



4476 COUNTY RD. 10, PORT HOPE, ONTARIO. L1A 3V5 • TEL: 905.753.1122 • EMAIL: INFO@THEP

To all friends of the Pier Group: Membership stands at 300 and counting as our message gains more momentum. Our strategy is taking shape and in the next few weeks, we have some big things in store. Here's an update on our activities and progress as the New Year commences.

Before Christmas, we met with a number of councilors face to face to discuss the Pier's future. Of course, there are still those who are determined to see the buildings demolished, but there are others who are more sympathetic and are at the very least prepared to listen seriously to our concerns. So there's a bit of light at the end of the tunnel.

Our big news is the recent completion of a heritage study on the pier buildings. "A Heritage Assessment of Port Hope Central Pier" was submitted by consultant Dr. Chris Andreae of Historica Research Limited. It's just what we asked for: it's a great synopsis of the history of the Pier and there is a lot to inspire ideas for the future. You can read the whole thing on our revised website www.thepiergroup.ca

The heritage study gives us something tangible as we present our case to town council at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Tuesday January 20th at 7:00 pm at Port Hope Town Hall. Council is impressed by numbers so we encourage all of you to join us there in the audience in a show of support. Please plan to attend.

We will also be presenting the heritage report to the library and to the archives at a press conference on January 19th 10:00am at the library.

Get ready for some brainstorming. The Pier Group then plans to host a charette, a day in which consultants and townsfolk alike can sketch out some concepts and blue-sky some ideas for future economic uses for the buildings. Your participation is invited. Stay tuned for dates and times.

On the heels of the heritage study, we have retained economic consultants NETGAIN, Doug Simpson. We hope to demonstrate that the retention of the pier buildings is an exciting economic opportunity for the Municipality.

Our previous requests for information about the Pier Buildings were submitted through access to information. The Municipality has refused to provide most of this information on the grounds that it is Harbour Commission information and is therefore none of the public's business. Our lawyer has launched an appeal.

After very successful feedback from the fall fair last year, we have decided to participate in the Heritage Week fair hosted by the East Durham Historical Society on February 15th from 12:00 to 4:30 at the Lions Centre 29 Thomas St., where we'll present our case to anyone who will listen. We hope to recruit some new members while we're at it. Copies of our Heritage Study will be available for sale.

Meanwhile, the Pier Group is promoting awareness through presentations to such groups as the East Durham Historical Society, Port Hope Probus Club and Sunrise Rotary Club. If you are a member of an organization that may wish to have the Pier Group address them, please contact Chris Wallace at 905 753 1122 or Rod Stewart at 905 885 8764.

What can you do to help? Encourage your friends and neighbours to join the Pier Group. Write to the Mayor and Council members expressing your support for our cause. Write letters to the editor expressing your support for our work. Take a councilor to lunch. If you know any of them personally, sit down with them over a coffee at Timmy's or a beer at the Beamish, and let them know what you think. Even if they don't agree with us (yet), it's important that they really understand how the people of Port Hope feel about this.

As membership increases and duties are refined, The Pier Group has been restructured as follows:

Steering Committee:

Chris Wallace, Co-chair

Rod Stewart, Co-chair
Rick Brooks, Secretary
Susan Brooks, Treasurer
Phil Goldsmith, Director
Michael Wallace, Director
Peter Rungay, Director
Frances Clancy, Director
Mell Chapple, Director
Jackie Tinson, Director
Tom Cruickshank, Director

Sub-Committees:

Strategic planning, chair Phil Goldsmith
Outreach & membership, chairs Mell Chapple and Jackie Tinson
Communications, chairs Michael Wallace and Tom Cruickshank
Fundraising, chair Peter Rungay
Legal & technical, chair Chris Wallace

Several members have expressed interest in helping out and now that our sub-committees are established, if you are interested in helping, please send an email to info@thepiergroup.ca and it will be forwarded to the appropriate chair.

We are a member of Phoenix Community Works Foundation for the purpose of receiving donations and issuing tax receipts for donations over \$35.

The startup funding for our group was a generous donation from the ACO-PH, however, we are now entering the era of fundraising:

On line donations can be made by going to www.pcwf.ca, click on the Canadahelps.org button and then scroll down for The Pier Group (follow directions on the screen).

Mail a cheque made out to Phoenix Community Works Foundation at 344 Bloor St West, suite 505, Toronto M5S 3A7, with a memo note earmarking the donation to The Pier Group.

Donations of any amount (not requiring a tax receipt) can be mailed to the address on our letterhead.