



PORT COLBORNE

CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter written by staff for the residents of Port Colborne

FEBRUARY 2023



66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8



905-835-2900



@cityofportcolborne



@portcolborne



portcolborne.ca



newsletter@portcolborne.ca

What's happening this February:

2023 Sportsfest - Feb. 10-12, 2023

After a few years' hiatus, SportsFest returns in Port Colborne, Feb. 10 - 12, 2023, for a weekend filled with sports and activities for all ages and interests across the city. Several local charities benefit too, with proceeds from various events donated to the Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services Fire Prevention Program, Light of Day Foundation, and Special Olympics Ontario.

For more information and timing of each event, visit

www.portcolborne.ca/SportsFest.



Family Day Closure - Monday, Feb. 20, 2023

Reminder that City offices and facilities will be closed, Monday, Feb. 20 for Family Day. City Hall staff will be available by phone, email, or in-person on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 8:30 a.m.

In the event of an emergency, such as water main breaks or winter control maintenance, emergency crews are on call for 24 hour service. Call 905-835-2900 and press '9'.



Extended Bridge Closure - Feb. 27 - Mar. 10, 2023

During the winter pause in navigation, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation will undertake infrastructure renewal work as part of it's annual investment program.

From Feb. 27 to Mar. 10 the Clarence Street Bridge in Port Colborne will undergo bridge abutment work. The bridge will be closed to all vehicle traffic. One sidewalk will be available to pedestrians and cyclists.



Interim Tax Bills - Coming soon!

The interim tax bill will be mailed out by Feb. 7, 2023.

- Installment 1: Feb. 28, 2023
- Installment 2: April 28, 2023

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

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 *effective September 2022 – April 2023							
Rates (Rinks 1&2) Pre-School - Free Students - \$3 Seniors - \$4 Adults - \$4 +PAYP - \$3 Open PAYP - \$5	SR & ADULT SKATE 9:30-10:50 a.m. OPEN PAYP 12-1:20 p.m.	Ice Maintenance STICK & PUCK 3:30-4:50 p.m.	OPEN PAYP 11-11:50 a.m. SR & ADULT SKATE 12-1:20 p.m.	PARENTS & TOTS 10-11:50 a.m. STICK & PUCK 3:30-4:50 p.m.	50+ PAYP 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.		
Vale Health & Wellness Centre, Rink 2 *effective September 2022 – April 2023							
*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. PARENTS & TOTS 1-2:20 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. PUBIC SKATING 7-8:20 p.m.		PUBLIC SKATING 12-1:50 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 Public Skating

Thanks to our Community Sponsors, we are proud to announce the following FREE Public Skates in February at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre.

Upcoming dates include:

- Friday, Feb. 17 - 12-2 p.m.
- Monday, Feb 20 - 12-2 p.m.



FREE Swim Instructor & Lifeguard Training with the Port Colborne YMCA

The YMCA is 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>



Child and Youth Programs – Registration Starts Today

The YMCA is offering drop-in programs and registered skill-based programs at our branches in Niagara Centre, Niagara West and Port Colborne. For more details: <https://ymcaofniagara.org/programs/health-fitness/child-and-youth/programs/schedule/>

Join Today with 0 Join Fee!

This February, let's take that first step together towards a healthier you.

Starting something new can be hardest but most rewarding step. At the YMCA, we make the first splash the best splash, with a welcoming community that creates a sense of belonging and programs to get everyone feeling the benefits of movement.

Ready to take your first jump? Join the YMCA today.





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

Heritage Week:

February 20-26 is Heritage Week! The Board of Management is pleased to announce that we are partnering with Sheila Maracle, Indigenous Support Advisor with District School Board of Niagara to host a drum making day at the Roselawn Centre during Heritage Week. Indigenous students from Port Colborne High School, Eastdale Secondary School, Welland Centennial Secondary School, and E. L. Crossley Secondary School will come together for a day of gathering, sharing and learning that encompasses sacred teachings.

In addition, to celebrate Heritage Week this year the Museum has chosen to focus on connecting to communities through conservation and research:

Recently, our Registrar, Katelynn Best, has been organizing and preparing to launch an artefact conservation workshop. Our team of volunteers from the Museum's Building and Property Committee jumped at the opportunity to be our test group. If you are interested, stay tuned for further announcements!

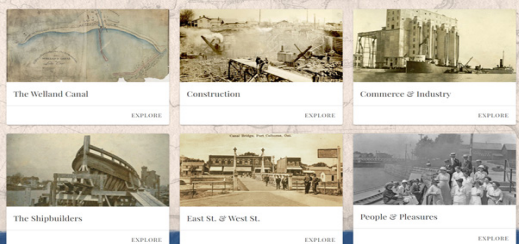


What to enjoy while we're away:

The buildings in our heritage village may be closed but the Museum grounds are always open for a lovely winter walk! Enjoy the fresh air and historic sites as you stroll through. Additionally, the Museum website also offers a variety of online exhibits to explore! Check out www.portcolborne.ca/onlineexhibits to brush up on interesting local history.

Or, if you are looking to research you can still book an appointment at the L.R. Wilson Archives by calling 905-834-7604 or emailing archives@portcolborne.ca.

The Welland Canal



En français SVP

Le musée historique et maritime de Port Colborne a reçu une bourse pour développer un projet d'histoire orale avec la communauté francophone de Port Colborne. Je vais être à l'écoute de vos expériences. De bonnes choses arrivent.

Un changement a commencé! Le Musée historique et marin de Port Colborne est ravi d'avoir reçu une subvention pour un projet de recherche sur notre communauté francophone.

Si vous aimez participer ou vous connaissez quelqu'un SVP contactez Christina Szymanis, la coordinatrice de développement au 905-834-7604 ou Christina.Szymanis@portcolborne.ca



Translation - The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum received a grant to develop an oral history project with the Francophone community of Port Colborne. I will be listening to your experiences. Good things happen.

A shift has begun! The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is thrilled to have been given a grant for a research project on our francophone community.

If you would like to participate or know someone please contact Christina Szymanis, the Development Coordinator at 905-834-7604 or Christina.Szymanis@portcolborne.ca.



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



@PortColborneLib



@PortColbornePublicLibrary

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: Monday, Feb. 20, 2023 (Family Day)

Create our March Bookmark

During February, 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 Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023 for a chance to be our featured artist for March. The theme is "I Love Reading." Available in the Children's Room. FREE.

Story Time with Shelly

Friday, Feb. 17 & Saturday, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 & 27, 2023, 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, Feb. 9, 10:15 – 11 a.m.

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

COST: \$1 Pre-register.

Family Day Long Weekend Activities

Friday, Feb. 17, 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.



Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Story Time with Shelly

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Story Time with Shelly

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, 2 – 4 p.m.

Chalk Art - Stop by on Saturday afternoon to create a small piece of chalk art to take home! For all ages. No registration required. FREE.

Documentary Films

Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Join us for a screening and discussion of two documentary films: Inside Animal Minds: Dogs & Super Senses (2013, 54 min.) & Inside Animal Minds: Bird Genius (2013, 54 min.) FREE.

Freedom to Read Week

February 19 – 25, 2023

Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Check out our book display in-person or through the online catalogue. Celebrate your freedom to read by enjoying a frequently challenged or banned book today.



Black History Month 2023

During Black History Month, people in Canada celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who have helped to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today.

The Port Colborne Public Library celebrates Black History Month with book displays and an online carousel of suggested books on the library's website.

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

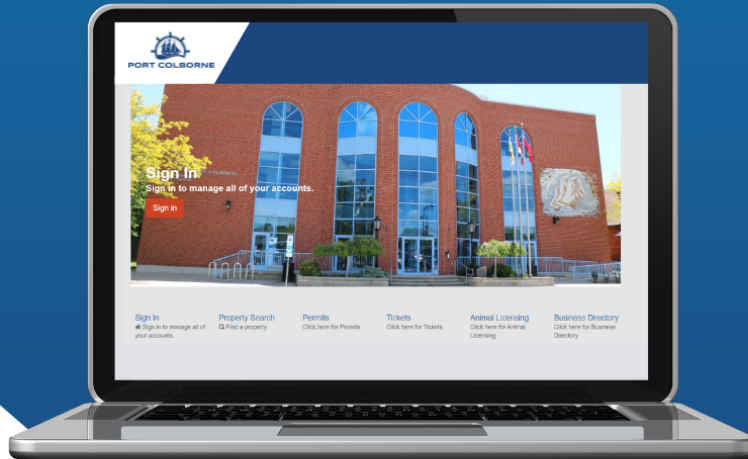
To stay up to date on snowplow operations and winter control activities, follow us on social media or subscribe to our news channel by visiting

www.portcolborne.ca/subcscribe.

For information about winter control operations, visit:

www.portcolborne.ca/wintercontrol.

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).

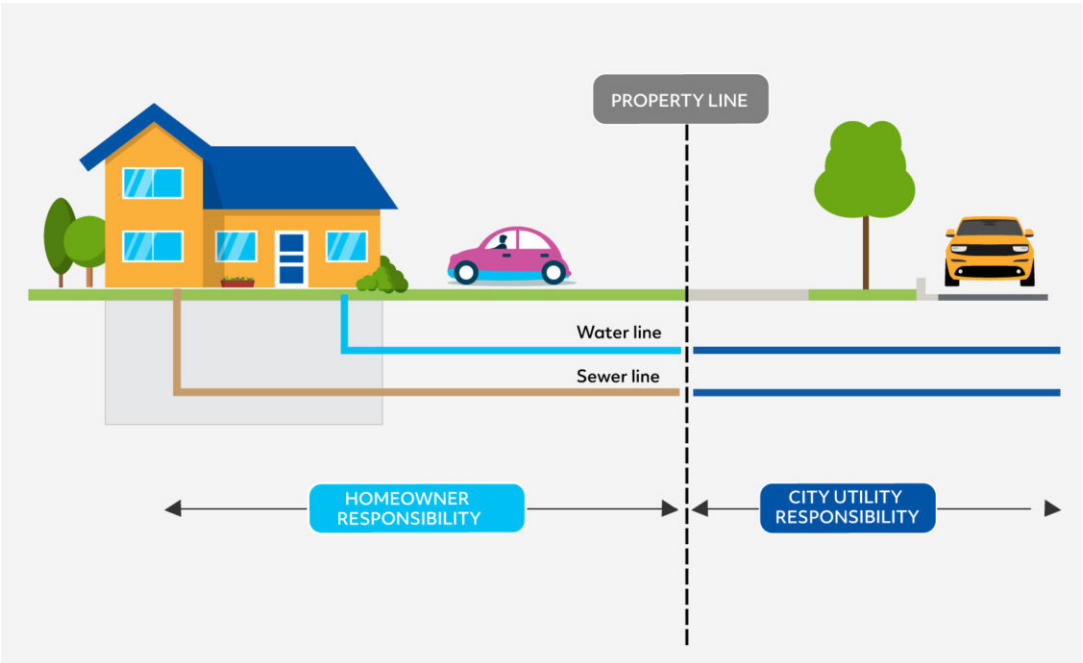
To get started creating your account, or for more information, including 'how to' videos, visit our website www.portcolborne.ca/virtualcityhall or scan the QR code.

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.



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.

