

## Our Committee



Marg Graham.....Co-Chair (905)885-5715

Fraser Copeland..Co-Chair (905)885-2680

Shana Dionne..Secretary

Rev. Jeff Snow

Mary Ellen French

Karen O'Hara, Councillor

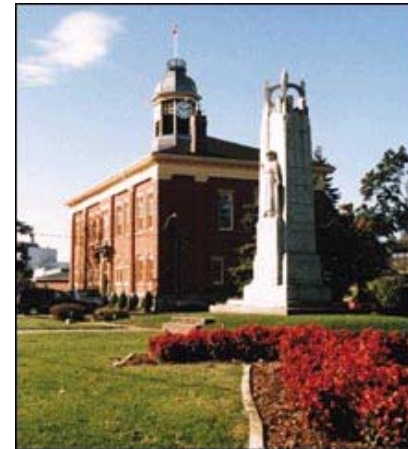
Leanne O'Reilly, Parks & Rec

Renee MacDonald and the "Helping Hands" group support the initiatives of the committee.

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month at the Town Park Rec Centre

Email: [porthopecharacter@yahoo.ca](mailto:porthopecharacter@yahoo.ca)

# Port Hope, A Municipality with "*Character*"



## OUR HISTORY...

In 2003, the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board announced its plan to launch a new Character Education initiative in its schools. Community consultations were held where ten common character attributes were chosen as the foundation of the character education.

As has often been said, “it takes a whole community to raise a child” and several members of the community felt it was equally important that character development should include more than just children and that we, the adults must all walk-the-walk, if we were going to talk-the-talk. It was therefore decided that we should follow the footsteps of other cities who have established themselves as “communities of character.”

In January 2004, Port Hope High School hosted a community forum for members of community organizations, businesses, faiths and other stakeholders to explore the concept of building a “*community of character*.” At that time, there was unanimous support and Mayor Austin agreed to establish a character committee. **On December 7, 2004, Port Hope became a “Community of Character” by resolution from Mayor Austin and Council. This was updated with by-law #72/2007.**

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We will work together to enhance the Municipality of Port Hope as a “*Community of Character*” by nurturing positive character attributes.

## VISION STATEMENT

In the Municipality of Port Hope, people recognize and promote the importance of good character. They treat others as they would like to be treated, show respect, are accountable, fair, honest and courageous. They have empathy, perseverance, initiative and act with integrity and optimism.

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER?

A “Community of Character” is defined as one in which elected officials, community leaders in education, business, faith, law enforcement, media and citizens-at-large recognize and promote the importance of good character and citizenship throughout the community. Everyone works together to ensure that families are strong, homes and streets are safe, education is effective, business is productive, neighbours care about one and another and citizens are free to make wise choices for their lives and families.

In short, a community of character has leaders who are models of the character attributes they advocate for their citizens.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER?

Communities of character report the reduction and prevention of crime, lawsuits, grievances, and poor behavior, while increasing the community's quality of relationships, economy, and culture.

### Attributes....

**Respect-**To value others and treat yourself and others with dignity. To be considerate and to treat others the way we expect to be treated. To acknowledge another's thoughts and actions.

**Responsibility-** To be trustworthy in terms of fulfilling

commitments. Personal ownership of our expectations. To fully understand that one is accountable to others.

**Honesty-**To be truthful and upright in all dealings with others. Genuine and conscientious intent to promote values.

**Integrity-**To have one's actions line up with one's words. To act in an ethical and pure-hearted way, even when no one is watching. A sound display of moral character.

**Empathy-**To take time to understand another person's feelings and ideas. The ability to

respect, understand and identify.  
Walk a mile in someone else's shoes.

Fairness-To treat others equitably and justly. To see all sides and come to an impartial and reasonable conclusion.

Initiative-To be willing to lead and try new things. The will to seek new ideas and implement through action.

Perseverance-To show continuous effort and support towards a belief or goal regardless of obstacle or opposition.

Courage-To be able to sustain ambition, defend against negativity, move forward and do what one believes in without giving in to fear or discouragement. To face life's difficulties with a brave spirit.

Optimism- To be hopeful and believe that all things will eventually work out for good. A positive undertaking for attitude and assignment. A positive view of the present and future.

*The measure of a person's character is not what he gets from his ancestors, but what he leaves to his descendants.*

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