



# Inside Oshawa

2008

Seventh Edition

## The City of Oshawa's Report to Residents

### It's our harbour: Oshawa wants it back and David Crombie agrees!

Council has been working diligently on your behalf to convince both previous and current federal governments for a positive and timely resolution on the future of the harbour. **We want a harbour that residents will be proud of and enjoy.**

In 2005, as part of the Community Strategic Plan, you the residents expressed to City Council that "Realizing the Waterfront's Potential" is a key objective for the City. Council agrees.

Oshawa's harbour has the potential to be the centerpiece of our waterfront; **however, the harbour is not under the City's control.** It is owned and managed by the federally appointed Oshawa Harbour Commission (Canada's last remaining harbour commission).

In December 1966, the federal government committed to develop a vibrant, modern harbour and therefore the City transferred ownership of approximately 61 acres of land in the harbour area to the federal government. The agreement stated that if the lands were not used for harbour purposes they were to be returned to the City. For 40 years you have been let down. Oshawa has the most embarrassing and neglected harbour on the Great Lakes. Look to our neighbours, Cobourg and Whitby - their waterfront goals have become a reality.

The City has made numerous requests to the federal government, dating back to 1998, regarding the cleanup and return of the harbour lands and what have they done? In 2002, the Oshawa Harbour Commission closed our City's

only marina. In addition, many of the harbour lands remain vacant, underutilized and are in desperate need of revitalization.

Our vision for a new harbour includes a balanced mixture of uses including residential, commercial, recreational, existing industry and appropriate industrial uses and a professionally managed port accountable to the City.

In September 2007, David Crombie was appointed by the federal government to prepare a report on the future of Oshawa's harbour. Mr. Crombie submitted his report to the federal government in February 2008. After repeated requests from the City to the federal government inquiring about the status of the report, including the Mayor filing a Freedom of Information request as a way to obtain the document, the Crombie Report was released on September 2, 2008.

To our delight, David Crombie's report supports and recommends to the federal government that they make the City's vision a reality!

Key recommendations Crombie made to the federal government are:

- ✓ Develop a mixed use environment (e.g. industrial, residential, retail and recreation)
- ✓ Transfer port and surrounding lands to Oshawa
- ✓ Fund and participate in environmental cleanup
- ✓ Establish an independent board that is accountable to the City to oversee port operations
- ✓ Fast track the cleanup of the marina and participate in funding a new marina/public boat launch

- ✓ Use the west wharf (adjacent to Simcoe Street and Lakeview Park) for natural and cultural programming (e.g. waterfront trail, heritage recognition)
- ✓ Preserve the Gifford Farm Lands as a valuable separation between the Port and Second Marsh when considering future development of lands
- ✓ Protect the Second Marsh from proposed developments and consider it an integral part of the City's revitalized waterfront
- ✓ Resolving the two development proposals (a rail spur line and an ethanol plant) should be the priorities of the new independent board and City.

The federal government acknowledged the Crombie Report but only makes some general comments. Furthermore, there are:

- ✗ NO commitments to the report
- ✗ NO timeframe for implementing the recommendations
- ✗ NO financial guarantee.

The reality is that the federal government continues its posturing and the report has no status without funding and concrete action. **Oshawa deserves a commitment NOW!**

The City is continuing a grassroots community campaign to impress upon the federal government the significance of funding and implementing David Crombie's recommendations. If you would like to be part of realizing the waterfront's potential, call 905-436-5686 or e-mail ourharbour@oshawa.ca. For more information, visit [www.oshawa.ca](http://www.oshawa.ca).

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Represented in the banner above (from left): Linton's Farm Market, Durham Youth Orchestra, Durham College and Oshawa's harbour lighthouse