

**Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour
President's Report for AGM, November 19, 2012**

1) Non-Profit, Corporate and Charitable Status

We have been working steadily with young law students at the Queen's Business Law Clinic. On their advice we paid the Ontario government to check that the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour was indeed still valid and registered as both a non-profit and a corporation. They have confirmed that we do have both non-profit and corporate status and they have sent us both a "Profile Report" and a "Certificate of Status" verifying our status.

We have submitted a request to the Charities Directorate in Ottawa, a branch of the Canada Revenue Agency, requesting charitable status. Ms. Jean Haley of the Charities Directorate suggested that the "objects" or "purposes" of our corporation needed to be revised to be more in line with what we are hoping to accomplish re both our trail initiative and heritage aspects of Kingston's Inner Harbour. She suggested appropriate rewording. We have submitted the changes she requested to the Ontario Government for approval. When we receive said approval we will contact the Charities Directorate once again requesting charitable status for our organization. When we have received standing as a charitable organization, we will be in a position to apply for grants for events, office expenses, work on the trail, heritage aspects of the Inner Harbour, and to help members of the Inner Harbour community address community issues.

2) Park Clean-ups

This past spring and fall The Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour was involved in three clean-ups:

a) **On April 27**, the first clean-up was organized by Hearthmakers and we were partners with them to clean up Douglas R. Fluhrer Park along with several other community organizations including the McBurney Park Neighbourhood Association, Transition Kingston, the NDP Community Action Group, Street Health, the Kingston Coalition Against Poverty and the Society for Conservation Biology. Although it was somewhat chilly, about 50 people showed up to help clean up the shoreline. Food and supplies were generously donated by the Main Street Market, Quattrocchi's, Card's Bakery, the Bread and Butter Bakery and the Wolfe Island Bakery, Transition Kingston and Living Rooms. The Boiler Room Climbing Gym graciously provided a Bar BQ for participants following the clean-up. Kyra and Tully also kindly entertained us all with their music during the Bar BQ.

b) **On May 12** a second clean-up was organized to work on the section of the old K&P line going from River Street to Belle Park. Gavin Hutchison from Transition Kingston provided his truck and ten dedicated volunteers took out 31 tires as well as a couple of old sofas and mattresses and 15-20 bags filled with collected garbage. The City later disposed of the collected junk.

c) **On Sept. 20**, a third clean-up was organized by David Austin who works at OHIP and who signed on as a site coordinator for the Loblaws' event, the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up. This was a lunch time clean up of Douglas R. Fluhrer Park. Ten participants took part including workers from OHIP, members of the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour and a couple of young high school students from Girls Inc.

3) Tours and Talks

Six major tours and two talks:

a) Jane's Walk, May 6. As part of a world-wide phenomenon, celebrating the life and ideals of Jane Jacobs, community activist, we conducted a "Jane's Walk" in Kingston's Inner Harbour. Approximately 30 participants came to hear talk of the heritage and working class communities that lived in Kingston's Inner Harbour in years past.

b) Rotary Walk, May 27. A group of approximately 20 Rotarians came for an Inner Harbour Heritage Tour.

c) Hearthmaker's Water Stewardship Cycle Tour, June 9. As part of Hearthmaker's initiative to educate the public about water stewardship issues, we provided information regarding environmental issues at two stops: Douglas Fluhrer Park + the Inner Harbour and the Orchard St. Marsh + the Davis Tannery property. Also participating in this joint effort were 99 York St, the Main Street Market, the Society for Conservation Biology, Utilities Kingston, Matt Ellerbeck (local conservationist), the St Lawrence College Footprint and the new local cycle tour business "Kingston by Bike". There were approximately 20 participants.

d) Frontenac Heritage Foundation Tour, July 14. For this tour, we collected a number of archival photographs to be able to compare what the Inner Harbour looked like in the past with what we see now. Sites examined included the Bajus Brewery, the Davis Dry Dock, Soward's Coal, the Canadian Dredge and Dock Co., the Molly Brant plaque, the metal wreck in the water near the Woolen Mill, the Woolen Mill, the National Grocer Building and the Bailey Broom Co. Thanks are especially due to Bill Anglin, Dennis Black, Bob Cardwell, John Duerkop and Helen Finley for both information and archival photos from their collections. Approximately 30 people were in attendance.

e) Inner Harbour Heritage Tours, Sept 15 and 16. As part of the Inner Harbour Waterfront Celebration event, we conducted an afternoon tour on the Saturday and Sunday comparing archival photos with what exists today as in the Frontenac Heritage Foundation tour. Approximately 20 people were in attendance.

f) Inner Harbour Heritage Trail talk, Oct. 21 was given as part of the Quill lecture series.

g) Inner Harbour Heritage Trail talk, Dec 2 will be given in Toronto to members of the Daughters of the American Revolution as they have expressed an interest in donating \$500.

4) Events

This was a busy season for events.

a) Family Wednesdays, July 4, 11, 18, 25. These successful afternoons began with an hour of drama and/or stories. On two of the Wednesdays, the Queen's Barefoot Players entertained. After the drama were nutritious snacks, feeding the ducks and games followed by Matt Ellerbeck educating and entertaining the crowd with his live amphibians and reptiles and introducing us to his new organization "Save the Salamanders". Approximately 20 participants of all ages attended each of the sessions. Thanks are due to Mike Cole-Hamilton for his poster design and to the Sleepless Goat and Quattrocchi's for donating free sticky buns and fruit.

b) Drumming Sundays, July and August. These casual and fun family events were organized by Alicia Peltsch Williams and Julian Gregory for people of all ages who felt like coming to the park and enjoying an afternoon or drumming, picnicking and feeding the ducks. By the end of the summer, approximately 8-10 people were attending and enjoying it so much they decided to

continue meeting over the winter on Sunday evenings from 8-10 pm at Ben's Pub on Clergy St. (until the weather is nice enough to return to Douglas R. Fluhrer Park).

c) Dog Days of Summer, July 15. This was a dog agility demo event that we did in partnership with Urban Paws, the new downtown pet store and with "The Agility Connection" and "Agility on the River", two organizations that specialize in dog agility events. There was also a doggie fashion show with the mayor and his fiancée as celebrity judges. It was a fund raiser for the Kingston Humane Society and we were pleased to have received donations for just under \$200. Every penny counts! Thanks are due to On Larocks for doing a Bar BQ and to SNAP for including us in their monthly event snapshots.

d) The Second Annual Bocce Ball Tournament, August 23. In partnership with the Kingston Community Health Centres we held the second annual Bocce Ball tournament. Great fun for the approximately 20 people in attendance. Thanks are due to Christine Bell of the North Kingston Community Health Centres for organizing this annual event once again.

e) The Inner Harbour Waterfront Celebration, Sept 14 – 16. By far the most ambitious event of the season was our Inner Harbour Waterfront Celebration. Approximately 200 people came to the festival and forty people signed on as new members of the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour to be on our mailing lists. A number of the participants commented on the value of the event for networking purposes and said that we really had started something now that should have been started 50 years ago and that should now be continued as a yearly event.

The timetable for events was full:

Inner Harbour Waterfront Festival @ Metalcraft Marine and Kingston Marina

Fri. Sept 14: 1 pm - 4 pm

Frontenac Arch Biosphere Paddling Trail sign unveiling followed by
Official celebration of Metalcraft Marine's 25th anniversary + Open House
Evening Fireworks

Sat. Sept 15:

9:00 am: Teens commence wooden skiff building (assisted by Marine Museum Volunteers and Rotary)
Dragon Boat Invitational at Kingston Rowing Club
10:00 - 10:30: Inner Harbour Heritage Tour with Mary Farrar (1/2 hour)
10:00 - 5 pm: Parks Canada's Voyageur Canoe Replica tours with Don Mackay
Trailhead's fleet of canoes and kayaks for visitors to try out.
Community Mural: Community participation invited!
Graffiti Mural demo: Celebrating 300 years of boat building in the Inner Harbour
Antique boats (The Phoebe, three restored St. Lawrence Skiffs,
Hundred year old pleasure boat from Clayton Antique Boat Museum),
Modern replica of bateau and canoe with sail, TVCOGECO heritage video, Horse and Wagon Ride
Displays (Railway, Frontenac Heritage Foundation, Live Reptiles and Amphibians, Brigantine, Marine Museum,
Friends of the Rideau, Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour, Water Keepers, the Sail Maker)
Open House at National Grocer Building (Artist's Colony + wood working, pottery and graphic design)
Kid's Activities: Making paper pirate hats and boats, Books, Games, Chalk Drawing,
Bar BQ
1:00 - 1:30: Inner Harbour Heritage Tour with Mary Farrar (1/2 hour)
1:00 - 4:00pm: Craig Jones and Jenica Rayne with music and open stage
2:00 pm: Woolen Mill tour with Hank Doornekamp (1 hour)
4:00 pm MetalCraft Marine: Inner Harbour small boat race

Sun. Sept 16:

9:00 am: Teens and wooden skiff building (assisted by Marine Museum Volunteers and Rotary)
10:00 - 4:00 Parks Canada's Voyageur Canoe Replica tours with Don Mackay
Community Mural: Community Participation invited!
Graffiti Mural demo: Celebrating 300 years of boat building in the Inner Harbour
Antique boats, TVCOGECO heritage video, Horse and Carriage Ride
Displays (Railway, Frontenac Heritage Foundation, Live Reptiles and Amphibians, Brigantine, Marine Museum,
Friends of the Rideau, Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour, Water Keepers)

Kids Activities (Stories, Games, Crafts etc.)
Bar BQ
1:00 – 1:30 Inner Harbour Heritage Tour with Mary Farrar (1/2 hour)
2:00 pm Woolen Mill tour with Hank Doornekamp (1 hour)
3:00 pm In the water with the teens fully built skiffs!

We are truly grateful to Tom Wroe and Wendy Erickson-Gray of MetalCraft Marine for paying the park rental fee, for providing tents and the electrical line for the music as well as the horse and wagon and for providing primed 4x8 sheets of plywood to be used for both the Community Mural and the Street Art Mural that celebrated 300 years of boat building in Kingston's Inner Harbour. We are also grateful to the three Kingston Rotary Clubs for contributing volunteers as well as \$700 each towards the boat kits that the kids from the Boys and Girls Club put together on Saturday and Sunday. The volunteers from the Marine Museum were also hugely appreciated as were both Sarah Helmstaedt and Barry and Sue Lloyd for helping out with kids activities and the heritage tours. Thanks are also due to Su Sheedy for "manning" the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour table and for producing stickers that people could take in exchange for a donation and to all of the volunteers from each of the organizations including George Dillon, David More, Brian Osborne, Floyd Patterson and Andy Soper that put up display and stayed around for Saturday and Sunday to be available to answer questions etc. , as well as the Rowing Club for holding their Dragon Boat Invitational, Trailhead for bringing down their fleet of kayaks for people to try out, Parks Canada for bringing their Voyageur Canoe Replica, Matt Ellerbeck for bringing his live amphibians and reptiles, Hank Doornekamp for conducting tours of the Woolen Mill and the artists and craftspeople at the National Grocer Building for holding Open Houses. Thanks are also due to Mac Freeman for bringing his three restored St. Lawrence Skiffs, Joe and Hilary Calnan for bringing their bateau and canoe and sail replicas and the Clayton Antique Boat Museum for bringing "Happy Times"! Thanks too to Craig Jones and Jenica Rayne for providing their wonderful music free of charge. And last, but not least, we were happy to have the participation of Aaron Forsyth who put together a fun street art mural depicting 300 years of boat building in Kingston's Inner Harbour, his street-artist friend Zach, and Michael Pearson who was responsible for the Community Mural. They were graciously sponsored by James and Joan Brown. Thanks are also due to Brian Papizzo for designing the poster, for helping out with signs at the event and for taking photos that should be useable in future grant applications. Thanks so much everyone.

f) Culture Days, Sept 29. As the community mural was not quite completed by the end of the weekend, it was decided to continue work on it as part of the Canada-wide festival called Culture Days. On Saturday, Sept 20, Michael Pearson put up his mural on MetalCraft Marine's fence on Wellington St. and passers-by were invited to pick up a paint brush and add something. The weather was lovely and it was a wonderful day. More work still needs to be done on the third panel. Perhaps in the spring. We are looking forward to seeing both murals on display along MetalCraft Marine's fence.

5) Funds and Fund Raising To date, we have not done any official fund raising for the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour although Su Sheedy managed to get contributions of \$151.25 at the Inner Harbour Waterfront Festival for which we are most grateful. Also, the Daughters of the American Revolution have said that they will donate \$500 with no strings attached at a presentation in Toronto on December 2. This will be greatly appreciated as the expenses for all of the events, for office supplies and for applying to the provincial and federal governments for various pieces of paper have been building. When we have obtained official charitable status,

we will be in a position to apply for grants. We would also be interested in volunteers who might be interested in fund raising.

6) Designated Heritage Sites and Potential Heritage Sites

a) Queen City Oil Company/ 9 North St. is currently a designated heritage site. We would like to try to find private sector supporters who might be interested in repairing the Queen City Oil Company and reviving it as a contemporary warehouse. We would like to see it become a cycle rental facility of sorts. This past winter the roof fell in and the City was notified. In 2004 the City estimated that the cost of repair would be \$1.5 million. Any members who might be interested in volunteering to help here would be appreciated.

b) Davis Dry Dock. With help from John Duerkop, John Grenville, Brian Osborne and the Frontenac Heritage Foundation we have been developing a file on the Davis Dry Dock, past and present, with the possible aim of having it become a designated heritage site. Evidently it is the oldest dry dock in the city. It has been a working dry dock from its inception and continues to be a working dry dock today. It would fit in nicely as a heritage designation as it was used extensively during the second half of the 19th century when the Rideau Waterway was a major transport route.

7) Casino Issue This past summer and fall, the City has been entertaining the possibility of getting a casino and the preferred location for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation is the downtown. I was approached by the Downtown Business Improvement Association, as president of the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour, to support their opposition to a casino in Kingston along with representatives from the Sydenham District Association and the McBurney Park Neighbourhood Association. Personally I am against the idea of a casino in Kingston, particularly in the downtown. However, I did not feel that I could speak on behalf of the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour as I had not completed any sort of official survey. Both the Sydenham District Association and the McBurney Park Neighbourhood Association had conducted surveys. In any case, I did accompany Doug Ritchie from the Downtown BIA and stood as a member of his delegation to City Council arguing against the casino. I also sent out a newsletter to people on the mailing list outlining why I thought the casino was not in the best interests of the downtown and suggested that if people felt strongly they could write a letter to the mayor and councilors. Thirty very articulate letters were written – that I am aware of. Thank you all very much.

8) Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network's Paddling Trails Trail Head. Over the spring and summer months, I was in contact with people from the Frontenac Arch Paddling Trails committee who expressed an interest in establishing a paddling trail head in Kingston that would connect with our Inner Harbour Heritage Trail so that paddlers would be able to land and safely lock up their canoes and kayaks and packs in order to explore Kingston and our trail. At first, they wanted to be located at the Kingston Rowing Club but the Rowing Club wasn't interested. I contacted Neal Unsworth, the Manager of Parks for the City of Kingston, and he suggested that the Kingston Marina would probably be the best location. After weighing the pros and cons of several possibilities, the Kingston Marina was chosen. On Sept 14, a sign was put in place to mark the future location of the trail head. It was unveiled by the mayor. Negotiations will take place between the Paddling Trails committee and the Kingston Marina this November and December to negotiate fees, construction of a rack where paddlers will be able to lock up their

canoes and kayaks, and construction of a storage facility where they will be able to lock up their packs and gear.

9) Local Community Concerns A member of the FKIH, Ada Mullet, contacted me, as president of the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour, with a concern that traffic lights need to be installed at the corner of Rideau and Bay Streets. It does seem like a dangerous intersection. Ada is creating a petition that members of the FKIH are invited to sign in support of the construction of traffic lights and it will be given to Councilor Rob Hutchison to present to Council.

10) Members to Date As of today, we have over 550 people on our mailing lists. According to the newly revised By-Laws, we have two kinds of members, voting members and non-voting members. We decided on this categorization as most people lead busy lives and want to be involved only to the extent of being on a mailing list. People who wish to become voting/board members are encouraged to contact Bob Harlow, Dominic O'Neill or me.

11) Potential projects with Pathways to Education We have been in contact with Chris Dreifields, Program Facilitator, Group Mentoring, of Pathways to Education about the possibility of some of his students building Frisbee Golf targets (\$100 each for materials) for use in Douglas R. Fluhrer Park. Mike Moll, a shop teacher at Sydenham High School has said he would be willing to help. Funds are needed. According to Chris, students would also be really interested in participating in any street art project on the retaining wall.

14) Shoreline Shuffle As a result of the success of our Inner Harbour Waterfront Celebration, we were approached by David McDonald of the Water Access Group to partner with them on a June 23^{rd, 2013} event that will try to draw attention to the need for an integrated waterfront by having several consecutive “hubs” of activity along the waterfront. David organized last spring’s waterfront event in Breakwater Park that was protesting the lack of swimming facilities along the waterfront. Plans are in the early stages but roughly The “Shoreline Shuffle” will start in Doug Fluhrer Park, the first activity hub. Potential activities include Cycle Kingston doing Family Cycle lessons and Trailhead doing kayak lessons so that participants can cycle or kayak along the waterfront to the day’s events as well as walk. We would also like to have an Open Artists Invitational where individual Kingston artists (street artists as well as traditional artists) would be invited on a first come first served basis to paint the 21 segments of retaining wall. We would also like to choreograph a dance called the Shoreline Shuffle. Ebon of the Kingston School of Dance is keen to involve his boys’ class to do something a bit grungy in keeping with the street art to be done on the retaining wall. It all promises to be entertaining and fun. Other hubs along the waterfront later in the day will be Confederation Basin, Breakwater Park and Lake Ontario Park.

13) Art in Public Spaces Before any art activities can occur on the retaining wall behind Rideaucrest, the City has to have an Art in Public Spaces policy in place. We have been approached by the newly created Art in Public Spaces committee to give input.

14) Publicity A huge vote of thanks is due to Jane Cole-Hamilton and Mike Cole-Hamilton and Brian Papizzo for their work on publicizing our season events and for designing posters. Thanks

too to Suzannah MacLeod for her excellent piece on the Inner Harbour in the Kingston Whig Standard the week prior to our Inner Harbour Waterfront Celebration, to John Fielding of the Kingston Historical Society for including updates in the Society's newsletter, to Floyd Patterson and Alec Ross at the Frontenac Heritage Foundation for including an excellent piece on our trail in their most recent newsletter and to J.C. Kenny of for including a feature on the proposed Wellington St. Extension on Ontario Morning the week before our big Inner Harbour event.

15) InnerHarbour Heritage Trail Update There has been some delay with starting the first segment of the trail. According to Neal Unsworth, Manager of Parks, a request for proposals will go out this November and most probably the ground will be broken in the early spring of 2013.

16) Wellington Street Extension This issue is remaining on the back burner for the time being.

17) Sustainable Kingston Membership Early in 2012, we were approached by Dan Hendry of Sustainable Kingston to become members along with approximately 70 other organizations. Sustainable Kingston was created by the City of Kingston to advance the City's vision of becoming Canada's most sustainable city and Dan Hendry was hired in a part-time position. Partners are striving to make a positive impact on our community by working together to achieve cultural, economic, environmental and social sustainability. To become a member, it is necessary to fill out a form outlining the actions that our organization would perform. More than one action may be outlined. For the time being, membership is free. However, the City wants to make Sustainable Kingston sustainable. This may mean a membership fee. As our organization has no money to speak of, we decided to wait for the time being until we have charitable status which will allow us to apply for grants and until we have some fund raising activities in place.

18) Visioning Exercise for Douglas R. Fluhrer Park This past year, Rob Hutchison put forward a motion to City Staff to conduct a visioning exercise for D.F. Fluhrer Park. The City is currently working on a visioning exercise for Breakwater Park so we have been attending these public sessions to have an idea of what's ahead. The "Therefore be it resolved" clauses state:

"Therefore be it resolved that Council authorize City staff to consult with the public to establish a high level vision for Douglas R. Fluhrer Park and report back to the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee on the potential cost and timing of park enhancement and improvement in support of the resulting public vision;

And further that it is recognized that any vision of a revitalized Douglas R. Fluhrer Park must protect for the future potential Wellington Street extension project."

City staff will conduct this visioning exercise in 2013.

Because the visioning exercise is almost upon us, we felt that it was important to try out a variety of activities in the park over the course of the year to see what works and what doesn't. We have developed a number of opinions and concerns about the future of the park which will be aired as during the public consultation process. We encourage all of you to be thinking of what you would like to see happen in the park to be prepared for this exercise.

19) Belle Park The City is concerned that they are losing money from the golf course at Belle Park. They hired a consultant to look into the possibility of building a solar farm there. It is my feeling that a Pitch and Putt course would be a more sensible compromise. There is one in Stanley Park in Vancouver that is a great tourist attraction and source of active living for locals in that attractive green space. I have written to City staff as well as the mayor and councilors to express my views on this issue.

20) Trail Brochure and Audio Guide Last winter we were approached by the RELIKs (Retired Entrepreneurs Living in Kingston) to do a presentation about our trail initiative. Don Curtis, a retired advertizing executive, stepped forward to say that he would be willing to create a trail brochure for us. He has done some wonderful work. A bit more checking of historical facts and adding a few more items is still needed and we have the name of a possible publisher. All we need now is a bit of money and a bit of help with the finishing touches and the addition of photos. When we have charitable status, we will apply for a grant to complete the project. We will also apply for money to create an audio guide. Thanks so very much Don.

21) Volunteers/Sub-Committees We really could use volunteers who might be willing to help out in a number of ways: fund-raising, event organization, grant application, webpage, publicity, social get-togethers, archival photo organization. We would very much appreciate help. If you are interested, please contact me at inverarymary@yahoo.com or 613-544-1246. Thanks.