



PORT COLBORNE

CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter written by staff for the residents of Port Colborne

DECEMBER 2022 / JANUARY 2023

📍 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8 ☎️ 905-835-2900

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Holiday Hours:

Dec. 24, 2022 - Jan. 2, 2023 - Christmas Closure

The City's planned holiday closure will commence on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022 at 4:30 p.m., with City administration buildings closed until Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

If you require operations staff for emergencies such as watermain breaks, call 905-835-2900, and then press '9'.

Fill the Fire Truck Toy Drive

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services hope to make every child smile this holiday season by hosting their annual "Fill the Fire Truck" toy drive in support of Port Cares. Donate unwrapped toys for children ages 0 - 18 and non-perishable food items. Drop off locations include: Fire Hall, City Hall, Port Colborne Public Library and the Vale Health & Wellness Centre.



Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 - New Year's Eve Family Celebration

New Year's Eve is back at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre! Come PORTicipate with us on Dec. 31 from 2 - 6 p.m. Free family activities include swimming, skating, games, fireworks, and more. Please visit our website at www.portcolborne.ca/events for more information.





CHRISTMAS IN PORT COLBORNE

2022 Mayor's Christmas Cards:

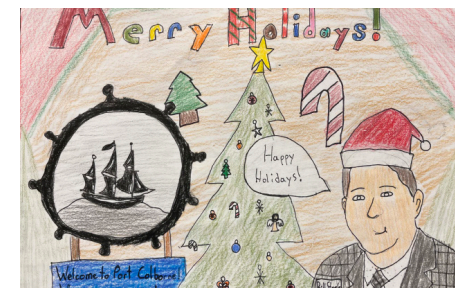
Mayor Bill Steele and CAO Scott Luey were impressed with more than 200 submissions of art from elementary school children from across Port Colborne. How to choose? Nine designs were selected for the 2022 Mayor's Christmas card. Thank you to principals, teachers, and all the students who PORTicipated in this annual seasonal project.



Children whose art was chosen for the 2022 Christmas card were thrilled to be on the City of Port Colborne float in the Lighted Santa Claus parade Saturday evening, Dec. 4. Mayor and Mrs. Steele were excited to meet the children, and treated them to hot chocolate before the popular event was underway.



The children who created art for the 2022 Christmas card were also invited to attend the council meeting Dec. 13 in Council Chambers where they were honoured for their work. See selected artwork below:





Ways to PORTicipate:

Vale Health & Wellness Centre

The Fall & Winter ice programs are back up and running at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre. To view the programs we have to offer and the schedule please visit www.portcolborne.ca/arenaschedule.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Vale Health & Wellness Centre, Rink 1 <i>*effective September 2022 – April 2023</i>							
Rates (Rinks 1&2) Pre-School - Free Students - \$3 Seniors - \$3 Adults - \$4 +PAYP - \$3 Open PAYP - \$5	SR & ADULT SKATE 9:30-10:50 a.m.	Ice Maintenance	OPEN PAYP 11-11:50 a.m.	PARENTS & TOTS 10-11:50 a.m.	50+ PAYP 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.		
	OPEN PAYP 12-1:20 p.m.		SR & ADULT SKATE 12-1:20 p.m.				
		STICK & PUCK 3:30-4:50 p.m.					
Vale Health & Wellness Centre, Rink 2 <i>*effective September 2022 – April 2023</i>							
*Stick & Puck - \$5 for adult & child; \$3 each additional child (10 years & under must be accompanied by an adult)	50+ PAYP 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.	Ice Maintenance	50+ PAYP 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.	PARENTS & TOTS 1-2:20 p.m.	SR & ADULT SKATE 9:30-10:50 a.m.		PUBLIC SKATING 12-1:50 p.m.
	PARENTS & TOTS 1-2:20 p.m.		PARENTS & TOTS 1-2:20 p.m.	STICK & PUCK 3:30-4:50 p.m.		PUBLIC SKATING 7-8:20 p.m.	
Program Cancellations Updated program cancellations will be posted, or can be found at www.portcolborne.ca/programcancellations or scan the QR code!							

FREE Swim Instructor & Lifeguard Training with the Port Colborne YMCA

We are hiring swimmers (ages 16 years and up) and are providing FREE Swim Instructor and Lifeguard training at the YMCA of Niagara.

To apply today, #jumpinwithus

<https://ymcaofniagara.org/careers/work-for-us/#apply>





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

Keep Me Warm at Night:

Come get wrapped up in our Keep Me Warm at Night exhibit! Imagine a cozy night by the fire surrounded by blankets, clothes, and textiles to keep the chill away during the cold winter nights. Explore Port Colborne's rich heritage of local weaving and the skills and traditions of textile arts in this exhibit will be on display until December 20.



End of Season:

The Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum closes for the season on December 20 and will re-open May 1, 2023. Visit our exhibits and heritage village until Dec. 20, open daily 12 to 5 p.m.



Want to stay up-to-date with the latest events at your Port Colborne Public Library? Subscribe to our Off the Shelf Newsletter at www.portcolborne.ca/subscribe !

Hours of Service:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Holiday Hours:

The library will be closed: Dec. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 2022

Open: Dec. 29 & 30, 2022

Early close: Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022 at 3 p.m.

Closed: Jan. 1 & 2, 2023

Open: Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023

Create our February Bookmark

January 3 – 27, 2023

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 for a chance to be our featured artist for February. The theme is "Family Fun." Available in the Children's Room. FREE.

Story Time with Shelly

Saturday, January 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2023, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Tot Time

Thursday, January 12, 10:15 – 11 a.m.

Enjoy stories, crafts, and a circle-time. For ages 2 to 5 accompanied by a parent/caregiver. COST: \$1:00 Pre-register.

P.D Day Activity: Try our Library of Things

Friday, January 20, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

We have exciting new additions to our Library of Things thanks to a generous donation from the Port Colborne Lions Club! Families are invited to drop by to try our Library of Things. For all ages. No registration required. FREE

Teen Craft: Button Making

Saturday, January 28, 2023, 2 – 3:30 p.m

Draw and create your very own one-of-a-kind button. Call 905-834-6512 to register. For ages 12 to 18. FREE



Community-Led Eclectic Book Club

The community-led Eclectic Book Club is back. If you are interested in joining them, please contact the library for more information: 905-834-6512. Space is limited.

Mud Lake Conservation Area Winter Walk with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Saturday, January 14, 2023, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Mud Lake Conservation Area

Learn about local wildlife, native plants, and hiking in all seasons with the NPCA. Please wear sturdy shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Uneven ground and slippery conditions possible. No washrooms on-site. In partnership with Welland Public Library. FREE. Pre-registration required. For more details, please call: 905-834-6512.

January Painting Class: Winter Wonderland

Saturday, January 21, 2023, 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Learn how to paint a majestic winter landscape in this acrylic painting workshop! Explore all the beautiful colours of this snowy season, through blending and shading techniques. Pre-registration is required. Contact the library for more information: 905-834-6512. COST: \$15 per person.



Documentary Films

Monday, January 30, 2023, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m

Join us for a screening and discussion of two documentary films: Arctic Secrets - Delta Discovery (2016, 48 mins.) & Big Pacific - Violent (2017, 53 mins.) FREE.



SNOWPORTANT INFORMATION

A Guide to Winter Control Services in the City of Port Colborne

The City of Port Colborne maintains all roads based on a priority system. Roads are classified into Primary Roads, Secondary Roads, and Laneways.

Our main objective during a snow event is to keep Primary Roads clear for emergency services and to maintain safe, passable school bus routes. Only after these roads are deemed clear are plowing and sanding operations started on Secondary Roads. Laneways are cleared when Primary and Secondary Roads are completed.

Road Class		Primary Road	Secondary Road	Laneway
Start Winter Control Operations	Snow Depth	8 cm (3 in.)	8 cm (3 in.)	10 cm (4 in.)
Clear Within	Time Frame	12 hours	16 hours	24 hours
Treat Icy Roadways	Time Frame	8 hours	12 hours	16 hours

Winter Parking:

Parked cars on the road allowance (boulevard, shoulder, curb and/or roadway) make plowing difficult and sometimes impossible. If you park on the road allowance during a snowfall our snowplows will form a drift around the vehicle when they make a pass. Once the vehicle moves, our snowplow operators must then make another pass down your street, causing more snow to be pushed at the end of your driveway. By limiting vehicles parked on the road allowance you are minimizing the amount of times snow will be pushed to the bottom of your driveway, that you will then have to shovel.

Vehicles interfering with snowplow operations will receive a \$75 ticket and a purple tow notice. Towing will occur between one to 24 hours of notice, depending on the severity of the storm and interference with snow removal.

Driveway Snow Clearing:

When shovelling your driveway, it is suggested you pile the snow on the right side of your driveway when facing the road, if possible. This will minimize the amount of snow that accumulates at the end of your driveway after the snowplow comes. How? By doing this you are shoveling snow in the same direction as traffic, downstream of the plow and away from the bottom of your driveway.

Be mindful of how high snow is piled at the sides/end of your driveway to not impact driver/pedestrian visibility.

Reminder: It is illegal to push snow from your property onto the street. If you hire a private contractor to clear your driveway, make sure the contractor does not push snow into the travelled portion of the roadway or fill in the sidewalks.

Sidewalk Snow Removal

- ❄️ New for 2022: Every owner or occupant of a building is responsible for clearing the sidewalks of all snow and ice abutting their property within 48 hours of the completion of a snow event.
- ❄️ A snow cleared sidewalk means reducing the snow to a depth less than 8 cm high and a minimum width of 1 metre.
- ❄️ Those who do not comply may face fines or have the snow and ice removed at the owner's expense.

Utility/Mailboxes and Catch Basins

- ❄️ If you have a utility box (for example water box), mailbox, or catch basin in front of your property, clear a space around it.



Fire Hydrants

- ❄️ If there's a fire hydrant near your house, do your part to keep it accessible this winter by keeping a 3-foot perimeter around the hydrant clear for firefighters to work. Please also clear a path from the fire hydrant to the street for easy quick access.

Garbage/Recycling Day

- ❄️ Garbage and recycling placement impacts the way we plow. If your pickup day falls on the same day as a snow event, please keep your garbage and recycling away from the roadside and off the snowbanks to ensure city staff can fully clear the roadways.

More information

For more information about winter control operations, visit

www.portcolborne.ca/wintercontrol.

To view our most frequently requested by-laws, visit

www.portcolborne.ca/bylaws.

Need to connect with By-law?

Call By-law Services at 905-835-2900 x200 to ask questions or discuss and issue.

To register a complaint, complete our online form by visiting www.portcolborne.ca/registerabylawcomplaint or scan the QR Code.

Generalized complaints, including reference to an entire block, cannot be filed.

Need to connect with Public Works?

During snow events or heavy snowfalls residents may call 905-835-2900.

If an after-hours emergency, press '9' to reach dispatch. If a non-emergency, complete our online service request form at

www.portcolborne.ca/RequestAService.

PORTicipate & Tune in

To stay up to date on snowplow operations and winter control activities, follow us on social media or subscribe to our news channel by visiting

www.portcolborne.ca/subsctscribe.

For information about winter control operations, visit:

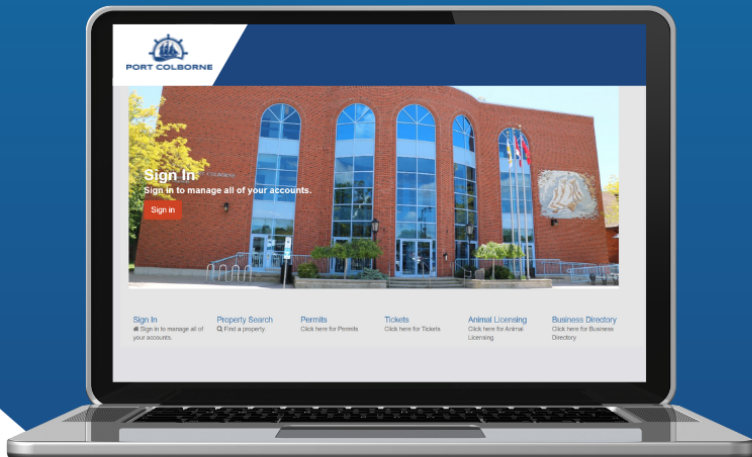
www.portcolborne.ca/wintercontrol.





PORT COLBORNE

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.



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, 2022. 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).



REGISTER FOR PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

UPDATE INFORMATION

Update mailing address and contact information.

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.



Grant Applications Being Accepted:

The City of Port Colborne's community grant program is now accepting the first-round of applications from non-profit organizations until Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023.

Non-profit organizations, charitable organizations, and service clubs serving the needs of the residents of Port Colborne are welcome to apply for a discretionary grant based on the provisions included in the city's grant policy.

Organizations can only apply once per fiscal year, with the first round of applications due Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. The deadline to apply for the second round of grants is Friday, June 30, 2023.

The grant policy committee was established in December 2015 when council passed by-law 6317/143/15. The committee oversees the distribution of grants to non-profit organizations. The funds are from the interest earned annually from the sale of the city's shares in Port Colborne Hydro.

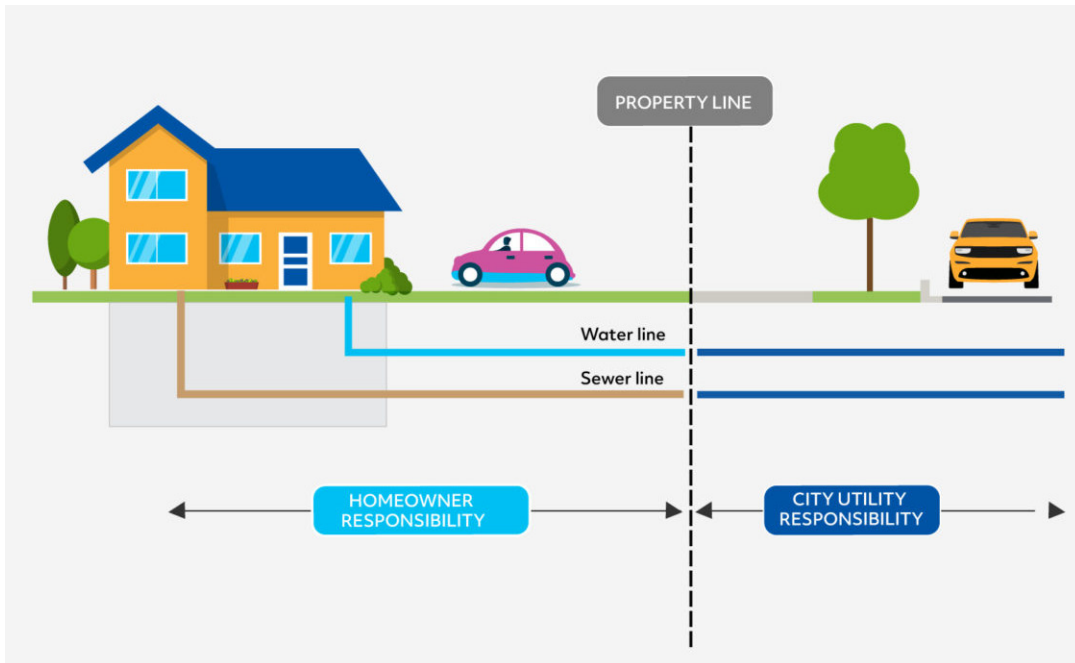
The grant policy and application can be found on the city's grant policy committee webpage at www.portcolborne.ca/communitygrant.

For more information about the application process and/or grant policy committee, contact Gail Todd, executive assistant to the Mayor and CAO, at 905-835-2900 x301 or email mayoradmin@portcolborne.ca.



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

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.

