



July 21, 2009

Hello Pier Group member, this newsletter will bring you up to date on our current activities.

Issue no. 1 - New Zoning Bylaw:

As we advised you a couple of weeks ago, the Municipality has proposed a new zoning by-law in which the Centre Pier is rezoned as open space. We object to this on several grounds.

---- This rezoning is an obvious device to facilitate the demolition of the Pier Buildings, without proper evaluation of their re-use potential.

---- This rezoning is in direct conflict with the land use provisions of the official plan, which designates the Pier as “central commercial”, the same as Walton Street.

---- The rezoning, and by implication, the demolition of the Pier Buildings, also contravenes the official plan, which obligates council to protect and preserve all “cultural heritage resources”.

We are also concerned with other aspects of the zoning by-law that affect the downtown area, how it connects to the waterfront and how it interfaces with the adjacent residential areas. While important, these concerns do not directly affect the Pier.

We urge all members of the Pier Group to write or email the mayor and council members, expressing their concerns about the re-zoning of the Centre Pier. Feel free to copy the above list of concerns, if you don't have time to compose a letter from scratch. If you have had a chance to review the proposed by-law for your own neighborhood, please express any additional concerns you may have.

Issue No. 2 - CNSC Hearings:

July 26, 2009 (next Sunday) is the deadline for making written submissions to the CNSC licensing hearings, to be held on August 26, 2009 at the Town Recreation Centre. This licensing hearing is critical, as it will determine how the Port Hope clean-up will proceed to final implementation.

Currently, the PHAI is proceeding on the assumption that the Centre Pier will be vacant, with all buildings demolished by Cameco, when they start work on the Harbour dredging. We have written a fairly complex submission to the CNSC, objecting to this assumption. If you wish to receive a full copy of this submission, please let us know. Our submission concludes with the following recommendations:

- That no work be commenced on the buildings of the Centre Pier, and no decisions made with respect to their demolition, until all appropriate Environmental Assessment studies and all licensing hearings have taken place
- That the CNSC, in granting this license, make it a condition that all engineering works with respect to Port Hope harbour are based on the premise that the Pier Buildings will remain standing until all legal avenues towards their designation and protection have been exhausted, and until all appropriate Environmental Assessment measures with respect to the Pier have been completed.

We urge all of you to write to the CNSC by this Monday's deadline. Again feel free to copy these recommendations as the basis for your submission. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by July 27, 2009 directly on-line

<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/commission/intervention/index.cfm>

Both of the above issues really need your attention and support. I realize that this is short notice, but if we are successful, we are well on our way to protecting the buildings. If we not, our battle takes on almost (but not quite) insurmountable proportions. The Pier Group now has approaching 400 members. The written support of as many of you as possible will make a major difference. There's strength in numbers, and it's really important to use that strength.

Additional News:

Since early spring we have been presenting our mandate and arguments to several committees of Port Hope council. Here is a summary of the reactions from each of these presentations.

Cultural Advisory Committee: Meeting minutes of April 20, 2009

“After the presentation the Committee discussed and all agreed that demolition should be pended until all studies are complete and there can be further discussion re cultural heritage applications.

CAC 09/09 Moved by D. Wootton Seconded by C. Bisanz

Be it resolved that this Committee recommends that Council re-examine the possible demolition of the Centre Pier Buildings based on their potential cultural heritage until further studies are complete.

Carried”

Heritage Port Hope: Letter dated May 28, 2009 to Mayor and Council, received June 8, 2009 by the Municipality of Port Hope

“Please be advised that at its meeting of Monday, May 25, 2009, the Heritage Port Hope (HPH) Advisory committee passed the following two resolutions:

RESOLUTION 02-09-05-25 MOVED by E. Pamerter, SECONDED by R. Piccini

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Heritage Port Hope, based on reports prepared by the Pier Group and other published sources, has reason to believe the industrial buildings on the Centre Pier have heritage value and should be duly assessed on that basis before any definitive action is taken with regard to their future. CARRIED

REOLUTION 03-09-05-25 moved by E. Pamerter, SECONDED by B. Bayley

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Heritage Port Hope, based on Resolution 02-09 (above) request permission from the Municipality of Port Hope to tour the interior and exterior of the historic industrial buildings on the Centre Pier to assess whether they have sufficient heritage attributes to be worthy of designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. CARRIED

As per Committee of the Whole agenda for Tuesday June 23, 2009 “Recommend refer to Commissioners of the Port Hope Harbor.”

Waterfront and Trail Advisory Committee: minutes of meeting held May 21, 2009

“Chris Wallace and Peter Rungay of the Pier Group provided historical background information regarding the Centre Pier. Pier Group believes the building require further study. Indicated that the demolition option should be “tabled” and that an opportunity be taken to discuss with private interests or entrepreneurs. A. Blackwood indicated that Advisory Committee’s role is not to act and provide information unless requested by Council and then it is only a recommendation.” This position appears to be in opposition to the Waterfront and Trail Mission Statement that reads “to pro-actively encourage and support short and long range planning for the waterfront and trails.”

Heritage Business Improvement Area: We made a presentation to this committee on June 11, 2009, that was received positively. The minutes of this meeting are not yet available.

Donations and tax receipts, membership: We have been in ongoing contact with the Head office of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. We will be entering into an Agency Agreement with them whereby we will be able to receive donations that require a tax receipt. Ratification of this agreement is scheduled to happen at the next ACO Council meeting. Fundraising will start within the next two weeks. We will keep you posted. We are very pleased with our increasing enrollment and the positive reactions to our developments. We value your continued support. Networking, with you the members, the steering committee, people and organizations that you know is important. We call upon you to think about groups who have not heard our information on the pier history, our successes and our mandates. Let’s ensure this movement continues forward.

Pier publications: The “Heritage Assessment for the Port Hope Centre Pier” is now in its second printing. We have been amazed with the public support for this report, an almost unheard of event in the field of small town research studies. Our Economic Study by NetGain Partners is in final draft form and will be released very shortly.

Ideas workshop: It has taken a while to get speakers and venues lined up for our proposed workshop, but tentative arrangements are as follows:

On Thursday, November 19, 2009 we will hold a 'Speakers Night" at the Capitol Theatre. Several well-qualified

speakers will discuss the very real potential of the Pier and its buildings, with reference to other highly successful projects that they have been involved with. All are welcome to attend, details to follow.
On Saturday, November 21, 2009 we will hold a daylong design charette / ideas workshop, and we encourage as many people as possible to pre-register for this event, details to follow. We will collectively explore the whole range of potential ideas for the revitalization of the pier, and will document these findings.

Pier Group BBQ: All work and no play is not a good idea, so we are in the early stages of organizing an end of summer BBQ/corn roast. The dates and location have yet to be finalized but we encourage all members to watch their email for an update on this fun event soon.