



PORT COLBORNE

CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter for the residents of Port Colborne

APRIL 2023



66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8



905-835-2900



@cityofportcolborne



@portcolborne



portcolborne.ca



newsletter@portcolborne.ca

Easter in Port Colborne:

Office Closure

A reminder that City Hall will be closed Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10, 2023. Normal business hours will resume Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

If you require immediate assistance from Public Works, please call 905-835-2900 and press '9'.

To request a non-emergency City service, complete our online form at www.portcolborne.ca/requestaservice and staff will respond when they are back in the office.

Easter Farmers' Market

The Downtown Port Colborne BIA is kicking-off the Farmers' Market season with their Easter market on Thursday, April 6, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Market Square, 59 Charlotte Street.

The official start of the regular season is Friday, April 14, 2023, and every Friday morning from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., until October 27, 2023.

Tugboat Bunny

Did you hear the news? The Easter Bunny will be making a special visit to Port Colborne on Saturday, April 8.

Come PORTicipate and help us welcome the Easter Bunny at 10 a.m. as he sails in along West Street.

Tugboat bunny is brought to you by the Port Colborne Downtown BIA.



Easter Egg Hunt

After the Easter Bunny's arrival, he will be hopping back to the Vale Health & Wellness Centre for the annual Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m.

The City is also hosting a series of family-oriented events at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 8. These include:

10 a.m. & 12 p.m. Eggciting Easter Workshop with Dena Gelentso

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Face Painting

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Colouring Station

11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Notes: Bring your own basket! Participants will need to register at the main entrance of the Vale Health & Wellness Centre by age group: 1-5 yrs, 6-10 yrs, and 11-15 yrs.

The Easter egg hunt will move indoors if required due to weather conditions.

12 to 2 p.m. Free Skate

1 to 4 p.m. Free Swim with the YMCA

To accommodate these events, the walking track will be closed from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 8



Interim Tax Bills

The interim tax bills were mailed out on Feb. 7, 2023.

- Installment 2 due: April 28, 2023

* The interim tax bill is based on 50% of the previous year's tax bill.

For more information and payment options, visit

www.portcolborne.ca/propertytaxes.

What's in the Works with Public Works?

The 2022 annual drinking water quality report is now available and can be found on our website, www.portcolborne.ca/water, or you can pick up a hard copy at the Engineering and Operations Centre, 1 Killaly Street West.

The city is committed to providing **CLEAN** drinking water:

Consistent compliance with legislation.

Listening and communicating with the public regarding safe drinking water.

Establishing a Quality Management System that is always improving.

Allowing only the safest water to reach your tap.

Necessity of life, of the highest quality.

For more information about water/wastewater services in Port Colborne, visit our website, www.portcolborne.ca/waterwastewater. Questions? Call 905-835-2900, or email customerservice@portcolborne.ca.



Water Wednesday

#WaterWednesday is a new weekly feature to showcase water, wastewater and stormwater people, programs and projects in Port Colborne.



We share new info each week on our Facebook and Instagram channels to help you learn about all things water in Port Colborne! Follow us to learn more.

Spring Street Sweeping Operations

Our annual street sweeping operations are underway.

Staff are currently focusing on the downtown core and will then shift to primary and secondary roadways across the city. Here are a few ways you can help city staff:

- Minimize street parking where possible
- Do not sweep your driveway and sidewalk debris onto the road
- Leave road debris from the gutter or edge of the road where it is
- Remove hockey and basketball nets from the edge of the road



Friday, April 21, 2023 - Tree Giveaway

7 to 11:30 a.m.

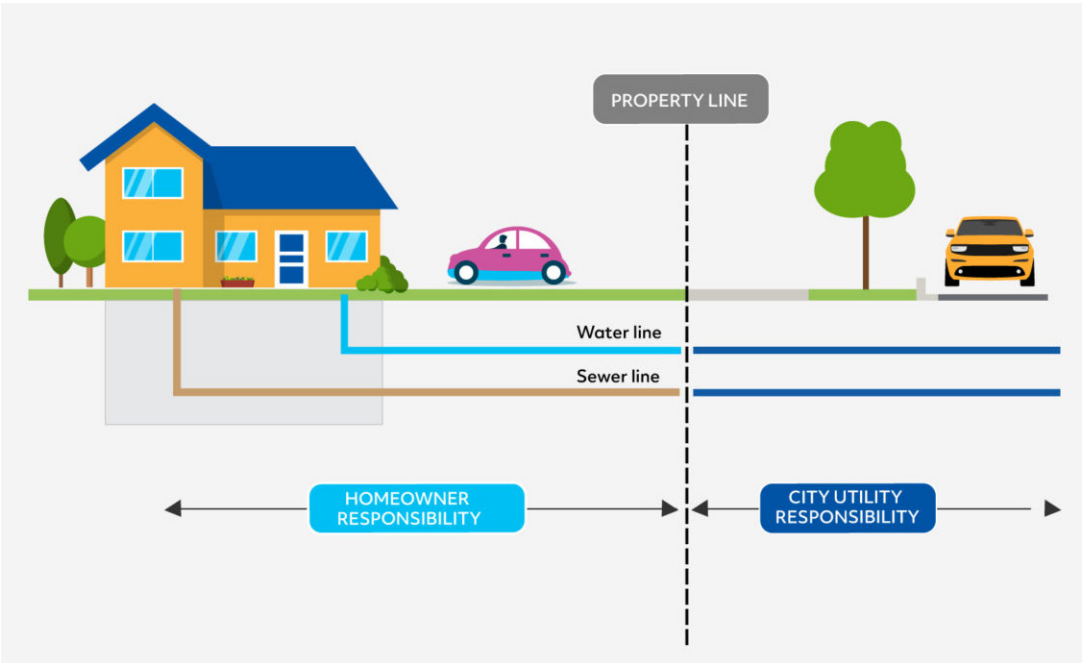
King George Park during the Port Colborne Farmer's Market. In celebration of Earth Day, and in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) and Sassafras Farms, we will be giving away 400 trees to Port Colborne residents (limit of three per household) on Friday, April 21, 2023, from 7 to 11:30 a.m. at King George Park. City staff will be collecting addresses from residents taking trees as part of a project to test the survival rates of the trees planted and assist with choosing tree species for the city in the future.

Visit our website for more information about this event, our tree rebate program, and more: www.portcolborne.ca/environment.



Water Service and Sewer Lateral Replacement Grants and Loan Program:

As part of the 2022 Water and Wastewater Budget, City Council approved a grant and loan program to assist residents with the cost to replace their water line and/or sewer line. As shown in the picture below, the City is responsible for the water and sewer lines extending from the watermain or sewermain in the road to your property line; however, property owners are responsible for the water and sewer lines that run from your property line to your home.



Why replace a water or sewer line?

While the private water and sewer lines are the responsibility of the property owner, when any of the issues listed below become known on the section which is owned and maintained by the City, the City or one of their approved contractors, will repair or replace the City's side of the line(s).

There are many different reasons a property owner may need to replace their water or sewer line:

- When a water or sewer line is found to be damaged, leaking, deteriorating, or is undersized
- If the water line is constructed with lead pipe

All residential property owners who receive a water/wastewater bill are eligible to apply for and receive the following grant(s) and/or loans:

Replacement Grants:

Water Line	\$1,000
Sewer Line	\$1,000

Replacement Loans:

Water Line	\$2,500
Sewer Line	\$2,500

If you are interested in learning more about the program and the eligibility requirements, please visit www.portcolborne.ca/watergrantsandloanprogram, scan the QR code, or request a hard copy information and application package by calling our Customer Service Representatives at 905-835-2900 or by visiting City Hall.



310 King Street, Port Colborne, ON | 905-834-6512 | portcolbornelibrary.org | library@portcolborne.ca



@PortColborneLib



@PortColbornePublicLibrary

Holiday Hours:

The library will be closed: Friday, April 7 (Good Friday) & Monday, April 10 (Easter Monday).

Create our April Bookmark

During April, we are calling all kids to create a bookmark for the library. Make it at home or at the library — we'll supply the paper. Submit your design by April 29 for a chance to be our featured artist for May. The theme is "Mother Nature." Available in the Children's Room. Free.

Story Time with Shelly

Saturday, April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Meet us in the Children's Room every Saturday for a fun, free, family story time. All ages. Free. No registration required.

Tot Time

Thursday, April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 10:15 – 11 a.m.

Enjoy stories, crafts, and circle-time. For ages 2 to 5 accompanied by a parent/caregiver. Pre-register. Free.

Family Music Makerspace

Families can reserve 30-minute time slots on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings to play our musical instruments. We have a guitar, digital piano, electric drums, ukuleles, bells and shakers. Free with an adult Port Colborne Public Library card. Please call the library to register.



Documentary Films

Monday, April 24, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a free screening and discussion of two documentary films Ancient Roads from Christ to Constantine:

- From Apocalypse to Heresy (2015, 60 min.)
- Pagans and the Cult of Martyrdom (2015, 60 min.)

One eRead Canada

Available Apr. 1 – 30

Libraries across Canada are offering free, unlimited e-book and audiobook access to Tatouine by Jean-Christophe Réhel through the Libby App. Brought to you by the Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC). All you need is your library card. Join the conversation online: www.facebook.com/groups/OneEreadCanada

Green Screen Photography

Monday, April 17, 5 – 7 p.m.

Have your photo taken in our green screen studio. We will magically drop you into your choice of background and deliver the photo to you by email. Free. Photography waiver required.



NEW Wonderbooks

Available April 3

We now have Wonderbooks, thanks to a generous donation from the Port Colborne Lions Club. Wonderbooks are print books with a ready-to-play audiobook inside. Press play to read along with a book, and then switch to learning mode for literacy learning and fun.

Employment Opportunities and Job Training with PC Works

Tuesday, April 4, 11, 18 & 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Drop by the library and talk to a team member from PC Works about employment opportunities and job training. Free.

Speak with a Niagara Region Public Health Nurse

Thursday, April 13, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Chat with a Niagara Region Public Health Nurse from the Family Health division. Free.

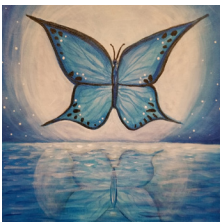
Ontario Parks Passes

Did you know you can borrow an Ontario Parks Day Pass with your Port Colborne Public Library card? These are single day-use passes that allow one vehicle and its occupants entry into an Ontario Park for free. With more than 100 operating provincial parks to choose from, you can explore hiking trails and day use beaches across our beautiful province. Free.

Adult Paint Class: Reflection

Thursday, April 20, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

In this acrylic painting workshop, learn the art of symmetry and reflection. Explore blending, shading, and brushwork techniques to create an inspirational work of art. Pre-registration is required. \$15 per person.



Hand Weaving

Monday, May 1, 2023, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Try your hand at one of the oldest forms of storytelling. Learn how to weave on a small handheld loom using a variety of yarn and stitch techniques. For ages 13 and older. Pre-registration is required. \$5 per person.



PORT COLBORNE

HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM

MORE THAN A MUSEUM...

280 King Street, Port Colborne, ON | 905-834-7604 | portcolborne.ca/museum | museum@portcolborne.ca



@PortMuseum



@PortColborneHistoricalMarineMuseum



@PortColborneMuseum

Archives Awareness Week 2023

April 3 to 6 is Archives Awareness Week 2023. During this time, we celebrate the importance of preserving the documentary heritage of Ontario's communities. The L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives, located at 286 King St., provides an accessible place for researchers looking for information on the history of Port Colborne and surrounding areas. The research collection includes documents, photographs, maps, newspapers, files, and books. The research room re-opens to the public on May 1.



Volunteer at Arabella's Tea Room!

Looking for a way to get involved in the community this summer? Join the Museum Auxiliary and be a part of one of the longest-running volunteer-based tea rooms in Canada. Try your hand at serving tea or baking biscuits and meet other volunteers in your community. Open daily from June 1 to Sept. 30, from 2 – 4 p.m.

Contact museum@portcolborne.ca or call 905-834-7604 for more info.



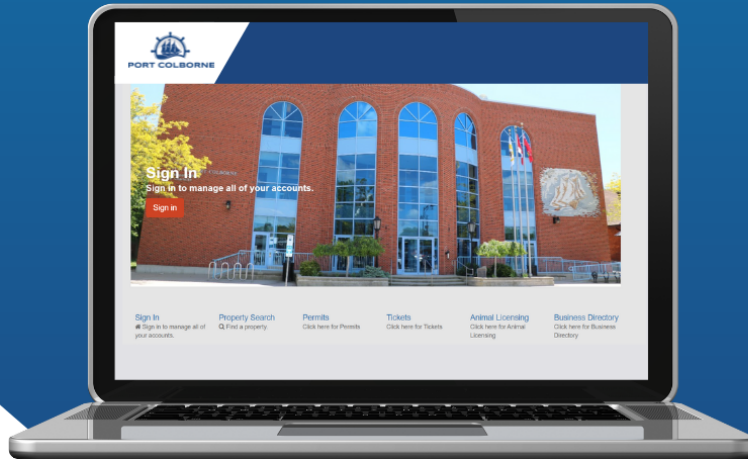
All Aboard!

Become a Museum Member today. Support the Museum and receive invitations to exhibit previews, 10% off museum gift shop items, and newsletters featuring information about the collection, events, and many opportunities available to you. Interested in becoming a member for 2023?

For more information, contact 905-834-7604, museum@portcolborne.ca or visit, www.portcolborne.ca/museummembership



VIRTUAL CITY HALL



CITY HALL IS NOW AVAILABLE VIRTUALLY!

You can manage property taxes, water and wastewater bills online with the City's launch of Virtual City Hall.



24-HOUR ACCESS

Create a secure and confidential online account, that can be logged into 24 hours a day/seven days a week, to manage property tax bills, water and wastewater bills, in addition to account receivable invoices in real time.



REGISTER FOR PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS



UPDATE INFORMATION

Update mailing address and contact information.



GO PAPERLESS

Sign-up for paperless billing. Anyone who activates paperless billing will receive a one-time credit up to \$25 (\$10 for property taxes and \$15 for water/wastewater). The incentive has been extended until Dec. 23, 2023. Also, if you set up pre-authorized payments for your property and water/wastewater accounts you can also receive an additional one-time credit up to \$25.



ACCESS PROPERTY INFORMATION

Access property information that is provided to the City by Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), including searching for properties to view assessments and tax information.

Note: When creating your account, please use the name exactly how it appears on your bill.



NEW PAYMENT METHOD

Use a credit card to make full or partial payments directly to property and utility accounts (a convenience fee will be charged for any online payments made with a credit card through the third-party merchant Paymentus).

To get started creating your account, or for more information, including 'how to' videos, visit our website www.portcolborne.ca/virtualcityhall or scan the QR code. Require assistance? The City's customer service representatives are available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. either by phone at 905-835-2900 or by emailing customerservice@portcolborne.ca.

