

**City of Port Colborne  
Regular Council Meeting 23-20  
Minutes**

- Date:** September 14, 2020
- Time:** 6:30 p.m.
- Place:** Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne
- Members Present:** M. Bagu, Councillor  
E. Beauregard, Councillor (via Zoom)  
R. Bodner, Councillor  
G. Bruno, Councillor  
F. Danch, Councillor (via Zoom)  
A. Desmarais, Councillor  
D. Kalailieff, Councillor (via Zoom)  
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)  
H. Wells, Councillor (via Zoom)
- Staff Present:** D. Aquilina, Director of Planning and Development Department (via Zoom)  
B. Boles, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer (via Zoom)  
T. Cartwright, Fire Chief (via Zoom)  
A. Grigg, Director of Community and Economic Development (via Zoom)  
S. Hanson, Manager of By-law Services (via Zoom)  
A. LaPointe, Manager of Legislative Services/City Clerk  
S. Lawson, Deputy Chief  
S. Luey, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Madden, Deputy Clerk (minutes)  
S. Shypowskyj, Acting Director of Engineering and Operations (via Zoom)

Also in attendance was one member of WeeStream.

**1. Call to Order:**

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order.

Mayor Steele delivered his Mayor's Report, a copy of which is attached.

Regional Councillor Butters reported to Council on items brought forth at recent standing committee meetings, including a request to support the funding of developing an emergency crisis house for women and gender non-conforming youth, especially for victims of human trafficking, a presentation with a request to





CARRIED

**8. Delegations/Presentations**

- (a) **Presentation:** Kim Rossi, Director of Philanthropy & PR, Pathstone Foundation  
Re: Funding Request to support Year 2 of the Port Colborne walk-in clinic

Kim Rossi, Director of Philanthropy & PR, Pathstone Foundation, provided a presentation with respect to the Funding Request to support Year 2 of the Port Colborne walk-in clinic and responded to questions received from Council. A copy of her presentation is attached.

**No. 178** Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais  
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council approve \$20,000 to support Year 2 of the Pathstone Foundation Port Colborne walk-in clinic located at the Bridges Community Centre on Elm Street including the video counselling compliment.

CARRIED

**9. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion:**

- 1. Planning and Development Department, By-law Enforcement Division, Report 2020-106, Subject: Fence Variance – 128 McCain Street**

Rachel MacPherson, owner of 128 McCain Street, spoke to Council on this matter.

**No. 179** Moved by Councillor G. Bruno  
Seconded by Councillor E. Beaugard

That Planning and Development Department, By-law Enforcement Division, Report 2020-106, Subject: Fence Variance – 128 McCain Street, be received for information; and

That the fence variance request for 128 McCain Street not be approved, and that the property be brought into compliance with the Fence By-law.

Moved in deferral by Councillor G. Bruno  
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That consideration of Planning and Development Department, By-law Enforcement Division, Report 2020-



106, Subject: Fence Variance – 128 McCain Street, be deferred to the October 13, 2020 regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

**2. Fire and Emergency Services Department, Report 2020-115, Subject: Year End**

Scott Lawson, Deputy Chief, provided a presentation and responded to questions received from Council. A copy of his presentation is attached.

**No. 180** Moved by Councillor G. Bruno  
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That Fire and Emergency Services Report No. 2020-115, Subject: Year End Review, be received for information.

CARRIED

**3. Engineering and Operations Department, Engineering Division, Report 2020-119, Subject: Project 2020-113, Asphalt Patch Repair – City Wide, and subsequent negotiation with the bidder**

**No. 181** Moved by Councillor H. Wells  
Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That Engineering and Operations Department Report No. 2020-199, Asphalt Patch Repair be received; and

That Council award the 2021 Asphalt Patch Repair Program to Circle P Paving at the unit rates tendered in 2020 plus the added consumer price index to a maximum budget of \$150,000; and

That Council approve the required 2020 asphalt patching works as outlined in Appendix 'A' to be completed by Circle P Paving at the 2020 unit rates, at a cost of \$30,000; and

That staff be directed to reserve \$150,000 for the Asphalt Patch Repair Program from the 2021 annual resurfacing allocation; and

That staff be directed to prepare the by-law and the City Clerk and Mayor be authorized to execute the Contract Agreement.

CARRIED

**4. ADR Chambers Integrity Commissioner Office for the City of Port Colborne Re: Complaint Reference Number IC-202-0420 Shawn Tylee and Councillor Harry Wells**

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**No. 182** Moved by Councillor H. Wells  
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That Integrity Commission Report IC-202-0420, be received for information.

CARRIED

**5. Public Comments Regarding Closure of Nickel Beach**

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**No. 183** Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais  
Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That the public comments regarding the Closure of Nickel Beach, be received for information.

CARRIED

**6. Memorandum from Nancy Giles, EA to CAO and Mayor and Staff Liaison to the Grant Policy Committee Re: Recommendations of Grant Policy Committee**

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**No. 184** Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais  
Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That the memorandum from Nancy Giles, EA to CAO and Mayor and Staff Liaison to the Grant Policy Committee Re: Recommendations of Grant Policy Committee, be received;

That the following donation/sponsorship requests be approved for a total of \$6,750:

Port Colborne Lions Club - \$2,750  
Port Cares Reach Out Centre - \$4,000;

That unspent grant funds be moved to a reserve fund for future use annually beginning in 2020.

Moved in deferral by Councillor A. Desmarais  
Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That consideration of the Port Cares donation/sponsorship request for \$4,000 be deferred to a

future meeting when a Port Cares representative can speak to Council as a Delegation.

CARRIED

Moved in amendment by Councillor A. Desmarais  
Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That the main motion be amended by striking out paragraphs two, three and four and adding the following thereto:

“That the following donation/sponsorship request be approved for a total of \$2,750:

Port Colborne Lions Club - \$2,750;

That the 2020 unspent grant funds be moved to a reserve fund for future use.”

CARRIED

The vote was then called on the main motion, as amended, as follows:

That the memorandum from Nancy Giles, EA to CAO and Mayor and Staff Liaison to the Grant Policy Committee Re: Recommendations of Grant Policy Committee, be received;

That the following donation/sponsorship request be approved for a total of \$2,750:

Port Colborne Lions Club - \$2,750;

That the 2020 unspent grant funds be moved to a reserve fund for future use.

CARRIED

**9. Niagara Region Re: Affordable Housing Strategy Update**

**No. 185**

Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais  
Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That the correspondence received from the Niagara Region Re: Affordable Housing Strategy Update, be received for information.

CARRIED

**10. Niagara Region Re: Natural Environment Work Program – Phase 4: Identification and Evaluation of Options (PDS 26-2020)**

**No. 186** Moved by Councillor H. Wells  
Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That the correspondence received from the Niagara Region Re: Natural Environment Work Program – Phase 4: Identification and Evaluation of Options (PDS 26-2020), be received for information.

CARRIED

**10. Proclamations:**

None.

**11. Minutes of Boards, Commissions & Committees:**

**No. 187** Moved by Councillor G. Bruno  
Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

(a) Minutes of the Port Colborne Public Library Board Meeting of June 23, 2020 and August 18, 2020

CARRIED

**12. Councillors' Items:**

**Staff Responses to Previous Councillors' Enquiries**

**(a) Eagle Marsh Drain Update (Shypowskyj)**

The Acting Director of Engineering and Operations provided an update with respect to the repairs underway at the Eagle Marsh Drain, specifically the screws that lift the gate. He reported to Council that these screws have been custom made and that they are scheduled to be installed next week.

**(b) Traffic Studies (Shypowskyj)**

The Acting Director of Engineering and Operations informed Council that traffic studies for the intersections of Stanley Street and Wood Lane, King Street and Sugarloaf Street, Cement Plant Road and Clarence Street, and Chippawa Road and Berkley Avenue were recently conducted and that reports to Council outlining the results of these traffic studies will be brought forth during the next two meetings.

**(c) Streetlight Repairs (Shypowskyj)**

The Acting Director of Engineering and Operations informed Council that various streetlight repairs have been completed and that there are a few street lights that require further repair beyond the regular maintenance issues. He further indicated that a report detailing the issues and funding required to repair these streetlights will be brought forth to Council at the next meeting.

**(d) Highway 3 Construction (Shypowskyj)**

The Acting Director of Engineering and Operations provided an update to Council with respect to the construction occurring on Highway 3 and further indicated that the consultants performing the construction project a completion date of October 1, 2020.

**Councillors' Issues/Enquiries****(a) Short Term Rentals (Bodner)**

In response to Councillor Bodner's request for an update on the issue of short term rentals, the Director of Planning and Development confirmed that his plan is to bring a report forward to Council on this matter before the end of the year.

**(b) Fires at Short Term Rentals (Bodner)**

In response to Councillor Bodner's inquiry regarding what the process is if a resident has an issue with a bonfire occurring on the property of a short term rental, the Fire Chief informed Council that it is best to call 9-1-1 at the exact time of the incident and they will dispatch the Port Colborne Fire Department, alongside the Niagara Regional Police who will investigate the matter at that time. The Fire Chief further reported that following the investigation, a warning or a bill may be given to the owner of the property.

**(c) Noise By-law (Bodner)**

In response to Councillor Bodner's inquiry regarding what the process is if a resident is having loud noise issues with neighbouring properties during the late hours of the night or early hours of the morning, the Manager of By-law Services confirmed that if the issue is occurring in the middle of the night then the process is to call the Niagara Regional Police and if the issue is occurring during the day, then the By-law Enforcement Division may attend with the assistance of the Niagara Regional Police, depending on the type of issue.

**(d) Storm Sewer Charge (Bruno)**

In response to Councillor Bruno's inquiry with respect to how storm sewer charges are given to residents who border the non-urban servicing area and are not on a municipal drain as well as whether a policy could be created that includes information about how these charges are made and what that money is used for, the Acting Director of Engineering and Operations as well as the Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer confirmed that they will work alongside each other to investigate this matter.

**(e) Councillors' Items (Bruno)**

In response to Councillor Bruno's inquiry with respect to how City staff are remunerated when attending Council meetings as well as whether "Councillors' Items" could be moved towards the beginning of the agenda so as to not have staff attending until the end of the meeting to answer questions, the Chief Administrative Officer explained the remuneration for union and non-union employees who attend Council meetings and the City Clerk informed Council that the agenda format, agenda process as well as the Procedural Bylaw will be amended in the near future and when doing so, "Councillors' Items" can be moved towards the beginning of the agenda.

**(f) Calling in Tow Trucks (Wells)**

In response to Councillor Wells' inquiry with the respect to whether the tow truck companies charge the City in the event that they are called for a tow but when they arrive, the car in violation has left, the Manager of By-law Services confirmed that the tow truck companies only charge for the amount of tows they complete, not the number of calls they receive.

**Notice of Motion**

Councillor Kalailieff provided notice of her intention to introduce a motion at the September 28, 2020 Council meeting with respect to addressing the Region as well as Public Health to petition for the establishment of a COVID-19 testing clinic in the City of Port Colborne to serve the southern tier municipalities.

Councillor Kalailieff provided notice of her intention to introduce a motion at the September 28, 2020 Council meeting with respect to requesting that the Niagara Health System reinstate the use of the helicopter pad located at the Port Colborne Hospital.

**13. Consideration of By-laws:****No. 188**

Moved by Councillor H. Wells  
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais



That the following by-law be enacted and passed:

6817/67/20	Being a By-law to Amend By-law No. 4310/146/02, Being a By-law Prescribing On and Off-Street Parking for Persons with Disabilities within the City of Port Colborne
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CARRIED

**No. 189**

Moved by Councillor F. Danch  
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

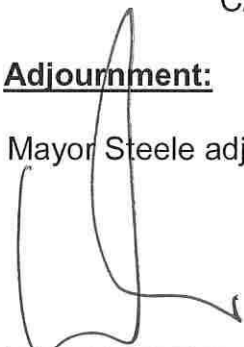
That the following by-laws be enacted and passed:

6816/66/20	Being a By-law to Amend By-law No. 89-2000, Being a By-law Regulating Traffic and Parking on Wyldewood Road
6818/68/20	Being a By-law to Amend By-law No. 6116/82/14, Being a By-law to Establish a Permitting System for the Parking of Vehicles on Designated Highways within the City of Port Colborne
6819/69/20	Being a By-law to Authorize Entering into a Contract Agreement with Circle P. Paving: Project 2020-13, Asphalt Patch Repair City Wide
6820/70/20	Being a By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne at its Regular Meeting of September 14, 2020

CARRIED

**14. Adjournment:**

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:11 p.m.



William C. Steele  
Mayor



Amber LaPointe  
City Clerk





MAYOR'S REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Good evening and welcome to our virtual council meeting.

Tonight we are welcoming Councillors Bagu, Bruno, Bodner and Desmarais back into the council chambers. Also joining us are our CAO Scott Luey, Clerk Amber LaPointe, Deputy Clerk Charlotte Madden, Deputy Fire Chief Scott Lawson and a member of Wee Stream who are live streaming this meeting for us.

Our other four city councillors and various city directors are each attending from home.

We remain in Stage 3 of the COVID-19 recovery process, however, in the past few days positive cases across the province have started to rise. We emphasize the need for social distancing, hand washing and face coverings where social distancing can't be maintained or where required by the Region's face covering by-law.

We ask that you continue to support our local businesses, including restaurants as patio season will be coming to an end soon and these businesses still need our support.

**Preparation for Cruise Industry in 2021**

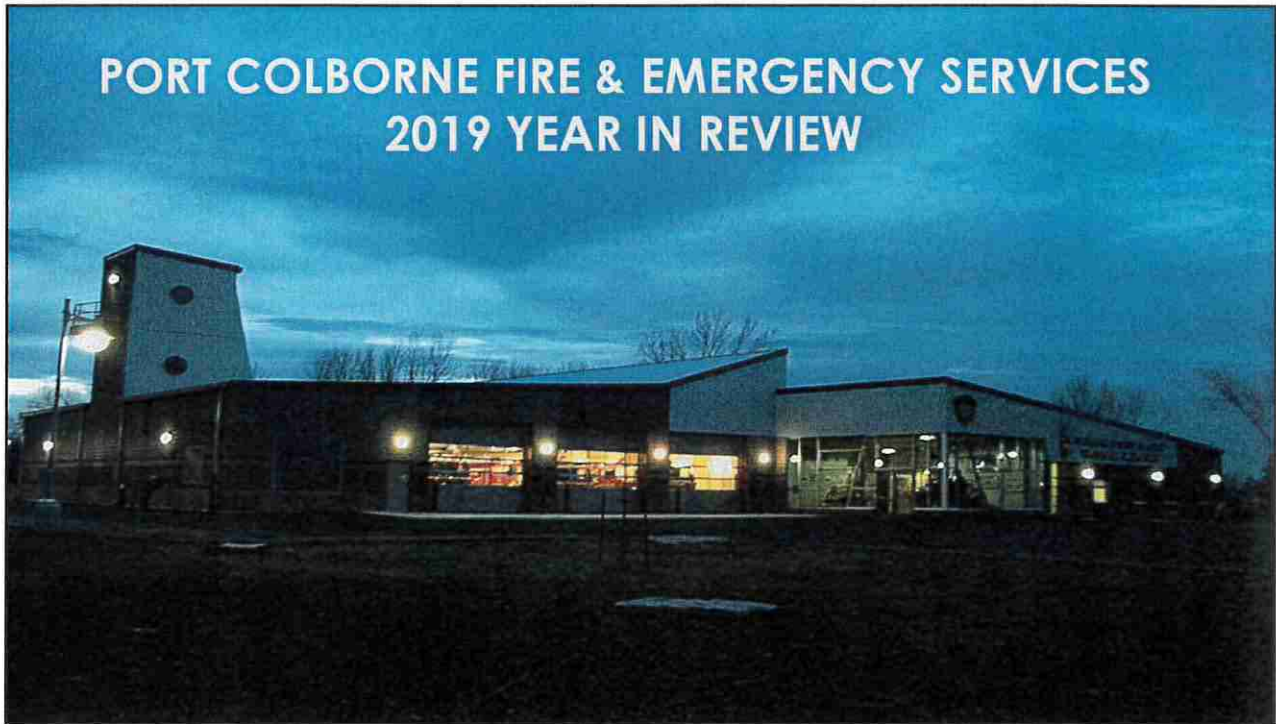
We are hopeful that the pandemic will be behind us in 2021 and as such, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation has begun restoration work on the wharfs and aprons at the south end of West Street to prepare for the arrival of cruise ships next year.

Cruising on the Great Lakes is an important industry for our local businesses and we are fortunate to have the support of the Seaway in making necessary infrastructure improvements.

## **Closing**

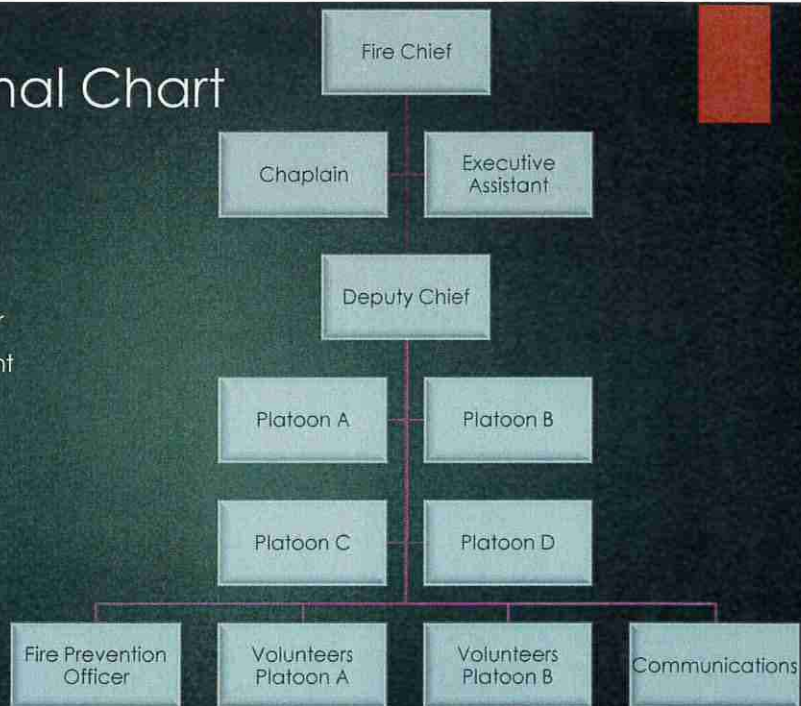
In closing, we ask for your patience while we all work together for a safe and gradual return of services. We must remain vigilant in fighting this virus.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our staff and citizens as we continue the safe and gradual reopening of services and business activities. Please stay safe.



## Organizational Chart

- ▶ 15 full-time staff
  - ▶ Fire Chief
  - ▶ Deputy Fire Chief
  - ▶ Fire Prevention Officer
  - ▶ Administrative Assistant
  - ▶ 11 Suppression staff
- ▶ 34 volunteers
- ▶ 1 Chaplain





## FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY



Christmas Toy Drive

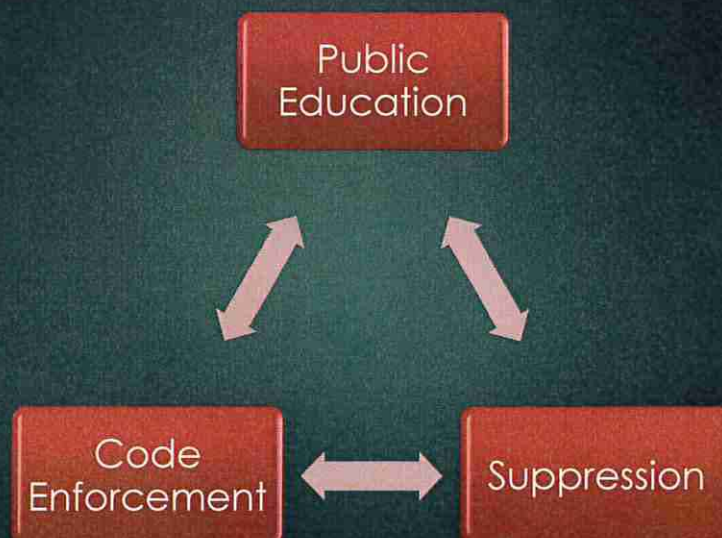


Community Dinner – Port Cares



Easter Boot Drive

## THREE LINES OF DEFENSE



# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

## Public Education

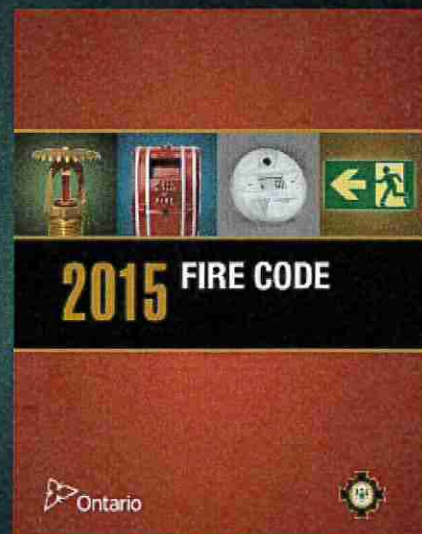
- School visits
- Station tours
- Extinguisher training
- Safety Day
- Fire Prevention Week Open House
- Farmers Market
- Social media – FB, Twitter
- Smoke Alarm Program....



# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

## Code Enforcement

- Business Licences
- Supervised Fire Drills
- Property Inspections
- Fire Safety Plan Reviews
- Building Plan Review
- Prosecutions (Part 1 & 3)
- Smoke Alarm Program....





# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

## Response

Broken down into four key elements

- Level of Service
- Equipment
- Training
- Call Response

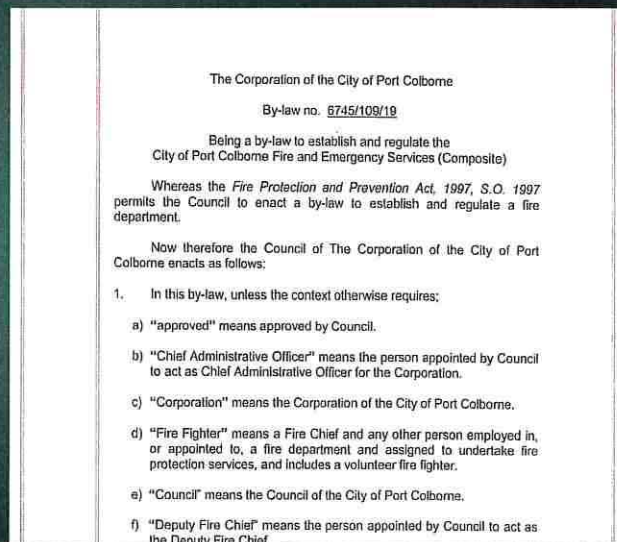


# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

## Response – Level Of Service

Establishing & Regulating By-law 6745/109/19 sets the level of service as determined by Council through core services: As an example:

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Interior Structural Fire Fighting | - Public Assistance Calls        |
| - Grass/Brush Fires                 | - Carbon Monoxide Investigations |
| - Burn Complaints                   | - Natural Gas Emergencies        |
| - Water/Ice Rescue                  | - Technical Rescue (rope)        |
| - Elevator Rescue                   | - Vehicle Fires                  |
| - Motor Vehicle extrication         | - Medical Assistance Calls       |



# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

## Response - Equipment

- Engine 1 - 2015 Spartan Metrostar
- Engine No. 2 - 2000 E-1 - Superior
- Tanker 1 - 2015 Freightliner
- Rescue 1 - 2012 Spartan Metro Star Custom Built
- Ladder 1 - 2006 Pierce - 75' Ladder



# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

## Response - Training





# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

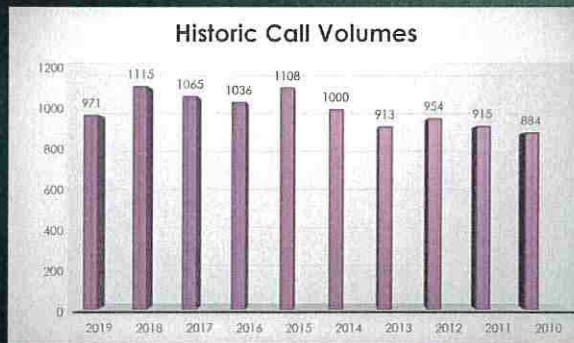
## Response – Training

- Working towards NFPA certification
  - 68 written tests through AS&E
  - 174 practical skills tested through AS&E
- New recruits trained and tested to NFPA
  - 6 weekends at Southwest Fire Academy
    - Fire Fighter I & II
    - Hazmat Awareness & Operations

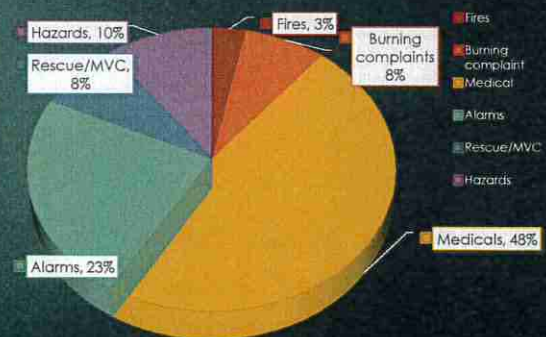


# THREE LINES OF DEFENSE

## Response - Calls



2019 RESPONSES BY TYPE



# Successes & Challenges

## Successes of 2019

- Achievement Program
  - Recognizing our successes through sacrifice
- Successful recruitment
  - New members are certified and ready to go...and doing well
- Training
  - New look to the program
    - Buy in by staff



# Successes & Challenges

## Challenges of 2019

- Focus on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
  - Working Mind training
- Recruitment
  - While 2019 recruitment was successful, many issues identified through the process.
    - Numbers of applicants
    - Seeing it through to the end





# What is Next

## A Glimpse into 2020 – 2021

- Self-contained breathing apparatus replacement
- On-going recruitment
- Technical Rescue review and certification
- Pre-incident planning
- In-service Inspections
- Engine 2 replacement
- Residential Sprinklers



# Pathstone Foundation

*Further Improving Access to Mental Health Care through Walk-In Clinics.*

CRA# - 871080644RR0001

September 1, 2020

Dear Port Colborne City Council,

As the lead children's mental health provider in Niagara, and lead agency for the province of Ontario, we play a vital role in identifying and solving measures that include accessing and delivering effective mental health care without delay. As we move through the outbreak, we are and will be facing the long-term mental health affects COVID-19 has caused. I can share with you that we have already seen a resurgence in cases we had already closed at Pathstone.

While we continue to see a 15-20% increase in clients each year, we have no accurate way to say yet how much higher that increase will be in 2020 due to the pandemic.

COVID-19 has created a mental health crisis through job loss, fear for safety and lack of social connection. Health, safety and finances are three of the largest stressors on a person and family's mental health and this pandemic affected all of these simultaneously. Research conducted shows the impact the outbreak has made on the mental health of Canadians with over 80 % reporting elevated worry and anxiety.

While we have always been innovative in reducing wait list issues in the face of reduced government funding we will see a surge in cases this year and at the same time, philanthropic giving is falling.

***What we are aiming to avoid is regaining a lengthy wait list that we have worked so hard to nearly eliminate.***

We reduced our wait list, and with the help of the city of Port Colborne, we created nine walk-in clinics, which cover the Niagara Region. Clients receive one-to-one counselling with no referral, appointment, cost, or health card needed.

These clinics have been a lifeline for many. We gave families immediate access to mental health care, often times in the moment while children were still fresh in their feelings. It was the foundation of which these clinics were designed for, reducing barriers to care, and offering immediate support. We all know that wait lists do nothing but make issues worse and more complex.

Our next steps are to keep these clinics open and make them even more accessible through video counselling. All of our walk-in clinics are funded through Pathstone Foundation which relies on donor support.

While the video counselling platform had already been a part of our strategic plan, the move was expedited due to COVID-19, but was not in the budget. Video counselling means we can reach kids in a way that offers a true connection. In many cases through the pandemic, we were talking to brand new clients who were on our wait list. In those first few sessions, a face-to-face connection is vital. While we are just now getting back to in-person sessions, distance and safety is still a barrier for many of our clients.

While our walk-in clinics are innovative, offering video counselling sessions further enhances this program. Families do not need to travel to meet with a Pathstone therapist. Inclement weather wouldn't cause cancellations and wait times would all but be eliminated. As we face an increase in demand for our services every year, we know that the longer a child waits for treatment, the longer they will be in therapy. Therefore, immediate response is the answer to stronger healthier kids, which make for stronger and healthier adults.

**Today**, we are asking council for \$20,000 to support Year 2 of the Port Colborne walk-in clinic. This will sustain your clinic located at the Bridges Community Centre on Elm Street for another year with the video counselling compliment.

With great thanks in advance for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KR', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kim Rossi, Director of Philanthropy & PR, Pathstone Foundation

e. [KRossi@Pathstone.ca](mailto:KRossi@Pathstone.ca) o. 905-688-6850 x 167 c. 289-969-8342

# Cost to Operate 1 day Walk-In

Needs/ Operate a 1 day per week off-site clinic;

## What we need from you:

- ✓ \$20,000 annually
- ✓ + a free, safe space to hold sessions. *Confirmed* / Bridges Community Health Centre, Elm Street.

## What you receive:

- ✓ One-day per week walk-in clinic service in the heart of your community
- ✓ Access to video-counselling therapy 5 days per week



PORT COLBORNE





# What the walk-in clinics are achieving

- ▶ Immediate, localized access to mental health treatment.
- ▶ This proven model provides even more support with ease to Niagara's families.
- ▶ Now, more than ever kids and families have options as to how they get the mental health care and support that they need, closer to home or in their home.

*Note, all of Pathstone's in-person walk-in clinics and video counselling are open to ALL of Niagara's children and youth no matter where they live in the region.*





## What we see next ...

- ▶ The model of mental health services will be reframed over the next 2 to 3 years.
- ▶ We see the majority of our service converting to the walk-in clinic format, and the need for longer term therapy programs will begin to decrease.
- ▶ With this change, we will be able to re-allocate funds from the Ministry of Health into the walk-in clinic program.
  
- ▶ **Already, this model has reduced our wait-list significantly.**



## How YOU can continue to help

Commitment is needed from your council to support a walk-in clinic in Port Colborne for Year 2 of this program.

- ▶ *Questions / comments can be directed to:*
- ▶ Kim Rossi – Director of Philanthropy & PR – Pathstone Foundation
- ▶ c. 289.969.8342 e. [Krossi@Pathstone.ca](mailto:Krossi@Pathstone.ca)



# Pathstone

## Mental Health

Compassionate • Innovative • Professional

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT THROUGH WALK-IN CLINICS

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## Simple facts...

- ▶ **1 in 5** children and youth will be affected by a mental health issue.
- ▶ **70%** of mental health challenges have their onset in childhood or adolescence
- ▶ Canada's youth suicide rate is the third highest in the industrialized world **Everyday**, 10 people in Canada die by suicide. *In Niagara, it's one person, every six days.*
- ▶ **The burden of mental illness and addiction in Ontario is more than 1.5 times the burden of all cancers and 7 times the burden of all infectious diseases**



## Who we are ...

- ▶ The **only accredited provider** of children's mental health in Niagara, and lead agency for the province of Ontario
- ▶ We support children and youth from the start of life to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and their families.
- ▶ We offer **17 different programs** that cover mental health needs from stress, anxiety, and depression to self-harm, suicidal, and homicidal thoughts and other forms of crisis.

### ***Pathstone's reach is vast***

- We are in schools and daycares across the Region and house our own school in Welland.
- Our 10 bed Live-In Treatment program in Niagara Falls is affectionately known as Rotary House which also provides one crisis bed.
- We operate eight in-person walk-in clinics across the region
- Our Crisis & Support Line, operates 24/7
- We have introduced video counselling to further enhance immediate access to care with ease.

## Our Impact 2019- 2020 (April – March )

- ▶ We served **7,012** children
- ▶ **5,282** of which were coming through our doors for the first time
- ▶ That equated to **58,686** direct hours of counselling
- ▶ **1,332** came to us through one of our walk-in clinic's

\*Since January 2020, our Crisis & Support Line has handled **67 calls** where suicide was being considered. According to Niagara Regional Police, there have been **zero reported sudden death/ suicides** among those 18 and under since the start of the year.

### Age Comparison for Youth Core Services

- ❑ 0-5 years - 16.9 % (+)
- ❑ 6-10 years – 23.5 %
- ❑ 11-14 years - 21.8 %
- ❑ 15 - 18 years - 37.8 % (+)

\*(+) indicates an increase to core service group.

**Males: 52.7% / Females 43.6% / Other: 3.7%**



## The impact walk-in clinics are having in Niagara

- ▶ **Hear & Now walk-in clinics**, are operating in Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Welland, Niagara Falls, Thorold, St. Catharines, Beamsville, Grimsby and *video only* in Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- ▶ In all, nearly 400 one-on-one in-person counselling hours are available through these clinics each month.
- ▶ Since COVID-19, we have implemented that an appointment must be made to access walk-in clinic services. Important to note, same day or advance appointments are available.
- ▶ Service is still free, without the need of a referral, or health card.
- ▶ In addition, we have further enhanced this program, offering video counselling sessions five days per week, also by appointment only.

*\*Research has proven, early intervention can make a dramatic difference in a child's quality of life!*



# What we have already seen ...

- ▶ Some clients who visited only needed one session
- ▶ Many are first-timers, testing the waters to see if therapy is right for them
- ▶ Some are currently on our waitlist for a full therapy program, which has been dramatically reduced thanks to our walk-in clinic program.
- ▶ In the past 12 months, over 1,300 of our 7,000+ clients came to us through one of our walk-in clinics.
- ▶ **In Port Colborne specifically**, walk-in clients (mostly youth) were looking for support for depression and anxiety. Prior to COVID students from Port Colborne HS were utilizing the walk-in clinic.



# Current Cost to Operate Hear & Now Walk-In Clinics

(Branscombe Mental Health Centre – 5 days per week + 7 / one day per week clinics)

**5 days per week / St. Catharines - Branscombe Mental Health Centre**

*Cost is \$203,414 in 2020*

## **7 Additional single day Walk- In Clinics**

Located in; Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Welland, Niagara Falls, Thorold, Beamsville, Grimsby, and Niagara-on-the-Lake (video-only)

**Combined cost will be \$150,000 in 2020**

*\*All clinics have been further enhanced with video-counselling program*



From: "Rachel MacPherson" <[REDACTED]>  
To: charlottemadden@portcolborne.ca  
Date: 2020-08-23 02:04 PM  
Subject: 128 McCain street variance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello Charlotte,

I would like this passed along to members of council please.

My name is Rachel MacPherson and I am emailing with regards to the variance to 128 McCain street. I have had the chance to review the report Sherry Hanson composed and I have some further viewpoints to provide. As previously mentioned in my application for the variance the fence has been up for 20 years with no voiced concerns. I noticed Sherry added photos of the transition of the fence over the past 13 years. The fence that is separating my lot to the neighbours lot, changed in 2009. If I am not mistaken, the by law at that time allowed the change. The current by-law wasn't changed until 2010. I have attached the previous by-law. The fence should be grandfathered in.

If the trees that are being considered a fence based on how they've been planted are an issue I am willing to replant them elsewhere. In the 2020 photo taken, it shows the visibility from the neighbours view. There is no obstruction to view, in fact if I had been parked in my driveway the time of the photo, you would see that my truck sticks out further than the fence. I can provide photographic evidence of this.

Currently the neighbour who is voicing concern regarding the fence has been harassing me, and vandalizing/defacing the fence in place. The fence is 4 inches onto my yard. I can provide photographic proof if need be.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel MacPherson



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE**

**BY-LAW NO. 4245/81/02**

**BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW 1170/117/81, AS AMENDED,  
BEING A BY-LAW TO PRESCRIBE THE HEIGHT  
AND DESCRIPTION OF LAWFUL FENCES  
IN THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE**

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne enacted By-law 1170/117/81, being a by-law to prescribe the height and description of lawful fences in the City of Port Colborne and to repeal by-law 989/60/80, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1981.

**AND WHEREAS** By-law 1170/117/81 has been amended from time to time;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne approved OPDS-Operational Services Division-Director's Report No. 2002-38, Fence By-law Review, as amended, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2002;

**NOW THEREFORE THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF  
THE CITY PORT COLBORNE ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

- 1 That By-law 1170/117/81, being a by-law to prescribe the height and description of lawful fences and repeal by-law 989/60/80, as amended, be further amended by adding to Section 1 "Definitions" the following:

"Side Yard - Interior" - means a side yard other than an exterior side yard

"Side Yard - Exterior" - means a side yard immediately adjoining a public street

- 2 That By-law 1170/117/81, being a by-law to prescribe the height and description of lawful fences and to repeal by-law 989/60/80, as amended, be further amended by adding to Section 6 "Fences & Hedges at Intersections & Corner Lots" the following:

6(d) "Notwithstanding subsection 6(c) no person shall construct or permit to be erected or maintained any fence or hedge greater than 2m in any exterior side yard except where the said fence is set back a minimum of 3m from the exterior side lot line or, where a sidewalk exists parallel to the fence line, a minimum of 3m from the near side of the sidewalk".

**READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED BY COUNCIL THIS**



Sent from my iPhone

From: "Robert Maude" [REDACTED]  
To: "charlottemadden@portcolborne.ca" <charlottemadden@portcolborne.ca>  
Date: 2020-08-26 03:41 PM  
Subject: fence variance

Hello Deputy Clerk Charlotte Madden

This letter is from Robert and Tracie Maude at 601 Steele St .

After reading the city council report on the fence variance application, we were happy with the recommendation but was not happy with the comments on the fence variance application form from the home owner. We did have discussions with the neighbours on numerous occasions., In the fall of 2019 with Rachels father and the spring of 2020 with Rachels boyfriend),regarding blocking of the line of sight. both, the cedars and fence would create and us wanting to reduce the height of our existing adjoining fence. We can not put enough emphasis on how scary it is for us to safely pull out of our driveway now for almost a year or how angry all the pedestrians feel towards us for almost hitting them on a regular basis. We do, but we shouldn't have to feel guilty or apologize to people for something we didn't create.

Personally I would think all this fencing is a continuing part of the deck they built. And it would have been a part of their original deck permit. But what do I know. Then this most dangerous situation would not even exist.

I am going to send you the letter We wrote previosly to counselor Gary Bruno.

Thank you for letting us respond.

Regards; Rob Maude and Tracie Maude

**From:** Robert Maude  
**Sent:** August 8, 2020 2:01 PM  
**To:** garybruno@portcolborne.ca <garybruno@portcolborne.ca>  
**Cc:** frankdench@portcolborne.ca <frankdench@portcolborne.ca>  
**Subject:** 128 McCain St. fence bylaw infraction/line of sight

Hello Gary , Hello Frank

My name is Robert Maude  
My wife Tracie and daughter Krista and I live at 601 Steele St.

We are having an issue with being able to see vehicles and more importantly people with their children when exiting our driveway but this was not always the case.

The existing fence dividing our properties is 5 ft tall but has 1/2 to 3/4 inch spacing (picture 1)  
It is the side of our property and the back of theirs.

That did enable us to see thru the fence enough to have some confidence of not hitting someone as we pulled out.

But around august of last year my wife and I decided to look into cutting the fence down to 3 ft high and about 8 ft back from the end by the road.

We were not sure who's fence it was, we think it is ours but we wanted to be sure. We are still a little unclear about ownership but did find out the fence should be lowered to 1 meter and back 4.5 meters from the sidewalk, according to the existing bylaw. reason/line of sight for exiting a driveway .

As I returned from work for the long weekend the neighbor's father was outside of their house planting cedar shrubs, I went out to discuss the problem with him about the problem we have with exiting our driveway now. I said to him I understand your daughter wants some privacy from the road . I explained to him about wanting to cut the fence,1:Actually, the bylaw states 1 meter high 4.5 meter from the sidewalk. 2: to see properly as to exit the driveway safely and that the shrubs will now make it impossible to see anything. He said to me just let the roots take hold and then we will deal with it We were ok with that.

Springtime came and still nothing was done about the shrubs. I work and stay out of town a lot so I dint have any chance to. to ask the neighbour what the plan was.

AS I come home from work on a Saturday , By the way . Again on the first long weekend of the year , I can't help but notice 8 ft posts sticking out of the ground behind the 6 ft cedars and the owner's boyfriend outside with his 2 buddies ready to cement the posts and install the fence. I unpacked my car and walked over to find out what's up. I said to him , what happened to cutting the cedars to proper height after the roots took hold like her father said to me last fall ? Then we could also cut the fence to have e a full view of the sidewalk and road upon exiting our driveway. his answer to me was TOO LATE NOW ! I looked at his 2 buddies in disbelief and they

shrugged their shoulders . that Saturday they cemented the posts and Sunday finished the fence boards.

After the long weekend ended, I called the city to talk with bylaw enforcement. Covid 19 had just started to ramp up so it took a while for someone to start investigating. I have been on the phone with various officers and I have sent a letter with my concerns. An officer did come do some measurements and I have been told there were 2 infractions, and the owners were advised on how to correct them. Weeks have passed since and after my last inquiry I've been told there is an application for a variance I was told to contact my congressman and there will be a meeting at the end of the month where this application will be considered.

Im not sure why this is taking so long, the bylaw is quite clear but in the meantime because of this loss of sightline I have a real hard time pulling out safely and have nearly hit cars and have had too many close calls, almost running people over and have gotten so many dirty looks from mothers and children more times than I care to count. My wife and daughter will not park in our own driveway for fear of this or god forbid kill someone and their children.

We should not have to be on pins and needles when trying to exit our own driveway safely or having to state why there should be no variance allowed. In our opinion if the owners had done their due diligence looking into corner lot roadside fence bylaws BEFORE erecting a fence and shrubs. Nobody's lifes would be at risk daily.

My question is this:I think if some horrible accident occurs (at this rate it is inevitable), and there was a lawsuit, currently the owners of the property would be liable for not adhering to the existing bylaw rules and correcting the infractions. If their wish for variance is granted wouldn't that make the city liable for changing the line of sight ? then also precedence would be established and many many more people could be endangered.

Don't get us wrong .Fences make good neighbours.but only if done safely and correct

We await your response and guidance.  
Sincerely Robert and Tracie Maude  
601 Steele St



**From:** Robert Maude [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** August 8, 2020 2:25 PM  
**To:** garybruno@portcolborne.ca <garybruno@portcolborne.ca>  
**Subject:** Fw: Bylaw

On Sat., Aug. 8, 2020, 2:10 p.m. Rob Maude, [REDACTED] > wrote:



20200808\_141232.jpg

**From:** Robert Maude <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** August 8, 2020 2:24 PM

**To:** garybruno@portcolborne.ca <garybruno@portcolborne.ca>

**Subject:** Fw: Bylaw



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