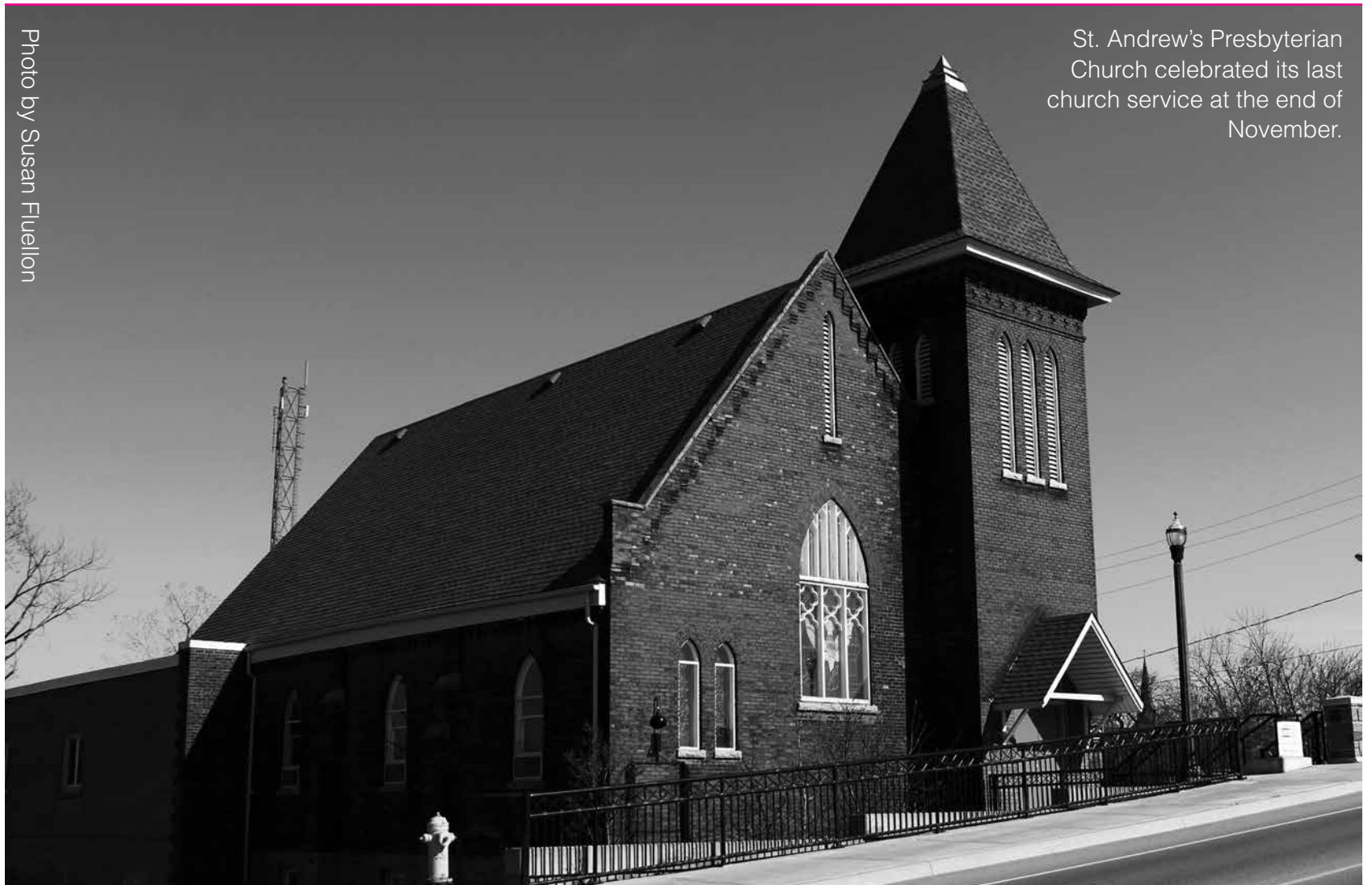


MERRITTON MATTERS

SPRING 2013 • Volume 9, Issue 1 • www.merrittonmatters.ca

Photo by Susan Fluelton

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church celebrated its last church service at the end of November.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Kenneth George Boucock
- The War of 1812 at the St. Catharines Museum
- Merritton's Old Buildings?
- Thanks Merritton Community Pharmacy
- Goodbyes to Sylvia, Doug, Al and Marino
- Johansson Bar Parkette
- El Rebel
- Hartzel Greening
- Ice Cream on Hartzel
- Community Grants
- Regift Depot
- Unearthing a Lock
- Grants Available
- Guiding and Scouting in Merritton

Merritton Matters

Merritton Matters is distributed through The St. Catharines Standard and is also available at many of our community's fine establishments. If you know someone who lives out of town who might like to receive the Merritton Matters by mail, please call Sheila at 905-227-8988.

Send comments, feedback or advertising information via email to merrittonmatters@hotmail.com

or through the mail to 19 Wanda Rd., St. Catharines L2T 1S5.

CHECK OUT THE MERRITTON MATTERS WEBSITE AT WWW.MERRITTONMATTERS.CA

THE MERRITTON COMMUNITY GROUP

The Merritton Community Group has been part of Merritton since 2001. We formed as a direct result of the City of St. Catharines Community Development Strategy (CDS) project.

Over the past years we have worked with all levels of government to promote sustainable economic development as a dedicated group of volunteers who wanted to make a difference in our community. While a small group may have founded MCG, we have truly been fortunate to have been joined by many devoted and enthusiastic people over the past 12 years. Now Merritton Community Group has become part of the Merritton Lions. We are proud to be associated with them and will continue to be active in the community and produce the Merritton Matters newsletter on a regular basis.

Hopefully you have been a part of some of our past adventures which have included the following:

We greeted visitors... The Merritton Community Group felt it was important to welcome people into our community. We wanted to make sure that it was a sign that elevated the recognition of our local character. Eventually raising \$6,500.00 through fundraising, donations from the community and local businesses, the sign now stands proudly on Glendale Avenue with recognition of the donors on the reverse side.

We celebrated our historic sites... Merritton historic sites were turned into superb notecards that were available for purchase at Merritton Community Pharmacy, Laser Assisted Dentistry, Rick Dykstra MP Constituency Office and Lock 3 Museum Gift Shop.

We celebrated our history through street art... Working with the St. Catharines Collegiate and Pinehurst students, common oil cans were transformed into celebrations of our heritage. The MCG Heritage Bin project turned historical events, places and people into street art thanks to a grant from the Hudson's Bay Company for materials.

We won a Community in Bloom contest... Our MCG Heritage Bin project won a prestigious prize - Communities in Bloom Ontario Award of Excellence which was judged using criteria of community spirit, innovative ideas and environmental sustainability.

We've danced... Merritton Community Group held dances to raise funds for community programs.

We stopped and smelled flowers... We organized tours of our local gardens to celebrate the gardening talents of people in Merritton.

We met... The public was regularly invited to discuss community concerns at our MCG meetings which were held at the Merritton Seniors Centre on Merritt St. Once a year we held an Open House in May where guest speakers entertained the crowds with valuable information about our past and future.

We floated... Despite what sometime felt like quickly advancing age, we demonstrated great high stepping ability as we marched alongside our parade float. Participating in the Annual Merritton Labour Day Parade became a regular occurrence for our group as did the local Santa Claus Parades.

We bragged about Merritton... We just couldn't help ourselves!

We cleaned... The MCG 'adopted' Hartzel Road and Merritt Street by cleaning it up three times a year along with a yearly Graffiti removal campaign. Pinehurst students accompanied us and we couldn't have done it without them.

We talked to our neighbours... The MCG liaised with the community as well as the Merritton Athletic Association, the Legion, the Lions and the Lionesses.

We dusted... The trophy case at the Community Centre which contains trophies and awards received at the closing of Merritton High School has been maintained by our group.

We raised our hands... You could always count on the MCG to volunteer at local community events and to fight for our community's interests.

Editor/Writer: Lorraine Giroux

Contributors: Tom Barwell, Pat Grant, David Haywood, Yvon Tanguy, Phyllis Thomson

Photographers: Susan Fluellon, Steve Hincliffe, Clarke Thomson

Advertising: Pat Durocher, Sheila Morra, Tony Morra



Dimitrios Ladas

415 Merritt Street

905-684-3763



\$3.00 OFF ANY CAKE with this ad
(except for logs) Expires Aug. 31, 2013.



Dr. Thomas Pekar
BSC, DDS, FIACA

Laser Assisted Dentistry

185 Merritt Street
St. Catharines, ON L2T 1G7

thomaspekar@lazerdentist.ca **905-227-7377**

GOODBYES



SYLVIA WARK – In the Fall/Winter 2008 issue, Phyllis Thomson wrote about the Wark Family and their long history in Merritton. We were sad to see that Sylvia passed away on Sunday, December 30, 2012 in her 82nd year. She grew up in Merritton and graduated from Merritton High School. Sylvia married Donald “Don” Wark in 1949 in Merritton, Ontario. They were happily married for 63 years. She is also survived by her sons Alan, David and Douglas and her daughters Donna and Debbie.

MARINO GIROTTI – In our Summer 2011 edition, we wrote about the passing of Dr. Murray Girotti. Sadly, his father Marino passed away on Friday, December 21, 2012 in his 90th year. Mother Anne passed away in January 2013.

Marino owned and operated, along with his brothers, the Girotti Machine Works, Hy-Grade Precast Concrete and Girotti Sculptured Art. The company was started just after World War Two by Marino and Silvio Girotti in their parents’ garage. By the early 1950s, the Girottis had moved to a larger facility located on the north-west corner of Glendale Avenue and Burleigh Hill Drive.



DOUG MCNICHOL – Doug, a former professional Canadian football player, passed away on February 15, 2012.



In our Summer 2011 edition, Sheila Lippiatt (McNichol) wrote about her brother Doug’s 80th birthday celebration. The family lived at 46 Walnut Street in an old pebbledash house across from the CN Train Station. In high school, Bob Davidson, Teddy Collins, Hughie Cosgrove and Doug played basketball together under the close eye of Angie Pastore and won championships, including the Central Ontario Championship (C.O.S.S.A.). McNichol was a member of the 1947 winning senior boys team from Merritton High. After high school Doug went to the University of Western Ontario. In 1953 Doug was the number 1 draft choice for the Canadian Football League and played for the Montreal Alouettes and later for the Toronto Argonauts. He is a member of the St. Catharines sports Wall of fame, and had an 11-year CFL career as a defensive end and won East All-Star honours in 1953, 1954, 1955, 1958 and 1959.



AL DUNN – Al passed away on November 4, 2012. He was predeceased by his wife Barbara and son Michael and survived by Robert and Andrea. He taught for approximately 25 years at Lakeport, became vice-principal and then principal at Merritton High School.

Friends speak to his devotion to his wife Barbara who was a talented artist. Their home was filled with her work. Al was always ready to have a chat and he especially liked talking about his son’s travels in Australia and NZ. Bruce Hemphill told us that Al’s easy going personality made him readily available to staff and students alike. Many kids who were having a tough time found his ear and advice consoling. He was environmentally aware and encouraged all who were trying to make an impact on our world. Our Earth Day community cleanup days were fully supported by him. Al had a great love for Jazz and spent many Saturday afternoons at the Mansion House listening to live performances. Interested in Merritton to the end, he faithfully attended the Merritton High reunions at Players arranged by Bruce.

Sheri's Creative Edge
USING CREATIVITY TO THE MAX !

Hair Stylist Complete Unisex Hair Service 116 Hartzel Rd.
St. Catharines, ON

Full Body Waxing

t: 905.684.7992

Mon. - Wed. 9-5
Thurs. - Fri. 9-6
Sat. 8-1

THE KEG®
STEAKHOUSE & BAR

KEG STEAKHOUSE & BAR
344 GLENDALE AVENUE
ST. CATHARINES, ON L2T 4E3
TEL: 905-680-4585 FAX: 905-680-1974
RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED SUN-THURS
www.kegsteakhouse.com

Guiding in Our Community



We are fortunate to have three units of Girl Guides of Canada in our community. This long standing organization is helping to prepare our young girls to meet the challenges of life as confident and resourceful leaders.

Merritton Sparks is intended for girls aged 5-6 and meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Elm Street United Church. Brownies, attended currently by 18 girls aged 7-8, meets Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. James Anglican Church. Guides meet Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. James Anglican Church. They currently have 20 girls attending from age 9 to 11.

We asked them to tell us about some of their recent events. The Sparks thoroughly enjoyed their 'Bring a Friend' Princess theme night in March and are looking forward to an upcoming sleepover with A Bug's Life theme. Mothers and daughters enjoyed a Brownie potluck dinner in February. The Brownies have had a variety of experiences this year including creating masks to use for skits and learning what to do when someone gets hurt and during first aid emergencies. One of the highlights for the Guides was having an ASL instructor from 'ASL for Everyone' come in to teach the girls how to finger spell.

The Sparks, Brownies and Guides units share many bridging events that help them come together as a larger group. Back in December all three units celebrated their annual Christmas dinner for the girls. The Sparks and Brownies participated in a Hug A Tree program night to learn about what to do if the girls ever got lost while hiking, camping etc. The Sparks, Brownies and the St. Catharines Guide unit spent a weekend at Camp Wetaskiwin in February with an Around the World theme. They learned about and made various instruments from around the world, ate different foods from around the world, etc.

If anyone would like more information about Girl Guides of Canada or to register their child or inquire about volunteering in a unit they can visit www.girlguides.ca or call 1-800-565-8111.

You Asked Us...

PUBLICATIONS ON THE HISTORY OF MERRITTON

1. "Merritton, Ontario: The Rise and Decline of an Industrial Corridor" by R. Taylor
www.erudit.org/revue/scientia/1990/v14/n1-2/800303ar.pdf

2. *The Welland Canals and Their Communities: Engineering, Industrial, and Urban Transformation* By JN. Jackson - 1997 - books.google.com

In the last issue, a reader asked about publications about Merritton. Jim Rennie let us know about two possibilities. The first one listed above is available online as a pdf and we're hoping to have a summary of it in the next issue of Merritton Matters. The content deals with Merritton's rise and fall and shows how technology, both at the global and local levels, can create, nurture and abandon small human communities.

The second is available as a google ebook. For over 170 years the Welland Canals have been a major industrial catalyst and an important agent of urban evolution, spawning a series of distinct communities along the length of the canals between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

ICE CREAM ON HARTZEL

We all know about Dairy Queen on Merritt Street but we posed a different ice cream question from Patricia in the last issue of Merritton Matters. Cassandra Neufeld knew that Swirls and Scoops was the name of the place on Hartzel across from McDonald's (now Wilsons Animal Hospital). Cassandra probably remembered the name so easily because she told us it was her favourite place when she was a kid for ice cream. They did have the best wildberry swirl ever!

Dave Keast also remembered the ice cream. He told us that after Dairy Queen moved down the road to the corner of Merritt and Oakdale in the early to mid 90's another ice cream business set up shop in the former DQ building at the corner of Hartzell Road and Parkwood Drive. It was called Swirls and Scoops. They closed for the winter and re-opened in the spring just like Dairy Queen used to.

The business and land must have been sold ('97 or '98, maybe) because the building came down and Q-Lube set up shop not too soon after and now it's Jiffy Lube.

His mother says that there was, in fact, another ice cream business right next door that blew up one night. She lived on Ferndale Ave. and doesn't remember hearing any explosion, but a friend who lived on Lincoln Avenue heard it. She thinks it was a Tastee-Freeze and this all happened in the early to mid 60's. The building that was Pizza Delight and Global Theatrical Supplies was built after the Tastee-Freeze explosion.

Now we've got a reader looking for a picture of Swirls and Scoops Ice Cream place. Can anyone help?

GRANTS AVAILABLE

2013 MINI GRANT PROGRAM

– Deadline August 12 and October 14

COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

– Deadline September 9

\$\$\$

The Niagara Community Foundation is a charitable public foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life in Niagara through building endowment funds, providing grants and enabling philanthropic partnerships. Grants are provided to eligible organizations for projects that address the Foundation's granting priorities. This program provides a time-sensitive, streamlined and responsive process for smaller projects and is not suitable for projects that have a budget exceeding \$2000. Check out their website at <http://www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org> to see the application and the eligibility criteria.



Catching the Drips

Envy your neighbour's new rain barrel? If it appeared after May 4th, chances are it came from the Merriton Lions Club fundraiser in support of local community activities and Lions initiatives such as Dog Guides. They came fully equipped with a leaf and mosquito filter basket. Nice to know that your neighbour will be conserving water in the summer months when the demand is the highest and keeping water out of the storm and sewer systems. Watch for flourishing plants in the neighbourhood because oxygenated, un-chlorinated rainwater is supposed to be ideal for plants. Too late for the rest of us to get one!



The Blind Referee *Sports Bar*

Wings and more...
905-680-5050
333 Merritt St.

BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN MERRITTON



KAREN BLACKLEY
BROKER

905.680.9002

E-mail: kblackley@sutton.com

Sutton Group Skyway Realty Inc., Brokerage



Niagara's Newest
Luxurious Inn
Thirty-Four
Captivating Suites



Short/Long-term rates available! No lease contract!
Fully furnished rooms starting at \$1000/month!

Restaurant, Spa, Banquet Room, Photography All On Site

271 Merritt Street
St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 1K1

905.680.6455 • www.stonemillinn.ca • reservations@stonemillinn.ca

Kenneth George BOUOCK

Yvon Tanguy contacted the editor recently with a recount of a young man whose last journey was paid tribute to in a YouTube video. Yvon, who lives in France, is interested in genealogy and spent a considerable amount of time following a trail that ended with finding a family nobody knew about. He provided us with the following information about a son of Merritton who died in August 1944 and who is listed on the Merritton Cenotaph.



A story published by the Niagara Falls, New York Gazette on Thursday August 24, 1944 is the start of the trail of a young man named Kenneth Boucock. Ken was the youngest son of Fuller Brock Boucock and Mary Kettering Boucock. The Boucocks were living at 9 Ball Avenue when their son Kenneth George was born on June 3, 1925. Fuller and Mary had five children (Ernest, Gordon, Bernice, Kenneth and Mary).

In 1933, Mary died after a lingering illness. At the time, a local newspaper noted that “Merritton lost one of its best known and highly respected citizens yesterday (with) the sudden passing of Mrs. Mary Boucock, wife of Fuller Boucock. Mary had come to Canada from England when a small girl and had resided in Merritton most of her life. Besides her husband she leaves three sons. Ernest, Kenneth and Gordon, all at home; one daughter, Mrs. Robert Wilson. Rev. R. Stewart, of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, officiated and the bearers were Roy Vallée, Henry Duff, William Boucock. Hector Wilson, Jack Boucock and John Boucock.” Fuller Boucock died in 1965.

At the age of 18, Ken began working at the Garden City Paper Mill. His dad had gone overseas to serve in the war in 1915 so, following a family tradition, Ken decided to enlist in the Second World War.

The news in the Gazette wasn’t good. Overseas for a few weeks, Kenneth, a gunner in the 420th Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force, had gone missing. His squad had gone on air operations as part of a team of bombers attacking Kiel on August 17th and apparently had not returned. Fellow officers returned with a report that “Crews bombed from 17000 to 19500 feet at 00:15. The bombs were dropped on red and green TIs laid down by the PFF. Many fires were started that could be seen 80 miles away. Smoke columns over the target reached 15000 feet. Search lights were not effective.”

When the team returned to base, the MZ687 “L” piloted by Gordon ‘Torchy’ Pritchard (Ottawa) and included Bomb Aimer Block, Navigator Moffit (Toronto) and Gunners Roski (Tyndall) and Boucock (Merritton) was missing.

Eddie Proud was one of the crew members, serving as the Flight Engineer. He was from England and the only member of the squadron to survive. He was rescued from the North Sea two days after the crash and taken prisoner until May 1945. His letter to Mrs. Pritchard, the pilot's mother, is printed beside this article. Two of the bodies from the flight crew were recovered and buried in the Kiel War Cemetery. Ken Boucock is buried at Runnymede Memorial Cemetery in Surrey, England (Official Number J/92616 – Grave Reference: Panel 249).

HALIFAX BOMBER MZ687



Everyone who treasures the history of Merrittonians fighting for our country must see the YouTube video that aired on November 11th, 2012 entitled *The Last Flight of RCAF Halifax Bomber MZ687*. This World War II memorial depicts the Royal Canadian Air Force bomber Squadron 420 Snowy Owl, based in Tholthorpe, Yorkshire. Watch the tribute video at http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=G_1-I5AeEg8 - The Last Flight Of Halifax MZ687.

August 27, 1945

Dear Mrs. Pritchard,

I really don't know how to tell you this, but knowing Gordon I should imagine you want the truth, he always did, straight from the shoulder. We were shot down on August 16th – 17th at seven minutes past two in the morning, on our thirty-fifth trip. We crashed roughly, seventy miles out the North Sea, off the coast of Holland. Everyone was in the machine when we hit the sea. How I was saved “God above only knows.” As you may yourself be aware, the Pilot is the last to leave a machine when in difficulties. Two of our engines had been shot away and we were in fire. It was suicide to parachute out over the sea. Torchy told us to prepare for a crash landing, all the time fighting to hold the machine on an even keel for us. Practically a physical impossibility, how he managed it is beyond me.

This I can say for certain Mrs. Pritchard, he was strapped in the sea, he had to be for the crash, I know, I was the last to see him. When we hit the water, I got out through the roof and swam around for three hours to see if I could find anyone else - - I couldn't. In the end I had to give up, I was injured and exhausted, as well as convinced that no one had got out of the machine except myself.

I am afraid the shock of the crash must have killed them all, and the machine went down almost immediately after I got out. I sincerely hope I haven't put this too harshly to you, but I know you would want the whole truth and this is exactly as it happens. Believe me Mrs. Pritchard, I miss them. We came from different countries, but our aim was the one thing. We were like brothers, living, eating and flying together. Your loss is my loss. I shall always remember “Torchy” (Gordon) with pride, proud to know that I was privileged to fly with a person of such qualities as high as he possessed.

I hope I have set your mind at rest, although I wish my news was so different.

*Hoping I will hear from you again.
Eddie Proud*



Hartzel IGA

Dave Keast sent us a photo his dad took of the IGA before it closed for good back in 1985. This IGA used to open on Sundays when that whole idea was still something of a rarity. They would close some aisles off to customers to qualify as a specific square footage that would allow them to be open on Sundays. Everyone in the neighbourhood was in on the secret that if you wanted something down the blocked off aisle, they would go get it for you.



MERRITTON COMMUNITY PHARMACY
 491 Merritt Street
 St. Catharines
 905-685-4777

Fast Friendly Service




Come in and meet our staff!!

New home of the SELECT WATER COMPANY!
Prepay and SAVE on R/O, Spring, Distilled

Johnny Rocco's Italian Grill

OPEN AT 11AM DAILY

JOIN US TODAY FOR LUNCH OR DINNER
NEW MENU ITEMS
 ADDED TO OUR ALREADY AMAZING SELECTION OF ITALIAN CLASSICS

'TAKEOUT' & DELIVERY AVAILABLE
 (some charges may apply)

BANQUET FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO ACCOMODATE ANY SIZE FUNCTION



EXPRESS LUNCH MENU AVAILABLE

TAPAS THURSDAYS 7 TIL 11

6889 LUNDY'S LANE, NIAGARA FALLS 905.354.0004
 271 MERRITT STREET, ST. CATHARINES 905.680.9300

Check out our beautiful patios.
 Live music everyday from 7 til 11
 (weather permitting)



Debbie & Kevin Cosby
 p.905-687-7380

www.RuffinsPet.com
 170 Hartzel Road, St. Catharines, ON L2P 1P1



Ruffin's
PET NUTRITION
 Healthier Pets...One Bowl At A Time

MIDAS

Randy Hicks
 Manager

135 Hartzel Rd.
 St. Catharines, ON
 L2P 1N6
 Tel: (905) 688-6011
 Fax: (905) 688-8320

A FRANCHISEE OF MIDAS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

JOHANSSON BAR PARKETTE

By David Haywood

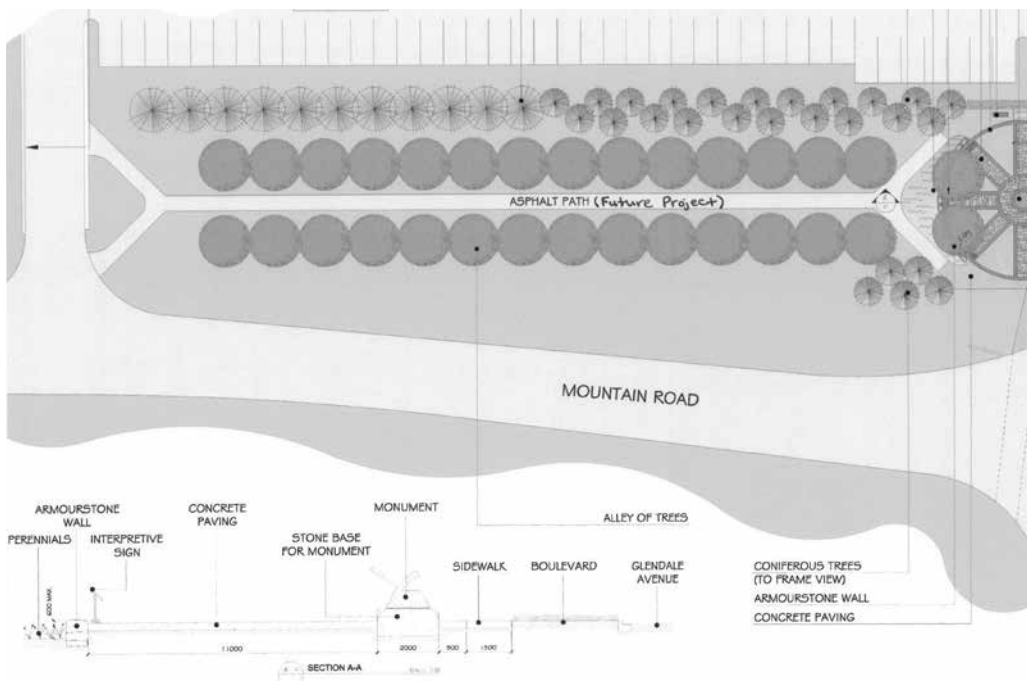
The Johansson Bar is located on Glendale Avenue by the entrance to the Sobeys parking lot. The tool is an example of the type of devices needed to build parts of the old Welland canal(s) and the Queenston Monument in Niagara Falls. The bar was used to lift and lower the large slabs of stone used in the building of each lock's walls (there was even a local settlement named Slabtown). It was used sometime between 1842 and 1845 and has been on display since 1983 after the Walker Brothers Quarries Ltd. donated the bar to the Merritton Community.

The St.Catharines' Green Committee's plan is for the Bar to be moved closer to the sidewalk near Glendale Avenue (the first phase of the project). This phase includes moving the Bar, constructing a parkette where the Bar will be displayed along with stone bench seating; deciduous and coniferous trees; and numerous shrubs and perennials. Additionally the previous area where the Bar was located (currently gravel parking to the west of Sobeys patron parking lot) will be restored to a park-like setting with trees and grass.



The second part of the project (dependant on fundraising but with a desired completion date within the next year or two) would involve the following: constructing a walkway in the direction of old canal Lock 14 (which is buried underneath).

Lastly the project would end with phase 3 (again dependant on fundraising but with a desired completion date within the next year or two). This phase is greatly advocated by Regional Councillor Bruce Timms and canal advocate Rene Ressler and involves upgrading the site west of the Sobeys building (and North of the attached site design for Johanson's Bar parkette) using the model of what has been done at Thorold's Beaverdams Park. This phase basically means clearing and excavating 18 to 24 inches from the top layer of stone and leaving grass cover as the only maintenance in that area. Then having a sign board placed close to Sobeys driveway and a smart phone App explaining the Lock including the larger context of the Lybster Mill, The Keg and Mountain Locks Park.



Above is the site proposal being made by the City of St. Catharines' Green Committee as indicated in the drawing shown. It must be reiterated, that the project will only be completed with financial contributions from the community at large (in partnership with the St.Catharines' Green Committee). The cost of the project is approximately \$77,500. So far the Green Committee has committed \$30,493 to the project and the St.Catharines Horticultural Society has contributed \$2,000 (with plans to contribute more after their annual plant sale next month at Bill Burgoyne arena - so please support them!) Should anyone else wish to contribute you can contact Green Committee Co-Chair Dave Haywood at: davehaywood@merritton.com or Kristen Sullivan, Project & Development Planner - City of St. Catharines' Recreation & Community Services, at 905-688-5601 (ext. 3145) or email her at ksullivan@stcatharines.ca.

The Green Committee would be grateful if people considered the following individual items for sponsorship:

- Engraved Pavers:** \$250 (Estimate - needs to be confirmed upon selection of pavers)
- Trees (with plaque):** \$400
- Bench (with plaque):** \$1,750 (As seen at the Old Courthouse, located beside Market Square)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Monetary donations over \$250 in either goods, labour or funds will be recognized on a donor plaque or the individual item (i.e. tree, bench, etc.)
- Individuals or businesses who wish to make monetary contributions may direct their donations to the "City of St. Catharines", and indicate on the Memo line "Johansson Parkette". Please direct cheques to P.O. Box 3012, 20 Geneva St. St Catharines, Ontario, L2R 7C2, Attn: Green Committee.
- Tax receipts will be issued.

For further information, please contact: *Kristen Sullivan*

SPORTING CLUBS OF NIAGARA GUN SHOWS

Gun shows are scheduled for September 6 and December 13, 2013 through the Sporting Clubs of Niagara.

These will be held at the Merritton Community Centre and run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The War of 1812 at the St. Catharines Museum

An award-winning exhibition about The War of 1812 Canals produced by the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa will be on display at the St. Catharines Museum until August 18, 2013.



Canal Unearthing

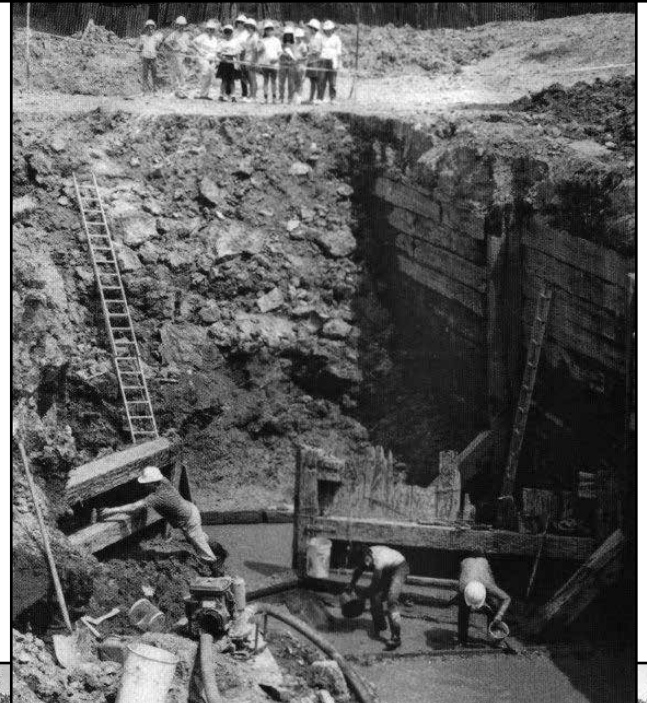
It's rare that a canal lock is uncovered but there has been no shortage of ideas around restoring sections of the canal. There was talk in the 1980's about how the canal system could become a tourist attraction with a multi-million dollar investment. In 2006 St. Catharines City Council set aside \$8500 to conduct an archeological assessment to investigate unearthing Lock 1 in Lakeside Park and in 2008 archaeologist Jon Jouppien organized this unearthing .

In Mountain Locks Park, Lock 24 was the scene of an archaeological dig conducted by Brock University in the mid 1980's. The excavation was quickly filled in again to preserve the wood which had begun to rot when exposed. Some former students of Burleigh Hill School still reminisce about their viewing of this original lock as the school had brought students over to be part of this history-making experience.

Lock 24 was built as part of the First Welland Canal, 1824-1829. Then it was turned into a secondary water channel and became part of the Second Welland Canal which started operations in 1845. Only three locks remain from the original canal. Two are in Centennial Gardens and one is at Lakeside Park.

Now all that remains of the dig is a small cleared area and a historical plaque that highlights the original location of Lock 24. You can find it by going down Glendale Avenue and turning right at Merritt Street. Travel about 400 metres and then turn into a driveway located between 183 and 185 Merritt Street which gives you access to Mountain Park. Dr. Pekar's Laser Surgery building is located by the driveway. GPS Co-ordinates Latitude 43.13481887 Longitude -79.20905470

With information from <http://www.niagaragreenbelt.com/> Photos from Steve Hincliffe, Rene Ressler, Welland Canals Society.





ISO 9002
Registered

INDUSTRY LEADERS IN QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Inspection
- Rework
- NDT
- Packaging
- Assembly
- Machining

15 CUSHMAN RD., ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO L2M 6S7

Tel: (905) 227-2992
Fax: (905) 322-0329
Shipping: (905) 227-5088
E-mail: rling@torainc.com

RAY G. LING
President

www.torainc.com



www.homehardware.ca
Register and receive
special offers

BUY 6
GET ONE FREE



Beauti-Tone

111 Hartzel Rd.
St. Catharines, ON

T. 905.684.9438 • F. 905.684.0201 • homehardware2@bellnet.ca

HAINES FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

26 Ormond Street South, Thorold

Celebrating 75 Years

Family Owned & Operated Since 1937

3 Visitation Rooms
200 Seat Chapel
Reception Facilities

No Cost Preplanning
905-227-1732



*Katrina & Daniel
Haine*



ANYONE HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS FOR MERRITTON'S OLD BUILDINGS?

We are in serious need of adaptive reuse ideas for some of our old buildings. Adaptive reuse - you know, when someone takes a historical building (such as an abandoned factory) and repositions its function (such as turning it into a successful restaurant).

The fire hall on Walnut St. will soon be empty and the town hall with its wonderful architecture is underutilized. The Merritton library was once upon a time housed in the Carnegie Building across from the old town hall. Why not move the library out of the strip plaza on Hartzel Road and back into the old neighbourhood?

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, located on Merritt Street, closed its doors at the end of November. This historic building was built in 1875 after being organized by a group of Presbyterians in Merritton who didn't want to travel to a church in Thorold. Google uses for old churches and you come up with lots of ideas, not all of which should be taken seriously. A skatepark, winery, laser tag arena, entrepreneur centre, a thoroughly modern home, a bookstore, and of course, a restaurant, have been tried as new uses for old churches.

What about the old Grantham Township fire hall that's part of the current Merritton ward? Located at 431 Queenston Street and built in the late 50's, the Niagara Community Database currently lists it as a place for retirees to meet to do woodworking.

If you have any good ideas for uses of these buildings, we suggest that one place to start is to call your city councillor.

GALASSO PRODUCTIONS

Party Professionals for all Occasions

M.C. "FUN KING" UNCLE LARRY
D.J. ROCKIN' RONNIE GALASSO



JUKEBOX
TRIVIA

905-227- 5522
www.rockinronnie.ca

**Name That Tune
Contest**

KULTUR
HAIR STUDIO

www.kulturhair.com

REDKEN
5TH AVENUE NYC
CERTIFIED HAIRCOLORIST

289.362.5156
kulturhairstudio@cogeco.net

40 Hartzel Road, St. Catharines, Ontario L2P 1M5



HOME BREW SUPPLY

383 Merritt St
St. Catharines, ON
L2P 1P7
(289) 362-0330

✉ beth@thebrewmonger.ca
🌐 www.thebrewmonger.ca

**Bring this card to Pizza Hut to receive
10% off any order**
(excluding alcohol and promotional items)



Valid at this St. Catharines location only.
306 Glendale Ave 905-680-1996

Aug. 31, 2013
Expires



Hartzel
Automotive & Marine

BOAT SERVICE* PARTS* REPAIRS

96 Ormond St. South, Thorold, ON L2V 4V6

DAVE **905-684-0050**

SF **Seymour • Fair**
Insurance Brokers Inc.

Rick Seymour R.I.B.
Senior Partner

200 Welland Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 2P3
T 905-685-8500 Ext. 12
F 905-685-8590
Toll Free 1-866-685-3247 (FAIR)
rick@seymourfairinsurance.com
www.seymourfairinsurance.com



PETE'S PIZZA
313 Merritt Street
St. Catharines, Ontario
905-680-8080

DINE-IN SPECIAL ONLY

12 Slice Pizza, 3 Toppings
20 Chicken Wings/2 lbs.
Garlic Bread w/Cheese,
4 Pops
\$22.95 + TAX

MR. COPPOLA'S BARBER SHOP

Services

- Hair Cuts
- Buzz Cuts
- Bald Fades
- Head Shaves
- Beard Trims
- Line Ups
- Tapers
- Hot Towel Straight
- Razor Shaves

Joe Falconi
Rick Silvestri
Professional Barber

email: mrcoppolas@gmail.com
www.mrcoppolas.com

302 MERRIT STREET, ST.CATHARINES, ON
No Appointment Necessary

Rick
DYKSTRA

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ST. CATHARINES

61 Geneva St.
St. Catharines, ON
L2R 4M6

905.934.6767 www.rickdykstra.ca



Elm Street United Church Update

By Pat Grant

Merritton is fortunate to have several fine churches which have been serving this community for many, many years. Probably most people see them as handsome buildings which are occupied once a week by a few (fewer recently) people of that particular faith persuasion, and then sit empty for the rest of the week. In truth, churches are living things which experience all the growing pains, aging pains and all the various aches and pains in between.

Elm Street United Church is one such church which has been serving Merritton for over 150 years and has experienced all the varied challenges that parts of three centuries have thrown at it. Having weathered the prospect of closure some ten years ago Elm St. came back to life and its congregation expanded impressively. Recently the congregation went through another storm but a tremendous spirit of love and loyalty and determination to carry on arose and inspired those remaining to contribute their talents and gifts as never before. Congregational meetings to regroup and reorganize were heavily attended and everyone felt the freedom to speak up with their ideas and volunteer to help. A questionnaire circulated before the Annual General Meeting in February asking for volunteers for committee work received only 2 negative responses of the 60 or so requests circulated.

And then we got to work! All necessary plumbing repairs and upgrades were completed. Fire safety regulations are being complied with, creating a completely safe building. The tearing out of unsafe panelling, new drywalling, and painting were completed by volunteers, members and friends of the church. Work on accessibility is ongoing. We now have a church which is safe, by-law compliant, attractive and soon to be accessible to all. And it is paid for.

Perhaps even more important than the physical improvements at Elm St., is the new spirit of love, enthusiasm, the joy of working together for a common goal, and the friendships we have made in this labour of love. We enjoy coming to church on Sunday, look forward to Rev. Crossfield's challenging and inspirational sermons, and anticipate the musical joys Michael and Keith and the choir are going to present for us.

Elm Street United Church is still here and we invite you to join us any Sunday in our expression of love of God and love of one another.

Bocchinfuso Funeral Home Inc.



Michael, Bob, Jessica & Susan

*The only locally owned, family funeral home
to offer two generations serving their community*

*2 Regent St., Thorold
905-227-0161*

*“Let our family
take care of
your family”*

*Vanda Persia, Italian Interpreter
Robert Bocchinfuso, Owner/Funeral Director*



THE REGIFT DEPOT

By Phyllis Thomson

Driving down Hartzel Rd. one day last fall, I was surprised to see so many changes – it was beginning to look like it might become a viable shopping area. The changes made to the actual road didn't seem as ominous as once thought and traffic was moving along nicely. Waiting for the traffic light to change, I had an opportunity to look around briefly at that particular point and was surprised to see that something had opened up in one of the buildings that had been many things over the years but had been vacant for some time. On an impulse I moved into the turning lane and drove into the parking area of the new business.

I must confess that I was excited to see that it was one of my favourite kind of stores - a resale store! I have been known to spend a good deal of time wandering around these stores – it is great fun and you are occasionally surprised by what you find. I wasted no time in getting myself into the store, first of all to see what treasures I could find and, secondly, it had the makings of an article for this newsletter.

I learned that the pleasant lady behind the counter was a Merritton resident and the mother of one of the owners. The store is a relatively new enterprise, opening in the spring of 2012, and is a partnership venture.

If you have any gently used household items or clothing that you wish to part with, you may drop them off at the store at 90 Hartzel Road – they are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on Sundays. Electronics, books, toys, etc. are also welcome and if you require pick up of larger items, it is available by phoning 289-362-4433.

The owners are currently researching ways to give back to the community and to thank you for your support. They plan to have a one-year anniversary sale on May 18 from 10 to 2, with a barbecue, free giveaways, fill a bag, and much more. So folks, let's get behind this new enterprise – drop in and look around - you will need a bit of time to take in all that they have to offer but, if this is your cup of tea, you will have a fun time.



Scouting

Scouts Canada has brought outdoor adventure and friendship to young people for more than 100 years, helping them become 'capable, confident and well-rounded individuals, better prepared for success in the world'. Scouting continues to be alive and well in our area with a group meeting at Westminster United Church on Queenston St. Another group meets at a location which borders us at Mountainview United Church on Glendale Ave. Both groups have Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (ages 8-10) and Scouts (ages 11-14). The Mountainview Group also has Venturers (ages 14-18).

Did you know that Scouting is co-ed now? All sections have a varied program which includes camping, hiking, games, crafts and a wide range of other activities. This year some special events included overnight excursions to the Science Centre in Toronto and The War Plane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. Last year both groups went to the Naval Museum in Buffalo and spent the night on a battleship. A great time was had by all!

May 30 – June 2 are the dates for a large camp out at the local Scout Camp Wetaskiwin. We're sure that many adults in Merritton have stories to tell of their days at this camp!

Each summer a daycamp is held for six weeks at Camp Wetaskiwin. For more information about Scouting, contact Cheryl @ 905-933-0066 or email cftcyk@scouts.ca.

HARTZEL GREENING

The operating budget for the City of St. Catharines shows that \$25,000 has been included for Hartzel greening. In the Fall 2012, 58 trees were planted in boulevards along Hartzel Rd. These trees were planted in larger, more sustainable growing spaces which will contribute to the development of healthier trees. Continuing in 2013 and into 2014, the City will remove the Ash trees and other species in declining health along Hartzel Road. These trees will be replaced with heartier varieties in the larger growing spaces. It is estimated that approximately 50 tree replacements will be forthcoming. Further greening will occur along this corridor through the redevelopment of the gore at the intersection of Rockwood and Hartzel in 2013.

El Rebel

By Tom Barwell

Not many people were aware of the fact that in the late 50's there was an active gang of young boys in Merritton. We called ourselves the "El Rebel's" and were a card carrying group of tough kids (so we thought). We didn't bother or terrorize anyone. Except now and then there was a well aimed kick at the odd garbage can. We just hung out and were about as dangerous as a herd of rabbits.

The most popular gathering point was the railing beside Main's drugstore overlooking the old bowling green. There would have been about a dozen card carrying members. Our cards were printed up at Ted Thompson's printing shop located beside the railroad bridge. I will never forget the look on his face as he was printing them out and it sure wasn't one of fear. He looked quite amused. The cards were treated like gold as they were the mark of a true group of mysterious guys.

The thing we were best at was spitting. Just plain old spitting. Not at anything in particular but it just made us feel tough. After a while it also made us feel dry. So we had to cross the street to Duff's snack bar and purchase a cold drink and of course it was root beer. Thinking back, it was pretty funny. All these guys just talking and spitting. The sideways shot over the shoulder was the true mark of a tough guy. As long as you could keep the mess off your shoulder.

One evening a police car stopped and asked if we had heard of or seen a gang of toughs that were supposed to be roaming the area. We informed the police that there was never any contact with these guys or even if they existed. Meanwhile, the cards were burning a hole in our pockets. A promise was made that if anything was heard it would immediately be reported. After the police pulled away, excitement built up.

They could only have been referring to us! This suddenly doubled the spitting and the sidewalk became a little slippery. That end of the bowling green was the greenest spot in the whole area. On and on it went. Phsst, phsst and phsst. We were suddenly infamous. It was a good thing there were no garbage cans within range.

Just recently I was sitting at a local mall enjoying a cup of coffee when a lady I knew from our teenage days came by and we struck up a conversation. In the course of our talk she mentioned that she was a card carrying member of "El Rebel". She claimed she still had her card and the next time we met she would make sure to have it with her.

I was stunned! No girls were ever allowed to join. And to top it all off, she was from Thorold. I just couldn't imagine it. Her spitting? I asked her if she knew the secret handshake and she sort of skipped around the question. So I was suspicious. I could hardly wait to see her so called card. If true, could there be more of them?

A few days later we bumped into each other again. Coolly she reached into her purse and proudly showed me her card. There it was. She had signed it and in someone else's writing at the top was written "Special Permission". I looked at her and she had a victorious look on her face. My wife, sitting beside me was chuckling away as they happened to be very good friends. I gave in and had to laugh as well. What great memories! I didn't mention the secret handshake as it was a little obscene.

Several of the original members have since passed away. Even some of the remaining wouldn't dare spit for fear of losing their teeth. But so far no other ladies have surfaced.

As for the kids in Thorold? We made some great lasting friendships with them. The only time any animosity took place was when our sports teams clashed and even then there were only a few weak series of catcalls and boos. Maybe they feared the "El Rebel". Thorold itself is a pretty place and I sincerely hope that it is never taken over in the same manner Merritton was.



ELM STREET UNITED CHURCH

11 Elm St. St. Catharines

MINISTER:

Rev. Dr. Gordon Crossfield

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Michael Christopher

Worship Service &
Sunday School
11:00 a.m.

*Please join with us if you are looking
for friendly and faithful people*

elmstreetunitedchurch.ca

**PINEHURST
SCHOOL**
Viaticus • Veritas • Virtus

**for adolescents not yet motivated to achieve their full potential in traditional classroom settings
(a proud member of our Merritton Community since 2001)**

Thanks Merritton Community Pharmacy

Looking at the city's operating budget for 2013, it is expected that Dunc Schooley Pool will bring in \$4500 (for swimming lessons) and \$7000 (in pool admissions). That's not a huge amount but it's still out of pocket money for families with children in the community.

So, we are especially appreciative of places like Merritton Community Pharmacy for their donation of a free day at the pool last summer. Even better news is that they are planning on doing it again this year in July.

Future Traffic Woes

The Highway 406 bridge that drivers take across Glendale Avenue is being replaced starting in the Fall. Everyone seems to agree that replacing aging infrastructure is a good idea. What may not be a good idea is the possible addition of a car pool lot with room for 100 cars. This lot would be located between the TD bank and the Highway 406 southbound ramp on the south side of Glendale. Also included in the plan is a bus loop in case the GO bus continues from Grimsby to St. Catharines.

Those in the Moffat Street area may have hoped that the new construction on that section of the 406 would include noise barriers. Driving along highways into Toronto, neighbourhoods appear to be protected somewhat from the noise by barriers. Developers place these when the subdivisions are built and the newer sections in the Moffat area do have tall fences. The older sections in that area do not have any noise protection features.

Doug Herod of the St. Catharines Standard did some investigation in response to a suggestion from one of his readers and reported that these older areas such as Rossie Place are on the list to have noise barriers retrofit but they are midway on a list of 50 other areas. He also reported that this section along the 406 would require "800 metres of five-metre-high noise barrier" costing approximately "\$1.9 million (which) would benefit about 38 homes." Figures like these suggest that it's not going to be a priority.



Jim Bradley, M.P.P.
St. Catharines



Constituency Office
2-2 Secord Drive
St. Catharines, Ontario L2N 1K8
T - (905) 935-0018 F - (905) 935-0191
E - jbradley.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

PersonalOptical

Tremont Plaza - Across from Pen Centre

Eye Examinations Arranged

905-227-9937

Many Styles to Choose From
GM Safety Glasses / Insurance Plans
Pediatric Specialists

Merrittonian Rachel Hill-Campbell - Owner / Licensed Optician



The LANCER Family Restaurant

85 Hartzel Road, St. Catharines, ON L2P 3V8 Tel: (905) 682-3295

Great Meal?
Great Deal?
The Lancer is the Answer!



PIRIE

APPLIANCES
LTD.

"We Service What We Sell"

905-227-3953 • 324 Merritt Street
St. Catharines, Ontario • L2T 1K4

SULLIVAN MAHONEY LLP

LAWYERS

Thomas A. Richardson

Sullivan Mahoney LLP
40 Queen Street, P.O. Box 1360, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6Z2
Telephone: 905.688.6655 Facsimile: 905.688.5814

4781 Portage Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6B1
Telephone: 905.357.0500 Facsimile: 905.357.0501
tarichardson@sullivan-mahoney.com

J & A

ATHLETICS

MANUFACTURERS OF SPORTS APPAREL
AND MORE...

315 Merritt St.
St. Catharines
Ontario

JOHN SHERIDAN
john@jathletics.ca
905-359-7667
905-227-5466

www.jathletics.ca

MILK MAID SHOPPE

325 MERRITT ST.

*Serving the Merritton
Community for over
20 Years*

OWNERS:
MAC & YOUNG

MAYOR BRIAN

McMULLAN

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

*"The City of St. Catharines
is proud to support the
Merritton Matters Newsletter."*



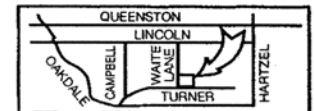
905-688-5600

bmcnullan@stcatharines.ca

Universal Collision

Insurance Work Welcome • Competitive Rates
(Special Rates for Seniors) Restoration & Fibreglass Repairs
Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm
Towing Service Available - Owned & Operated by Wayne Tucker

Free Estimates
45 Turner Cr., St. Catharines
905.684.3765



ACROSS FROM THE FLEA MARKET

DANTE'S BARBERSHOP

170 Hartzel Road, St. Catharines

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.

OPEN AT 7 AM TUESDAY – SATURDAY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!

Manulife Securities

Donna Mikus
Financial Advisor

25 Church Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 3B4
Bus: (905) 704-0300 Direct Line: (289) 479-5497
Fax: (905) 704-0018
donna.mikus@manulifesecurities.ca

MANULIFE SECURITIES INCORPORATED | Member CIPF

www.manulifesecurities.ca