



XXX



Page XX

Page XX

XXX

Page XX



XXX

# THE BAY OBSERVER

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A FRESH PERSPECTIVE FOR HAMILTON & BURLINGTON

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Travis Borchuk, captain of the Limnos, steers the research vessel from a small cabin on the side. Photo by Dennis Gibbons

## LOCAL BUSINESSMAN PROMISES PROFESSIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR

BY JOHN BEST  
THE BAY OBSERVER

Vito Sgro who announced his candidacy for Mayor of Hamilton last Wednesday, still remembers the day in 1979 when as a 14 year-old he took a bus from Stoney Creek to the John Munro campaign headquarters to volunteer as a campaign worker. "When I met John Munro then," Vito recalls, "he was like a god—he had a presence—he was loved in Hamilton East." Although Munro won his seat, it was the year Joe Clark eked out a minority win over Pierre Trudeau. In the 1980 election Vito switched to his home riding of Lincoln and worked on the successful campaign of parachute candidate Bryce Mackasey as Trudeau was returned to power with a majority. The 1984 election was the Mulroney sweep. In the 1988 election, Munro attempted a political comeback in Lincoln and lost by only 300

votes. "I learned a lesson then," said Vito, "never take a voter for granted—John spent too much time campaigning in Beamsville where the voters hated him, and not enough time in Stoney Creek where he was better known." By this time Vito was enrolled at Western University where he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in finance and economics and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He then enrolled in the Chartered Accountant program earning his C.A. designation. He did stints with local accounting firms and was an auditor for Revenue Canada before becoming a partner in the CBM accounting firm.

The move from campaign foot-soldier to organizer came in 1993 when Tony Valeri wrested the Liberal nomination for Lincoln from Munro. Vito was the Chief

Continued on page 2

## Lasalle Marina bailout sparks controversy

BY DENIS GIBBONS  
THE BAY OBSERVER

Burlington city council's decision to grant the LaSalle Park Marina Association \$4 million for a new floating breakwall has further driven a stake between the platforms of two leading candidates for mayor – Rick Goldring and Marianne Meed Ward.

Goldring, the incumbent, voted in favor of the grant, while Meed Ward, the current councillor for Ward 2, was one of two councillors to oppose it.

"I believe that the LaSalle Marina is, has been, and should be a part of Burlington's footprint," Goldring said. "It is my view that Burlington is a Great Lakes City and we should continue to have a marina at LaSalle Park.

"The LaSalle Park Marina Association (LPMA) has operated the marina for the last

38 years at no cost to the city. In fact, the association paid for the breakwall that allowed the marina to exist. I've heard people say that LaSalle Park Marina is only for the most elite, but this is just not true.

"The Iron Duke Sea Cadets program relies on the marina to provide young cadets with valuable skills. The program is free for Burlington youths.

"The Able Sail Program uses the marina to provide much-needed programs for people living with a disability in Burlington.

"The City has invested in many different ventures including Tyandaga Golf Course, Burlington Curling Club, Burlington Lawn Bowling Club, four different theatres and tennis clubs."

Meed Ward, on the other hand, said she voted against the grant because she doesn't

Continued on page 3



# LAMONT LAW

RESOLVING PERSONAL INJURY CASES FOR OVER 40 YEARS

EXPERIENCE | TRUST | COMPASSION



ERICA LAMONT

MICHAEL LAMONT

# 50 years of research on Great Lakes

BY DENIS GIBBONS

Lester B. Pearson was starting his final two weeks as Prime Minister and the Burlington Mall officially opened when the only Canadian government-operated research ship on the Great Lakes first hit the water in 1968.

It was christened in Port Weller on April 6 of that year.

Now Limnos, a 44-metre-long vessel tied up at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW) on Burlington Bay, is celebrating 50 years of service in helping clean up the Great Lakes.

“I’m quite proud of my ship,” Commanding Officer Travis Borchuk said. “We’re trying our best to celebrate its longevity and all the work it has done for us.”

For one thing the ship is flying two flags, which in the language of code sig-

nals, signifies the number 50.

The Great Lakes supplies fresh drinking water for almost 30 million people who live around them. They contain 20 per cent of the world’s supply of fresh water.

Limnos assists with research in all the Great Lakes, except Lake Michigan which has no Canadian border.

It has a good-sized laboratory for water testing, as well as filtration equipment. It has enough room to accommodate a crew of 16, plus another 13 scientists.

It also has a full galley, two mess areas for people to eat and a full cooking staff.

Scientists on the Limnos take chemical and organic particle density measurements at five depths of the lakes – one metre below the surface, six metres below the surface, a third just

above the thermal layer, a fourth just below that in the under lake and finally one on the bottom.

Limnos gets her name from the word ‘limnology’ which is the division of hydrology that studies inland waters, including their biological, physical, chemical, geological and hydrological aspects.

The Halton Region Public Health Department also monitors recreational water quality at Burlington Beach between June 5 and Aug. 30 and posts the results online.

Water is sampled for E. coli and total coliform. Water samples are collected weekly and tested for E coli and total coliform. Results are posted to the Swim Guide website as soon as lab results are available.

For the most part beach warnings occur following a heavy rain

On the negative side the Randle Reef, near the Dofasco and Stelco steel plants, is the most contaminated site within the Canadian side of the Great Lakes. Its sediment remediation project involves construction of a 6.2-hectare engineered containment facility (ECF) on top of a portion of the most contaminated sediment, then dredging and placing the remaining contaminated sediment in the facility.

Derek Beech, a scientist at CCIW, said the monthly average water level for Lake Ontario in May was 24 centimetres above average,

but still 54 centimetres below the average for May of 2017. Because of heavy rainfalls, May, 2017, set an all-time record for water levels and there was virtually no beach in Burlington.

Limnos currently is undergoing a re-fit but is expected to go out into the lake in July to lift and refurbish scientific moorings for Environment Canada. Some of the moorings stay in the water all winter.

Earlier, in the spring, its mission was to conduct an

inspection of navigation markers, which takes place every five years. The markers indicate safe navigable channels for commercial vessels. For example, the water in the Burlington Canal is somewhere in the range of 10 to 12 metres deep.

Limnos also has been involved in a few search and rescue operations which had successful conclusions.

A native of Hay River in the Northwest Territories, Borchuk attended the Canadian Coast Guard

College in Sydney, N.S., for four years, graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Natural Science. His education was completely paid for by the government with a guarantee of a job upon graduation.

Established in 1967, CCIW accommodates over 600 staff from Environment Canada (EC), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



A bronze plaque indicates the ship was launched in 1968. Photo by Dennis Gibbons



Limnos, the only Canadian government-operated research ship on the Great Lakes, ties up at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters (CCIW) in Burlington. The vessel is celebrating its 50th birthday. Photo by Dennis Gibbons

## ARE YOUNG HAMILTONIANS LESS OPTIMISTIC?

Market Watch Magazine recently published a survey that said for the first time ever, Americans younger than 35 say they actually have less consumer confidence than those aged 55 and over. This, according to data from the University of Michigan, Haver Analytics and Deutsche Bank Global Research.

Millennials shoulder more student loan debt than any other generation and face house prices that are far higher than their parents did at their age.

A survey conducted by the City of Hamilton may bear out that conclusion. Titled Our Citizen Survey, the Hamilton report shows general satisfaction with the level and quality of city services, but also shows a split in satisfaction levels along age lines. The survey consisted of a phone poll using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) technology, and an on-line poll. The phone poll which reached 550 respondents had an accuracy of plus or minus 4.2 percent 19 times out of 20. The on-line survey which could be randomly accessed garnered 1300 responses, and as a result was not statistically valid but was used to provide background on the data that was predictive.

Overall respondents seemed generally satisfied with both their personal situation and with regard to city services. 66 percent

of telephone respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the city services, and putting it another way, over 80 percent had some level of satisfaction with 24 out of 26 services presented to them. The two outliers, however were the critical areas of condition of streets and roads and snow removal. 38 percent rated roads and sidewalks as “poor,” and snow plowing scored at 21 percent “poor” rating.

What was interesting in the survey was the considerable difference in some responses between the telephone and online responders—perhaps suggesting a split along old-young lines on key issues like overall satisfaction. The online respondents skewed considerably younger than the phone respondents (52 percent under the age of 44 compared to 31 percent on the phone poll.)

This younger online cohort was: more likely to use a bus for work and school, although 70 percent still relied on a car for some as-

pect of their lives, typically shopping and recreation. The real split between the two groups was in their outlook on their life in Hamilton, where significantly fewer of the younger, online group agreed with statements about Hamilton as a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Because of the differing methodologies—random sampling versus self-directed participation, one cannot draw precise conclusions from the data- (although the online group demonstrate higher levels of civic engagement by their proactive participation) the survey does suggest at least-- lower levels of overall optimism in the youngest adult cohort in the community. At the end of the day what can be said is that some 1,300 engaged younger participants took part in the survey and there was a significant difference in their level of satisfaction than that of the older, telephone-based sample.



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