

My name is Catherine Carter and since the end of September I have been holding classes at the Quinte West Lions of Batawa Hall. The morning class consists of seven young actors, six of whom are from the Batawa community. For three hours we go over technique, mime, pantomime and improvisation. In addition to that we are rehearsing our presentation piece, Clarabell's Freedom by Steve Pricone for production at the end of January, 2007.

The afternoon class has six actors, five of whom were with me in my first session that started in January. This class is working of three plays: Talk to Me! by Danielle Hicks and Estefania Morales, The Bully of Barksdale Street by Eric Alter, and Survivor Geography by Jane Tesh. These too will be in our final production.

Watch for the announcement of production times and dates for Because Productions Young Peoples Theatre!

### Friends of the Trail

How would you like to put your skills and interests to use in helping to develop a walking nature trail in your community? You could be part of a team making presentations to community groups, helping to

organize and run a flea market, photo contest, or golf tournament; assisting with media relations, participating in trail maintenance and tree planting; or organizing hikes. And at the same time, make new friends. Friends of the Trail Inc. (FOTT)'s vision for the Lower Trent Trail, which runs through Batawa on its way through Glen Ross to Trenton, is a ribbon of developed parkland, a multi-use, non motorized recreational trail. For more information on FOTT of on our events, e-mail us at friendsofthetrail@yahoo.com or write to Friends of the Trail at P.O. Box 943, Frankford Ontario, K0K 2C0. For a map of the trail, visit our website at [www.friendsofthetrail.ca](http://www.friendsofthetrail.ca). Become a member for \$5.00 annually, or \$10.00 for a family.

### Seniors Unlimited

A social organization of volunteers working for the betterment of Seniors in Quinte West. Join them at the Batawa Community Centre Tuesday & Thursday afternoons for cards and chess, shuffleboard, potluck lunches, barbeques, bus trips, specials events, line dancing and more.

For more information visit Seniors Unlimited on Tuesday and Thursday at the Batawa Community Centre or Contact President,

## Walter Pavlica



"For me personally he was a friend and advisor. He seemed to dream the same dreams about the future of the Batawa community as I do. He was a tremendous source of information about the needs of people in our community, because he cared for them. I never heard him speak badly about anybody - he always would find something relevant and pleasant to say. He was especially emotional and proud of all his colleagues on the fire team."

- Sonja Bata

"I think in Walter we all saw a true reflection of what happiness and peace really look like. He loved his family. He loved his friends. He loved his work. And that was all reflected in his calm, happy demeanor. Walter was simply what we all hope to be at some moment or some point in our life."

- Heather Candler

The community had some visitors from the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment during the November 24th to 26th weekend.

An Eastern Ontario Army Infantry reserve unit based out of Belleville, Cobourg and Peterborough conducted an exercise in the Batawa area. The Bata factory and the private land outside of the village served as the training area for the exercise that was intended to broaden the combat skills of soldiers in order to increase preparedness for overseas missions. Commanding Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Ray McGill, B.A. MBA, CD, directed the exercise. The exercise consisted of urban and rural patrols. At the end of the exercise the regiment hosted an open house at the Batawa Ski Chalet.

### Frostfest

Quinte West is hosting "Frostfest" at the Batawa Community Centre December 9th from 8:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. Frostfest has expanded from the annual "Totte Shoppe" to include several family events, a pancake breakfast with Santa, sleigh rides, a mini tot shoppe, children activities, princess Karma Magic Show, a chili and hotdog lunch, and a public skate at the Frankford arena at 4:00 p.m. Please view our Community Bulletin Board for a schedule of the events.

### Scouts

The Trenton scouts took a weekend in October to camp out in north Batawa to teach 6 children around the ages of 10 to learn practical survival skills. Bernie LeClair was the scout supervisor and looks forward to returning to Batawa to camp in the future.

Winter 2006

Beautiful by nature & design



# Batawa

## Batawa Development Corporation

### Contact information

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**[www.batawa.ca](http://www.batawa.ca)**

## A word from the chair

It was a cold snowy winter day in December 1946 when I first arrived in Batawa. I was a newly married bride full of curiosity to see my new home. Tom and I had been married in Switzerland in October and he had told me many stories about the factory and the many families who had helped him to get established in Canada. I really did not know what to expect. We both were very much in love and full of confidence that we could deal with all the problems in the world.

Karl Herz, the Bata manager was waiting to meet Tom and I and drive us in his Buick first to Batawa and then to our home in Frankford. Life there was pleasant and friendly, where people like the McDonalds, the manager of the Bank of Montreal, helped me to make, many friends. The local telephone system, owned and operated by the Armstrong family, brought helpful information and the latest community news.

The Czech pioneers who established the Bata factory in

Canada with my husband Tom in 1939 created a great community spirit that continues to today. Musical traditions, Czech cuisine and sporting activities all brought life and happiness to Batawa. Many of those Czech family names continue in the village today.

Batawa has grown and evolved over the years. The community now has the opportunity to define its future and work together to create a new chapter in its history, as bright and happy as its past. I am pleased that each of you has embraced that opportunity, sharing your ideas, enthusiasm and love for the community that means so much to my family and I.

My dedication to the redevelopment and future of Batawa is matched by your dedication and that of the Batawa Development Corporation's staff. Together our innovation and ideas will capture the attention of our neighbours and friends. Let's work together.



**Sonja Bata,**  
BDC Chair

## New Faces

A warm welcome to **Dave McKnight** who has recently accepted the position of "Caretaker of Properties" with the Batawa Development Corporation. David has spent the last 15 years as the caretaker of Bridge Street United Church in Belleville and brings with him extensive experience in property and facility management. He has also devoted a great deal of personal time to the community through his volunteer involvements, including his recent chairmanship of Volunteer & Information Quinte. We know he will enjoy working in this warm community.



We welcomed **Raquel Johnston** to our permanent staff as Community Development Coordinator. Raquel recently graduated from Loyalist College in the Recreation and Leisure Services program. She recently co-coordinated the "Inner Strength Fitness Challenge" for the Belleville Waterfront and Ethnic Festival and has created a roster of annual events for the Batawa Special Events and Sports and Recreation committees. During her employment with the BDC Raquel has designed the Lawn and Garden Contest, conducted a survey analysis of the community, and coordinated the Bata-ville "Film Night" and the "Bata Shoe Museum Bus Trip".



## Events

### Holiday Décor Contest

BDC will be hosting a Holiday Décor Contest. This gives residents an opportunity to get into the festive season and decorate their homes and lawns. There will be 5 prizes awarded to the top five decorated homes in the village. The judging for each home will be based upon sidewalk appeal. Get involved - Make Batawa festive!

### Lawn and Garden Contest

In order to promote a beautiful Batawa during the summer season, BDC revived the Batawa Lawn and Garden Contest. Prizes were awarded for the top three lawn and gardens and 10 honorary mentions. Judging was very difficult due to the number of beautiful homes. Thanks to all the Batawa residents for making the village beautiful.

### Hasting and Prince Edward Regiment Military Training



# Batawa...beautiful by nature & design!

## A seasonal outlook

Look forward to the upcoming seasonal décor when you enter the village. BDC would like to provide a festive welcome and invite everyone to decorate their home and lawn before December 15th Holiday Décor Contest (see Events section for more detail).

## Community bulletin board

Theatre productions, church suppers, town hall meetings, garages sales, new arrivals... Batawa has a new way to share it's news, and we invite you to use it. A new community bulletin board has been provided by the BDC for community posters and individual announcements. This will keep our post office clean and offer a prominent location to view news for resident and visitors. A community map is being designed to be featured on the bulletin board, making way finding easier for visitors. To post a notice, contact Raquel (613-398-6111), or drop your notice off in the factory drop box, along with your contact information, and she will see that it is posted and removed when necessary.



## Welcome sign

Batawa now has a new "Welcome to Batawa" sign on Highway 33. Thanks to our Advisory committee for our community slogan "Historic Home of Bata Shoes".

## Welcome the warmth

Throughout the summer BDC took an active approach to beautifying the village. Improvements were made toward the gateway of the community by reintroducing gardens to Pioneer Park, the factory and the fire hall area including planting over 1200 tulips and daffodils ready to bloom next spring. Months have been spent on tree



trimming, with plans for planting new trees this coming spring. The factory was also given a facelift with the redevelopment of floral baskets and banners.

This coming spring expect to drive through the entrance of Batawa to a delightful display of flowers. The work will continue, focusing on areas such as Linden Park, Lion's Park, the ski hill and Fraser Drive in the year 2007.

## Recreational facilities

This summer the BDC began improvement to Batawa's recreational facilities. We made minor repairs to the tennis courts with the help of the Lion's Club who had the posts reset and installed a new net.

We provided a mini soccer field with two nets and balls at the Lion's park. These compliment the already existing soccer field on the DeBruyn property, where all have been welcomed by Mr. DeBruyn to play.

We were pleased to provide a net and court area at Lion's Park for badminton or volleyball.

BDC would like to thank all those who took advantage of these opportunities to get active and took good care of the equipment. We hope you all continue to keep active and have fun. The Sports and Recreation Committee is creating an outdoor skating area for residents to use in the winter with the help of village volunteers and donations from Home Depot. The skating rink will be 60 by 120 feet and will be available as soon as weather permits. BDC would like to give a special thanks to John Briscoe who coordinated getting Batawa the skating area, and to Home Depot for donating the supplies needed to build the skating rink.

## Dolly dear

The late Dolly Horcica, a remarkable women in this community and wife of long time Bata man Frank Horcica, passed away this summer. BDC honoured her memory by planting an Austrian Pine tree where the old Bata Bata sign was located. The tree will soon have a boulder beneath it reading simply "Dolly".

## On the horizon

### Factory

Poised to be the flagship development in the upcoming master community plan, the factory redevelopment has captured the interest of people across Canada and around the Quinte Area. Following Mrs. Bata's "Sounds Like Canada" interview with Sheila Rogers, calls and emails began to arrive expressing interest in the project and the future of Batawa. A recent marketing study revealed the potential for an innovative conversion project at the factory that reinforced the recommendation local residents made to turn this landmark building into apartments or condominiums. The BDC team is now working with developers to launch detailed research that will identify the ideal format for these units and associated amenities. If you or someone you know is interested in the factory homes, please visit [www.batawa.ca](http://www.batawa.ca) or call 613-398-6111.

### Growth

The City of Quinte West is poised to adopt a new Official Plan that will define growth and development for the next 20 years throughout Quinte West. Batawa has embraced its future as a growth area. The BDC has prepared a proposed master plan for growth and development with the community's help. Included are plans for residential, recreational, commercial and community development. We will present this plan to the City and continue to refine the plan in the coming months with your input. Become involved in the Official Plan review process and shape the future of our community. Visit our website to review these plans and share your comments.

## Community advisory circle

July marked the first meeting of Batawa's new Community Advisory Circle. Interested Batawa residents came together to form seven sub-committees who literally launched into action to deal with some of Batawa's most challenging issues.

**The Community Improvement Committee**, chaired by Dr. Bruce Coward, tackled infrastructure issues head on and made the issues of water and sewer the top municipal election issues, bringing our community together in just a few short weeks to present a united front and strong voice.

Batawa residents will have the opportunity to ice skate this winter in the heart of the village in Lion's Club park thanks to the efforts of the **Sport and Recreation Committee**, Chaired by Pauline Eskerod. This group of volunteers are focused on creating an active and healthy Batawa by promoting recreation and sport and bringing the community together to make it happen.

The **Planning Committee** includes Batawa residents interested in the future development of Batawa. These volunteers, led by chair Mike Stortini, will actively participate in the review and development of the community master plan, ensuring the community's ideas and views are represented.

Other committees now being formed include **Special Events, Property, Communications, Culture** and a new **Youth Committee** to share the ideas of our young people.

This group of interested Batawa residents will work hand in hand with the BDC in the years ahead to:

- Play an advisory role to the BDC
- Assist the BDC to enhance and revitalize Batawa
- Establish a network of friendly, informal communication through newsletters, bulletin board, website, town hall meetings, etc.
- Research stakeholders' needs and assist them in the development of their plans
- Identify people in the community who would be willing to assume leadership roles and find ways in which to support them
- To create and maintain a friendly, well-designed community based upon interaction with present and future residents where health, safety and environmental sustainability are achieved

Please join us to make Batawa and exceptional community in the years ahead. To volunteer call 613-398-6111

## A word from our Batawa organizations

### Sacred Heart Catholic Church

The Sacred Heart Restoration committee is putting on the final push for this coming year to finish their restoration project.



The Welcome back Roast Beef Dinner and their annual Evening with Dickens was a success with all proceeds to the siding and insulation of the church. A special performance was given to the school children. A special thanks to all the volunteers.

The Bell Appeal is well under way as of September 30th. The bell hasn't rung in over 10 years. A new steeple is needed as is a repair of the bell. Letters have gone out all over North America to anyone who worked at Bata, lived in Batawa, went to school in Batawa or just friends of the Sacred Heart.

If you know of anyone we missed who might like to donate to this worthy cause, call a committee member. "Let the Bell Ring Again!"

A new cross was made by Jake Vanderlinden and mounted onto the new siding of the church this past week. It looks great! Stay tuned for a plant sale and steak night in May 2007. ■ **Ladies of the Sacred Heart**

### Batawa Ski Hill

Exciting changes have begun at the Batawa Ski Hill. The community has watched as the installation of a new state-of-the-art snowmaking system began in October, to be followed by substantial upgrades to the T-bar and Bambi lifts. Renovations to the chalet, equipment and grounds will herald in an exciting new era for this community jewel. The announcement of a new general manager will kick off what promises to be an exciting December. Plans to commence snowmaking in time for a Christmas opening are keeping the hill's staff and volunteers busy. Come support their efforts and keep the ski hill alive. Let it snow! Visit [www.batawaskihill.com](http://www.batawaskihill.com)

### Batawa Lions Club

**Batawa's Lions are having a busy season.** We participated in the Frankford Santa Claus

Parade with a small float and recently held a dinner for our District Chair. Now we are busy planning our Christmas Dance that will be held on December 8 and tickets are sold out. The Hall is booked for New Year's Eve and "Because Productions" is holding a Children's Theatre Play on January 28th, 2007. Yoga Classes have successfully completed a 10-week program and will start up again on January 10th for the winter program. (To enroll please call 613-398-1460)

The Skating Rink is looking promising (thank you John) and all we need now is snow and cold weather. Lots of ideas floating around for a "Winter Party."!!!

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 7, 2006, and we will have flyers out in March. If we can create enough interest from the Community we would like to include an "Easter Parade." Volunteers welcomed.

■ **Pauline Eskerod**

### Because Productions

Because I am a playwright. Because I want to do theatre. Because I want to direct. . . Because I want to work with young people . . . and not so young people. Because I can. Because. . .

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