



PORT COLBORNE

CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter for the residents of Port Colborne

DECEMBER 2023

📍 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8

☎ 905-835-2900

📘 @cityofportcolborne

🐦 @portcolborne

🔗 portcolborne.ca

✉ newsletter@portcolborne.ca

Christmas in Port Colborne

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 - Tugboat Santa

Santa will arrive in Port Colborne on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. via tugboat. Welcome Santa along the Welland Canal on West Street. Tugboat Santa is presented by the Downtown Port Colborne BIA.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 - Lighted Santa Claus Parade

The City of Port Colborne's annual lighted Santa Claus Parade is on Saturday, Dec. 2 in downtown Port Colborne. The parade begins at 6:30 p.m. and will feature holiday-themed floats, music, and lots of festive fun for the family. For the parade route and other details, visit portcolborne.ca/events.

Volunteers will be collecting non-perishable food along the parade route in support of Port Cares. Please donate if you can.



Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023 - 47th Annual Grand Old Christmas Festival 12 - 4 p.m.

Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum hosts the Grand Old Christmas Festival for its 47th year on Dec. 3 from 12 - 4 p.m. We will have all the favourites to ring in some holiday cheer – roasted chestnuts, hot apple cider, Christmas pudding, photos with Santa, horse drawn carriage rides, and lots of other festive activities through out the historic village for the whole family to enjoy. More details on page 5.



"Fill the Fire Truck" Food Drive in support of Port Cares

This year the Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services will be hosting a "Fill the Fire Truck" Food Drive in support of Port Cares. The need for food in our community is more pressing than ever. Consider donating non-perishable food items this holiday season.

Drop off locations include, Fire Hall (3 Killaly Street W); Vale Health & Wellness Centre (550 Elizabeth Street); City Hall (66 Charlotte Street); Engineering and Operations Centre (1 Killaly Street W); and the Port Colborne Public Library (310 King Street) during operating hours.

Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services will also be collecting non-perishable food items at the upcoming lighted Santa Claus Parade on Saturday, Dec. 2.

For more information, call 905-835-2900 x403.

Home for the Holidays Decorating Contest

Calling all Clark Griswolds of Port Colborne. Since 2020, we have been looking for the best holiday decorations in town! Port Colborne residents are invited to join in the fun and show their holiday spirit by decorating their property for the holidays.

Winners will be announced for best lawn display/ house lights, and best balcony/door display. Entries must be submitted by Friday, December 15, to eventservices@portcolborne.ca



Port Colborne Business Lighting Contest

The City of Port Colborne invites all local businesses and storefronts across the city to decorate their location and help us light up Port Colborne for the Christmas season.

All businesses that participate will be entered into a light display contest with the winner being chosen by the community. Residents will be invited to vote for their favourite business display on the city's Facebook page

Christmas lights and decorations must be installed by Friday, December 15. To enter the contest, submit a picture to eventservices@portcolborne.ca.

Ways to #PORTicipate

New Year's Eve Family Celebration

Join us at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre on New Years Eve for fun for the entire family. At 6 p.m. there will be a fireworks show outside the Vale Health & Wellness Centre.

Schedule of Events

- 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Free Family Open Swim
- 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - YMCA Bouncer & Gym Activities/Games - Gym 1 & 2
- 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Free Public Skating All ages - Rink 1
- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Free Family Skate - Rink 2
- 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Colouring Station - Lower Lobby
- 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Face Painting - Lower Lobby
- 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Banner Signing - Upper Lobby
- 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Dena Gelentso Presents Model Magic Sculpture and Treats - Golden Puck Room
- 6 p.m. - Fireworks - Behind VHWC

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.

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



FREE Public Skates

Thank you to our Community Sponsors, we are proud to announce the following FREE Public Skates at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre:

- December 26 – 12 to 2 p.m. – Presented by Jungbunzlauer
- December 27 – 12 to 2 p.m. – Presented by Sid Grabell Contracting
- December 28 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. – Presented by Sullivan Mahoney
- December 29 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Presented by West Pier
- December 31 – 2 to 5:30 p.m. – Presented by Vale Canada Ltd.
- January 2 – 12 to 2 p.m. – Presented by the YMCA of Niagara
- January 3 – 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Presented by Algoma Central Corporation
- January 4 – 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. – Presented by the City of Port Colborne
- January 5 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Presented by GM Blue Plan
- January 19 – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Presented by HOPA Ports



November Recap

HOPA Ports welcomes expansion of Niagara Port Lands

On Nov. 4, Mayor Steele joined MP Vance Badawey, Mayor Ugulini of Thorold and Ian Hamilton from the Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority for a special event. HOPA will expand its Niagara lands portfolio with the addition of three new parcels, two in Thorold (12 and 16 acres) and one in Port Colborne (40 acres).



Remembrance Day at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park Cenotaph

Thank you to all who attended the Remembrance Day ceremony with the city and Port Colborne Branch 56 of the Royal Canadian Legion for WWI, WWII, Korea, and Afghanistan.

If you were unable to attend the ceremony you can watch the live stream on the city's YouTube channel.



Launch of Lets Connect, Port Colborne

The City of Port Colborne has launched an innovative online engagement platform, "Let's Connect, Port Colborne". This digital initiative aims to foster a stronger connection between the municipality and its residents by providing a convenient and interactive space for community members to share their feedback on municipal projects and initiatives.

Residents can access "Let's Connect, Port Colborne" by visiting www.letsconnect.portcolborne.ca. The platform is now live, and the City encourages all residents to sign up, explore the features, and start sharing their perspectives.

Flag Raising - Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Nov. 25 to Dec. 10 marks 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Members of the Canadian Federation of University Women and Birchway Niagara have collaborated on projects to bring awareness to gender-based violence. They were pleased to be in Port Colborne where they helped Mayor Bill Steele raise the purple "Wrapped in Courage" flag.



Flag Raising - Positive Living Niagara

On November 27, Mayor Steele and members of Positive Living Niagara helped raise the Positive Living Niagara flag in recognition of AIDS Awareness Week (Nov. 24-Dec 1), World AIDS Day (Dec 1) and Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week (Dec. 1-7).



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


 @PortColborneLib
 
 @PortColbornePublicLibrary

Holiday Hours

The library will be closed: December 25, 26, 27, 2023

Open: December 28, 29, 30, 2023

Closed: Monday, January 1, 2024

Book Giveaway

Starting: Fri. Dec. 15, 2023, 9 a.m.

Give the gift of reading this holiday season with a free children's picture book. Starting on Friday, December 15, the first 120 people in the door will get a free picture book thanks to First Book Canada.

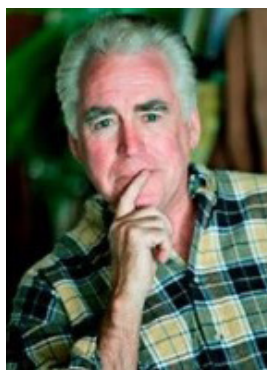
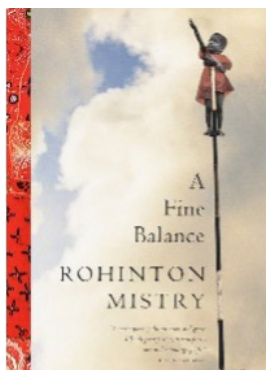
One book per family. Available while supplies last.

Bill's Best Reads

We are excited to introduce Bill's Best Reads. Each month, we will feature a book hand-selected by bestselling author, scriptwriter, and nationally syndicated humour columnist, William Thomas.

This month's selection: A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry.

You can place a hold on this book through the library's website or by calling: 905-834-6512.



Buttons and Book Sale

Looking for a great stocking stuffer? Pick up a seasonal button for \$2 each. Gently used book packages available for purchase while supplies last. Support your local library while buying a unique gift for someone special.

Help Fill our Mitten Tree

Donate new mittens, hats, gloves and scarves to place on our Mitten Tree for Port Cares. Whether handmade or bought, help someone have a warm winter this year. Thank you for your support.

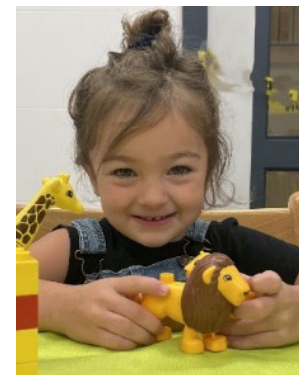
Children's Programs

Saturdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Story Time with Shelly. Drop-in. Free.

Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 & 19, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. – Baby Time. Pre-register. Free.

Thursdays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 & 28, 10:15 – 11 a.m. – Tot Time. Pre-register. Free.

Wed. Dec 13, 3 – 4 p.m. – Snowman Ornament. Pre-register. Free.



Bookmark Contest

Submit a bookmark design by December 30, 2023 for a chance to be our featured artist for January. The theme is "Winter Wonderland." Available in the Children's Room. Free.

Congrats to our November winner, Ruby, who drew a picture of her pet goldfish named Maggie.

Art in the Atrium: Lakeshore Catholic High School

December 2023

We are excited to welcome art students from Lakeshore Catholic High School. Support these talented artists by visiting their show. Be sure to sign the guestbook..

Documentary Films

Join us for a screening and discussion of two documentaries. Pre-register. Free.

Mary of Nazareth (1996, 50 min.) & Christmas Unwrapped (2005, 50 min.)

Community Connect

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

Tuesdays, Dec. 5, 12 & 19, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. - Resume Refresh with PC Works

Tues. Dec. 12, 2 – 3 p.m. - Ontario Senior's Dental Care Program Presentation

Thurs. Dec. 14, 2023, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m - Birchway Niagara (Formerly Women's Place)

Mon. Dec. 18, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. - Raising Resilient Children

Wed. Dec. 20, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. - Service Canada

Sat. Jan. 6, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. - PFLAG Niagara



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

47th Grand Old Christmas Festival

It's the most festive time of the year! Join us for the 47th Annual Grand Old Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 3 from 12-4 p.m.

Immerse yourself in holiday cheer in our decorated heritage village. We will be bringing the Christmas magic and tradition to everyone with chestnuts roasting, apple cider warming over the fire, carollers singing, horse-drawn carriage rides trotting, and a special visit from Santa.

Make some traditional Christmas decorations such as a door swag with fresh greens, a dipped candle, and a card stamped with the Heritage Printing Press. Have a delicious lunch made fresh from Riverside Berry Farm. Or pick up the perfect gift at the Christmas Craft Market in the Archives as well as the Museum Gift Shop. And don't forget Arabella's Tea Room will be serving their famous Christmas Pudding with tea during the festival and from December 4 to 9. Pudding will also be available to buy in the Timber Cabin. We hope you make the Grand Old Festival a part of your Christmas tradition.



A Countdown to Christmas

This December, engage in the spirit of the season as the Roselawn Centre illuminates day by day for the countdown to Christmas. Emanating the joy of classic advent calendars, this exhibit will unveil a new hand-cut holiday design each day reflecting various iconic seasonal symbols and stories. Make sure to take a winter walk or drive to see a new scene unlocked daily.



Christmas by Mail Exhibit

Tis' the season to get your Wishbook orders in and your Santa letters in the mail. Come and reminisce in the excitement of choosing gifts from the much-anticipated annual Christmas Wish Books and catalogues and relive the joys, from years gone past, of receiving Christmas cards, gifts, and letters in the mail in our Christmas by Mail exhibit. The exhibit opens on November 15.



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 -5 p.m.



WHAT'S IN THE WORKS WITH PUBLIC WORKS

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

- 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.

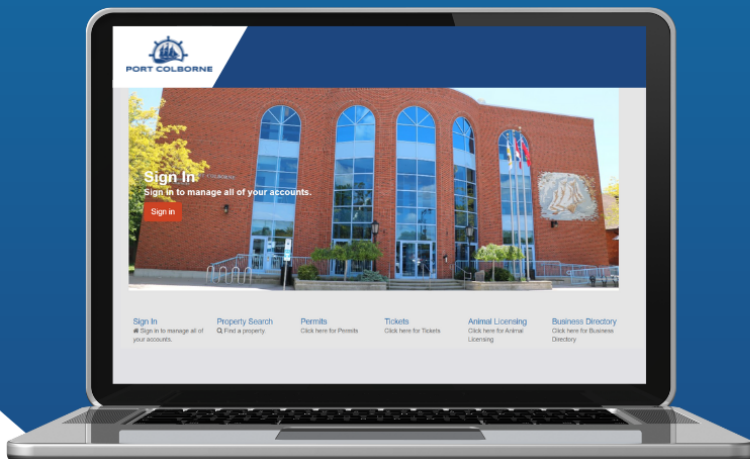
For information about winter control operations, visit:

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, 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.



REGISTER FOR PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS



UPDATE INFORMATION

Update mailing address and contact 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).



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.

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.

