

THE PELEE TOWNSHIP TIMES

A PUBLICATION OF



THE CORPORATION OF THE
Township Of Pelee

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MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

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THE PELEE TOWNSHIP TIMES:

- PICK UP A COMPLIMENTARY COPY FROM THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE OR PELEE CO-OP
- CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE TO RECEIVE *THE TIMES* VIA EMAIL
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FEBRUARY 2012

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

Robert Brault

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TOWNSHIP NEED TO KNOW

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION:

Wednesday & Sunday | 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.

MUNICIPAL MESSAGES

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

ZONING BY-LAW

The Township of Pelee is in the process of drafting their **zoning by-law**.

There will be public meetings held in the spring.

Please watch our website and The Pelee Township Times for meeting dates and times.

DRAINAGE CHARGES

As per By-Law No. 2009-28, the costs exceeding funding for the **MIII Drainage Project** will be billed to affected landowners in February.

Drainage operating costs for 2011 will appear on affected landowners' interim tax bills which will be mailed in early March.

Please contact the Municipal Office if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES

HIGHLIGHT THESE IMPORTANT DATES ON YOUR 2012 COUNCIL MEETING CALENDAR:

Monday, February 6 th .	Presentation of Report Regarding Changes to Lottery Licensing
Monday, February 6 th . ; Monday, March 5 th .	2012 Budget Discussions



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TWO GREAT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN 2012!

Contact the Municipal Office if you are interested in becoming a **Library Board** member or joining the newly formed **Property Standards Committee**.

PELEE PROMOTION

SHARE YOUR ISLAND PHOTOGRAPY!

The Township is looking for **island photos** illustrating what our community represents. **Pictures capturing nature or community celebrations** will be used in new marketing material and at various tourism shows. Please send any island photography you would like to share to info@pelee.ca.

PELEE UNIQUE

THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF PELEE

A Baker's Dozen

"Simply by making the effort to start something, you will be miles ahead of almost everyone else." – Gary Player

Those faithfully supporting this modest newsletter – for whom appreciation abounds – may note the current issue's significance: February 2012 marks one year of Pelee Township Times publication. In fact, the article occupying these few minutes of your time rounds out a "Pelee Unique" baker's dozen combining hopefully enough entertaining ingredients to have produced a distinctly Pelee celebratory flavour.

Echoing the goal stated in the inaugural issue of The Times, the initial intention of "Pelee Unique" was simply to highlight our island and community's distinctive character and circumstances in the space not occupied by pertinent Municipal information. Articles such as "The Inuksuk Epidemic" (February 2011), "The Season of Hibernation?" (February 2011) and "Pelee as Playground" (May 2011) sought to celebrate just a few of the countless benefits of Pelee living. However, some things exist for which appropriate words do not (Ever experience the frustration of trying to explain something that truly needs to be seen to be believed?), hence the photography in the August 2011 and December 2011 issues. Although words such as "beautiful", "stunning" and "remote" are commonly used to describe Pelee Island, they seem inadequate during a February sunset over a frozen white desert, or an approaching August storm with its lake-electrifying breath.

The Effects of Exploration

Inevitably, the attempt to accomplish even the simplest of goals leads to new curiosity which, once explored expands the initial intention by way of a whole pile of gnawing questions. The Vin Villa Ruin and Hulda's Rock photos (August 2011) illustrate this occurrence. Why are we no longer able to visit these landmarks? Is there a plan for this historically rich place? And so on. Perhaps a future "Pelee Unique" will be able to shed some light on this mystery.

It is impossible for a community to function challenge-free. The media-created "perfect" community in the 1998 movie "The Truman Show" exemplifies this logic, depicting a setting ultimately not worth living in. "In

Defence of Negativity" (March 2011), "Is This My Ontario?" (September 2011), "Have Wheels..." (October 2011) and "Re-Defining Junk" (January 2012) attempted to speak to some of our distinctive challenges. With his alliterative "policies, practices, programs and procedures" our mayor addressed the challenges of council in relation to community communication in this publication's opening issue.

Community Communication

Two "Pelee Unique" editions have focused on The Pelee Island Public Library. The first, an admittedly naive article, appeared in April 2011. "Components of a Community" optimistically asserted the existence of a Library on Pelee by the end of last year, a proclamation that has yet to come to fruition.

Yes, hurdles and setbacks are to be expected when undertaking any worthwhile project. In the case of our Library, however, the challenges presented are magnified by the extent of the facility's impact on our community's future viability. Logical questions are being whispered: Will the money raised thus far cover costs? Once the building is open, who will fund the operation of our Library? Look to upcoming issues of The Times for updated information and opportunities to lend support.

The Pelee Island Public Library Project perhaps best illustrates the most significant challenge facing our community's progress: As alluded to in "A Perspective of Patience", July 2011's Pelee Island Public Library Progress Update, in order for this vital service to see the light of day, complete transparency between all invested will need to continue to be exercised.

Communication, co-operation and a sense of community: the very skills fostered by a Library, and perhaps the expanded intention of "Pelee Unique". Has the goal been accomplished? The answer to this depends entirely on you, the reader. Those new to The Pelee Township Times – Welcome and Thank You for your interest – needn't worry about joining after an entire year of publication. With any luck, we're just getting started.

Vanessa Taylor