

STOP PRESS

Pier Group to Present!

Heritage Canada Foundation has invited The Pier Group to make a presentation at its annual national conference with the theme of:

REVITALIZE: Economic Renewal / Heritage Buildings, to be held this fall in St. John's Newfoundland.

We are presenting: *The Pier Group takes on City Hall in Port Hope, Ontario*. "It's a shame," says co-chair, Rod Stewart. "Just think how much better it would be for the image of Port Hope as a place that cares about its heritage, to be able to say that the Mayor has taken on the Honorary Chair of the group, and that The Harbour Commission is solidly behind the plans. Sadly the presentation will have to be about how we are at loggerheads".

Pier Group Nominated for Provincial Heritage Award

The A.K. Sculthorpe Award for Advocacy, is presented annually by the provincial office of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and is named in honour of Port Hope's own heritage champion. It is not for any named individuals, but rather to the entire 500 strong membership of The Pier Group. The Nomination read in part "The Pier Group has indeed achieved exemplary success in presenting to this community an alternative vision which embraces the heritage of this community while bringing a creative, dynamic and economically sound revitalization to our waterfront. THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER, BUT THE PIER GROUP HAS TURNED THE TIDE".

Pier Group reconfigures itself to meet increased demands and challenges of ELECTION YEAR

IT'S TASK FORCE TIME!

As an outcome of last fall's Speakers Night and Ideas Workshops, the Pier Group held a political action rally at the Capitol Theatre in March.

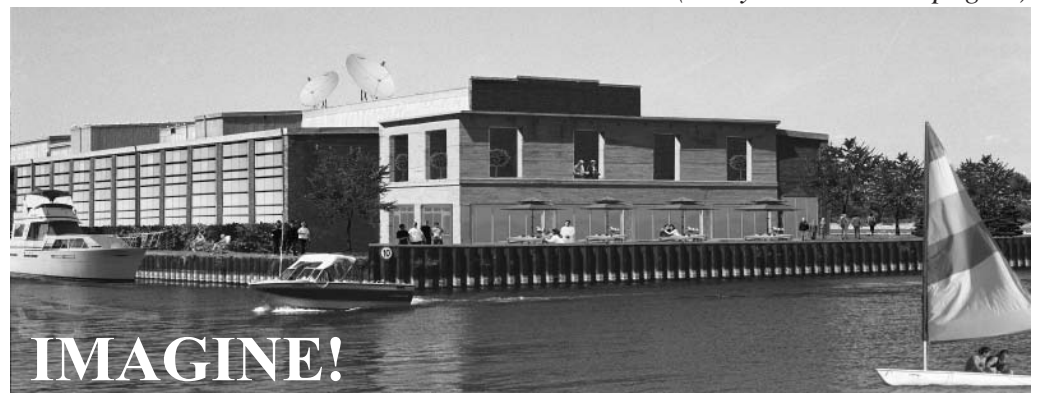
The structure of the Pier Group is now established as a series of Specific Task Forces along with some Standing Committees all represented on a Steering Committee – the Heart of the Matter, and reporting to an Executive Committee.

The committees are as expected in a group like this, Membership & Special Events, Strategic Planning, Communications, Fundraising.

THERE ARE 5 TASK FORCES

The Task Forces are the targeted groups that will make or break our efforts to realize the objectives expressed in our Mission Statement. **The Legal and Technical Group** will work to bring legal pressure on the Municipality to follow the normal and "best practice" procedures for dealing with important heritage resources. Port Hope's Official Plan contains well-conceived policy statements that stand to protect heritage resources...

(Story continues on page 3)



IT'S THE PIER GROUP ANNUAL B.B.Q.! PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS

“SHOW ME THE MONEY!”



NOTHING FREE ABOUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Early last year, The Pier Group asked Council for some basic information regarding the Pier Buildings (technical / structural information; reasons for demolition request, etc.). Council refused to provide most of this information, stating that it belonged to a private corporation, the Harbour Commission. The Pier Group then launched a formal Freedom of Information request, which the town has been stonewalling for many months. The matter has finally gone to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario for a ruling. In essence, this will be a ruling on the legality / propriety of the Port Hope Harbour Commission's position that they are not accountable to the

Council or the people of this Municipality. We expect a ruling in the near future, and we expect that it will shine some light on Council's claim to be "honest, open, transparent and accountable".

In the interest of this accountability, we have asked the Municipality how many thousands of dollars of your money have been spent on legal fees, in their effort to keep the people of Port Hope from finding out what's going on. So far, no answer – no surprise! And how much has the Pier Group spent in this fight, you might ask? The answer is zero, thanks to the very generous efforts of our lawyer who happens to be one of the many hardworking members of the Pier Group.

The Pier Group was established to preserve the Heritage Buildings on the Centre Pier and through them, preserve an important aspect of the industrial culture of our community. We want the Municipality to embrace its ownership of the pier and ultimately the buildings on it as a great economic development opportunity for the future of Port Hope.

The pier buildings can be active contributors to the enrichment of the waterfront, and provide the location for activities that improve the quality of life for all Port Hoppers.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Last fall the Pier Group made representation to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) at the licensing hearings it was holding here in Port Hope to consider The Port Hope Area Initiative's (PHAI) new dumpsite plan. The CNSC ruling was extensive, and generally endorsed the PHAI plans except in regard to the Pier Buildings. The CNSC ruled in our favour in that the Pier Buildings should be part of the overall Environmental Assessment that is underway, and by that decision effectively removed demolition as a consideration for at least five years and possibly much longer – until the EA is completed and approved.

As of that ruling, it would simply be illegal to demolish the Pier buildings at this time. This means our strategy "to take discussion of demolition off the table until a proper evaluation of the options for redevelopment has been done" is partially assured.

Now we need to get Council as well as the Harbour Commission to change their attitude about the buildings and undertake the kind of responsible assessment that should be done before any irrevocable decisions are made respecting the destruction of these unique municipal assets.

We think this all makes reasonable sense, but our current Mayor and Council have not come to the defense of the Pier buildings. None of the Councilors, who all sit as Harbour Commissioners has seen fit to oppose the undemocratic and paternalistic situation whereby Council acting as the Harbour Commission has consistently operated behind a veil of secrecy like it owned the pier property for its own benefit. Council and/or the Harbour Commission have spent quite a bit of your money (they haven't disclosed how much) on expensive lawyers fighting all attempts of the Pier Group and other private citizens to open up the past records and meetings of the Harbour Commission. All of this has to change if we are to be successful.



THEPIERGROUP.CA

LET'S HEAR WHAT YOU THINK!

FUNDRAISING CHAIR APPOINTED



The Pier Group is pleased to announce Will Ryan, past president of the ACO Port Hope, has accepted the position of Chair of its Fundraising Committee. "We have achieved considerable success in the past year bringing attention to this cause and reaching out to the public with several community events. The production of a regular newsletter and the organization of special events are just two of the important activities for which we need to raise funds. Our ambitious election year plans will need a sustained revenue stream. to meet these objectives. Your contribution would make a great difference to the eventual outcome." said Ryan.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The Pier Group will be holding a series of round table discussions (focus groups), in September and October, around various themes, to listen to what members of the community would like to see taking place in the buildings on the Pier. The topics for discussion will be Youth (their needs), Planning and Urban Design, Economic Development, and the Arts. We envision small groups of about 8 – 12 people, discussion to be facilitated by someone with particular expertise in the field. If you have an interest in any of these topics and would like to join one of the round tables, please contact jackietinson@gmail.com or 905-885-1768.

(Continued from front page)

This group will insist that the Municipality follow its own enlightened planning policies with respect to the Pier Buildings. *(See Waterfront and Trails... Page 4)* This group will be considering the tactics and opportunities surrounding the formal heritage designation of the Pier Buildings. Heritage Port Hope has gone on record to request Council not consider demolition until all the options for the property have been properly studied. As Chris Wallace who chairs the Legal and Technical Group says, "We will be front line troops in the fight to save these buildings."

The Political Action Group will encourage enlightened candidates and develop support for them in the upcoming election. This group will follow the campaign closely and provide a variety of ways for enlightened candidates to get their ideas across. The Pier Group has about 500 voting members who could if motivated have a significant impact on the outcome.

The Vision Development Group will continue the visioning exercise started in the Speakers Event and Workshop. Their job will be to explore the "why" question. Why our industrial heritage is important and what can we gain

as a community by celebrating it? That answer begs the question, why shouldn't Port Hope grab this unique opportunity and run with it? One of the projects that this group has in mind right off the mark is an oral history project based on family recollections of the "Sanitary" or the "Crane" as a work place for generations of Port Hope workers.

The Illustration Group will serve the visual needs of the rest of the Pier Group by drawing up a compelling vision with spectacular renderings and supporting statistics as needed. Two of the group's illustrations are presented in this newsletter. A picture is worth a thousand words.

The Impresario Group will seek partnerships and funding scenarios that dovetail with ideas of how Port Hope can grow in the creative economy. This group will be doing what an enlightened Harbour Commission ought to be doing in terms of exploring all the opportunities that exist for re-use of these built resources as part of a rejuvenated waterfront and downtown. Phil Goldsmith as chair, "Our group won't be the performers, the audience or the venue itself; we'll be the ones who put all the necessary parts together to create a spectacular outcome for the community."



RESPONSE TO WATERFRONT & TRAILS COMMITTEE MOTION

The Pier Group recognizes and respects the right of this committee to express its opinion, which in this case is very consistent with the policies of the Mayor and Council, however, we feel that some of the arguments put forward are incorrect or misleading.

--- "The Official Plan included concepts and visions set out in the Port Hope Waterfront Plan, which was adopted after a publicly vetted process". **The future of the Pier Buildings has never been subject to a publicly vetted process.** It may be true that the broad concept of waterfront revitalization was publicly presented and generally supported. However, all previous consultants and the public were told that the buildings were polluted and unsalvageable, and that they must come down, period.

--- "The Zoning of the Centre Pier as Open Space does not preclude public (municipal) development of commercial enterprises on the land".

This is a very misleading statement. The open space zoning permits com-

munity centres, arenas and other public uses, and ancillary commercial uses are permitted. With respect, a hot dog stand in a hockey arena hardly constitutes "development of commercial enterprises"

Council and the Waterfront and Trails Committee developed the original policies regarding the use of the Pier in the 1990's. We in the Pier Group agree that these were quite reasonable policies at the time. The extent of pollution was not known, the state of brownfield clean-up technology was less advanced, and the cost of any clean up would have to be borne by the taxpayers of the Municipality.

In recent years all of these factors have changed considerably. Since the start of the Port Hope Project in 1991, PHAI's consultants have studied the site extensively, and have determined that clean up is entirely feasible. The capabilities and technologies of the brownfield clean up industry have improved enormously in the last 15 years, and have resulted in

new environmental protection legislation. This legislation necessitates and encourages brownfield clean up, and gives support to industrial heritage restoration.

And most importantly, the Federal Government has now committed over \$300 million to the clean-up.

Both the Waterfront and Trails Committee and Council were doing the right thing, protecting the interests of the citizens of Port Hope, when they first adopted their policies towards the Centre Pier. Their decision was reasonable, based on the information available at that time. But there is new information, new exciting possibilities for the economic revitalization of the waterfront, and there are residents in our community who have the ability, experience and enthusiasm to make these possibilities a reality.

We are confident that the members of the Waterfront & Trails Committee will be receptive to at least considering sustainable uses for the buildings before the wrecking ball makes its way to the site.

THE BBQ AT THE MILL

The Pier Group is pleased to announce this year's barbeque is to be held at the historic Molson's Mill. The mill is that interesting green frame building on the east side of the Ganaraska River. Turn north off Molson St. at Hope St. N. watch for signs and balloons at the entrance to the site. Built in the mid 1850's as a saw and gristmill by Thomas Molson, of the famous brewing and banking family it is the oldest surviving industrial building in Port Hope. It has been lovingly restored by our hosts, Carol and Clay Benson.

For a nominal \$10 entry fee at the gate, you have site access, music, a fabulous BBQ, salad bar and yummy desserts...inside the Mill we will have our Pier displays and of course the famous 'Pier bar' by donation, pencil us into your calendar and we will see you on

June 27th from 4:00 to 7:00.



Visit our site on facebook or email info@thepiergroup.ca for further details

**THE PIER GROUP WOULD LIKE
5 MINUTES OF YOUR
VALUABLE TIME**

Please, take a few minutes,
go to our website,
www.thepiergroup.ca
and fill in a quick survey
to aid in the development
of our future plans

PLEEEEEEASE!

The Pier Group thanks the following for their generous support: Doug Bullock, Mell Chapple, George Clements, Susan & Rick Brooks, Irena Orłowski, Don & Joan Rungay, Peter & Jane Rungay, Robin K. Long, Long Bros. Ltd, Tony Priestley, Sanford & Helen Anne Haskill, Gary Woodill, Margaret Harrison and many others.