

# PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



FALL 2010

Heritage architecture and natural beauty abound at the Providence Continuing Care site  
...see article on p. 5



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## upcoming:

- ◆ PDCA Fall Meeting Oct.14  
—meet the candidates
- ◆ Election Day Oct.25
- ◆ Halloween Party Oct.31

## A Farewell From our Departing Councilor



Dear Neighbours,

Thank you for all your support and helping make the Portsmouth District a great community in which to live and work.

Representing you, as a member of Kingston City Council, has been a life changing experience over the past four years. Together we have accomplished so much: relocating the Portsmouth Halfway House, creating and developing a new plan for Lake Ontario Park and continuing to rebuild our aging infrastructure are just a few examples.

It is with these and other accomplishments in mind, after much consideration, along with encouragement from the greater Kingston community, that I have decided to toss my hat into the ring to be Kingston's 95th Mayor.

I wish you all the best and will look at my time as your councilor with great respect for this fine neighbourhood and the wonderful people of Portsmouth District.

Sincerely,  
Mark Gerretsen

### GARDEN REPORT    October 2010

This has been a difficult year for the Garden Committee as some of our volunteers have had to withdraw due to health concerns and others due to additional responsibilities. As a result, the gardens have not been cared for as they should be. We desperately need more volunteers to help. Even an hour or two a week would make a great difference to the beauty of the gardens.



Some volunteers have contributed well above reasonable expectations and should be acknowledged:

**Mike Sayer** who tends the Bird Feeder Garden, which has been spectacular this year;  
**Betty Seymour** who tends the garden under the Village sign in Aberdeen Park;  
**Donna Doelman** who tends the corner beds in Aberdeen Park at King and Yonge;  
**Pauline Barr** and helpers who tend the park behind 1032 King;  
**Suzanne Hamilton** who has worked on several of the gardens this summer, including Anne Milina Lookout Point, the Triangle Garden at Church and Union, and the Coast Guard garden at the foot of Yonge;  
and **Gary Maracle** who has diligently looked after Aberdeen Park all summer collecting trash, broken branches, and other debris following each storm.

Thank you to all of the volunteers.

Anyone interested in assisting with the gardens should contact Donna Gallagher at 613-546-1524.



## **Student Housing...Residential Housing**

As we all know, the student populations at Queens, St Lawrence College, and RMC add much to the character and economy of the city. But it seems that there are always a few who tend to spoil things for others.

For years...decades... we have seen the effects of the student population as they expand more and more into the community in the Queen's area. Over the years some streets have become heavily populated with students, often causing families to 'give up' and move to other areas.

From much of the discussion at our last Annual General Meeting, it is clear that in our district around St. Lawrence College, we have seen many of the same patterns emerging. Particularly in the Calderwood area, with more and more student rentals, we have seen many late night disturbances and other issues. One resident estimates that 85% of the houses in this area are now student rentals. With this much concentration, it is easy for a small gathering to bloom into a full bore street party.

The students are certainly here to stay, so it is important that we come up with some strategies for coping. To this end, we have formed a student/resident relations committee and have come up with a few suggestions:

- It is important to remain positive
- We need to realize that it is not just a problem in Calderwood area ... it can grow to other areas...it is important that we support the residents and the 'good' students who are in the middle of it, even though it might not be in our back yard
- The city has passed a motion to establish a committee to address these same issues; the membership is to include community associations and we will seek a seat on this committee
- Get out in the street and meet your neighbours, both student and non-student... talk to them and make them welcome
- People need to call the police when there is late night noise/rowdyism...you don't have to give your name or phone number if there is exceptional bad behaviour...have others call as well...a phone tree would be a very helpful tool to have set up in this situation...

To report noise infractions for the City of Kingston Central and West, contact 613-546-4291 ext. 3135 Monday to Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For all other times, please contact Kingston Police at 613-549-4660.

These are just a few suggestions. We have much for to learn and figure out. We definitely need more members as we all have to work together, to show a cohesive front. We need residents to be real time participants in addressing the issue. We will post and email the date of our next meeting, so please come out and give us a hand.

-the PDCA committee on student/resident relations-

## West 49 Lyon Skate Park

When City Council approved the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in July, they set into motion the removal of a valuable resource to the youth in our community, the West 49 Lyon Skate Park. This skateboard park, located in Polson Park behind the Polson Park Free Methodist Church, was conceived and funded by a group of community minded people who identified the need for more youth activities in our district. The group included members of the Free Methodist Church, the Cataraqui Rotary Club, the Lyon estate and the West 49 retail store.



It appears that the decision to remove equipment from this well used skate park was made without consulting the users of the skate park, or the groups who were originally involved in the development of the park. Even more disappointing is that there is currently no plan in place to provide an alternate activity for youth within our district.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a number of youth oriented recommendations which include consulting with youth, engaging under-represented groups, and augmenting the supply of youth-oriented facilities such as skateboard parks.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, a group of concerned residents, including skate boarders, will be asking Council to halt the removal of the equipment in West 49 Lyon Skate Park until a public meeting can be held, and solutions can be found which meet the needs of all members of our community. We hope that Council will follow the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and make a concerted effort to meet the needs of our youth by giving them a chance to have their voices heard.



The Parks and Recreation Master Plan can be found here:  
[http://www.cityofkingston.ca/pdf/recreation/Parks-Recreation\\_MasterPlan.pdf](http://www.cityofkingston.ca/pdf/recreation/Parks-Recreation_MasterPlan.pdf)

## Ontario Psychiatric Hospital Grounds

A number of people have been asking why there are survey marks on trees at the Ontario Psychiatric Hospital Grounds. We can tell you that the Ontario Realty Corporation is surveying the property for planning purposes.



The Portsmouth District Community Association (PDCA) Executive Committee met with representatives of Providence Continuing Care (PCC) and the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) to learn more about what is going on and to let both organizations know of the community's interest in how the property is used.

We learned that ORC is undertaking a major study on all aspects of the site. In addition to a heritage building and landscape assessment there will be a range of specific studies on such things as the environment including trees and bird migration, transportation and traffic, water and wastewater servicing, and views and vistas. The study will also look at the requirements of a proposed new PCC hospital building and at government accommodation needs in the Kingston area.

The proposed new PCC hospital would replace St. Mary's and the psychiatric hospital currently on the grounds. Current plans call for 5,000 square foot 2 to 4 story building. It would take up less space than the existing building. Also under consideration is the possibility of using the property, including existing heritage buildings, to accommodate the many government workers in the Kingston area.

The results of the extensive study will be used by ORC to make recommendations for efficient and sustainable use of the property. The goal is to have a plan by early next year. We were assured that there will be an opportunity for community input. PDCA noted that the community will take a keen interest in planning for the property.



The PDCA will monitor this project closely and keep you informed of any developments including the opportunity for consultation.

## Coast Guard Station Planning Forges Ahead at POH

City staff has advised PDCA that the Coast Guard will be issuing a tender for design services for the new Coast Guard (SAR) station at POH by the end of October.

Plans to move the Coast Guard Station from its present location in the south west corner of POH to Anne Milina Park on the penitentiary side of the harbour were announced as part of a consultant's report titled "City Marinas Sustainability Strategy and Business Plan" in February 2009. Because of concerns raised by PDCA about the threat that the proposal posed to the park, Council referred the recommendation about relocating the Coast Guard Station back to staff for "review and reconsideration".

From the outset PDCA has argued that with appropriate foresight, collaboration and planning both the Coast Guard Station and Anne Milina Park could be accommodated on the east side of the harbour. PDCA has been disappointed that the Coast Guard (Department of Fisheries and Oceans-DFO) has shown no interest in discussing the matter with municipal representatives.

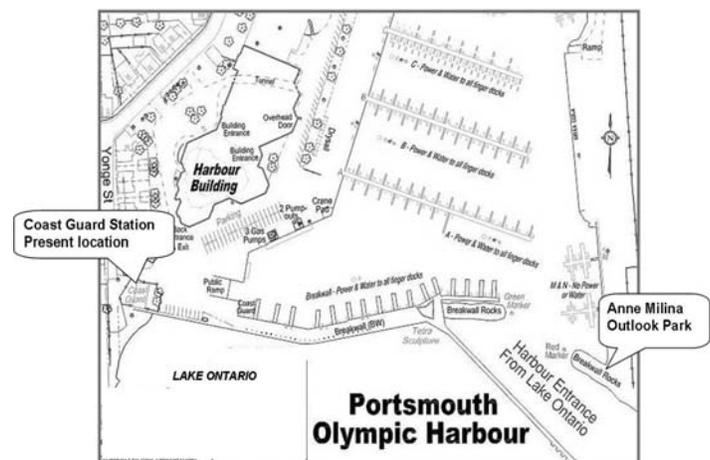
Three reasons have been cited for moving the Coast Guard Station:

1. Quicker and safer access to the lake for Search and Rescue (SAR) vessels
2. Need for a larger Coast Guard station to sustain operations and house crews
3. Need for increased security arrangements

Restricting public access to Anne Milina Point in the name of security can be a popular but not always well founded argument. The current Coast Guard Station has been part of the POH complex for many years. Security has never been a concern. However, if there is a desire to build a station that is more "secure", there is plenty of space on the east side of POH to achieve this without restricting public access to the waterfront and to the point.

The fact that Coast Guard vessels, arguably more important assets to the Coast Guard mission than the land station, will be moored at the entrance of a public marina where they will be fully exposed to all vessels entering and leaving the harbour makes the security argument even more dubious.

It has been suggested that the Coast Guard's move from their present location to the east side of the harbour can be seen as a simple exchange of land since the site of the old Coast Guard Station will become available as park. However the function and use of these two pieces of property are and will continue to be quite different.



cont. on p.7

## ...Coast Guard Station Planning Forges Ahead at POH cont.

Anne Milina Park is less accessible and represents a destination for park users and picnickers who use the site. In contrast, the current Coast Guard site is fully integrated into the bustle of boater/regatta use adjacent to the south west boat ramp. During regattas this area is extremely congested as a staging area for regatta participants. When the existing Coast Guard Station is demolished, the space will be integrated into the regatta staging area. From a park user's perspective, this "land exchange" would result in the loss of a parcel of land with a unique location and character.

PDCA has also been disappointed in the reluctance of municipal staff and elected officials to engage DFO in planning the relocation of the Coast Guard Station. It has been suggested that since the federal government is the owner of the land, the city, as a tenant, is powerless. That a tenant should not raise issues with a landlord is untenable. There are at least three issues that suggest that this discussion should take place.

1. Kingston has a publically proclaimed long-standing policy to protect and enhance public access to waterfront. Moreover goals stated in the Marinas Study explicitly reinforce this position with respect to redevelopment of the municipal marinas.
2. For many years, DFO has had a program for divesting its small harbours to local municipal authorities. The plan to redevelop the municipal marinas includes a recommendation to transfer ownership from the Federal Government to the City of Kingston. As a future owner, the City has good reason to discuss plans which will change the asset they will subsequently own.
3. The federal lands at Anne Milina Point are not entirely under DFO control. Part of Anne Milina Park was carved out of Corrections Canada land when the penitentiary fence was moved east to enlarge the park area. It is not clear how the land leased to the City by Corrections Canada would enter into DFO plans to locate the new Coast Guard Station. The arrangement reached by the City with Corrections Canada to enlarge Anne Milina Park provides a useful model for DFO to pursue in locating a new Coast Guard Station.

In summary PDCA believes there are good reasons why city and federal officials should be discussing plans about the Coast Guard relocation before design studies are initiated and decisions are made that are costly or impossible to change.

As we stated at the outset, PDCA believes that with appropriate collaboration, relocating the Coast Guard Station can be done without restricting public access to the waterfront and Anne Milina Park.



Will a Coast Guard installation such as this be compatible with Anne Milina Park?





## Harold Hemberger

My name is Harold Hemberger and I am running for City council in Portsmouth District. I have been a business owner (Video Rental) during my young adult years. I later joined the military and arrived in Kingston in 1987. I left the military to start a business with a military associate. I have also been employed in sales and technical support. Currently I am employed at RMC in security.

My Kingston platform includes 1) Support for a Third Crossing using Federal Funding 2) Improve the downtown area, 3) Have the community and city staff more involved and less consultant involvement. 4) Economic Development to building both careers choices and a better tax base.

Portsmouth issues I would like to address include

- 1) Voting against a ferry dock in Portsmouth District
- 2) Building positive relations between St. Lawrence College students and permanent residents.
- 3) Road issues such as condition and calming (Country Club Drive area)

If you elect me, I will represent you at city hall. Communications will be taken seriously by making sure calls and emails will be returned in a reasonable matter. I will also vote with an analytical mind rather than an emotional mind.

For more information, please view my website at [www.haroldhemberger.com](http://www.haroldhemberger.com) or call (613) 877-4540



## Liz Schell

I am Liz Schell and pleased to seek election to Kingston City Council for Portsmouth District. Having lived, worked and raised my family for over 30 years in Portsmouth District I believe I can be a strong voice for the people in my neighbourhood.

As political liaison for the Portsmouth District Association for over five years I am in touch with many issues facing this area.

These include the pending relocation of the Coast Guard Station and our worry that we may lose regular public access to the east side of Portsmouth Harbour.

I will work for more public access to the waterfront, not ever less.

The Wolfe island Ferry Transportation Study suggests an alternate relocation of the ferry dock to the Providence Care deepwater dock. I believe the ferry location downtown enhances Kingston and all efforts must be made to keep it there, while improving the flow of traffic in that area.

As Queen's and St. Lawrence continue their inevitable growth, we must find ways to keep students and families able to live together in mostly harmony. I would like to be on the newly created city committee to work on this.

Citywide, I believe in fiscal responsibility. As a retired accountant, I believe I am in a strong position to evaluate projects to understand many of the budget implications.

The sense of the city as a community is very important to me and I feel that sense is enhanced by local sports teams, local choirs, theatre troupes, community gardens, and believe the city can do more to encourage this.

I will work to enhance the quality of life in the district and city as a whole.  
Thank you very much. Liz Schell Candidate Portsmouth District



## **Bill Wornes**

Thank you for allowing me to present my thoughts to you. My name is Bill Wornes and I am running to be your councilor in Portsmouth District. I have lived in Kingston over the years from 1968 with moves away due to postings and so on. I am married with five grown children who have their own families and we enjoy thirteen grandchildren.

So, why should you consider supporting me? I have been involved in politics for a long time including having held office in a provincial party association and a federal association.

What do I see as priorities?

In Portsmouth District we are fortunate to live in a very attractive area. We do have some disturbing aggravations, however. There is friction between students and citizens; a solution must be found that includes residents and students in a close collaboration. Council recently passed the enabling act for this.

Lake Ontario Park is presently underused and should be developed into an attractive recreation area for all citizens.

I will push for an expanded parking lot at the playing fields of Runnymede, McCullough and Polson Parks for added safety. It is a joy to watch the young people who fill the fields almost every day of the week.

City wide, this city is proud of its heritage and this must be preserved by a well funded plan for the future. We must nurture the wealth of performing and visual Arts that we have in abundance.

I will support the third crossing of the Cataraqui River, completion of John Counter Boulevard as a major artery and broad band access for rural Kingston.

In summary, I am sure you will find in me an experienced, thoughtful councilor who will listen to the citizens through consultation.

I ask you to vote for me on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## **School Board Trustees**

Voters will also select School Board Trustees.

Five Limestone District School Board trustees will be elected, including one from our district (grouped with Trillium District).

The trustee candidates for Portsmouth and Trillium are David Jackson and Deborah Villeneuve

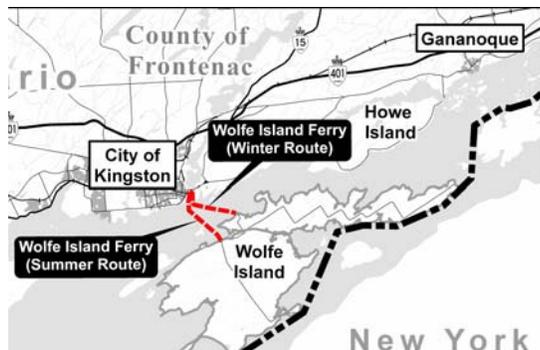
## New Routes For the Wolfe Island Ferry Under Study

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation is reviewing current and future transportation needs between Wolfe Island and the mainland. The full study can be viewed at [www.wolfeislandtransportationstudy.ca](http://www.wolfeislandtransportationstudy.ca). The link titled “Public Information Centre Display Panel” summarizes the study.

The study is seeking solutions to overcapacity problems with the current Wolfe Island ferry service. A wide range of alternatives are discussed. Of particular importance to Portsmouth District residents is the discussion of new and/or alternative routes one of which includes a ferry terminal on the grounds of the Psychiatric Hospital.

Creating a ferry terminal on the grounds of the psychiatric hospital would create a number of undesirable effects:

1. The waterfront through the grounds of the psychiatric hospital property represents one of the best developed and most heavily used parts of the Kingston waterfront trail. The infrastructure required for a ferry terminal would totally disrupt this amenity and would run counter to city policies to protect public access to waterfront.
2. Providence Care is in the midst of planning a major re-development of the psychiatric hospital site. (see article about Ontario Psychiatric Hospital Grounds) The intrusion of a ferry terminal and the associated traffic could place serious constraints on Providence Care’s planning for an integrated campus.
3. A ferry terminal at the Psychiatric hospital would generate significant traffic that would need to disperse through the already congested streets of Portsmouth District. This would be particularly problematic for King Street and other areas which are subject to heritage regulation under the Official Plan.
4. The route from “Marysville West” on Wolfe Island to the psychiatric hospital would bisect the waters used by CORK in hosting sailing events. The desirability of the venue for regattas and Kingston’s claim to being the freshwater sailing capital of the world could be put at risk.
5. Compared with the current route to the east, the route terminating at the psychiatric hospital site would be more exposed to wind and wave from the prevailing winds from the open lake. This could increase the difficulty of ferry operations and docking with implications for reliability of service and safety.



...cont. p.11

## **...New Routes For the Wolfe Island Ferry Under Study cont.**

The Kingston Planning Department has coordinated comments about the Wolfe Island Study from city departments in a report to the Planning Committee. It could be summarized by stating that all initiatives to deal with current and future levels of traffic between Wolfe Island and the mainland will produce challenges. However the prospect of working to improve “the devil we know” at the existing downtown terminal is more attractive than introducing “a devil we don’t know” as represented by the new terminal and route initiatives proposed in the study.

We concur and will request that the route terminating at the psychiatric grounds be removed from consideration.



### **Changes to “Harbour Village” Complex Debated**

In 1995 Harbour Village was built on the former site of the Lakeview Manor. This 26 unit development on lower Yonge and Mowat adjacent to Portsmouth Olympic Harbour was designed to complement existing homes in the old Village and was required to conform with stringent Official Plan policies intended to sustain the character of the streetscapes of the Portsmouth Village historic area.

An application to modify the design of the unit at 21 Yonge Street was recently reviewed by the Planning Department and adjudicated by the Committee of Adjustment. The application requested variances to the back and side yard and proposed to add a third storey over the existing house that would tie into a two storey addition over the enlarged garage.

The Planning staff report recommended approval of the application. However on September 27, the Committee of Adjustment rejected the application unanimously (5 to 0). The applicant has until October 18 to appeal the decision to the OMB.

The PDCA executive reviewed the application and the relevant Official Plan policies. We then sent detailed comments to the Committee of Adjustment explaining why we unanimously (8 to 0) concluded that the application should be rejected. Our comments are available upon request.

## Contacts, notes & URLs

At the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the PDCA, the following executive offices were filled:

President: Jim Cannon

Vice President: unfilled

Secretary: Suzanne Hamilton

Treasurer: Bob Brooks

Political-Liaison: Mac Gervan

Gardens: Donna Gallagher

Communications: David Grier

Heritage: Steve Watts

Special Events: Lana Coe

...the committee chairs welcome volunteers. If you are able to help in an area of your interest, please contact us.

Our email address is: [pdca@bell.net](mailto:pdca@bell.net)

Any emails to this address will be read by executive members and responded to as needed.

We are very interested in your thoughts on any of the issues raised in the newsletter, other concerns you feel we could address and ideas you have that might improve the quality of life in the Portsmouth community.

Other URLs of interest: [www.cityofkingston.ca](http://www.cityofkingston.ca) the City of Kingston site  
[www.kingstonelectors.ca](http://www.kingstonelectors.ca) lots of local info and opinion  
[www.k7waterfront.org](http://www.k7waterfront.org) outspoken waterfront watchdogs  
<http://www.penitentiarymuseum.ca> well worth a visit  
<http://dominotheatre.com> coming to a rink near you...an ex-rink that is  
[www.mckendry.net](http://www.mckendry.net) don't miss this one  
[www.pcchealth.org](http://www.pcchealth.org) our Psychiatric hospital care group  
<http://saveourneighbourhood.ca> Don Rogers activist site re town-gown-goon  
<http://2010kingston.wordpress.com/author/kayakchk> a well-informed local blogger

### Election information:

Final voting day for Municipal Election 2010 is Monday, Oct. 25, preceded by two advance voting days



- ◆ **Advance Voting Day #1:** Sat., Oct. 16, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ **Advance Voting Day #2:** Wed., Oct. 20, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ◆ **Final Voting Day:** Mon., Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Find a poll near you using the City of Kingston websites **poll finder**  
<http://www.cityofkingston.ca/cityhall/election/polls.asp>

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: 2010

P.D.C.A. is actively recruiting new members & volunteers. Annual membership is \$10 for individuals & \$15 per family . If you're not already a member, please consider joining.

Fill In the form and forward it to:

Bob Brooks, 204 Mowat Ave., K7M 1K8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New: \_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal: \_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your interest(s): gardens\_\_\_, communications\_\_\_,

Special events \_\_\_\_, heritage\_\_\_,

political liaison\_\_\_, other, \_\_\_\_\_