

# MERRITTON MATTERS

FALL 2013 • Volume 9, Issue 2 • [www.merrittonmatters.ca](http://www.merrittonmatters.ca)

Photo by Susan Fluelton

Merritton's New Fire Hall



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## 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.

**CHECK OUT THE MERRITTON MATTERS WEBSITE AT [WWW.MERRITTONMATTERS.CA](http://WWW.MERRITTONMATTERS.CA)**

# THE MERRITTON COMMUNITY GROUP

The Merritton Community Group has been part of the Merritton Community 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 the MCG, we have truly been fortunate to have been joined by many devoted and enthusiastic people over the past 12 years.

## Merritton Lions and Merritton Community Group

In the last issue, we announced that the Merritton Community Group has become part of the Merritton Lions. We are proud to be associated with them and to remain an active part of the community.

## Advertising

Merritton Matters is a self-sustaining publication thanks to our advertisers. We don't expect to make a profit but we do like to cover our costs. If you are interested in advertising with us, we'll gratefully welcome you into our fold of regular advertisers. Tony Morra and Pat Durocher have been responsible for the ads in this publication and we are thrilled to add George Hostick to our advertising representatives. Contact us at [Merrittonmatters@hotmail.com](mailto:Merrittonmatters@hotmail.com).

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We publish this newsletter for the sole purpose of providing information to our readers and your opinion matters. The articles have been written by the contributors listed above and articles without a byline are by the editor Lorraine Giroux. We gratefully accept ideas and articles for our upcoming newsletters. Send these and comments via e-mail to [merrittonmatters@hotmail.com](mailto:merrittonmatters@hotmail.com) or through the mail to 19 Wanda Rd., St. Catharines L2T 1S5.

## Milk Bags

Lion Bob Schram is collecting milk bags and they can be dropped off at

his home at 15 Cameron Road. Gathered on behalf of Wells of Hope, they are crocheted into sleep mats and sent to Guatemala. Wells of Hope is a non-denominational group committed to helping the poor to help themselves and to providing the basic necessities of life. The milk-bag mats provide a cheap and positive alternative to sleeping directly on the ground.



## Top of the Hill Girls

You may have seen the Standard article recently on the 'Top of the Hill Girls' and thought the topic looked familiar. Where did you read about this before? We brought you information about the 'Top of the Hill Girls' reunions in the Summer 2011 issue of the Merritton Matters. Contact Jean Adams at [mjmadams@hotmail.com](mailto:mjmadams@hotmail.com) for more information.



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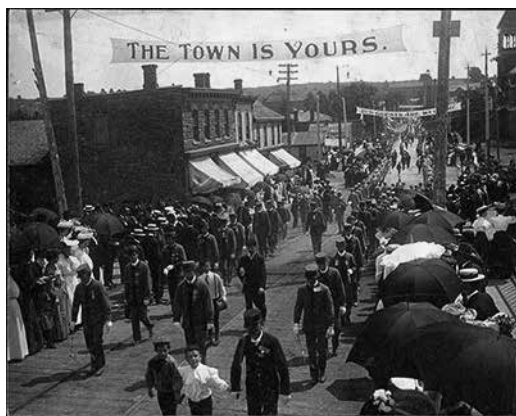
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# Centennial Park Display: Unearthing A Community's Roots



ABOVE LEFT: Merritton Parade, Merritt St., 1890-1918. St. Catharines Museum (N3162)

ABOVE RIGHT: Merritton Athletic Association Community Days Programme, 1954. St. Catharines Museum- Bill Lefevre Collection (1974.35.1)



Those who have called Merritton their home know that “no matter how far they may wander... no matter how high up the ladder of success they climb... there is still no place like home.” - Hugh J. Main, former owner of Main's Drug Store, from the book Merritton Centennial 1874-1974.

**Merritton: Unearthing a Community's Roots** celebrates the vibrant history of Merritton from its expansion as a small hamlet to a community-minded and ever-growing town. This non-traditional exhibit consists of a series of historic photos that are installed on the wall behind the totem pole

in Centennial Gardens. Historic plaques representing Canada's provinces and territories were once installed on this wall, but the original plaques disappeared years ago leaving empty spaces. Centennial Gardens has significant links to Merritton and is the site of two early Welland Canals. Visitors to the exhibit can make connections between the photographs of Merritton and the historic site in which they are installed.

**Merritton: Unearthing a Community's Roots** is presented by the City of St. Catharines

Recreation and Community Services department, Programs and Cultural Services division. Emma German, a Brock University Visual Arts student who worked as a Curatorial Assistant for the City of St. Catharines this past summer, developed the exhibit from photos found in the St. Catharines Museum Archives and the St. Catharines Museum Standard Collection. This is the second public art exhibit to be presented by the City at Centennial Gardens.

For more information on the exhibit please visit:  
[www.stcatharines.ca/merritton](http://www.stcatharines.ca/merritton).



ABOVE: Colonel Sanders, Merritton Parade, 1965

If you have more information about any of the 3 parade pictures shown here, please let us know at [merrittonmatters@hotmail.com](mailto:merrittonmatters@hotmail.com).



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# Merritton Baseball

By Tom Barwell

During the summer months in Merritton baseball was the king of sports. It started with the Bird Leagues, played at Valley View Park, all the way up to senior ball. When championships were won, and a lot were, there was often a parade of horn-honking cars that would weave through the community streets in celebration.

It was not uncommon on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon to have the old grandstand next to the high school packed with fanatical fans hooting and cheering on the Merritton players. When teams from Thorold, St. Catharines and the immediate area arrived on the scene, the exuberance doubled in tempo. Who could forget such names as Dempsey, Krsul, MacDonald and Korince? Not to be outdone were the ladies. Again a Dempsey, along with Lindal, Bretherick and many others who made their mark in some way. And not to be forgotten would be Lena Smalko from Thorold who could throw a baseball out of sight. This is just a small sample of the many great ballplayers of that era.

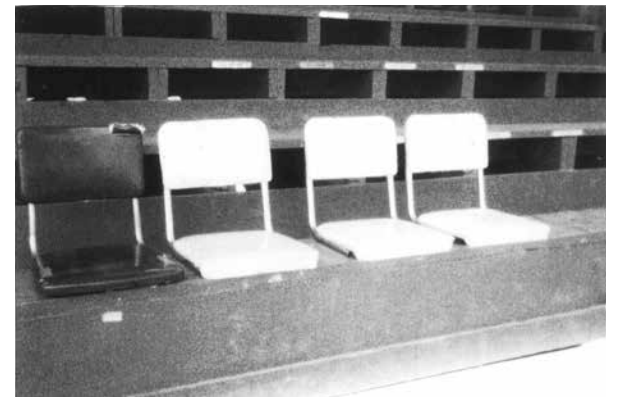
Then there was Davey. Now Davey was not your typical slope shouldered, ripple bodied athlete. In fact he was just a little on the dumpty side with a shock of red hair to go along with his freckled face. But what he lacked in athletic appearance was more than made up with what many great athletes did not possess. It was called heart and desire. Good natured as he was he was determined to get his big hit in baseball. And on this warm, dry Saturday afternoon, this could be that day and this time it was the village of Dunnville's turn.

So the scene is set. The beautiful old wooden grandstand is packed. The ice cream man has arrived and is surrounded by kids determined to spend their allowance on a cold treat. A few clouds danced in the clear blue sky and the nearby steam engines added their share of the din. There was even a puff of the throat choking sulphur, courtesy of the sulphite mill across the street. This is a Juvenile game. Merritton is up and it is Davey's turn at bat. The tension and enjoyment in the air was thick. The crowd settled in perhaps feeling that something amazing was about to happen. Up to the plate he strolled, seemingly without a care in the world but undoubtedly inside there was turmoil. Batting left handed and after giving the wooden bat a few practice swings he stepped into the batter's box. Then a quick glance at the third base coach who is busy flashing signs. A little confused Davey calls time and runs down to the coach so he can whisper the directions in his ear. With a satisfied look on his face he returns and once more steps into the box.

A first pitch fastball zooms across the plate. Strike yells the ump. Yipes goes Davey, jumping back with a startled look on his face. Boo goes the crowd. But that determined look reappears on his face and once more he stepped into the box. Two more pitches. One a wicked curve that left him a little cross eyed. Next pitch was a high fastball that he swung viciously at. This brought a yell from the dugout. "What are you swinging at? Seagulls?" A little chuckle rippled across the crowd and a smirk appeared on the pitcher's face. More determined than ever Davey swung equally as hard at the next pitch that was a little low and away. Crack, went the bat! Like a frozen rope the ball exploded from the plate. It curved majestically away from the centre fielder over the left fielder's head. Stunned, Davey stood there not sure what happened. Then at the frantic urging of the crowd he took off in a furious galloping run.

He churned around first base his legs pounding the ground like pistons. But even then you could see he was faltering. What kept him going was adrenalin and sheer determination. Rounding second base he was nearing the end. His main body was ahead of his legs. Slowly he toppled forward until finally collapsing near third base, disappearing in a choking cloud of dust. Then the ball came rolling in. Before the third baseman could pick it up and apply the tag a hand appeared out of the murk and grabbed the bag. Safe, screamed the ump who was caught up in the excitement. The crowd, on its feet, roared in an animal like howl. The dust cleared and there was Davey sitting on the bag with a stunned look on his face. It was soon replaced with a huge grin as he realized what had happened. Even some of the Dunnville players were clapping in appreciation of what had taken place. The next batter promptly lined a single over second base allowing Davey to trot home, revelling in the moment with the grin still plastered on his freckled face. He was greeted at the plate and again disappeared, but this time in a mob of back slapping teammates with the crowd still standing and cheering in appreciation. Truly a golden moment in Merritton baseball lore.

The old stadium is long gone now, replaced by an antiseptic set of roofless aluminum bleachers that are almost impossible to sit in on a hot day. Why do we continue to tear down our heritage? No more steam engines. No more choking sulphur, rumoured to be Merritton's secret weapon. No more ice cream man and no more happy, very loud and loyal fans. Those were the days my friends. Now only warm and distant memories.





Jean Murray sent us two pictures that present an interesting juxtaposition. The first picture is of four empty chairs placed on the hard wooden grandstand seats at the local ballpark. A separate picture below is of four Merritton Legion members - Lloyd Murray, Jim Beck, Frank Hagar and Red Rempel. These are the four friends who sat together in those grandstand seats years ago to watch the Baby Blue Jays play.

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## Burleigh Hill and Ferndale Benefit



The breakfast programs at both Burleigh Hill and Ferndale Public Schools benefitted from the generosity of the Merritton Lioness and those who support their bingo event at the Labour Day Carnival. The Lioness were impressed at the gratitude shown by the two schools. They received numerous lovely thank you letters from the Grade 5/6 class at Burleigh Hill School. The letters were read aloud at the Merritton Lioness Dinner Meeting on Monday, October 7th and pinned up on the wall for all to reread. Ferndale School was kind enough to display a big Thank You to the Lioness Club on their neon sign at the front of the school for the month of September.





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# FRENCH IMMERSION AT KERNAHAN

Starting next September, Kernahan Secondary School will become the site for public elementary students who wish to enroll in French Immersion and live in south-central St. Catharines and Thorold. The secondary school, located in the Merritton Ward and bounded by Queenston Street and Bunting Road, has been closed since its final graduation on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The majority of former KP students now attend St. Catharines Collegiate. With a student capacity of almost 800, the actual student population has been much less over the past few years and became part of the DSBN secondary school review process last year.

The school site will be renovated to accommodate elementary students and replace the current situation of bussing French Immersion students to locations which now include Alexandra, Oakridge, Queen Mary and Briardale. The FI program is offered for children who come primarily from English-speaking backgrounds with the intent of providing students with second language acquisition.

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## KP's Construction Technology Program

Many local residents will remember the great construction projects affiliated with Kernahan Park Secondary School. On the east side of Laird Drive, you'll see the houses that were built several years ago by one of the first programs for students learning directly from tradesmen.

There are lots of other examples of how the KP students got involved in real-life construction and learned skills to capitalize on in the workplace or as a start to apprenticeship training. In 2009, students joined students from other schools to learn about home construction as well as CPR, WHMIS, health and safety and fall protection at the Habitat for Humanity home in Merritton. In 2012 students in the Specialist High Skills Major in Construction spent a semester on a job site learning about home construction. Facilitated by teacher Ken Willms and Ed Lenchyshyn of Parklane Home Builders, students from 10 different schools, including KP, first learned the safety basics in an onsite classroom at a home build in Stevensville and then went 'hands on' for the framing, trusses, roofing, insulation, vapour barrier and drywall boarding.

Now a part of Collegiate, students continue to benefit from construction training. We recently caught up with one of the teachers who moved to Collegiate with the students, Brad Barter. A graduate of a three year Architectural Technology program, he had experiences working for contractors completing jobs in multiple facets of construction, before deciding that his passion was helping students understand construction and design work. Now approaching his 10<sup>th</sup> year of teaching, he runs the Construction Technology program and is a Senior Construction Teacher. Construction Technology is a promising area of employment in a wide base of skilled trades.

We asked Brad about how the students were doing at the larger school. "The move was a small growing pain for the extras that are now available to the students. In a small school you can't have football teams or even a full student council. At Collegiate, they are now free to explore all of the extra-curriculars. As one of the teachers that came from Kernahan to Collegiate, seeing a familiar face in a foreign school would be a welcome sight to some students and hopefully ease some of the anxiety of a new school. I truly miss the halls of Kernahan but I do thoroughly enjoy the buzz in the halls at Collegiate. It's quite an adjustment, but it is already worth it seeing the change in some of my students."

At Kernahan Park, and now at Collegiate, Brad Barter instructs students in a worthwhile field that encompasses every aspect of construction from fine woodworking to full home construction with a focus on the basics of concrete foundations, floor/wall/roof framing and include basics of plumbing, electrical and interior finishing. When Brad is not shaping the minds and skilled tradesmen of tomorrow, students can also find him as a coach on the football field.

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# Lions Draw

This year local residents are the lucky winners of the Lions Labour Day Draw. Three of the winners are from St. Catharines:

- Ticket #5139 Jason Scarry ..... \$5000.00
- Ticket #3035 Murray Wilcox ..... iPad
- Ticket #1930 Wayne Tucker ..... Bar Fridge

One winner, Joanie Vanbreda from Thorold, Ticket #3663, won Ice Dog Tickets.

## NIAGARA OSTOMY ASSOCIATION

Many in our community are already part of a support network for people with intestinal or urinary diversion surgery so we wanted to make sure everyone was aware of the Niagara Ostomy Association meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of the month (except January, July and August) at 7:15 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br 350, 57 Lakeport Road in Port Dalhousie.

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# THE MCLEAN-MALPAS MEMORIAL MISSION OF MERRITTON

By David Craig (with thanks to Michael Johnson, my Merritton H. S. classmate, for his vital research assistance)

‘Jesus bids us shine, With a pure, clear light,  
Like a little candle, Burning in the night.  
In this world is darkness, So let us shine,  
You in your small corner, And I in mine.’

As my mind drifts back to the Sunday school of my boyhood, many of the familiar children’s hymns spring to life again. I was back in the Mission Sunday morning in the 1950s, sitting there, singing the words projected onto the huge white screen that took up one wall. As instructed by our superintendent and leader, Mr. Orser, I would sometimes load the glass plate slides into the large projector. Mr. Orser would lead, standing in front, swinging his arms with gusto to each refrain, like an animated

orchestral conductor, his deep voice adding power and enthusiasm. Mrs. Bradley or Mrs. Delaney would be pounding away at the piano. We loved the hymn above, because with each chorus, we got to point to someone (you in your small corner), and then to ourselves (and I in mine).

Peeling away all these years, since the building is no longer a church, I wondered how this place of worship ever popped up on busy Merritt St, on the Hill, across from the Interlake (Kimberly-Clark) paper mill.

The idea of a mission began with the vision and faith of three people—John McLean and his wife Eliza Jane (Malpas) McLean, and Eliza’s sister-in-law, Mrs. Isabell Malpas. The year was 1892.

John McLean emigrated from Ireland at age 18, in 1856. He and a Mr. Gillespie started a sawmill business where Kimberly-Clark now stands, between the second Welland Canal (now filled in) and Merritt St. It grew into a very successful business, providing products for the ship-building industry and construction, and made John McLean a wealthy man, and a pillar of the community. He built a large home on Merritt St, across from his business and, after Merritton became a village in 1874, he was elected reeve and a warden of Lincoln County. In 1911, McLean sold his business. In 1912, Interlake Tissue Mills was erected on the site.

John McLean and his wife were members of Thorold Methodist Church (now Trinity United Church). She was a charter member of the Women’s Missionary Society (WMS) of the Methodist Church. Answering the call to “feed my sheep”, they started the Mountain Mission in their home in 1892, with Mrs. Isabell Malpas, Eliza’s sister-in-law and now widowed, as leader. The congregation grew quickly, so the McLeans donated a small home and large lot next door to their home, as the new Mountain Mission. The congregation continued to swell. In 1918, John McLean, age 80, died, and 3 months later, Isabell Malpas died. (You have to wonder if the virulent world-wide influenza epidemic of 1918 contributed to their demise.) Mrs. McLean gave a large sum of money for a major renovation of the Mission building, in their memory. The construction was completed in 1922 (present cornerstone reads “Erected—1922”), and the Mountain Mission became known as the McLean-Malpas Memorial Mission of Merritton.

In 1927, Mrs. McLean died, leaving funds in her will for further renovations, completed in 1928. In 1925, the Methodist Church had merged with 2/3 of the Presbyterian Church to form the United Church of Canada. So the Mission was now operated under the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church. In 1929, the first deaconess to head the Mission was Miss Bessie Irwin (I remember my older siblings and Alma Turner Watson talking about ‘Miss Irwin.’) She was assisted by Mrs. Ada Coulson. As Merritton entered the Depression and WWII, the Mission could no longer afford to pay the deaconesses’ salaries. Some retired ministers worked at no salary, but could live rent-free in the upstairs apartment. Any income over and above maintenance expenses went to support missionaries. In 1946, the Mission became the McLean-Malpas United Church, attached to Elm St United Church, and pastored jointly by Rev A. Johnston. In 1997, the dwindling congregation voted to amalgamate with Elm St United Church, and the building and land were put up for sale.

*To be continued in next issue...*



## HELP!

One of our readers is interested in any information or photos of the old Merritton Grenadiers Drum and Trumpet Band that was active in the 50’s. Can anyone help? Email the editor at [merrittonmatters@hotmail.com](mailto:merrittonmatters@hotmail.com).



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so valiantly fought in each war.  
We are fortunate and very blessed that  
so many gave their all,  
Never hesitating when their country called.  
We are blessed with so many freedoms each and every day,  
Thanks to those who have been and  
continue to be in harm's way.  
We are able to enjoy the freedom to live and not die,  
We are able to laugh when we want to  
and when sad are able to cry.  
We are free to work and enjoy a day of play,  
We are allowed our own personal beliefs  
and can even pray.  
Proudly wear a poppy and find it in your  
heart to give generously,  
Remembering those who paid the ultimate  
sacrifice for you and for me.

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# Remembering Through YouTube

In the last issue of MM we wrote about the crew of the Royal Canadian Air Force bomber Squadron 420 Snowy Owl, based in Tholthorpe, Yorkshire and several readers commented on the interesting story and the YouTube video depicting the crew including Kenneth George Babcock of Merritton. If you haven't already done so, be sure and check out the tribute video on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) entitled The Last Flight of Halifax MZ687.



Karen Tiffney has written a poem especially for Remembrance Day 2013. You may remember that she previously published one in the MM in honour of her son Josh who is a member of the Canadian Armed

Forces. Congratulations to Josh on his promotion to Corporal this year. We've included a picture of the changing of colours for 3RCR in Toronto at Queen's Park which shows Josh and his battalion parading for Prince Philip. A day that will always be close to the Tiffney family's hearts...a day that they will always remember.

## WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

The CNIB is looking for volunteers. As a non-profit agency they serve over 3400 blind and visually impaired people in the Niagara region which would be impossible without the dedication of volunteers. They have asked Merritton Matters to help them spread the word around our community that they would be most appreciative of any help. Contact Stacey Headey-Komenda at 905-688-0022, Extension 5343 or email her at [stacey.headey-komenda@cnib.ca](mailto:stacey.headey-komenda@cnib.ca).

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# French Fries Next Year For Sure!

By Penny Coles



The Merritton Lions presented a great carnival for their community over Labour Day weekend.

It didn't, however, go off without a hitch—a hitch that was out of their control. As anybody who looks forward to their fill of french fries at the carnival would know, the fries were conspicuously absent this year. It wasn't, as some carnival-goers might have thought, a health issue. It was, however, about safety.

"Every year, we contact the fire inspector, who comes out to look at the fryers," says Doug Schroeder, carnival chairman. "When he came out Thursday afternoon, he told us he was concerned."

On Friday, the day the carnival opened, an inspector from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, contacted by the City of St. Catharines fire inspector, arrived to take a look at the fryers, the same ones that have been used for years to cook the fries at the carnival. The TSSA inspector explained the fryers were not approved for outdoor use, and issued an order to "cease and desist" from using them.

"We never knew there was such a thing as an outdoor fryer, and when we looked into it, we found we weren't the only ones. Most of the people we contacted didn't know either." Schroeder was able to reach the company in the U.S. that makes the fryers, and was told they did have a model for outdoors, but that it's relatively new.

His understanding is a provincial directive from the TSSA to begin enforcing 2006 legislation was also new, from June 2013. Schroeder was on the phone Friday and Saturday as the carnival was underway, trying to find either fryers that would pass inspection, or someone who had the parts to retrofit them. The issue, he said, is that outdoor fryers have what the experts call a "thermal coupling" that shuts the gas off should the pilot light go out for any reason. But despite his best efforts, he was unable to resolve the problem for this year's carnival—there just wasn't time.

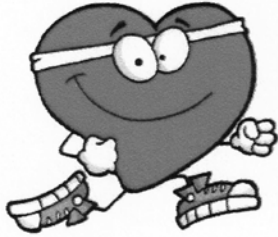
"It was disappointing and frustrating for us. The rules changed, and we didn't know that. We seemed to have slipped through the cracks," he said. "The carnival is our biggest fundraiser, and not having the fries to sell hurt us, but it was still a success and the money we made from it will still allow us to help out in the community."

Using the fryers would have brought a stiff fine.

The TSSA has also charged the Lions for the inspector's time—they received an invoice for almost \$700. It was a good reminder, Schroeder said, "that we shouldn't put all our potatoes in one basket. We should explore other options for different events, other fundraisers."

It was interesting to hear how many people were disappointed there were no fries, he added. "I will do whatever I can to have fryers going next year. We'll have french fries at next year's carnival. In the meantime, it was definitely a learning experience."

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# REMEMBERING ELIO (AL) FABRIZI

On April 26, 2013, the Merritton and Thorold communities lost a father, son, brother and friend when Elio (Al) Fabrizi passed away suddenly at the young age of 50. Following is the Eulogy delivered by Pasquale Fabrizi, for his brother Al.

Al was my younger brother and I remember when we were little kids going down the street to the park on the corner and we would grab a big steel barrel and empty the garbage out of it. Then we would both get inside it and roll down the hill in it, spinning and tumbling and laughing and crashing into the bushes at the bottom of the hill. And after a few times, we stopped, got out a little dizzy and I thought ok, enough of that, but what fun! I looked over at my brother and I remember seeing his face, with a brush cut and a big smile and a twinkle in his eyes and like a little fireball he said to me... "I think we should get our own barrels!"

Al took that same spark with him onto the soccer field and the hockey rink where he went on to become a great team player and was rewarded with many all-star games and trophies and championships. And my father was so proud of his son like I know Al is proud of his two beautiful children Shauna and John. But it was my father who openly and publicly displayed his emotion, and every time Al scored one of countless goals my dad would shout the nickname he gave Al from the sidelines - well, more like sang his nickname... Sunshine!

As a recognized athlete, Al went on to become a great fighter, first with high school wrestling to be awarded Most Valuable Player, to the St Catharines Boxing Club where he won many fights, and even the prized Golden Gloves but who knew after hanging up his boxing gloves he would be in for the fight of his life.

Al would begin his 20 year battle with mental illness, a disorder than runs through my father's side of the family and has already claimed the lives of one uncle and several cousins. And what's so deceptive is that it is an internal struggle, difficult for us to see or understand from the outside. But Al never wanted to burden anyone with his problems or even complain so he continued his fight as he became more introverted and isolated, until many years later when the illness had progressed to the point of failure and fatigue. Al had lost more than 30 pounds.

He was admitted to the hospital for psychiatric evaluation and two and half years ago was finally diagnosed. If we didn't know it before, we knew then, Al was afraid for his life.

So he continued his fight with new information, and the medication he was prescribed which he took religiously every day and unwavering love and support especially from Mom. But how can you win when your own mind is playing tricks on you.

Al has passed away to a better place. I know he's at peace now because when I look in the sky I see his face with a receding hair line, a big smile and a twinkle in his eyes. So today Al, you get your own barrel with your name on it, but this one's going up like a rocket ship to take your soul to heaven. It's your time. Via con Dio!



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# BERNIE OLM JR. GOLF TOURNAMENT

The golf tournament dedicated to the memory of Bernie

Olm Jr. has been well supported by sponsors and participants over the past few years and raised over \$60,000 in the past four years. This year's tournament was held on Saturday, September 14, 2013 with 115 golfers who competed in an 18 hole scramble, with a shotgun start at the Beechwood Golf and Country Club followed by dinner. The winning foursome was Jim Dickson, Eric DelDuca, Craig Cowan and Dave DelDuca. Proceeds again supported Niagara Regional Mental Health Programs, the Merritton Athletic Association, and the Bernie Olm Jr. Memorial Fund that helps pay registration costs for kids that would otherwise be unable to participate in sports.

## 2013 Trillium Award Winners



The Trillium Awards recognize those residents who have contributed to making our ward a more beautiful place. Congratulations to the Van Dykes at 377 Queenston Street for winning a Trillium Award for Significant or Specimen Tree. This award, sponsored by Ziraldo Tree Moving Inc., was for their American Sweet Gum tree which is 63' 8" in height and 22.4" girth.

Congratulations also to the winners of the Trillium Awards designated for our ward. The Keast family at 27 Oxford St. and the Eedens at 113 St. Augustine Dr. are this year's recipients.

## MAA

The Merritton Athletic Association is in full 'skate' for the 2013-14 season! They are once again holding monthly Youth Dances and still have room in the Hockey School program taking place in February 2014. Please visit the website at [www.maasports.ca](http://www.maasports.ca) for further information on any of the events below.

### MAA Youth Dances

Youth Dances are held monthly at Ferndale Public School for students in Grades 4 - 8. There is an \$8 entry fee, with pizza, snacks and drinks available for \$1 each. Each dance is well-supervised and all profits go to MAA hockey teams. Dances for the remainder of 2013/14 are:

- Friday November 22
- Friday December 13
- Friday January 31
- Friday February 28
- Friday March 28

### Hockey School

Hockey School is scheduled to start on Saturday, October 26 and runs every Saturday morning at 10 am at the Merritton arena until March 2014. The program is \$200. Please visit [www.maasports.ca](http://www.maasports.ca) to register or call 905-684-0249.

### 50th Anniversary - Merritton/Wissahickon Hockey Exchange

In February 2014, the Pee wee and Bantam hockey teams will take part in the 50th Anniversary of the Merritton/Wissahickon Hockey Exchange. This exchange is the longest running program of its kind in North America. As the MAA teams will be heading down to Philadelphia this year, funds need to be raised to cover travel costs. There are two events that will assist in raising the necessary funds to ensure a successful Anniversary event and we hope to see everyone out supporting this amazing tradition.

### November 16, 2013 Philly Fundraiser

The dance will take place from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Merritton Community Centre with live music by 'The Party Rock Band'. There will be a silent auction, raffles, door prizes, a cash bar, a 50/50 draw, and pizza and snacks available at no charge. Cash bar. **\$5/person - contact Mike Rombough at 905-685-1633 for tickets or more information**

### New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

Held at the Merritton Community Centre, this event will take place from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. with a four course meal plus pizza and champagne at midnight. Live music will be supplied by 'The Party Rock Band'. Look for door prizes and party favours. The tickets include raffle tickets and 2 drink tickets. Cash bar. **\$55/person - contact Mike Rombough at 905-685-1633 for tickets or more information**

# A BUSY LADY

By Phyllis Thomson

The often-used cliché that “no grass grows under his/her feet” has found a deserving home. Meet Doris Fraser. This petite grandmother (and great-grandmother) wears that hat well.

Doris was a resident of Merritton for many years when her children were growing up and she was active in the Breakfast Program at the schools her children attended. She is a long time member of St. James Anglican Church in Merritton and is deeply involved in many of the church groups and activities. Doris also volunteers with the Blood Clinic and has been recognized for her thirty plus years of service. As well she received the Order of Niagara in 2009 and has also been recognized by the City of St. Catharines for her volunteerism.

One of her many volunteer activities is with Hospice Niagara where she and other volunteers do crafts of all kinds which are then sold, with all proceeds going to the Hospice, more specifically to the Children’s Bereavement Program there. Among these crafts are cute little cuddly bears, all dressed up in various outfits that the ladies have knitted or sewn. I don’t think we ever get to the



stage in life where little stuffed creatures don’t bring a smile! And such was the case when I spied one that did just that – a bear all dressed up in a Toronto Maple Leaf hockey outfit, complete with little skates and miniature hockey stick. I’m told that they can outfit the bears in most anything you would like so, if you are looking for something special, these ladies will happily make it for you.

This group of eighteen or more caring ladies, who offer their time and expertise for such a deserving cause, is aptly called “Creative Minds” and you can reach them through Hospice Niagara where they meet every Thursday afternoon. I visited them recently and observed their busy hands cutting, sewing and ‘creating’ – there seemed to be a great camaraderie amongst them and it was obvious that they were enjoying what they were doing. I imagine that each has their own story of what brought them to this dedicated group which began in 1993, and Doris is no exception. She became a widow in 2005 and needed something to fill an empty space in her life and found it with “the great bunch of girls” at Creative Minds.

And what does this active octogenarian do in her spare time - the answer did not surprise me – she carpet bowls, plays darts and shuffle board and ‘helps out’ at the various Senior Centres in the area. A busy lady indeed!



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## Lions and Kidney Association

The St. Catharines Kidney Association's annual Kidney Walk benefitted from Merriton Lions assistance this year. Following the event on September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Lions hosted a post walk lunch at Lock 3 Park. Lions Clubs across the province have a long tradition of partnership with the Kidney Foundation and Dialysis patients through their efforts at Camp Dorset. This year's event in St. Catharines had 167 attendees, raising approximately \$36,000.



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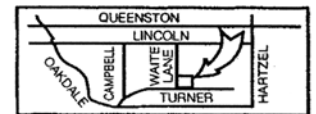
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# CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF LIONISM IN MERRITTON

By George Hostick

The Lions Club of Merritton was organized at a meeting of a group of citizens of Merritton in October, 1938. This action culminated when the Lions Clubs International Charter was presented to the new Club on January 25, 1939. The Club was formed with 26 Charter members under the sponsorship of the Lions Club of St. Catharines.

The contributions by the Lions Club over the years have been many and varied, of local, national and even international scope. However, the three major Club projects have been the Merritton Lions (now Dunc Schooley) swimming pool, the Merritton Community Centre and the Merritton Centennial Arena.

The swimming pool, envisioned by the Lions Club shortly after being chartered, was opened to the public in 1948 and provided recreation and swimming instructions for the community's children.

The second major project, the Merritton Community Centre, was a joint venture of the Lions Club and the Town of Merritton. It opened in December, 1955, providing facilities for badminton, basketball, bowling, Teen Town and meetings of various recreational organizations. This significant facility continues to be administered by the Lions Club.

The third major project of the Lions Club, the Merritton Centennial Arena, was a joint venture of the Lions Club, and many organizations and public spirited citizens of Merritton. Among those organizations making this project happen were: Merritton Athletic Association; the Merritton Volunteer Firemen; and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #138. The operation of this community facility continues to be the responsibility of the Lions Club.



With these major capital projects completed, the Lions continue to be responsible for any deficits in operating costs at both the Community Centre and the Arena. We would be remiss if we did not mention the assistance and co-operation of the City of St. Catharines in the provision of these services as well.

In addition to these community services, the Lions Club of Merritton also contributes to many additional community services including several school programs, Community Care, individual special needs for citizens of the community, MAA, Salvation Army, and the Niagara Peninsula Kids Centre. These support services and many others use up approximately 60% of our charitable donations.

The remaining 40% of funds is provided in support of many Lions sponsored charities including: Lions Eye Care Niagara, Lions Home for the Deaf, Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide services, Youth Exchange, Lions International Sight First programs, Lions Camp Dorset and many others.

All of this service is made possible because of the ongoing dedication of our members and the generous support of the citizens of our great community.

From the time of its charter until the present day the Lions Club of Merritton has and shall continue to live up to the motto of Lions International "WE SERVE".

*Watch for an article about the history of the Merritton Lioness Club in the next issue.*



## community fun night

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