



PORT COLBORNE

# CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter for the residents of Port Colborne

OCTOBER 2023



66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8



905-835-2900



@cityofportcolborne



@portcolborne



portcolborne.ca



newsletter@portcolborne.ca

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

The City of Port Colborne will recognize and observe Sept. 30 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The first observance of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was Sept. 30, 2021, following the identification of unmarked burials at former Indian Residential School sites.

The City of Port Colborne has raised the Every Child Matters flag at City Hall to remember and honour the survivors of the residential school system, and the children who never made it home.



For individuals interested in educational resources, visit the Port Colborne Public Library to explore its collection of books by Indigenous authors, illustrators, and publishers. The collections include adult and children's titles.



Members of the public are invited to attend the screening of the film "Orange Shirt Day" about the life of Orange Shirt Day founder Phyllis Webstad. This event will take place, Saturday, Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. in the L.R. Wilson Archives.



The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation also coincides with Orange Shirt Day, which began in 2013 and encourages people to wear orange shirts to honour Indigenous children forced to leave their families to attend residential schools.

Municipal offices, including City Hall, Operations Centre, Port Colborne Public Library, Roselawn Centre, and L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives, will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023, to recognize Sept. 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The Vale Health & Wellness Centre, Sugarloaf Marina, and Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum, including Arabella's Tea Room, will remain open, operating regular business hours.

Municipal offices will re-open Tues., Oct. 3, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to continue to assist by phone, email, walk-in, or appointment. Residents requiring our Public Works department can call 905-835-2900 and press '9' to reach the after-hours dispatch. Alternatively, if it is not a public works emergency, residents can submit a service request using our online form at [www.portcolborne.ca/requestaservice](http://www.portcolborne.ca/requestaservice).





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## Ways to #PORTicipate in October:

### Community Concerts - Sept. 29, 6 to 9 p.m.

Join us, Sept. 29 at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park for a Community Concerts featuring: Message in a Bottle - a Tribute to the Police & Sting.



### Sip and Shop - Sept. 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fall is just around the corner and what better way to celebrate than enjoying a warm beverage and shopping! Join us at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park on Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy a variety of local artisan vendors and warm beverages.

For more information, please contact [morgan.j.maclean@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.j.maclean@gmail.com)

### Main Street BIA Fall Festival - Oct. 1, 12 - 3 p.m.

Join us the Port Colborne Main Street BIA Oct. 1 at Lock 8 Gateway Park from 12 to 3 p.m. for their Fall Festival. Artisan and local vendors, food rucks, live music, bouncy castles and more.



### Christmas Card Contest

Help design the City of Port Colborne's community Christmas card. On behalf of the City of Port Colborne, Mayor Bill Steele is inviting the children of our community to help design the City's 2023 Christmas card.

Submissions may be painted with fingers or brushes, or drawn with pencils, crayons, pastels, or markers on a standard white sheet of paper, 8 ½" X 11" in vertical or horizontal format. Remember that deep, dark colours produce a better illustration. The contest is open to all children who live or go to school in Port Colborne; up to and including those in Grade 8.

The theme is "Christmas in Port Colborne." The mayor seeks an image that conveys the Christmas spirit with special focus on a Port Colborne person, place, or thing.

For complete rules and regulations, and how to submit an entry, visit: [www.portcolborne.ca/christmasinportcolborne](http://www.portcolborne.ca/christmasinportcolborne) or contact, Gail Todd at 905-835-2900 x301, or email [mayoradmin@portcolborne.ca](mailto:mayoradmin@portcolborne.ca).

Entries must be submitted by Oct. 20, 2023.

Student artwork that is selected by Mayor Steele will be invited to celebrate at a city council meeting; they will receive a dozen blank cards featuring their work to send to friends and family; and they will be invited to join him on the Port Colborne float at the Annual Lighted Santa Claus Parade, Saturday, Dec. 2.





## Thanksgiving Office Closure - Oct. 9

A reminder that Municipal offices will be closed, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023. Staff will return Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to continue to assist you by phone, email, or appointment. If you require our Operations Department due to a road or water emergency, you can call our after-hours dispatch at 905-835-2900 & press 9.

We hope you stay safe and enjoy a pumpkin-spiced, turkey-filled weekend in Port Colborne.



## Fire Prevention Week - Oct. 8-14

This year's theme of Fire Prevention Week, which runs from October 8-14, 2023, as set out by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is Cooking Safety Starts with You and works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

The Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services is urging everyone in Port Colborne and Niagara to take some simple steps to prevent kitchen fires in their home.

## Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.™



**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™**

[fpw.org](http://fpw.org)



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## Community Logo

So many people around town are sporting Port Colborne's new community logo. The new logo is a symbol designed to capture the essence of our vibrant city and honor its rich marine heritage. Intended to foster a sense of belonging and unity, the logo will be available for members of our community to wear proudly on hats, t-shirts, sweaters and more. Residents and visitors are invited to display their Port Colborne pride by wearing the new logo around town and beyond.

For a limited time, the City will be offering t-shirts, sweaters, and hats for sale with the new community logo displayed proudly on the front. The merchandise will be available for purchase at various City events, the weekly Port Colborne

## Vale Health & Wellness Centre

The Fall & Winter ice programs are back up and running at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre. To view the programs and the schedule, please visit

[www.portcolborne.ca/arenaschedule.](http://www.portcolborne.ca/arenaschedule)

|  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                           | SATURDAY                      | SUNDAY                            |
|--|---|--|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Vale Health &amp; Wellness Centre, Rink 1</b><br><i>*effective September 2023 – April 2024</i>  |   |  |   |  |                                  |                               |                                   |
| Rates (Rinks 1&2)<br>Pre-School - Free<br>Students - \$4<br>Seniors - \$4<br>Adults - \$5<br>50+PAYP - \$4<br>Open PAYP - \$5<br><br>*PAYP - Pay As You Play | SR & ADULT SKATE<br>9:30-11 a.m.                                    | PARENTS & TOTS<br>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.                                      | PARENTS & TOTS<br>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.<br><br>SR & ADULT SKATE<br>12-1:30 p.m. | Ice Maintenance<br><br><br>OPEN PAYP<br>1:30- 3 p.m.   | 50+ PAYP<br>11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.   |                               |                                   |
| <b>Vale Health &amp; Wellness Centre, Rink 2</b><br><i>*effective September 2023 – April 2024</i>  |   |  |   |  |                                  |                               |                                   |
| *Stick & Puck - \$5 for adult & child; \$3 each additional child (10 years & under must be accompanied by an adult)  | 50+ PAYP<br>11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.<br><br>PARENTS & TOTS<br>1-2:30 p.m. | OPEN PAYP<br>11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.<br><br><br>STICK & PUCK<br>3:30-5 p.m. | 50+ PAYP<br>11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  | Ice Maintenance<br><br><br>STICK & PUCK<br>3:30-5 p.m. | SR & ADULT SKATE<br>9:30-11 a.m. |                               | PUBLIC SKATING<br>10 a.m.-12 p.m. |
|  |   |  |   |  |                                  | PUBLIC SKATING<br>7-8:30 p.m. |                                   |



## Holiday Hours

The library will be closed: Monday, Oct. 9, 2023 (Thanksgiving)

## October is Canadian Library Month

Oct. 1 – 31, 2023

During the month of October, libraries and library partners across Canada are raising awareness of the valuable role libraries play in Canadians' lives. More than just a place to find books, libraries promote cultural awareness, engage in the community, provide educational programs, support freedom of expression, and so much more. The theme for this year is: Libraries for Life.

## Tell Us Why You Love Your Library

Oct. 1 – 31, 2023

During October, we are asking our patrons to "Tell us why you love your library." Pick up a form at the library during the month of October. Submit your response before October 31, 2023 to be entered into a prize draw. For full contest details, please contact the library

## Library Card Contest

Oct. 1 – 31, 2023

Sign up for a library card during the month of October to be entered into a prize draw! Already have a library card? Have a friend sign up for a library card and you will both be entered into the draw. For full contest details, please contact the library.

## Spooky Story Contest

Submissions due: Oct. 23, 2023

Age groups: Children (5 – 11), Teens (12 – 17), and Adults (18 and older)

Submit an original spooky story to [library@portcolborne.ca](mailto:library@portcolborne.ca) for a chance to win a prize. Entries must be between one and three pages in length. One story will be selected from each age group and will be shared on the library's website and social media accounts. Winners to be announced on Halloween. For full contest details, please contact the library.

## Infant Sleep Workshop

Fri. Oct. 27, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Niagara Region Public Health nurses will be discussing healthy sleep for infants aged 6 to 12 months. Support for creating an individualized sleep plan for your baby will be available. Pre-register. Free.

## Adult Painting with Kyla: Walk of the Witch

Thurs. Oct. 12, 2023, 1 – 2:30 p.m. & 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Learn perspective techniques, blending and shading tricks in this acrylic painting workshop. Cost: \$15 per person. Pre-register.



## Art in the Atrium

Sept 21. to Oct. 31, 2023

Celebrating 100 years of Port Colborne High School. Welcome, Visual Arts students.

## PD Day Activity: Pixel Art Challenge

Friday, October 6, 2023, 10 – 11 a.m.

Join us for the pixel art challenge! Create fun images using a special book. There will be timed challenges and a chance to create your own designs. Plus, you get to keep the book! Limited spaces available. Pre-register. Free. Thanks to the Port Colborne Optimist Club.

## Trick or Treat

Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Stop by the library on Halloween in your costume to receive a small trick or treat! Drop-in. Free. For families.





310 King Street, Port Colborne, ON | 905-834-6512 | [portcolbornelibrary.org](http://portcolbornelibrary.org) | [library@portcolborne.ca](mailto:library@portcolborne.ca)



@PortColborneLib



@PortColbornePublicLibrary

## Community Connect

Learn more about services and programs offered by local community support groups. Drop-in. Free.

Tues. Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. - Resume Refresh

Wed. Oct. 4, 10 – 11:30 a.m. - Ontario Senior's Dental Care Program

Fri. Oct. 13, 10 – 11 a.m. – Ask a Family Nurse

Wed. Oct. 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.- Service Canada

Mon. Oct. 30, 1 – 3 p.m. - Speak with a Registered Dietician

Fri. Oct 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. - Birchway Niagara (Formerly Women's Place)

Sat. Nov. 4, 2023, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – PFLAG Niagara



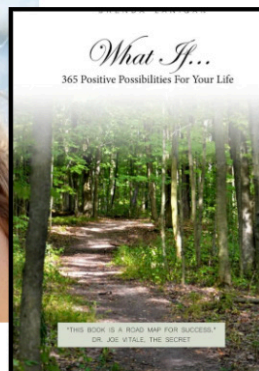
## Local Author Talk

Wed. Oct. 11, 2023, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Venue: L.R. Wilson Archives, 286 King St. (adjacent to the Library)

Join local author Brenda Lanigan as she discusses her book *What If...365 Positive Possibilities for Life*. The event is free.

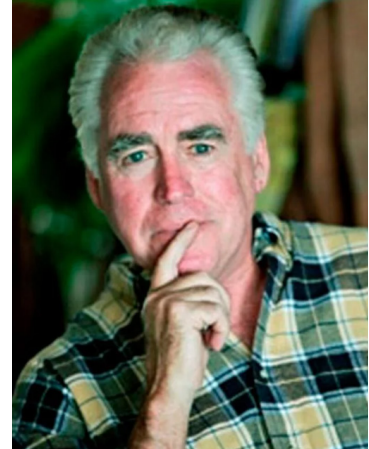
Pre-register at the library to save your spot.



## An Afternoon with William Thomas

Sat. Oct. 28, 2023, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The Port Colborne Public Library is proud to present bestselling author, scriptwriter, and nationally syndicated humour columnist William Thomas as he reflects on the Readings at the Roselawn author series, launches his latest book *And That's Why I Love Small Town Living*, and unveils Bill's Best Reads Book Club.



Don't miss this special opportunity to join William on a guided tour of his extraordinary collection of photographs on loan to the library, featuring all the great Canadian authors who attended the author series. The event is free and will be held on the main floor of the library during open hours. Call 905-834-6512 for more details.

## Spooky Trivia Night Fundraiser with the Library and Museum

Wed. Oct. 25, 2023, 6 – 8 p.m.

Test your spooky trivia skills in this special fundraiser hosted by two legendary trivia masters, the Port Colborne Public Library and the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum.

**Are you up to the challenge?**

Come dressed as your favourite literary or historical character for a chance to win a special prize package filled with ... what else? Books!

Individuals can join a team at the event, or you can sign up as a team with a maximum of eight.

Cost is \$10 per person. Pizza and beverages available for purchase. Call 905-834-6512 for more information. All proceeds go to the Library and the Museum.

Call 905-834-6512 for more details.



**PORT COLBORNE**

**HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM**

# MORE THAN A MUSEUM...

280 King Street, Port Colborne, ON | 905-834-7604 | [portcolborne.ca/museum](http://portcolborne.ca/museum) | [museum@portcolborne.ca](mailto:museum@portcolborne.ca)



@PortMuseum



@PortColborneHistoricalMarineMuseum



@PortColborneMuseum

## Centennial Art Show

This juried art show of current and former students in honour of the 100th Anniversary of Port Colborne High School is presented in partnership with the Port Colborne Art Club and Friends of Roselawn Centre. Open September 23 to October 23, visit between Wednesday-Saturday from 1 - 3 p.m. and admission is free.



**Showcasing the  
artworks of PCHS  
Alumni in honour of  
the 100th anniversary**

### HOURS:

Wednesday to Saturday  
1:00-3:00 p.m.

**FREE ADMISSION**

## Speaker Series: October Talks

Join us this October at the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives for presentations on local history! Dr. Michelle Vosburgh will present on 'Graves in the Dunes: The Gravelly Bay Burial Ground' on October 5, at 7 p.m., and 'Helen Kinnear: Her Political and Legal Career' on October 26 at 7 p.m. Both presentations will be in person in the Archives at 286 King St., Free Admission. Contact 905-834-7604 or [archives@portcolborne.ca](mailto:archives@portcolborne.ca) for more information.

**05**  
Oct

**7:00 PM | MICHELLE VOSBURGH**

**Graves in the Dunes:**

**The Gravelly Bay Burial Ground**

A presentation on the documentary evidence and history of the 19th century settler burying ground in the area along present-day Sugarloaf St. in Port Colborne.

**26**  
Oct

**7:00 PM | MICHELLE VOSBURGH**

**Helen Kinnear:**

**Her Political and Legal Career**

Helen Kinnear, a Port Colborne lawyer, was the first woman appointed as Country Court judge in Canada. This presentation examines her political and legal career, and life-long advocacy for women.

## Lantern Tours

Light up the past with our newest program, Lantern Tours! Venture into the Heritage Village and halls of the Roselawn Centre to hear spooky tales of the past from characters you will encounter along the way. This is the perfect autumn activity for the whole family. Ticket information and dates will be posted in early October on the Museum's Facebook Page or email [Sloane.Mcdowell@portcolborne.ca](mailto:Sloane.Mcdowell@portcolborne.ca) for more information.

## Paranormal Ghost Hunts

Ghost Hunts are back by popular demand and this year they are coming to the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum Grounds! Explore the Heritage Village like you never have before as the Paranormal and Historical Association of Niagara leads you on a tour of the supernatural. Tickets for October 21 are available now, and all participants must be 18+.



## Haunted Mansion: Trick or Treat!

On October 31 the Roselawn Centre will transform into the Haunted Mansion for Halloween. All brave ghouls and ghosts are invited to walk the winding path in search of sweet treats! Visit between 3-7 p.m. for candy, the perfect spooky photo op, and some Victorian Halloween facts to trick your friends with!



# WHAT'S IN THE WORKS WITH PUBLIC WORKS

## Spring Street Sweeping Operations

Our annual street sweeping operations are underway.

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



## Fall Storms - Keeping Catch Basins & Culverts Clear

Historically, October and November bring more extreme weather events, largely due to higher volumes of rain. With leaves falling and debris on the ground, catch basins and culverts tend to become congested with leaves, sticks and other foreign objects from trees bushes and shrubs. Residents are being asked to keep their culvert and catch basins free of debris to minimize the potential of flooding.

Also, during high volume rain events, residents are encouraged to limit water usage at home to reduce the possibility of sewer backups and the chances of surcharging the storm and sewer systems.

As a safety measure, residents are encouraged to avoid any creeks, ditches or streams with high water levels or fast moving water.



## Water Wednesday

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

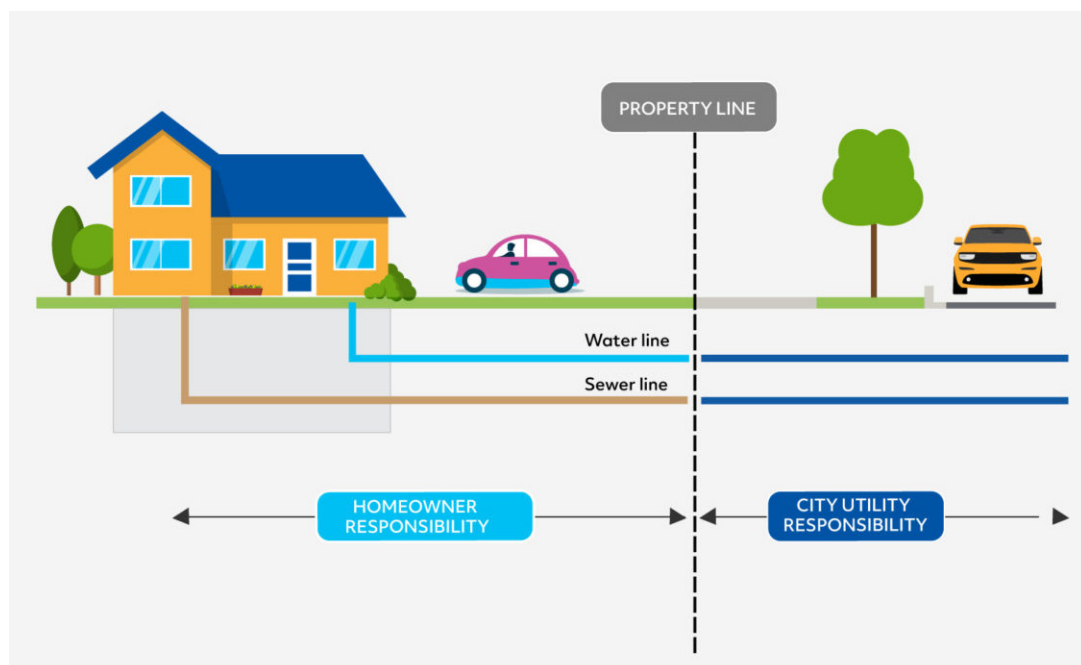
We share new info each week on our Facebook and Instagram channels to help you learn about all things water in Port Colborne! Follow us to learn more.





## 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 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:

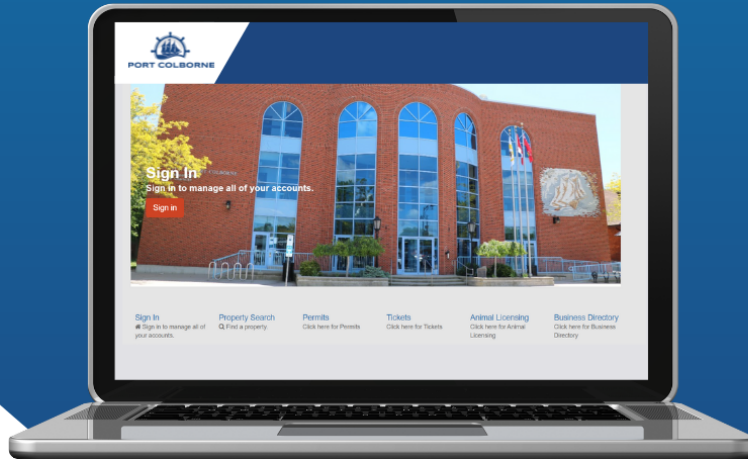
|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| Water Line | \$2,500 |
| Sewer Line | \$2,500 |

If you are interested in learning more about the program and the eligibility requirements, please visit [www.portcolborne.ca/watergrantsandloanprogram](http://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.





# 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, 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.



### 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.

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

To get started creating your account, or for more information, including 'how to' videos, visit our website [www.portcolborne.ca/virtualcityhall](http://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](mailto:customerservice@portcolborne.ca).

