% of PHAI's budget.) Councillors

are in a strong position to insist that the Pier be restored, not left as a vacant lot, when PHAI finishes the cleanup.

Council's draft Strategic Plan, presented on January 3, lists five priorities, including "ensuring that the Port Hope Area Initiative project meets the specific needs of Port Hope", and "implementing the waterfront plan." With the Task Force's conclusion that significant buildings on the Pier are important to the future of Port Hope, and the new PHAI budget, **it's clearly time to rework our Waterfront Plan. We applaud Council for setting the goal to "Complete a community plan that focuses on the improvement of the waterfront and links to the downtown in 2013."** We look forward to participating in this planning process.

Over the past year, the active interest shown in the waterfront by Pier Group members made a big difference. We look forward to another year of progress for the Centre Pier, the waterfront, and Port Hope.

Have you signed our petition? How about your partner, friends and neighbours?

The Municipality's Centre Pier Task Force Final Report emphasizes the urgency of planning now to ensure that buildings are on the Pier when the PHAI clean-up is completed.

We want Council to know they have lots of citizen support in implementing the Task Force recommendations. **If you haven't yet signed our petition backing these recommendations, please go to www.thepiergroup.ca and add your name now.** We will present the complete list of signatories to Council at the beginning of February.