



Hello Pier Group members. The newsletter will bring you up to date on our current activities.

Our “Heritage Assessment for the Port Hope Centre Pier” was presented to Council (Committee of the Whole) on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2009. We requested that they forward it to all committees and department heads for comment. They chose to forward it only to the Harbour Commission.

We asked for and received an invitation to appear before the Harbour Commission on February 4<sup>th</sup>. This time, they did discuss the Pier with us. They’re still not supportive, but at least they’re now talking to us.

Pier Group steering committee member Phil Goldsmith gave an excellent presentation at the ACO Annual General Meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>. He spoke on the adaptive re-use of industrial buildings, with obvious relevance to the Centre Pier

The Pier Group had a booth at the Port Hope Heritage Fair on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Again, we had an excellent response and a number of new members joined the Pier Group.

We also made a presentation to the Environmental Advisory Committee on February 26<sup>th</sup>. They were very supportive, and like us they are frustrated by Council’s lack of response to their very real concerns. Over the next months, the Pier Group will be speaking to most of the municipal committees to bring them up to date and hopefully obtain their support. These include the Cultural Advisory Committee, Heritage Port Hope, Waterfront and Trails Committee, and Parks and Recreation Committee.

It is perhaps noteworthy that Port Hope is one of very few Municipalities in Ontario that does not have a Planning Committee, Planning Board or other such body.

We made our presentation to the Ganaraska Valley Probus on March 12<sup>th</sup>, and will be continuing to meet with other organizations over the next several months. Once again, let us know if you are part of any organization that may wish to hear about the Pier and its issues

We previously advised you that the Pier Group had joined with Phoenix Community Works Foundation, so that we could issue receipts for donations under their charitable foundation umbrella. Unfortunately, our federal government has just revoked Phoenix’s charitable status after 35 years. Charitable receipts have been issued for donations already received, and we thank those who donated.

We are currently ironing out the details to work with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Port Hope branch to receive donations and issue tax receipts under their umbrella. We’ll let you know when we’ve sorted out the details.

Cogeco Cable 10, the local community news TV station, interviewed Mayor Thompson in early February. She gave here usual, completely unjustifiable reasons why the Pier Buildings must come down. A couple of weeks later your co-chairs Rod Stewart and Chris Wallace were interviewed on the same program. I think we gave a pretty effective rebuttal. But we promise not to let our ‘TV personality’ status go to our heads

The “Heritage Assessment for the Port Hope Centre Pier” is available for sale for \$15. at Furby House Books. It is available for viewing at the Port Hope Archives and the Port Hope Public Library, and can be seen on our web site, [www.thepiergroup.ca](http://www.thepiergroup.ca). A second printing with revisions will be printed this spring.

Our Economic Study of the pier buildings by NetGain Partners is well underway, and we hope to have it ready for circulation to you and all citizens of Port Hope by late April. We know that it will be very informative reading.

We are still finalizing our plans for an evening public meeting, with some speakers who will be well worth hearing. This will be followed by a daylong design charette or ideas workshop in late May or early June, and will be an excellent opportunity to put this community's creative energy to work.

So much for the procedural nuts and bolts, just to recap our principal issue: Our strategy is to have the decision to demolish removed from Council's "decision made" file and placed in the "pending" file. The premature decision made by a previous council indicates a basically flawed management style. Basic business 101 is clear that no irrevocable decisions should ever be taken before all of the facts are on the table, and before the last possible and reasonable moment. This basic tenant of good planning and optimizing resources is absent here.

This inherently flawed decision making process, exacerbated by the "two hats worn" policies of Council and the Harbour Commission, has resulted in some seriously flawed decisions on the Pier Buildings and other issues in our municipality. We in the Pier Group will continue in our efforts to bring some open disclosure and honesty to these matters.

Sincerely, your Pier Group