

**Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour
President's Report for AGM, November 7, 2013**

1) Non-Profit, Corporate and Charitable Status

This year, we received our official Charitable Status, effective retroactively to Nov. 30, 2012. The "objects" of our corporation are now:

- a) To build, operate and maintain a public recreational trail in the Inner Harbour of Kingston,
- b) To restore, develop and preserve the designated historical sites in the Inner Harbour that the trail passes with a view to educate the public and commemorate sites,
- c) To educate the public on the history of the Inner Harbour by collecting and disseminating information in a trail booklet and through the establishment and operation of audio recordings on the historical sites, and
- d) To undertake activities ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above objects.

Jean Haley in the Charities Directorate in Ottawa rewrote what were the previous objects feeling that this specific wording was in keeping with Federal directives on what Charitable Organizations are currently allowed to do. Given how difficult it is to obtain Charitable Status these days, we were advised by our case worker at the Queen's Business Law Clinic that it would be best to simply go along with these suggestions.

Having Charitable Status means that we are now in a position to be able to apply for grants without having to partner with another official Charitable Organization. Thanks have been extended to the students from the Queen's Business Law Clinic who were enormously helpful in working through this process.

2) The Trail

Work on the trail has been slow to get started due to unexpected complications. The first segment to be done was the segment immediately north of the Rowing Club and immediately south of the Tannery property. The consultants had completed their design and the contractors hired to begin work in June 2013 when the City did a final check with the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority only to find out that the property wasn't owned by the City but owned instead by Transport Canada. This piece of land is actually a filled in water lot. Negotiations followed and a leasing arrangement was made between the City and Transport Canada for the trail. Following is the Executive Summary of the requests submitted to and passed by Council on July 16, 2013

"Two projects initiated by City departments require land agreements with Transport Canada. The first project is an environmental remediation initiative proposed by the Environment and Sustainable Initiatives Department for a reactive passive barrier wall at Emma Martin Park. In discussions with Transport Canada, it has been mutually agreed that the best approach to benefit both the City and the federal government, as land owners, is to install the groundwater remediation system on the federal lands closest to the shoreline. A lease agreement is being

proposed which gives the City full control and responsibility for the installation and on-going maintenance of the works.

With the second project, Recreation and Leisure Services is proposing to construct a segment of the Inner Harbour on federally owned lands north from Emma Martin Park to River Street. For this application, Transport Canada has proposed a license agreement which limits the City's use of the site for this specific purpose and which also allows Transport Canada to have other agreements for the property including the existing sanitary service pipes installed by Utilities Kingston that cross the Cataraqu River at this location."

To date the reactive passive barrier wall has been completed. In addition, I have seen the landscaping plan and have discussed the selection of trees and shrubs with members of the Green Spaces and Waterways sub-group of the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum (KEAF). Valuable suggestions were given, particularly by Simon Smith, who suggested a mix of Red Oak and Bur Oak given that Red Oak, the original choice of the consultants, might not do well in that specific environment. Also Serviceberry was selected as an interesting and appropriate shrub, a variety that would provide food for birds along the trail.

Building is supposed to take place this month (November, 2013) and volunteers are being requested to help with the landscaping either the last week in November or the first week in December provided conditions are appropriate. Many thanks to Don Campbell for taking on the responsibility of coordinating this. Interested volunteers are asked to contact him at doncampbell1941@gmail.com.

3) Designated Heritage Building – 9 North Street

In the fall of 2012, I was approached by Bred Brennan, the rowing coach of KCVI. He expressed interest in repurposing this old stone building behind Rideaucrest as a Limestone Boat House for his high school rowers. He had found out that the designated heritage components of the building were the windows and walls on the east and west sides. His idea was that the window and door at the north end could become one large opening for storing skiffs, and that the ground floor could be rebuilt as a non-insulated storage space and the upper level repurposed as 3200 feet of office space. We contacted the City's Real Estate department to see if we could get inside the building to figure out details but we were not allowed inside for liability reasons. I then contacted the Mayor and Brad and I had a meeting with the mayor, Councillor Rob Hutchison and the Real Estate staff. The mayor expressed an interest in having the Limestone Districts high school BCIP program involved. His idea was that students could work under the leadership of a contractor and learn building skills as they worked together to repurpose the building. Subsequently another meeting was arranged that included teachers from the program. Everyone agreed that the plan made sense. A motion was put to council for staff to look into the possibility and on August 18, 2013 Council passed a motion for a Request for Expressions of Interest on the part of local contractors that would be followed by an official Request for Proposals. In addition staff were directed to undertake the following processes with respect to the heritage significance of the property: 1) update the heritage designation by-law in order to comply with provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, and 2) draft an easement in

accordance with Section 7.2.1(c)) of the City's Official Plan. At this point in the process, the Request for Expressions of Interest has been issued. Any future developer/owner would be eligible for grants and tax relief under the City's Brownfields Program.

4) Inner Harbour Heritage Tour

Considerable background work has been done to create this interesting tour of Kingston's Aboriginal, French, British, and Industrial Heritage. It is designed to begin at the downtown Tourist Office, proceed to the Woolen Mill along the waterfront and loop back to the Tourist Office via Wellington Street. The tour will include 30 second blurbs on thirty sites of interest with a view to telling stories from the past rather than recounting facts. In the fall of 2012, an application was made to the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area. Because we did not have official Charitable Status at the time of application, we applied in partnership with the Frontenac Heritage Foundation (a designated Charity) for approximately \$6000 for the purposes of creating 1000 copies of a map-brochure and an accompanying audio-tour. Chris Wyman, the town crier, and Arthur Milnes, the Sir John A. Bicentennial Commissioner, had volunteered to help. Our application was not successful. The Community Foundation felt we should be creating a smart app – something most certainly beyond my level of expertise.

Since then a number of interesting developments have occurred. First, a most generous donor agreed to pay out of her own pocket for 1000 copies of a map-brochure and the audio-tour. Second, Laura Murray of the Queens Dep't of English and a strong advocate of the importance of oral histories, formed a sub group of the City's Heritage Committee to see what could be done to get this Inner Harbour Heritage Tour to actually happen. I had a meeting with this sub-group and agreed to hand over all of the research and planning I had done to date. They agreed to look into possibilities. Third Chrystal Wilson, who owns a computer company based in the Woolen Mill agreed to create a smart app for the tour pro bono. Her estimate of the cost was \$5000. Most recently, I had a meeting with Julie Fossitt of the City's Cultural Department and Chrystal Wilson to see what would be the best way to make an excellent smart app compatible with the City's GIS platform. We are currently awaiting news on this front before deciding how best to proceed.

5) Park Clean-ups

This past spring and fall the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour was involved in a number of clean-ups.

a) Sunday, April 28, 2013. Doug Fluhrer Park

b) Sunday, May 5, 2013. Old rail line from River St. to Belle Park

Thanks so very much to Joe Quattrocchi for fruit, the Main Street Market for coffee, and to Food Basics, Costco and Cards Bakery for wonderful goodies.

c) Friday, Sept. 27, 2013. Doug Fluhrer Park Once again a clean-up was held in the fall, organized by David Austin from OHIP as part of Loblaws' Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up. Many many thanks to those hardy and dedicated volunteers who came to help out to each of these events. Truly appreciated.

6) Community Events

This past season we held a number of interesting and varied community events.

a) June 7, 2013. Ride with the Mayor! As part of the City's Commuter Challenge, Mayor Mark Gerretsen joined about thirty hardy souls on a drizzly day to commute from Belle Park to Market Square for a free Roll-In Breakfast sponsored by Cycle Kingston.

b) June 23, 2013 Shoreline Shuffle. With Kingston's Water Access Group, we were part of a grand group of people and organizations interested in pushing the City to create an Integrated Waterfront Plan. For this event, 15 work sculptures were curated by artist Su Sheedy. Over 400 people were in attendance: walkers, canoers, kayakers, artists and photographers. A grant was received from Awesome Kingston for the creation of larger than life puppets that were part of the parade from Doug Fluhrer Park to the grand opening of Lake Ontario Park. Laurel Claus-Johnson began the event with a traditional Aboriginal celebration giving thanks for the water. We are truly indebted to David McDonald, Su Sheedy, Lea Westlake and Irina Skvortsova for helping organize this event, to Rob and Mollie Morrisette for guiding the kayakers and to the many volunteers who helped out as marshalls along the route. Now the Water Access Group is considering a winter event – a Mass Skate on the waters of the Great Cataraqui River. Should be fun. In addition, Su Sheedy is planning a follow-up interractional Arts event displaying photography from the day. It will be held in April, 2014 at the Pump House Museum.

c) Family Wednesdays in July in Doug Fluhrer Park:

July 3: Queens Barefoot Players version of Twelfth Night

July 10: Eco-Art Googly Eyes on Rocks to decorate Doug Fluhrer Park

July 17: Eco-Art: Again Googly Eyes because it was so much fun.

July 24: Queens Barefoot Players version of Twelfth Night

July 31: Stories in the Park presented by the Kingston Public Library +

Turtles and Snakes with materials from the Kingston Field Naturalists.

Thanks so very much to Joe Quattrocchi for providing fruit, and to the Bread and Butter Bakery for donating such wonderful pastries and to Anne Robertson of the Kingston Field Naturalists for providing such great snake skins and turtle shells for the kids.

d) Doggie Meet and Greets and Clay Paw Prints:

July 17 and July 31 in the evening from 5-7. Fund raiser for the Kingston Humane Society. Thanks so very much to Urban Paws for providing free doggie treats and the beautiful basket for the lucky draw. Again, really appreciated.

July 17: Thanks too to Jane Thelwell of Anglin Bay Pottery for coming out in the evening to make clay doggie paw prints and also to engage with the kids present so that they could make their own creations as well. Some really wonderful stuff that Jane took back to her kiln to fire and that participants picked up later!

e) Rideau Canal Voyageur Canoe Brigade:

August 6, 2013: A group of 70 energetic canoers from across Canada came to Kingston to paddle the Rideau. Huge thanks are due to Dugald Carmichael of the Cataraqui Canoe Club for organizing this event. Duties involved liaison between the City, the Kingston Marina and the canoers to organize appropriate venues (putting in at Doug Fluhrer Park, paddling to Confederation Basin for the official welcome, and then returning to their camp site at Rideau Acres), arranging a sound system in Confederation Basin, getting Councillors Rob Hutchison and Dorothy Hector to give brief statements of welcome and arranging with members of Kingston's Open Voices Community Choir to sing a voyageur song as a send-off from Confederation Basin. It was a great event. It also served as the official opening of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Paddling Trails group's Inner Harbour trail head. Thanks are also extended to Sandy Crothers at the Kingston Marina for welcoming the paddlers and to everyone who came out.

f) and g): Climb for the Cure and the Dragon Boat Festival

Sept. 21, 2013: Although the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour were not involved in the organization of either of these two events, we strongly applaud these initiatives that draw attention to and celebrate Kingston's Inner Harbour.

The Boiler Room held its 3rd Annual Climb for the Cure to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. Despite the rainy weather, the event raised just over \$23,025. Participants raised pledges to climb the inside of the 100 foot chimney and rappel down the outside. The event included a pancake breakfast, BBQ lunch, live music, bake and craft sales, face painting, massages and a silent auction. A great event!

The Limestone City Dragon Boat Club organized, once again, their memorable event that, this year, included 14 teams from around Eastern Ontario racing for the fastest team title and for the team who raised the most money for Breast Cancer Action Kingston. A special carnation ceremony, where carnations were thrown into the water, celebrated those who had been touched by breast cancer. The song "Remember Me" was played along with another song "Take It Away" written by a local Kingston chestmate. As team members came off the boats, they were encouraged with "paddles up" and cheers. Thanks due to Morgan Elliott for organizing this excellent event.

7) Tours and Talks

a) March 5, 2013 Kingston Field Naturalists River Ramble. Thanks so much to Anne Robertson of the Kingston Field Naturalists for suggesting this most interesting nature walk. We met in Doug Fluhrer Park and walked up past the Rowing Club and into the Tannery property to explore flora and fauna.

b) June 22, 2013 Inner Harbour History Walking Tour. In partnership with Laura Murray and Jamie Swift, activists who are interested in oral histories of the Swamp Ward, I led helped out with this fascinating glimpse into the past. Lives and stories of people who lived in the Swamp Ward and Inner Harbour neighbourhoods a hundred years ago.

c) Aug 25, 2013 **Be the Change**. At this meeting designed to celebrate local community organizations making a difference in our community, I spoke on behalf of both the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour and the Water Access Group to introduce the community to what these two organizations are about.

d) November 14, 2013. Upcoming **Inner Harbour Heritage Trail Walk** with members of the Queen's Women's Association hiking group.

8) Webpage, Mailing Lists and Community Association Links

This past year, our webpage was created by Claire Grady-Smith, Marketing and Communications Director for Wintergreen Studios Press. Many thanks to Claire for her initial concept. And thanks so much also to James Brown and Joan Lee for their generous donation to this cause.

We are also extremely grateful to Ben Kelly who has volunteered his time on several occasions to update the webpage by tweaking and by updating photos and monthly newsletters on the site.

Thanks are also due to Jolene Simko for her great help in putting together the spreadsheets for the financial reports and for helping to rationalize the numerous mailing lists. The mailing lists should all be successfully coordinated under one umbrella by the end of this month.

Finally, for the last few months I have been pressuring the City's IT department to include links to neighbourhood associations on their webpage. Following a meeting with the mayor, and as of October, 2013, the City has now included links to the Barriefield Village Association, the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour, the Kingscourt Community Association, the McBurney Park Neighbourhood Association, the Sydenham District Association and the Williamsville Community Association. The stumbling block had been the City's reluctance to include links to other sites, fearing some sort of possible liability issues.

9) Visioning Exercises

a) Douglas R. Fluhrer Park

The Visioning exercise began in April, 2013 with a meeting between City staff and the consultants from Thinc Design. Citizens interested in being a part of a small "stakeholders" group were encouraged to apply to the City and a diverse group of interested citizens were chosen. Following is a brief account of the most significant meetings from the perspective of our organization:

A stakeholder's meeting was held at the end of May followed by public meeting on Wed. June 12 at Memorial Hall. The agenda for both meetings included an excellent pictorial overview of the park followed by small break-out sessions where people could voice their opinions on what they liked and did not like about the park and what improvements they would like to see. Considerable opposition to the existence of the Wellington St. Extension was voiced.

A second stakeholders' meeting was held in the summer at which the consultants showed their "clouds" – pictorial representations of which elements of the park the public felt most important.

On Oct 30 a second public meeting was held at Memorial Hall where an "articulated wild" vision of the park was presented. Many people were happy with the concept in general which included a 2-4 metre multi-use trail intersected by subsidiary gravel paths, a large activity area, grassed over sections, and sections with wild grasses and wild flowers as well as a shoreline enhanced for wildlife and accommodations made for better access and for parking. Opposition was voiced by another local community group who had written a letter to the Whig Standard expressing their strong desire that nothing be changed at all. At the meeting, I suggested that, at the very least, there should be a Conceptual Plan A that included allowance for the existence of a future Wellington St. Extension and also a Conceptual Plan B that would not allow for such a possibility. Given that Councillor Hutchison's original motion to Council had stated that the plan for the park should allow for the "possibility" of the extension (not the inevitability or even the probability), it would seem due diligence to present two plans. Several others objected to the single conceptual plan that forces us to tacitly accept the future existence of the extension. Many many thanks to all who attended the meeting and expressed their views.

Now, Neal Unsworth of the Parks Department, will put together a report for Council. At the public meeting he stated that in his report he would tell Council of the overwhelming objection to the extension voiced at both public meetings. This report will be completed either before the end of 2013 or early in the New Year. For further information contact nunsworth@cityofkingston.ca or Kris Hebert at khebert@cityofkingston.ca

b) North Block

A bit of background:

In 2002, the City initiated a study to establish Urban Design Guidelines to direct future development of the North Block District.

In Nov. 27, 2003, at an Open House on urban design scenarios for the North Block Central Business District, citizens were asked to submit their comments on a number of proposed approaches. In April, 2004, Council passed a motion that the Urban Design Guidelines accepted in March 2004 be accepted and that the Planning Department amend the Official Plan accordingly.

In March, 2009, Consultant Planning Partnership presented the proposed concept for the North Block.

On Oct. 1, 2013 the City approved a motion to declare all of the block bounded by Ontario Street to the east, Queen Street to the south, King Street to the west and The Tragically Hip Way to the north (Block 4) surplus and sell the property.

On Tuesday, November 12, a draft of the design guidelines for developing Block 4 of the North Block will be presented at two Open Houses: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm, and again from 4 pm – 6 pm in Memorial Hall. The public is invited.

For further information look up North Block on the City's webpage or contact Carola Bomfim Lima, the City's Manager of Project Development, Sustainability and Growth.
cbomfimlima@cityofkingston.ca

c) Tannery Property

A short bit of background: Leather working had been practised in New France since the 17th c. In the mid 18th c, Andrew Davis operated a tannery in Kingston making goods for local farriers and cobblers. In the 1860s he mechanized his production installing steam power and machines. At the end of the 19th c the Davis family experimented with chrome tanning and in the early 20th c added running water and electricity. The site was chosen for its proximity to hemlock bark used in tanning as well as easy access to water and rail shipping. The factory produced leather for "uppers" for shoes and boots. The Davis tannery was one of the largest tanneries in Canada and one of Kingston's largest employers. Production ceased in 1974 and the building was demolished, leaving traces of heavy metal pollution, most especially chromium, that are a cause of environmental concern. (Thanks to John Duerkop, Don Curtis and the Environmental Sciences Group at RMC for this info.)

In 2004, a consortium of 11 companies, led by Kincore, presented the City with a plan to build 1,000 upscale condominiums. Three years later the City sold the property to the group for \$1 and also wrote off more than \$3.5 million in unpaid taxes by the owners. For a variety of reasons this development never happened and the City has regained ownership of the property.

In December 2012, Planning staff was directed by Council to examine scenarios for development of the site. The City has a vested interest in having this property developed in order to increase revenue from taxes to be paid by future residents.

In May, 2013, the City held a Visioning Workshop to garner ideas from citizens as to how to best develop this property.

According to Cynthia Beach, Commissioner of Sustainability and Growth, there are numerous benefits to the City and the community that would arise from rejuvenation of this Brownfield property. It contains enough land to singlehandedly meet the City's new home construction demand for one full year. It's believed that the southern portion can accommodate up to 790 homes – a mix of single-family houses and apartments as high as 10 stories. Allowance would be made for some open space as well as for our waterfront trail initiative.

According to the most recent timeline the City plans to issue a Request for Proposals by April 2014 and let Council choose the winning proponent by the summer of 2014. Any future developer/owner would be eligible for grants and tax relief under the City's Brownfields Program.

For further information contact: Carola BomFima , Manager of Project Development, Sustainability and Growth. cbomfima@cityofkingston.ca

10) Studies

a) Activity in Douglas Fluhrer Park In order to assist with the Visioning Exercise for Doug Fluhrer Park, Stephanie Scibberas of KFL&A Public Health in partnership with Kris Hebert of the City's Parks Department, conducted a study to determine current patterns of park usage. A training session for community volunteers was held on July 18, 2013 and data collection was done on Thursday July 18 for one hour, on Friday July 19 for 4 hours and on Sunday, July 21 for three hours in the morning, late afternoon and evening. A check list was given to observers to fill out that included information on: numbers, ages, sex, ethnicity and activities to gauge who park users were and how they spent their time. It was actually quite an interesting activity to be engaged in. Who would have thought that the most common behaviour among the boaters was getting rid of their garbage in the bins provided! Thanks so much to everyone who came out to volunteer.

b) Kingston Field Naturalists' Migratory Bird Study Thanks so much also to Kurt Hennige, Janice Grant, Mark and Erwin from the Kingston Field Naturalists for doing a Migratory Bird Study this fall in the Inner Harbour. It is most interesting to have a better idea of just what wildlife inhabit our park. It was unfortunate that the first day of their survey was so rainy. Hopefully the second day later this month will show a greater variety. We know that painted, map and snapping turtles are around and that some even cross the Wellington St. allowance to lay their eggs. Now we have a better sense of the birds.

A number of species have been tabulated so far. This information is available online at [http://ebird.org/ebiird/view/checklist?subID=\\$15342097](http://ebird.org/ebiird/view/checklist?subID=$15342097) or if you have trouble with accessing that site, you can contact me directly at inverarymary@yahoo.com

11) Grant Applications - two unsuccessful, one pending

So far in our history three grant applications have been submitted.

a) An application to the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area was submitted in the fall of 2012 before our official Charitable Status had been attained. See details above.

b) A second grant application was submitted to Service Canada in the spring of 2012 for a student to help with event organization for our summer events. Again, the application was not successful.

c) On November 1, 2013, a grant application entitled "Environmental Equity, Law and Health: Making the Links in Kingston" was submitted by the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) potentially including, as partners, the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour. Our partnership with them awaits official acceptance from the board at this AGM, Nov. 7, 2013. The purpose of the project is to help community members address issues of environmental inequity such as lack of access to green space, healthy food, clean air and having to deal with pollutants in everyday life. A steering committee will be formed with one member from the Friends of Kingston Inner harbour and members from other organizations in the community and then smaller focus groups of approximately 10 persons each will be formed to address

whatever concerns community members feel are paramount. The Canadian Environmental Law Association has an excellent track record of working with communities in this way over the past 15 years. Outcomes would be that community members become more aware of environmental issues and strengthened by learning political and legal strategies to succeed in attaining desired outcomes.

12) Waterfront Master Plan Involvement

The City is seeking participants to be members of a working group to assist in the development of an Integrated Waterfront Master Plan. The Waterfront Master Plan is proposed to be a guiding document that organizes and prioritizes a plan for the renewal of public waterfront spaces as well as the improvement of access and connectivity along the waterfront. The master planning process will commence in 2014 and take up to 24 months to complete. The role of the working group through the master planning process will be:

- To contribute toward the development of the Waterfront Master Plan
- To provide feedback on the process
- To ensure inclusive community consultation
- To be ambassadors for the project
- To assist in key decision making, and
- To inform the City of related community issues.

It is my intention to apply for a place on this working group that is designed to include two members of Council, six participants from the public at large and five technical representatives from relevant agencies including the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority, KFL&APublic Health, the Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Kingston Environmental Advisory Forum and the Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning.

13) Keeping informed about political issues affecting Kingston's Inner Harbour

a) Belle Park Fairways Solar Farm Issue In January, 2013 a public meeting was held at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour where local citizens, many from the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour, voiced their overwhelming disapproval of the City's plan to construct a solar farm on the municipal golfing facility that is known as Belle Park Fairways. Our Inner Harbour Heritage Trail is slated to go around the property on Belle Park that is currently the home of Belle Park Fairways.

The community organization, Friends of Belle Park, was formed to advocate for retaining the golf course. This group consists of a professional golfer, a lawyer, a professional golf course designer as well as avid golfers. They are very well informed as to why the conditions at the course have been allowed to deteriorate. They hold meetings weekly.

On April 23, 2013, Council voted against the Solar Farm option.

In September, Andrea Blackwell, high school teacher and past Olympian, joined the group to advocate for its use as a cheap and accessible training ground for the high school golfing community and for the community at large.

Currently, the City seems to want to abandon the golf course but the Friends of Belle Park are working hard to make sure that their accessible and cheap golf course can remain open to the public.

b) Wellington St. Extension Nothing official has happened on this file this past year.

c) Across the River Last May (2013), Citizens from Point St. Marks on the east side of the Great Cataraqui River rose up on protest at a public meeting in City hall to protest Homestead Development's proposed 95 unit condominium development at the old Rideau Marina site directly on the river. James Duquette, their spokesperson, was hoping that the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Committee, a group led by Parks Canada would consider the application in violation of what they think the Rideau Waterway should look like. However the Rideau Corridor Landscape Strategy Committee has no actual power and so cannot disallow the application. The major argument of constituents on the east side of the river is - Why should they have to conform to City by-laws when developers seem to be allowed to flaunt them? It remains to be seen what the City will do.

d) Citizens for Effective Representation This group sprang into existence when Council voted in favour of requesting voting district boundary changes that would have favoured the suburban districts. Ignoring the recommendation of City staff the proposed changes would a) not have included students as voters, and b) eliminated one of the districts in the urban core, thereby meaning a major reduction in representation on City Council for citizens living in the Inner Harbour. The Citizens for Effective Representation appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. A decision was made to retain the existing boundaries.

e) No Casino Kingston This group became organized after the Provincial Government decided to increase the number of gambling facilities across the Province and it was suggested that an ideal location for a casino might be in downtown Kingston. After considerable research, the Downtown Business Association determined that a downtown location would be very detrimental to downtown business. The No Casino Kingston group had several meetings last spring and created a webpage. Since then they have been inactive awaiting possible changes in legislation from the new provincial government and also awaiting a possible change of government in possible spring elections.

f) KCVI and QECVI and Downtown Elementary Schools Two local high schools and several elementary schools are threatened with closure due to declining enrollments. The basic problem is that the Provincial Government has structured its budget to accommodate spending on new buildings but not on refurbishing old ones. In addition, there are two large, expensive and time consuming processes for determining school locations, one for the public board and one for the separate board. At present, our Liberal MPP John Gerretsen has said that he will spend what is left of his term in office working with both boards as well as both the Provincial

and Municipal Governments to focus on this issue and to try to protect the schools in our downtown neighbourhoods.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved with the Friends of Kingston Inner Harbour. It has been a wonderful year.