

# Walker's Creek

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE WALKER'S CREEK NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION (WCNA)

## “ NOT THE USUAL Walker's Creek News ”

### It's our 2010 Pre-Election Primer for Grantham Ward !!!

**K**nowing that another municipal election is coming up around the corner on October 25, let's share with you what we've found this year.

Did you know that there's actually a lot of interesting tidbits one can find by poking around the City of St. Catharines website if you sort through the official reports from the 2006 election?

Formerly known by politicians as the “sleepy little hollow” where not much ever happened in the north-east corner of the city, our Grantham Ward has a LOT of voting power.

For the 3rd election in a row, Grantham Ward has led the City in voter turnout, squeaking past Port Dalhousie with 48.86% turnout to their 48.23% in 2006. That's something of which we all can be very proud. But just keep it up this time too, okay?!

In 2006, we had the lightning rod issue of the Port Tower, and eight people ran for the vacant mayor's job. Both factors contributed to an overall voter turnout in the city of 40.67%, which sounds low, but with our city's previous record of voter apathy, is quite high.

#### Trivia Tidbits:

Mayor Brian McMullan beat his closest competitor (Rob Welch) on the ballots cast for him in Port Dalhousie and Grantham wards alone. That's impressive.

Bruce Williamson had the most votes for City Councillor, displacing Dawn Dodge who had led with most votes in the prior 2 elections.

Everybody pretty much knows who their Mayor and their local

City Councillors are, but what do you REALLY know about your school board trustees? Can you name all four of them serving us right now...yeesh, there should be a prize if you name just one!

School trustees and regional councillors toil in relative anonymity while our city councillors and the mayor are under the microscope all the time. Therefore, that allows voters get a better feel for who they like and don't like at those positions.

Regardless of whether you have children in school or not, the time has come that you should become very familiar with the trustees and the board's activities as approximately 20% of your property taxes go to our school boards.

At a staggering \$379 million, the District School Board of Niagara's budget is bigger than the Niagara Region's \$282.5 million and the City of St. Catharines \$92 million budgets combined. The Niagara Catholic board's budget is \$241 million.

That's astonishing considering that the region funds water treatment, emergency services, public health, community and social services, roads, waste collection, the police, recycling and more. Plus the region runs year round !!!

**If Anyone is in Need of Looking for Local Elections Issues, Here They Are...**

**Brace yourself for many upcoming school closures.**

In north St. Catharines alone, the DSNB's hired consultant Watson & Associates is advising that by 2025 the school board close 9 out of our 13 elementary schools, build an addition to one of them and construct 3 new schools. Governor Simcoe and Laura Secord would be leveled with one new high school to

*continued on page 2 ...*

continued from page 1 ...

replace them. Thorold Secondary would be closed and West Park High School converted to a JK to Grade 8 elementary school.

In south St. Catharines, the Watson reports suggests the DSBN closes 6 schools, construct 3 replacement elementary schools, have 1 high school as Grade 9 to 12, the other at Grade 7 to 12.

A staff report will be presented to the trustees in January 2011 that will contain recommendations for a 5 year plan. The newly elected Trustees will then decide where to go from there.

Now St. Catharines residents will get to understand all over again just why the NOTL folks are so upset. School closures are traumatic, tearing apart the community, leaving deep, long-lasting scars. Everyone cares about closures as it can reduce the property value and sale-ability of your home. Losing families in your area leaves a huge hole in your neighbourhood. Who is going to buy your house?

With the many closures anticipated, children will definitely have to be bussed in the future. Why would anyone want to move to St. Catharines if their child is bussed to school? But would you want to live near the remaining schools, with many buses and their fumes coming and going daily? Plus there's a huge ripple effect on the whole city, affecting businesses, lost property tax revenues and more.

All this has to be balanced with the reality of declining enrolment (from the booming 1950 & 60s) and running partially empty schools.

Certainly we have to look at solutions to declining enrolment and there are several options. But the pupil numbers better be solid. Closing and then selling a school should be a last resort only.

Knowing this, it's time to learn more about who is running for office. The quickest way is to go to the City's website, click on

## **WCNA Mission Statement**

***To promote safety and enjoyment, and to enhance and maintain the quality of life in and around our parks and neighbourhood.***

"Elections 2010" then click on "Meet the Candidates", then select which position to check. This applies to every position you'd like to check.

Most of the candidates have answers to "Why Are You Running?" and a Biography, list their home phone numbers and email addresses so you can ask them more questions if you like. Some even have websites.

Another great way to learn about the candidates is to attend one or both of our Candidates Nights (details on page 6). Questions will be asked by impartial moderators and you can personally meet and ask the candidates your own questions. In 2006, over 200 area residents attended our Grantham Ward Candidates Night, so mark these dates on your calendar right now...we want to see you there !!!



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- Promote GO Rail & Regional Transit
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## **Congratulations to Della Trojan**

Named as the 2010 St. Catharines Trillium Award's  
"Garden City Trailblazer"

For Her Outstanding Community Contributions with the WCNA

The WCNA is grateful for the many contributions Della Trojan has made to our community, and we want to share our letter nominating her.

*I would like to nominate Della Trojan for the Trillium Award in the category of Garden City Trailblazer, for her outstanding work done with the Walker's Creek Neighbourhood Association (WCNA) in a number of our City parks and in their surrounding neighbourhoods.*

*Della came to our group and started her volunteering by helping to plant the riparian buffer that the WCNA was planting on a formerly much eroded slope of Walker's Creek near Ina Grafton in Walker's Creek Park (South).*

*While the eroded slope was fixed by machine (doing the neighbouring sewer project), the planting of native plants was done by hand into the creek walls that were like concrete to plant in. But this did not deter Della from continuing to assist with the WCNA.*

*Instead, Della increased her efforts in a number of ways since then. She helped to create and maintain a thriving butterfly garden in Cherie Road Park. She has*

*continued on page 4 ...*



**Butterfly Garden**

<b>ELECT</b>	<b>Regional Councillor</b>
	<b>NORM ST. GEORGE</b>
	My Political Goals:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote and create more jobs</li><li>• Address our citizens' issues and concerns</li><li>• Keep our local businesses active</li><li>• Work together with all levels of government</li></ul>
<b>LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT</b>	<b>This Election Is About YOU</b>

## **Elect Linda Crouch for DSBN Trustee**

**CROUCH, Linda**



# Get informed, then vote

***In May 2010, the DSBN trustees received a report from their hired consultant who suggests in the next 15 years that the DSBN close 9 of 13 elementary schools, build 3 new elementary schools, knock down Laura Secord and Governor Simcoe and build a new high school***

***...in north St. Catharines alone.***

**Get informed at [www.lindacrouch.ca](http://www.lindacrouch.ca)**

continued from page 3 ...

been a major volunteer organizing and assisting with the publicity of our very well-regarded Walker's Creek Yard Tours, which highlight the beautiful and diverse yards in our lovely north-end community.

As WCNA Secretary, she keeps in touch with our members, telling us when she's spotted toad lilies or telling us about Coltsfoot with a photo, so we don't mistake it for a dandelion and informs us about any other interesting bit of nature going on in our parks.

She and her grandson helped the WCNA plant along the small arm of Walker's Creek (sometimes known as Cherrylane Creek) in Walker's Creek Park (North), in a planting done in conjunction with the Niagara Restoration Council. She has also worked with those affected by graffiti and the Green Committee to help find plantings that will help homeowners minimize or deter graffiti from reoccurring.

Several times per year, Della walks most of Walker's Creek and its parks with City staff and City Councillor Bill Phillips to ensure that the parks are maintained and no issues are outstanding, and weekly she liaises with them to ensure issues brought up by residents are dealt with. She assists with the City's Earth Week cleanups of our area in April and also the Shoreline cleanups each September.

ON OCTOBER 25, 2010  
**RE-ELECT DAWN  
DODGE**

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10 YEARS**



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When the Cherie Road Park project was completed, Della helped organize an event to educate the public and led walks for others to learn about live crib walls and the other work done there by the City. She also organized and held a plant sale at her home this year with donated plants from WCNA members to help fundraise for a bench in Cindy Drive Park. She was motivated to do this after observing that seniors found it a long time walking between benches along our Walker's Creek parks. That bench should be installed this fall.

For the last several years, Della has also been the main contact for a very popular WCNA event, which is Stargazing in the Park with the Royal Astronomical Society of Niagara. The next one is to be held in Cindy Drive Park on Saturday September 18, starting at dusk. Entry to this park is by walking in north of Lakeshore Road, south of Cindy Drive or east of Willcher Drive. Everyone is welcome and the event is free. We've had over 100 residents enjoy this event in our parks in the past.

continued on page 5 ...

## JON RADICK

### For St. Catharines Regional Council



- ◆ Business Degree from Brock University - Accounting
- ◆ Lifelong resident of Niagara for 43 years, including the past ten years residing in St. Catharines
- ◆ Active member of the St. Catharines/Thorold Chamber of Commerce for the past 5 years
- ◆ Active YMCA member
- ◆ Big Brothers/Big Sisters fundraiser for the past six years
- ◆ Former Foster Parent for four years
- ◆ Salesman for the past twenty years, including four years as a personal loans officer with a major bank
- ◆ Avid sports enthusiast
- ◆ Volunteer for Bethlehem Projects
- ◆ Volunteer for St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation
- ◆ Volunteered for MS Society, Habitat for Humanity and Canadian Cancer Society
- ◆ Active member of Calvary Church and Harbour Fellowship Church

On my website you can bid on many fantastic silent auction items!

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[jonradick@hotmail.com](mailto:jonradick@hotmail.com)

[www.wix.com/jonradick/stcatharines](http://www.wix.com/jonradick/stcatharines)

# VOTE

OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>



**Alan C. Ziemianin**

*for* CITY COUNCIL  
GRANTHAM WARD (5)

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alanziemianin@gmail.com

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**LYNN D. CAMPBELL**

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lynndcampbell@sympatico.ca



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continued from page 4 ...

*Della has also works hard to organize and do maintenance on the WCNA's riparian buffer site in Walker's Creek Park near Costen Boulevard, by weeding and spreading mulch on the hillside.*

*Della's extensive knowledge of all plants and nature that she freely shares with everyone, her love and unwavering enthusiasm for our City parks and our community makes Della an easy choice to be chosen as a Garden City Trailblazer.*

Written and submitted  
by Linda Crouch

Elect

**Salvatore Sorrento**

for Grantham Ward



Committed To You!  
Committed To The Community!

ssorrento@cogeco.ca 905-938-8171  
volunteers, sign locations and donations accepted!



**VOTE AGAIN, VOTE  
DORSEY**

LOWER WATER RATE  
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REDUCE UNNECESSARY SPENDING

**GRANTHAM WARD  
CITY COUNCILLOR**

## THE FINE PRINT (Disclaimer)

The Walker's Creek Neighbourhood Association (WCNA) has made every reasonable effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter is accurate and responsible. The WCNA does not accept responsibility, or legal liability, for information that may have become incorrect, or misleading due to the passage of time or other conditions. Every reasonable effort is made to keep all information displayed current and up to date. To the best of our knowledge information is accurate at the time of writing and publication. Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are given without prejudice.



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## WCNA CONTACT INFO

Walker's Creek Neighbourhood Association

P.O. Box 20234

St. Catharines, ON

L2M 7W7

**905 688 5601 ext 1912**

**wcna.secretary@gmail.com**

**www.walkerscreek.ca**

# Candidates Night

To help voters make their best informed choices, the Walker's Creek Neighbourhood Association has arranged 2 **FREE, PUBLIC** information nights where you can meet the election candidates:

### DSBN & NDCSB School Trustee

#### All Candidates Night:

Wednesday September 29, 2010

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm

Grantham Lions Club

732 Niagara Street (at Parnell)

St. Catharines

**Meet the candidates, get informed.**

### Grantham Ward City Councillor

#### All Candidates Night:

Wednesday October 13, 2010

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Grantham Lions Club

732 Niagara Street (at Parnell)

St. Catharines

**Learn the differences, so you can make your best choice.**

Our Municipal Election is on

Monday, October 25, 2010

**... please vote ...**

our Grantham Ward has led the city in voting for the past 3 elections and we want to keep the title!

**Free Star Gazing Night** with telescopes and expertise provided by the **Royal Astronomical Society of Niagara**

*Date:* Sat. September 18th, 2010

*Location:* Cindy Drive Park, between Lakeshore Rd and Cindy Dr. Watch for WCNA signs at park entrances (Lakeshore Rd, Willcher Dr, Cindy Drive).

*Time:* Dusk to ? All are welcome

**Please note:** There is no parking available in the park, nor on Lakeshore Road. Please use Willcher Dr, Cindy Dr or other nearby street parking.

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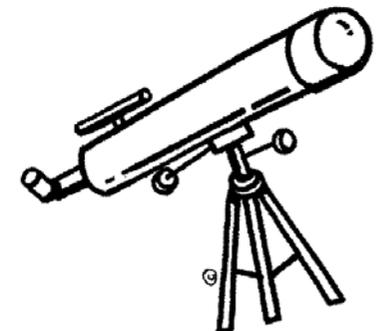
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## What Our Members Say About Us

"W.C.N.A. with appreciation for all you do. Appreciate the beautiful park"

"Thank you for all the work you do."

"Thanks for the hand delivery. You're doing wonderful work."

"You folks are doing a tremendous job. Thanks for your help on Earth Day!"

"We appreciate your efforts and feel safer and happier with a community family."

"I appreciate all the work the WCNA does for our city... Star-gazing - wonderful neighbourhood event."

"WCNA has a warm place in our hearts!"

"I also would like to express my sincere appreciation for your group of like-minded individuals who aim to preserve this wonderful areas grace. It takes special kinds of people to go above and beyond what is necessary to make our area better for all."

on October 25

# RETURN



## Carlos GARCIA

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- Minimal or No Tax Increases
- Stabilizing Water Rates
- Creating Tourism Jobs

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## REGION

vote:

# Alex Bradnam

## Public School Board Trustee St. Catharines/N.O.T.L.

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- Trusted Leadership, Proven Results
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*"Everyone should expect no less than our best.*

*We can, we should and we must do this now!"*

- 25 year Grantham Ward Resident



For more information and published letters visit:

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RE-ELECT

## LORA CAMPBELL

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Public School Trustee

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The City of St. Catharines plants trees on municipal boulevards to provide beauty and shade, to help improve air quality and add economic value to your neighbourhood. Trees are planted on public boulevards, property allowances fronting residences and circles where trees do not currently exist.

Property owners currently awaiting the removal of a dead tree and/or a stump will not be eligible for a new tree until the removal is completed. If you do not have a boulevard tree at present and wish to have one call the Recreation and Community Services Department at 905-937-7210.

Please note that requests for Oak varieties are only available for spring planting. The fall planting deadline is August 30, 2010 and for spring planting the deadline is April 1, 2011. All new tree planting requests received after August 30, 2010 will be scheduled for spring 2011.

*continued below ...*

### ELECT

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for  
**Mayor**

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for our future,  
our environment,  
our city.*



*continued below from above ...*

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No hydro line: red maple, royal red maple, crimson king maple, little leaf linden, bur oak, Princeton gold maple and the following native trees which are more likely to survive and thrive, sunburst locust, red oak, sugar maple.

Hydro line: Ornamental pear, chokecherry, hedge maple, amur maple, globe maple and the following native tree more likely to survive ballerina serviceberry.

Specialty trees for parks and streets: Male ginkgo, American beech, tulip tree, harlequin maple

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## RE-ELECT Dalton Clark

### District School Board of Niagara

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equipping them to lead enriched  
and fulfilling lives"*

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- Extensive Volunteer Experience
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- **Vote Dalton!**