

Around the Pond

Volume 1

Fall 2005

Contest Winner

A lot of you – or your kids – did fabulous colouring and suggested great names for the giant frog that has been hanging out at our kiosk. It was a tough choice for the judges to pick just one winner of our “Name the Frog” contest. We even asked the big green guy which name he preferred, but he seemed to be tongue-tied. (We couldn’t get more than a “ribbit” out of him.) After much deliberation, the name chosen was Cornelius. Congratulations and thanks to 11 year-old Emma for suggesting this name. Emma says she loves frogs, so we know that Cornelius – the prize in our contest – will be happy in his new home.



Julie, Emma and the newly-named Cornelius. **Congratulations, Emma!**



Welcome to
Your
kind of
town

Welcome to Spring Creek! In this first issue of our newsletter, I’ve tried to give you some interesting and helpful information, from a bit of Waterdown history to some important dates and places you may want to visit. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about your new neighbourhood. As your Community Coordinator, I’ll be happy to help.



Julie

julie@myspringcreek.com

phone: 905-690-6596



Waterdown History: Smokey Hollow

(from THE WATERDOWN-EAST FLAMBOROUGH HERITAGE SOCIETY)

The village of Waterdown was developed upon land that was originally granted to Alexander McDonnell in 1796. In 1805 ownership was transferred to Alexander Brown who built a sawmill at the falls on Grindstone Creek. This creek provided power for the endeavours of the early pioneers and thus the Village of Waterdown was born. The enterprises of Brown, and later of Ebenezer Griffin accounted for substantial industrial growth in the Grindstone Creek Valley. This valley was powered by dams and raceways and was the site of saw, grist and flour mills, a woollen mill, brass foundry, tanneries, rake, cradle, and basket factories. Waterdown was incorporated as a Village in 1878 but a series of fires and a decrease in the water power of Grindstone Creek heralded the decline of the settlement's importance.

Today the Grindstone Creek swiftly flows into Smokey Hollow and over the Great Falls. Few clues remain to suggest that this stream was once so large and powerful that it supplied numerous mills with the power needed to operate heavy machinery. As late as 1890 Smokey Hollow was the site of two large mills, fourteen buildings, three houses and nine outbuildings.

The valley was filled with so much industrial activity that it indeed was a Smokey Hollow. In the late 1880's when

the water level in the Grindstone Creek began to decrease, the use of steam power in the mills became



popular since it required much less water. Unfortunately it was also far more hazardous and explosions of the steam boilers often resulted in disastrous fires. By 1912 the mills in this area had ceased production. A large scale transformation of Smokey Hollow was completed in 1994. An area once the heartland of Waterdown's industry is now a public park where people may enjoy both the beauty and history of the area.

Some **IMPORTANT DATES** to mark on your calendar:

On **Nov. 26, 2005 at 6:30pm** it's the **Flamborough Santa Claus Parade!** The parade travels through the downtown core of Waterdown. Kids of all ages will enjoy the "Light the Way" theme. Having all the floats light up at night really does make for an exciting show! For more info, call Mary Lamb 905-659-1592.

Saturday December 3, 10 & 17, 2005 Westfield Heritage Village hosts "**'Twas the Night Before Christmas**". Celebrate Christmas past from the Georgian to the Modern eras and feel the warmth of the season through plays, food samples, fireworks, horse-drawn wagon rides as well as a visit from Saint Nick. Runs from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. While the famous Moveable Feast and Christmas Table meals are already sold out for this year, you can still get a traditional turkey dinner at the Ironwood Restaurant. For more info, call **1-800-883-0104**.

January Ice Fishing Season begins, conditions permitting. Fish for monster northern pike and panfish. Ice hut rentals available. Chilly fun for everyone! Valens Conservation Area. **905-525-2183**.

- ▶ **Friday, January 27, 2006** Sarah's Journey and anecdotes on Richard Beasley and John Richardson, David Beasley
- ▶ **Friday, February 24, 2006** The History of Heritage Seeds, Anne Charlton
- ▶ **Friday, March 24, 2006** History of Costume and Fashion, fashion show
- ▶ **Friday, April 28, 2006** Annual General Meeting



Julie's Picks – things to do, places to go...

If you're in the mood to see some fast-paced entertainment, you might want to check out one of the nearby race tracks. At **Flamborough Downs** – on Hwy 5, between Hwys 6 and 8, (905-627-3567) – you'll find world class harness racing year round as well as a couple of bars and full dining facilities.

If you're like me, you like the occasional change from TV. So, why not pay a visit to **The Village Theatre** – in Memorial Hall at Dundas and Mill St.? (905-690-7889). This fall, they're putting on "The Arabian Nights." In this tale about Scheherazade – who, every day, has to keep her murderous husband at bay – love, lust, comedy and dreams blend with the magic of storytelling. And, beginning next year, see "Adult Entertainment" and "Problem Child," a pair of one-act plays in which transients, lovers, the haunted and the hunted create hilarious mayhem as their fates collide in a seedy suburban motel room. In the spring, The Village Theatre troupe plan to put on "Beauty and the Beast."

It's a bit of a drive (20 to 30 minutes), but if you've never sat in the cockpit of a real jet fighter, you may want to visit the **Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum** in Hamilton (1-877-347-3359). You can see aircraft used by the Canadian military from the beginning

of WWII up to the present. And, amongst other things, there are interactive flight combat simulators and video displays, as well as movies, photographs and memorabilia from Canadian History.

And don't forget the **Royal Botanical Gardens**, just a ten minute drive down Hwy 6 to Plains Road West. (905-527-1158). In November, there's the Auxiliary 2005 Christmas Sale where you can start shopping for the holidays or see demonstrations on food and design as well as a fashion show. (905-527-5577). And, in December, Second City is putting on their "Dysfunctional Holiday Revue." For a package deal, you can add dinner or a garden tour to the show (905-527-1158, ext. 521). Then, on Saturdays and Sundays starting December 10, Santa Claus will be at the Gardens from noon to 4 p.m. and he's bringing lots of holiday entertainment and fun stuff to do for **FREE**. You'll be able to hear Christmas stories, take part in a sing-a-long activity with Charlie from Little Fingers Music, step back in time to a Victorian Christmas with Tartan Terrors, create a holiday stocking, take part in the Twelve Days of Christmas treasure hunt and listen to local choirs perform holiday tunes. (905-527-1158, ext. 532).

Tons of fun!

If you want to get out and enjoy the fall weather, there are lots of places to do some hiking. Why not explore **Smokey Hollow**, just 5 minutes away? (For more information on "Smokey Hollow," please see our Waterdown History section.) If you want to see some really magnificent waterfalls, take a 15 minute drive to Harvest Rd., just south of Hwy 5. From there, turn onto Short Rd, and follow Short to Fallsview Rd. There, you'll find the beautiful, many-tiered Webster's Falls and the 41 metre(!) Tew's Falls, both of which offer spectacular views of the Spencer Gorge. Or, check out Christie Conservation Area. Amongst other things, it has trails that are open year-round. (905-628-3060).



Local Directory

Waterdown Public Library Open everyday (905) 689-6269
 except Friday and Sunday.
 25 Mill Street North
 Waterdown

Pools

Indoor pool: YMCA (905) 690-3555
 207 Parkside Drive.

Wading pool: Waterdown Memorial Park,
 (Parkside Drive & Hamilton Street) 200 Hamilton Street

Schools

Mary Hopkins Elementary Public School: Box 590, 211 Mill St. North, (905) 689-7905
 J.K. to gr. 5 Waterdown, Ont. L0R 2H0

Flamborough Centre Public School: 922 Centre Rd. (905) 689-6636
 Gr. 6 to 8 Flamborough, Ont. L8N 2Z7

Waterdown District High School 215 Parkside Drive, (905) 689-6692
 Waterdown, Ont. L0R 2H0

St. Thomas Catholic Elementary School 70 Barton St., (905) 523-2328
 J.K. to gr. 8 Waterdown, Ont. L0R 2H0

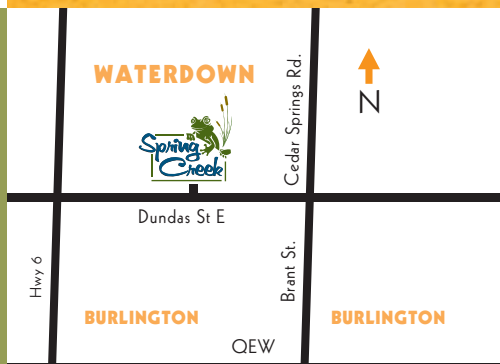
St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School 200 Whitney Avenue, (905) 528-0214
 Hamilton, Ont. L8S 2G7

Waterdown District Night School 215 Parkside Drive, (905) 689-6692
 Waterdown, Ont. L0R 2H0



905-844-6215

myspringcreek.com



Lake Ontario