(Con't from page 25)

cream stand and the gas station, was always busy. About a mile up the road Memories was a popular Parksville destination. The highway literally dropped people at their doors.

As time went on even more activity developed on this side of the highway, West 17 Diner and Portofino Pizzeria. Everyone felt that both Parksvilles were making a comeback!

Fast forward to 2002…The 'other' Parksville is still thriving, the gas station, ice cream stand, diner and pizzeria are going strong. Main Street, however, has lost many of its businesses. The Dead End Café still stands tall and proud at the end of the street and people come in great numbers for both dining and catered events. Beth's Headquarters at the intersection of Main and Short Avenue is a very popular salon and there's always a light on in Crawford's Framing in the evenings. But the promise of a few years ago has faded.

NYS DOT is planning to eliminate the stoplight on Route 17 in Parksville. This will change everything and for Main Street this could be a big boost. A highway exit that intersects Main Street, and good signage to let travelers know that there are many reasons to stop in Parksville should bring better times to the once thriving hamlet. The DOT promises street lamps, sidewalks and some much needed infrastructure.

The only thing missing at this time are imaginative, creative people with a vision of what this tiny hamlet once was and could be again. We're beginning to see signs of new ideas coming to Main Street. Parksville Digital will be coming to the big building in the middle of the block and it seems that the Tumbleweed will have new occupants very soon! There are many opportunities here, not for the faint of heart, but for those with a pioneering spirit. Parksville is a perfectly situated spot visible from the highway. So come one and all. Come to enjoy what exists. Come to venture, invest and build this tiny hamlet that is waiting to rise and shine!

~Michele Caltabellotta

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