

**Port Colborne Waterfront Seminar
November 24, 2001
Port Colborne, Ontario**

Summary

On November 24th, 2001, approximately 80 people including landowners, local businesses, representatives of community groups and various government agencies gathered at the Roselawn Centre Complex in Port Colborne to hear from the Waterfront Regeneration Trust about progress in waterfront communities around Lake Ontario and abroad, about tourism opportunities in Port Colborne as identified by the Niagara Economic Tourism Corporation, and to learn more about City Council's "Port Colborne Harbour Revitalization" initiative.

Over the past ten years, many communities have been re-investing in their waterfronts and creating special places with a focus on natural and cultural heritage. Successful projects have included those that:

- involved neighbouring communities working together beyond their boundaries
- evolved from comprehensive, ecosystem based plans involving public participation
- were based on creative partnerships
- promoted and incorporated heritage features in new designs
- strategically used public investment and private resources
- provided links to other communities through a trail system and other connections
- were a symbol or catalyst to future waterfront development.

The Port Colborne waterfront is transforming from a predominantly industrial area to a public one. Efforts to revitalize the Port Colborne waterfront have already been undertaken on the West side of the Welland Canal that have resulted in improved pedestrian walkways, facilities such as the Sugarloaf Marina and venues to host a variety of waterfront festivals. Additional opportunities have been identified on the east side of the Welland Canal by the Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation. These include future parkland and residential areas, a golf course, sports fishing, protection of Nickel Beach and improved pedestrian access.

The City of Port Colborne has recently announced its commitment to develop a community-based waterfront revitalization strategy. It will be working with the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and other professionals to prepare plans and an implementation strategy that considers the many opportunities for the City's waterfront and also ways of managing challenges including soil contamination, existing planning designations, current land ownership and inadequate infrastructure.

Next steps for the City of Port Colborne include presenting a report to Council outlining the process for a detailed community based planning initiative to revitalize the waterfront lands. It is anticipated that work on a strategic plan will commence early in the new year. Participants at the seminar were encouraged to get involved in the planning process and to provide their ideas for the future of the Port Colborne waterfront.

For further information on the Port Colborne Harbour Revitalization initiative contact Chuck Miller, Manager of Strategic Projects, City of Port Colborne, tel: (905) 835-2901 ext. 303; fax: (905) 835-2969; email: chuckmiller@portcolborne.com.

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