



# **PORTSMOUTH VILLAGERS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

**FALL 2009**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### **1) FALL GENERAL MEETING**

The Fall General Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday December 3 in the Press Lounge at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. The agenda will include:

A presentation by Inspector Antje McNeely, Kingston Police Patrol Division on the topic of Safeguarding Neighbourhoods.

A question and answer session with Councilor Gerretsen, who will have just completed the series of meetings dealing with the 2010 budget.

The complete agenda will be circulated closer to the date of the meeting.

### **2) GOOD THIEF CHURCH, CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE BAKE SALE**

Saturday Dec. 5th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m; Good Thief Parish Centre, Baiden St., Baked Goods; Candy and Preserves; Tea Table; for more information call Jane, 613-546-5973

### **3) CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & CAROL SING**

The St John's Anglican Church Choir will lead the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing on Sunday December 6 at 7:00PM in Aberdeen Park.

Refreshments will be served following in the St John's Church Hall

## WELCOME TO PORTSMOUTH! - Steve Watts



Once again the Old Portsmouth Town Hall built during the spring and summer of 1865 has tenants while the Tett Center undergoes a total makeover. Both the Kingston Handloom Weavers and Spinners (upstairs) and the Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club (downstairs) have moved in. This beautiful building located in Aberdeen Park has seen a terrific range of occupants over its 144 years. Some of its activities have included: council meeting place, park skating change rooms, church bazaars, drill hall & armoury, gaol, public school, drama club home, Order of St. John home & first aid training.

Both organizations are community based not for profit groups who provide warm, cooperative atmospheres for members to increase their knowledge and skills. Visitors are always welcome!

We invited the clubs to introduce themselves and appreciate the following contributions.



Kingston Lapidary and Mineral Club

Our club has recently moved from the John Tett Centre to the main floor of the St John Ambulance Building. This is our new temporary home while the Tett building undergoes re-construction. Our new site is excellent, with great natural light, more space and flexibility. In short, we love it!!

Our club has had many homes over the years, but the longest one was at the Tett Centre. This year we had our 40<sup>th</sup> annual gem show at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. We have a membership of over 100 families. We are a very family oriented club with a wide variety of activities which we offer. Our shop is busy most evenings with the exception of Sunday. We offer silver smithing and wax casting courses, lapidary skills, a junior club where those 8-12 years old learn about rocks, minerals, crystals, collecting etc., field trips over 5-6 months of the year, monthly interest meetings and last but not least the opportunity to connect with those interested in the hobby.



Our membership fees and course fees are very modest as we are a non-profit organization. For more information about our club and a calendar of activities see our website at [www.mineralclub.ca](http://www.mineralclub.ca). Our newsletter is also online. If you are interested in our club, please do come out.

Eileen Moss - Lapidary Club

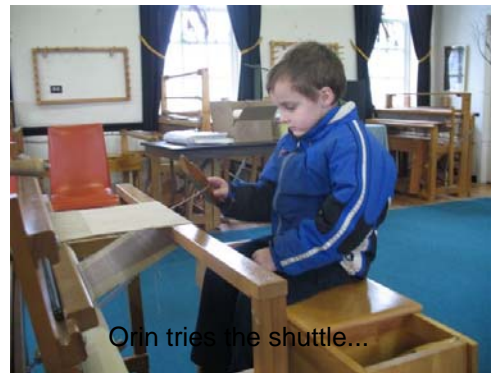


We have only taken up residence in the Town Hall within the last three weeks. In that time we have settled ourselves- sort of--, had a workshop, general meeting and set up for our annual sale which is currently underway ( very successfully, I might add). We are delighted to be part of your neighbourhood and we hope that we can be a positive addition to the life of the area.

We have been an active organization of weavers, spinners, dyers, felters and basket makers here in Kingston for 61 years-- 62 as of April. As a result we have a broad demographic including children, families and seniors. We are incorporated provincially as a non-profit organization. Our mandate is to promote the art and craft of weaving, spinning, etc. Each year we present a series of workshops to our membership and all of these are open to the general public. There is no need to be a member of the organization.

All our workshops for the coming year are listed on our website ([www.khws.ca](http://www.khws.ca)) as well as our contact information. BTW, our mailing address is a post office box at Peters Drugs! Clearly, we would be delighted if Villagers would be interested in taking part in our activities. Each Thursday from 10:00am to 2:00pm we have an "Open Studio" event. Members come for conversation, mentoring, to use the library or just friendship. The door is open to all who would like to drop by to see what we do or to join us for a chat. So, please, feel free to drop by.

We love being in the centre of a park. At the end of September for the " International Spin in Public Day" a small group of us set up our spinning wheels in the Village Green and had a wonderful time spinning, talking to interested folks and doing what we love to do. In the past we have had "Spin-ins" in City Park but now we will do that close to home and throughout the Spring and Summer.



Orin tries the shuttle...

We have been talking of growing some dye plants around the front door of the Town hall and then, after harvest, of having a "dye-day" in the park and inviting all our neighbours to join in the fun of seeing what natural dyes can do. That will take a bit of organization but it could be a great late summer event for all of us. Oh, there are so many ideas and good things to do together.

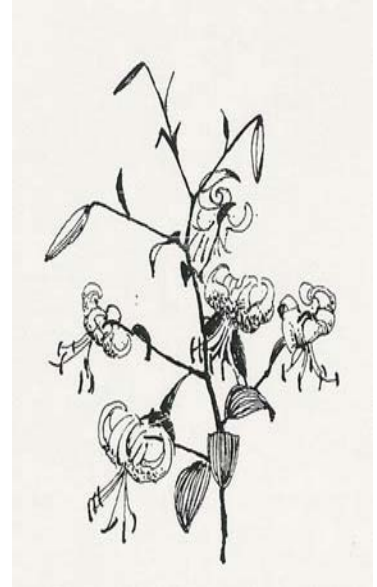
Dorothy Young - Weavers & Spinners

## GARDENS REPORT - Donna Gallagher

We find ourselves at the end of another gardening season. During this year we have added a new garden to the seven gardens already beautifying the Village and District. It is located behind 1032 King on the city park property at the old grain elevator wharf.

Several gardens were entered into the Canada Blooms competition this year. Although we did not win in any of the categories, we did receive some honourable mentions and certainly enjoyed the beauty of our efforts.

The volunteers are few in number and have worked very hard to create lovely gardens for all of us to enjoy. Some of the volunteers who look after two or more gardens are unable to continue looking after more than one. We need more help if we are to continue to maintain all of the gardens. Please consider volunteering a few hours a week next season. Your assistance would be very much appreciated. To volunteer, contact Donna Gallagher at 613-546-1524 or at [vanwerin@queensu.ca](mailto:vanwerin@queensu.ca)



On behalf of all of us who have enjoyed the gardens this year, I would like to thank the following volunteers:

Liz Schell and Bob Brooks —Triangle Garden (Union at Church)

Jean and Lance DeMontbrun —Aberdeen Park: Triangle Corner Garden (King and Yonge) and Evergreen Garden (Kennedy and Gardiner)

Betty Seymour —Sign Garden (Aberdeen Park)

Suzanne Hamilton —Pump House and Town Hall (Aberdeen Park) and Anne Milina Outlook, Hatters Bay (Portsmouth Olympic Harbour)

Pauline Barr —Park behind 1032 King

Mike Sayer —Bird Feeder Garden (along walking path at foot of Mowat)



...and special thanks to Mike for his initiative in replacing the weather worn signs at either end of the Village (one of which had been vandalized and taken).

**Updates:****Elevator Bay Development:**

The "new" developer of the Elevator Bay Pier property (Elevator Bay Developments Ltd.) wants to further increase density (build higher buildings), reduce the parking available, etc.

A Planning Committee Meeting is already scheduled to hear the new application which is asking for more height and density than was granted under the original approval.

Note: The **Planning Committee public meeting** is scheduled for 6:30 PM at City Hall in the Council Chambers on **December 3, 2009**. (same date as PVCA meeting...please attend the one closest to your concerns.

The City file # is D14-164-2009 and it can be reviewed by calling Jason Budd at (613) 546-4291x:3178.

**Lake Ontario Park Concept Plan Approved:**

Following a lengthy consultative process, Council recently approved the master plan for the revitalization of Lake Ontario Park. The design is a modified version of the Enviro-Park option previously presented by consultants.

Staff has been directed to proceed with a detailed design and budget. Work is expected to begin in 2010. Information about the components and a map of the plan can be found on the city web site. ([www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation.parks/lop/index.asp](http://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/recreation.parks/lop/index.asp))

**Domino Theatre :**

Domino Theatre has applied to the Federal Government under the Infrastructure Program for money to rehabilitate the Rodden Park Barn and help pay for a theatre inside. We have not had a reply as yet. The renovation to the Barn has increased in price to such an extent that without outside funding we cannot see our way to paying for the rebuild of the Barn.

Domino continues its discussions with the City around other locations.

**Councillor's Comments**

I am please to be the bearer of good news regarding the municipal taxes for next year. The tax increase, as it is projected right now, stands to be the lowest in over a decade. Through hard work, extreme diligence and driven by the passion to find efficiencies, City of Kingston staff, through the guidance of City Council, have proposed a tax increase of 3.25% for 2010.

We understand that now, more than ever, the people of Kingston are relying on their governments to help them weather the uncertainties of the economy which exist today. That is why we are continuing to invest in our parks, facilities and infrastructure. These projects, which are paid through reserve funds and future investment dollars, as well as stimulus money from the federal and provincial governments, allow us to help support the local economy while enhancing our lifestyles and the infrastructure of our municipality. Many projects are currently underway such as the revitalization of Lake Ontario Park and the Memorial Centre grounds as well as the extensive road and infrastructure work which we see happening throughout the city.

Despite these tough times I think it is important to remember that we Kingstonians live in a great city where we are blessed to be part of a thriving province and nation which we can proudly call home. Regardless of the ups and downs which we experience from time-to-time our quality of life continues to surpass that of most other parts of the globe. It is our determination and perseverance to continue to live in such a manner that will inevitably see our way out of this recession!

I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and best of luck to you in the New Year!

Mark Gerretsen, City Councillor - Portsmouth District #5



## **Relocation of Coast Guard Station at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour - Jim Cannon**

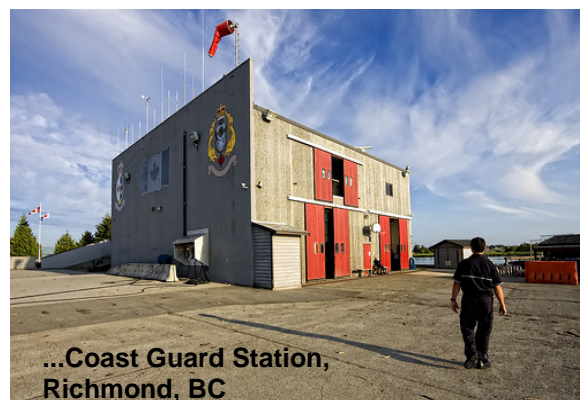
In March of 2009 Council reviewed a consultant's study to revamp Kingstons' Municipal Marinas. The study recommendations were accepted with one exception which proposed moving the Coast Guard Station from its present location to the point on the east side of the harbour which is the site of Anne Milina Outlook Park. This recommendation was referred back to staff for "review and reconsideration in light of community concerns raised within correspondence and through a delegation to the Committee on behalf of the Portsmouth Villagers Association".

City staff recently advised PVCA that Coast Guard planners are anxious to move ahead with the relocation. In discussing the matter with staff, it became clear that the initiative is being driven by CG. However that site planning details have not been provided.

The question of what role city staff will or can play in this "review and reconsideration" is unclear. The Association has indicated to staff that our priority is to maintain continued public access to waterfront at Anne Milina Outlook Park. This objective is totally consistent with goals specifically stated in the Marinas Study (page 7) and also reflects long standing City policy on maintaining public waterfront access.

PCVA recognizes the advantages to the Coast Guard of having their operations on the east side of the harbour near the entrance. However we also believe that a new secure Coast Guard Station can be accommodated in the space available on the east side of the harbour without limiting or eliminating public access to Anne Milina Outlook Park.

If both Coast Guard and Community objectives are to be realized simultaneously, Coast Guard planners will need to adopt a more novel approach to site design than that represented in the standard configuration of many established Coast Guard Stations. We hope they are up to the challenge. The PVCA will continue to ask for a planning process that is both open and aimed at retaining public access to designated waterfront parks.



## Where is Portsmouth ?? - Jim Cannon

In October 2005, a general meeting of “Portsmouth” residents established a steering committee to produce recommendations relating to the governance and future direction for a community association. Although there had been a long history of citizen involvement in the Portsmouth community, no document detailing the role and governance procedures of the “Portsmouth Villagers” existed.

The steering committee produced a set of By-Laws which were presented to a meeting of residents on February 7, 2006. Following discussion, the By-Laws were approved as amended.

Historically, both the participation of residents and the issues addressed were associated with the historic “village” of Portsmouth. The name Villagers became associated with the organization. Because there was a reluctance to give up this label, it was retained in naming the organization (By –Law Article One).

However Articles Two and Three state that the organizations’ objectives and membership eligibility are defined in term of Portsmouth District, the current electoral area. This conundrum has presented an ongoing dilemma in presenting the organization to the community.

During the past four years an effort has been made to make residents throughout Portsmouth District aware of the fact that the Portsmouth Villagers organization embraces all of Portsmouth District. Residents in areas like Calvin Park, Polson Park, Trailhead Place and other areas away from the “old village” are very interested in the idea of a community association but many are equally clear that they can’t see the point of belonging to a “Villagers” Association since, in their words, “we don’t live in the Village”.

If one reviews the range of issues that the Association has addressed, it is clear that many lie beyond the traditional boundaries of Portsmouth Village. For example, Lake Ontario Park has been at the top of the agenda since 2006. However it is outside the boundaries of the old Village.

The same can be said for Rodden Park where the Association has been involved with issues dealing with Abbeyfield Houses and the Domino Theatre. Similar comments apply to issues like the Portsmouth Halfway House relocation, the Elevator Bay Development proposals, the St.Lawrence College liquor licence application and the list could go on.

In summary, there is confusion between the way the Association labels/advertises itself and what it does. This confusion has implications for recruiting members as well as determining issues that the organization ought to address. It needs to be clarified.

Please bring your thoughts and ideas for resolving this matter forward at the general meeting or by contacting a member of the executive.



*Contacts, notes & URLs*

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting of the PVCA, the following executive offices were filled:

President: Jim Cannon	Vice President: unfilled
Secretary: Suzanne Hamilton	Treasurer: Bob Brooks
Political-Liaison: Liz Schell	Gardens: Donna Gallagher
Communications: David Grier	Heritage: Steve Watts
Special Events: Nancy Mucklow	

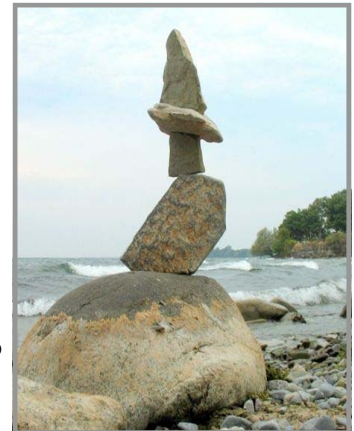
...please think about getting involved in our community through the PVCA. Consider standing for one of the executive offices or committee chairs at our spring Annual General Meeting

Our email address is: [pvca@sympatico.ca](mailto:pvca@sympatico.ca)

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)    [www.kingstonelectors.ca](http://www.kingstonelectors.ca)  
[www.k7waterfront.org](http://www.k7waterfront.org)    <http://www.penitentiarymuseum.ca>  
<http://dominotheatre.com>    [www.mckendry.net](http://www.mckendry.net)



**PORTSMOUTH PUZZLER**

These beautifully balanced statues appear from time to time along the shore of the psychiatric hospital. We've never encountered the artist and no one we've asked seems to know who this well-balanced person is...

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: 2010**

P.V.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, \_\_\_\_\_