



**PORT COLBORNE**

# CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

JUNE 2020

66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8 | 905-835-2900 | portcolborne.ca | newsletter@portcolborne.ca



## COVID-19 UPDATE

As the City looks forward to a safe and gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, some restrictions are being lifted allowing residents greater use, and access to some outdoor spaces. Residents are able to use parks and outdoor sports fields for more than walk-through uses, with some limitations. Residents must still abide by restrictions limiting groups to no more than five people and maintaining a two-metre (six feet) physical separation. Passive activities are now permitted in these areas including:

- Shoreline fishing, including at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park (note that the fishing docks will remain closed).
- Bringing a chair or blanket to relax in parks.
- Kicking a ball, playing catch, flying a kite, and other such activities with members of their own households.
- Use of basketball and soccer nets with members of their own households at community parks (excluding the Vale Health & Wellness Centre / T.A. Lannan Sports Complex).
- Individual activities such as yoga or exercising provided not in a group or class.
- Elm Street leash free dog park.
- Tennis/Pickleball courts (143 Helen Street and Cedar Bay/Centennial Park).
- Public boat launch ramp at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park.



## Stay Safe Stay Healthy

Please limit numbers as per Provincial Emergency Orders



Stay home if you are sick



Maintain two metres physical separation



Wash or sanitize hands frequently



Avoid touching surfaces

for more information visit: [hiagararegion.ca](http://hiagararegion.ca)

Organized sports are still restricted on municipal fields, given their necessity for gathering of groups. At this time, parks and outdoor amenities such as playground equipment, benches, outdoor fitness equipment, municipal beaches, washroom facilities, and the Algoport Skateboard and BMX Park will remain closed to limit the spread of COVID-19 on shared surfaces. By-law enforcement will continue to enforce gatherings larger than five people, dogs off-leash, and anyone using closed park amenities. To report to the By-law department, email [bylawenforcement@portcolborne.ca](mailto:bylawenforcement@portcolborne.ca).

City facilities/offices, including City Hall, remain closed to the public; however, our staff are working hard to continue to be available to assist you, our residents, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. by phone at **905-835-2900** or email. For a complete listing of all municipal staff and their contact information, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/City\\_Contacts](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/City_Contacts). For after-hours road and water/wastewater issues, residents should call **905-835-5079**. For more information and updates about the City's efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19, including re-opening and recovery plans, current facility closures, and department service disruptions, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19).

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings return to their regular schedule for June, occurring on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The next scheduled Council meetings for June are Monday, June 8, 2020, and Monday, June 22, 2020. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Council meeting will be held virtually, with the meeting live streamed on the City's YouTube channel. Anyone wishing to be a delegate at council meetings are asked to submit a written delegation that will be circulated to council members prior to the meeting. Submissions must be received by noon on Monday of the Council meeting by emailing [deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca](mailto:deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca), or handwritten delegations can be submitted in the after-hours drop box in front of City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street. Questions about the delegation process?

Email [deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca](mailto:deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca) or call **905-835-2900 ext. 115**. The agenda package for the Monday, June 8, 2020, Council meeting will be available on Thursday, June 4, 2020. To read the agenda, or to watch live at 6:30 p.m., visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/minutes\\_and\\_agendas](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/minutes_and_agendas). Alternatively, to sign up to receive council information and agenda directly to an email inbox, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/subscribe\\_newsletter](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/subscribe_newsletter). Council meetings are also broadcast the Thursday following the Council meeting at 9 a.m. on YourTV (Cogeco), channel 10.



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## EVENT CANCELLATIONS

For the protection of the community and staff due to public health concerns regarding COVID-19, the City's community and economic development department have made the difficult decision to cancel all City events, including third party community events held on City property, until July 2, 2020.

This cancellation affects the following events:

- Port Colborne Downtown Cruisers Association Cruise Nights - May 28, June 4, 11, 18, 25, and July 2, 2020.
- Port Colborne Downtown Cruisers Association Powerfest – June 6, 2020.
- Nickel Beach Bonfire – June 19, 2020.
- Art Crawl – June 20, 2020.
- Port Colborne & District Conservation Club Kids Fishing Derby – June 21, 2020.
- Budweiser Can Am Walleye Fishing Tournament – June 26 – 27, 2020.
- Port Colborne Optimist Club presents Canada Day in the Park – July 1, 2020.

The City's events team is working on a virtual way for Port Colborne residents to celebrate Canada Day.



Council also approved the cancellation of the City's signature event, the 42nd annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, scheduled for Friday, July 31 – Monday, August 3, 2020.

The **Port Colborne Farmers' Market** will remain closed until further notice.



Questions about City events?

Call 905-835-2900 ext. 566

Email [eventservices@portcolborne.ca](mailto:eventservices@portcolborne.ca).

## #RESILIENTPORTCOLBORNE

With the Province's recent announcement to begin easing restrictions on retail stores with curbside entrances, the City is showing its support with the creation of curbside takeout/pickup locations. 15-minute curbside pick-up zone temporary signs have been installed in the Downtown core for residents and visitors supporting local businesses to use. Businesses interested in having a sign located in front of their establishment are to call 905-835-2900 ext. 207.

Since Main Street has no on-street parking, curbside pick up locations will be created in parking lots along Main Street, including:

- Lock 8 Gateway Park (stalls closest to Main Street W);
- 98 Main Street W (Visitor Information Centre Parking Lot);
- Old Humberstone Village Parking Lot (Main Street W at King Street);
- 105-109 Main Street W (Parking lot east of Melina's);
- 175 Main Street W; and
- 230 Main Street W (Subway Parking Lot – two stalls closest to the street).



Residents and visitors interested in supporting local businesses are also encouraged to visit <https://resilient.portcolborne.ca/> to learn which Port Colborne businesses are open and how they are adapting services. Port Colborne businesses are also encouraged to visit this website to add their business and service offerings. To learn more about recovery and support for local businesses, visit [http://portcolborne.ca/page/COVID-19\\_RecoveryandSupport](http://portcolborne.ca/page/COVID-19_RecoveryandSupport).



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## GRANT APPLICATIONS

The City is now accepting the second round of grant applications from non-profit organizations until **Tuesday, June 30, 2020**. The granting committee distributes approximately \$30,000 annually to non-profit organizations, charitable organizations, and service organizations that benefit the citizens of Port Colborne and enhance the quality of life of the community. The funds are from the interest earned annually on the sale of the City's shares in Port Colborne hydro.

Organizations can only apply once in a fiscal period, therefore, organizations that applied for the first round of applications that completed in Jan. 2020 are not eligible to apply for the second round. The deadline for the first round of applications in 2021 is Jan. 31. To review the grant policy, and/or complete the grant application, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/grants\\_for\\_non-profits](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/grants_for_non-profits). For more information about the application process and/or grant policy committee, call Nancy Giles, EA to Mayor and CAO at 905-835-2900 ext. 301 or email [mayoradmin@portcolborne.ca](mailto:mayoradmin@portcolborne.ca).

## MAINTENANCE SEASON BEGINS FOR PORT COLBORNE'S WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Maintaining the City's water distribution system is extremely important to ensure safe, reliable water sources for residents, businesses, and visitors. On Wednesday, May 20, 2020 the Water/Wastewater department began annual maintenance projects on the distribution system, which includes hydrant maintenance activities and leak detection/repair program.

### Hydrant Maintenance Activities

The City performs annual hydrant maintenance activities, which includes flow testing and flushing, to ensure adequate water flow for fire fighting activities, fire sprinkler systems, residents, and businesses. It also helps maintain the City's water clarity and quality by clearing any iron and mineral deposits from the water mains.



### Leak Detection Program

The City has hired a contractor to conduct an in-field water loss audit of the City's water distribution system. Audit activities will occur primarily during the evening from 11 p.m. - 7 a.m. until June 12, 2020. These activities should not affect water service, and are extremely important to assist in identifying and locating any previously undetected leaks.

Some benefits of the program include:

- Improved repair planning schedules;
- Positive impact on wastewater collection and treatment capacity;
- Lower risk of property damage by improving underground safety;
- Increase residents trust in water utility.

If residents have any questions or concerns, contact Richard Daniel, Manager of Operations, at 905-835-2900 ext. 234.

### Quality Management System – the driving force of maintenance

In order to be licensed to provide drinking water, a municipality must have a Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) in place and be accredited. The City has been accredited since 2009, demonstrating the City's commitment to providing a safe, reliable supply of drinking water to our residents, businesses and visitors. Council and staff use the quality policy to guide all decisions with respect to the drinking water in Port Colborne, including routine maintenance such as hydrant maintenance and leak detection.

The City is also committed to providing **CLEAN** drinking water:

**C**onsistent compliance with legislation.

**L**istening and communicating with the public regarding safe drinking water.

**E**stablishing a Quality Management System that is always improving.

**A**llowing only the safest water to reach your tap.

**N**ecessity of life, of the highest quality.

### To learn more about

- The City's DWQMS, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/drinking\\_water\\_quality\\_management\\_system](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/drinking_water_quality_management_system).
- The City's drinking water and maintenance activities, please visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/Water\\_Quality](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/Water_Quality)
- Your water bill, call 905-835-2900 ext. 125, email [waterclerk@portcolborne.ca](mailto:waterclerk@portcolborne.ca), or visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/water](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/water).

To contact the Utilities Department, call 905-835-5079.



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The library is closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are committed to providing as many services as we can during this difficult time. We are excited about the recent announcement that Public Libraries can start curbside pick-up. We are looking at ways to begin offering this service to our patrons in a safe and gradual manner. Stay tuned for more details. Please note the following:

- The book drop is now open for you to return your books and library materials. Please be patient as it will take time for us to check in items.
- All fines will be waived on items due during the closure. We have renewed your items for you.
- If your library card expires during the closure, we will automatically extend your privileges.
- If you don't have a library card, visit our website to register online.
- Our e-resources are available 24/7 including e-books and e-audiobooks. Check out Universal Class to sign up for free online continuing education and personal development courses.
- If you need help, please email us at [library@portcolborne.ca](mailto:library@portcolborne.ca) and we will respond to your questions as soon as possible. Stay safe! We will see you soon!

Visit our website, [www.portcolbornepubliclibrary.org](http://www.portcolbornepubliclibrary.org), or like and follow us on social media [f /PortColbornePublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/PortColbornePublicLibrary) [@PortColborneLib](https://twitter.com/PortColborneLib) [@PortColborneLib](https://www.instagram.com/PortColborneLib) as we share our library programs online! Like:

## POP-UP VIRTUAL STORY TIME

**MONDAYS, June 1, 8, 15, & 22 - 10 a.m.**

Visit our Facebook page on Monday mornings to share a story with our Pop-Up Librarian. Thanks to the many publishers who have allowed us to read these virtual stories with our community. Virtual story time videos will be available until June 30, 2020.

## GAMES & CHALLENGES

**TUESDAYS, June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 - 9 a.m.**

Every Tuesday, we post a new game or challenge for your family to participate in!

## FELTS & FINGERPLAYS

**WEDNESDAYS, June 3, 10, 17 & 24 - 10 a.m.**

Do you love to laugh and sing? Check out our Facebook page every Wednesday for a new song to learn and sing together.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**THURSDAYS, June 4, 11, 18 & 25 - 9 a.m.**

Tune in on Thursday mornings for a series of fun activities that can be enjoyed by the family!

## CREATIVE CORNER

**FRIDAYS, June 5, 12, 19 & 26 - 10 a.m.**

Join us on Friday mornings to follow along in art tutorials that will spark your creative side.

## ONLINE BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Join our new book club discussion forum! Every week we will discuss a new topic. Login to Goodreads to join the conversation!  
[www.goodreads.com/PortColbornePublicLibrary](http://www.goodreads.com/PortColbornePublicLibrary)

## E-RESOURCES

Did you know you can access free ebooks, audiobooks, online courses, and e-resources **through your** Port Colborne Public Library? All you need is a library card.

## ONLINE TD SUMMER READING CLUB

**June 15 – September 7, 2020**

Join the online TD Summer Reading Club! This is a free program encouraging children to read throughout the summer. Participants have unlimited access to a selection of ebooks. They can track their reading, earn badges, play games and trivia, write reviews and jokes, and much, much more.

[www.tdsommerreadingclub.ca](http://www.tdsommerreadingclub.ca)

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## PETER MENNIE ABRACADAZZLE! ONLINE MAGIC GAME SHOW

**Monday, June 15, available all day.**

To kick-off the TD Summer Reading Club, we have a special treat for kids of all ages! Join our game show magician, Peter Mennie, as he dazzles you from the comfort of your own home! Visit our website for more details. Thank you Peter Mennie for providing this program for families!





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## JUNE IS ...

### RECREATION & PARKS MONTH

With the warmer weather here, we can all enjoy some much needed activities that get us active, or out of the house! In celebration of Recreation and Parks month, throughout the month of June, the Parks & Recreation Division will be providing the community with a new opportunity to engage in an activity each week throughout June. Stay connected through social media, or our website, for some informative pieces about our parks & trails, as well as some interactive challenges with prizes, and free virtual fitness classes. Let's all get out and PORTicipate (safely) this June!

### Port Colborne Slow Ride & Social Distance Rides

This spring and summer the City planned to support Port Colborne Slow Ride, an initiative to help keep residents active and PORTicipating on Tuesday evenings with group bicycle rides. Due to social/physical distancing measures, social gatherings and large group rides are not permitted at this time. However, we're still encourage everyone to take part in social distance bike rides and hoping you show us what you see along the route. Take a break from your ride to stop and snap photos of things you see along the routes and post to your social media accounts using #SlowRidePortColborne and #PORTicipate, or email your pictures to [eventservices@portcolborne.ca](mailto:eventservices@portcolborne.ca) and we will post on our social media channels. We will be providing a weekly update with some of the photos that were captured each week. Please keep your distance from other riders and only ride in a group with people in your household.



Photo credit: Shianne Stephens.

### Adopt a Trail/Park Program

The City of Port Colborne is working towards launching an Adopt a Trail/Park program this summer. We are seeking volunteers to help out with clean-up in our parks, trails, and other green spaces. The City will provide all necessary supplies and training to those who are interested. Right now we are encouraging residents to stay home as much as possible and when going out to public areas maintain social distancing. Once we are able to launch this program safely, we will! If you are interested in taking part in this program, email [volunteers@portcolborne.ca](mailto:volunteers@portcolborne.ca) or call 905-835-2900 ext. 566.

### SENIORS MONTH

At their meeting on May 25, 2020, Council proclaimed June as Seniors Month. Mayor Steele will be raising the Age-Friendly Niagara and City of Port Colborne Flag for the month of June to recognize and honour the seniors in our community.

This Seniors Month we would also like to thank and recognize the members of our Senior Advisory Council (SAC). To learn more about SAC, visit [http://portcolborne.ca/page/committee\\_seniors\\_advisory](http://portcolborne.ca/page/committee_seniors_advisory)



A few services available for Port Colborne Seniors, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic are:

**Community Support Services of Niagara** is a volunteer based, client-driven community support services to help seniors and adults with disabilities live independently in their own homes. Call: 905-682-3800. Visit: <http://www.csn.ca/>.

Community Support Services of Niagara has also launched a temporary grocery delivery program in Port Colborne for seniors 65+. Their objective is to support older adults by providing access to groceries during COVID-19 without having to leave their homes. Some restrictions are in place:

- Must be 65 years of age or older or adult with a disability.
  - Unable to get groceries independently, unable to drive, etc.
  - Priority will be given to individuals who meet the at-risk category for COVID-19 WITHOUT family within Niagara Region
  - Restricted to local grocery store capacity
  - No in-store shopping
  - Unable to facilitate returns of goods
- Interested? Call Darlene at 905-682-3800 ext. 706



**Meals on Wheels** Port Colborne services are available to individuals who are at nutritional risk because they are unable to prepare meals due to an illness or recent surgery, age, living with a disability or needing support as a caregiver. Call: 905-835-1581. Visit: [www.mealsonwheelspc.ca](http://www.mealsonwheelspc.ca).

**Port Cares** is a non-profit organization which provides help, hope and opportunity for all community members to achieve their potential. Call: 905-834-3629. Visit: [www.portcares.on.ca/](http://www.portcares.on.ca/)