

by Bill Stevens - originally published in *March 2008 Newsletter*

Some years after the designation of the Winchester-Larkin House, circa 1845, a ceremony was finally held on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at the house, now Dom's Pasta and Grill at 22 Academy Street. Current property owners and restaurant owner Heather Fasulo accepted the plaque from Heritage St. Catharines Chair Frank Caplan with a large audience gathered in the lounge area.

The building was built by Deacon Lucius D. Winchester between 1845 and 1850. This two-and-a-half-storey Victorian-style red-brick building has an irregular-shaped plan due to brick additions at the front, side and back. The roof is trimmed with simple bargeboards and minor decorative accents. The front dormers on the second floor have pediment roofs with one having engaged columns at the sides and a shed dormer on the uppermost level. The main front door is semi-circular with pilasters and a hood. It is a double three-panel door with moulded rails with a recessed panel and leaded glass with jewelled inserts. The main windows are flat and have moulded trim and radiating voussoirs with large two-sash double-hung windows. Many of the windows are stained glass with jewelled inserts and there is decorative saw-toothed patterned brickwork on the east and west gables about the windows.

The house was purchased by Captain Patrick Larkin in 1872 and he added the fancy work: the tower, the two bay windows at the side, several of the stained-glass windows, plus the fine wood work and the imported fireplaces.

Captain Patrick Larkin was born on March 1, 1829 in County Galway, Ireland. In 1837 he came to Canada and to St. Catharines in 1853. By 1853, he had attained the title of Commander. He married Ellen Mary Maguire on January 21, 1861. At various points in his life, he was a sailor, ship commander, vessel owner, grocer, contractor for large Welland Canal contracts and builder of portions of railways across Canada. He was a founding member of Lincoln Paper Mills, a Director

of the St. Catharines Electric Light Company, served several years as member of City Council and then Mayor of St. Catharines in 1882 for one year. He was Roman Catholic in faith and a Reform Party member in politics, serving as President of the Lincoln Reform Association. Larkin died on August 31, 1900 at the age of 71 at his residence and is buried in Old Section Q of Victoria Lawn Cemetery. The Larkin family lived in the house until 1942.