

# THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area  
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## CHAMP DAY REMINDER!!!

**Champ Day is just a week and a day away!!! That's Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>!!!**

For those interested in antique wooden boats, there will be wooden boats arriving at the Port Henry Marina between 10:00 and 11:30 am on Champ Day.

**Moriah Stock** local bands will begin performing on the Pier at **1 PM**.

Under the **Champ Day** banner, there will be cardboard boat races of boats constructed (by and for the racers) on the beach, right before the races. Craft and food vendors will be setting up at 10 am in Power House Park, located near the DEC boat launch. Norm Wright, the Port Henry Campground manager, has offered to join in the fun by making all the entertainment and food resources of the Campground available to the general public. Fact Finder believes there might be a tournament of Horseshoes planned.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PORT HENRY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Port Henry's beach is a **public** beach, open to all who enjoy swimming, sunning, picnicking – everything sun, sand and water has to offer in pleasure. Life guards are on duty seven days a week from 10 am to 6 pm.

## DIFFERENCES OF OPINIONS

Where ever there is more than one person, differences of opinions will arise. Most of these differences are small and time solves them or, buries them, burying even what caused them. However, some differences develop into full-grown problems, particularly when the cause affects everyone's daily life and that the cause is difficult to be completely explained and understood by many on both sides. Frustration can grow, begetting anger and anger needs an object upon which to vent its self. What better object than the one whose opinion is opposite to your own opinion?

Port Henry, again, is forced into having to decide whether it will remain a self-governing Village with its own identity or dissolve into the Township of Moriah, becoming a quarter of Moriah Town Board's governance. Should we view this as a disastrous happening? On second thinking, no! particularly as the last dissolution vote carried, by a small margin, to maintain Port Henry as a village. This left many residents unhappy with the result. This is going to allow both sides of the issue a chance to do further research and discover many more facts to present to the voting residents. If each side really wishes to offer the better solution for everyone, villager and townsfolk alike, it must put away emotional responses to discovered facts and offer what it truly believes will assure everyone, in both village and town, the best future possible. Then strive to bring as many voting residents as possible to the polls. **Note:** townsfolk cannot vote on dissolution. They have absolutely no say in this potential change in their lives.

Yes, this may be a very positive event in Village life. I, Fact Finder's editor, have very strong opinions on this matter and others (some, very close friends) have just as strong opinions in

the opposite direction. This does not bother me, as I know each of us sincerely wants only the best for our communities..

### BEWARE MEDIA MISINFORMATION

With the delivery of the June 26<sup>th</sup> publication of the Press-Republican, the issue of possible dissolution for Port Henry became a certainty. As stated above, this is a much healthier reaction to being dissatisfied than just living in a constant state of dissatisfaction and building up anger. However, one must beware anger fed by incorrect facts, particularly those that crop up on Facebook, Twitter, TV ads and newspapers. Case in point, the following misinformation implied in the Press Republican's article "*Petition submitted for dissolution of Port Henry.*" "Curran said their petition effort was sparked by an almost 10 percent increase in village taxes this year and other factors like discussion by the Village Board of purchasing an expensive fire engine for the Volunteer Fire Department that would raise taxes again." Fact Finder's first question to Mr. Curran is, why allow mere discussion to raise the "red flag" of a possible tax-raise because of a three-story-reaching Aerial Fire Engine, a needed safety item as well as an item which would lower the Fire Departments insurance rate? Or, if you do wish to bring up the subject, be sure to mention that the Board did exactly what it is supposed to do, guard the residents' tax expenditures by sending the Fire Department back to search for another truck which would NOT raise taxes! Also, it might be wise to increase voter confidence by adding that the Fire Department did exactly that! They approached the best-know used fire equipment company in the country and when they told this company what our volunteer department's yearly budget was, this company extended a helping hand by offering the following fool-proof package: a three-story Aerial Truck, recently received from Florida (no rust); six individual air-packs which the Fire Department has been buying a few replacements at a time and applying for a covering grant; the company would fly two of our firemen down to inspect the engine and if it didn't come up to expectation the deal would be off, then and there; also the engine would come with a five-year warranty and, while they prepared our purchased truck for delivery, they would loan us a similar engine to satisfy ISO requirements which would lower our insurance. There is more to the complete package and those who would like to know exactly what will be purchased, with *no raise in taxes* to Port Henry residents, can go to the Village Hall and probably be able to read a copy of the specification package.

You ask why, in their search, did they not go to this company in the beginning? An amazing truck-buy came to their knowledge quite by accident. It was a company's second truck, had been used only two or three times and exceedingly low mileage on it, a dream used fire engine! It was more than worth presenting its availability to the Board.

### NOTES FROM pH7 MEETING

reported by Linda Smyth

Meg Parker from the county's Healthy Living visited Port Henry's pH7 committee to discuss its "Complete Streets" program. She wished to keep pH7 up to date on the assessment of the village in regards to healthy living....how easily people can walk our streets, bike our streets and generally move around safely. If this element is all in good order more residents and visitors will be out and about throughout the village and town enjoying it and shopping at stores. All good for economic development. There are grants available to help with this. During assessment the following things are taken in consideration: crosswalks, handrails, places to sit and rest. Also in

considered are: truck routes, parking, drainage, unsightly trash, proper signage, and safety for pedestrian. The next step for community involvement is to help with these assessments as well as a design plan and support letters.

Another topic discussed at this meeting was the need for more parking availability in Port Henry and what type of parking. Parallel parking gives the street more width and pulling out is easier, but the number of parking spaces is diminished. Angle parking gives more parking spaces but is visually harder to pull out. The Board is investigating the purchase of an area or areas on which to create new parking spaces. Having more parking could relieve the problem on Main Street of no parking being readily available in front of existing businesses and new businesses. Again support letters would help in getting grants.

### MORIAH AND PORT HENRY ARE OFFICIALLY IN THE B&B BUSINESS!

The Edgemont B&B entertained its first guests soon after its opening June 20<sup>th</sup>. Since that first group, the B&B has had its guest book full. There was The American Cycling Association with cyclers from France, Germany and Boston; another Boston Group, a group from Washington State; a group of workers from the Verizon tower and next week five days of Verizon electrical workers. Put simply, every single day the Edgemont B&B has had guests.

Another success story is the the short-term apartment rental above the Made in the Mountains' Gallery/Port Resale has entertained *its* first guests and a second set of guests have a reservation for the very near future. Also soon, when the old Photography shop on Star Way opens as a B&B, Port Henry will have more beds to offer visitors, a prime requirement for receiving any assistance from ROOST (Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism). This underlines our Port Henry/Moriah area's need for visitor lodgings. It isn't a case of build it and they will come. They would be here if we just had the accommodations

### NEWS BITS

Fact Finder is very happy to shout out that the restaurant at Van Slooten's is open again!!! It was very sad to think of all that marvelous view just being wasted on sea gulls and such. The hungry can find breakfast and lunch from 8 am – 2 pm, Mon., Tues., Sat., and Sun. Breakfast fare is the usual eggs, toast, ham, omelets, coffee, etc., but prepared un-usually well. For lunch you can choose from hamburgers, Glazer's Red-Hots (dogs), fish and chicken baskets, etc. Soon steamed clams and salmon burgers will be on the menu. Come and enjoy the view and, of course, the food and usually a cooling breeze.

The Moriah Chamber of Commerce is proud to be able to announce specific and consistent times when its doors will be open to Port Henry residents, businesses and visitors. In July the Chamber will be open Monday and Tuesday from 10 am to 3 pm and in August, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am – 3 pm. Future dates will be announced.

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, July25, 2015** at Mac's, Moriah Pharmacy, Sherman Free Library, George's Restaurant, John Eisenberg's Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau's Champlain's Best Wash, Don Foote's "Miss Port Henry" Diner, and TFCU.