



PORT COLBORNE

CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter written by staff for the residents of Port Colborne

DECEMBER 2022



66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8



905-835-2900



@cityofportcolborne



@portcolborne



portcolborne.ca



newsletter@portcolborne.ca

Christmas in Port Colborne:

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 - Lighted Santa Claus Parade

The City of Port Colborne is excited to bring back our traditional lighted Santa Claus Parade this year in Downtown Port Colborne. Save the date for Saturday, Dec. 3, starting at 6:30 p.m. For more information, visit our website at www.portcolborne.ca/events.

If you are interested in registering a float for the parade, please email eventservices@portcolborne.ca or call 905-835-2900 x566.



Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 - Tugboat Santa

Santa's arrival into Port Colborne for the annual Lighted Santa Claus Parade happens in true marine fashion, with his arrival by tugboat on Saturday, Dec. 3. Mrs. Claus will also join him for his special visit to Port Colborne. The tugboat will arrive near the Harbour Master building on West Street at roughly 1 p.m. Following the arrival on Tugboat, Santa will go to Mariners Park at the corner of King St. and Charlotte St. from 2 to 4 p.m. for pictures.

For more information, e-mail downtownportcolborne@gmail.com

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022 - 46th Annual Grand Old Christmas Festival 12 - 4 p.m.

We are excited to be returning to our in-person Grand Old Christmas Festival for its 46th year on Dec. 4 from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. We will have all the favourites to bring on the holiday cheer – roasted chestnuts, hot apple cider, Christmas pudding at the Tea Room, photos with Santa, caroling, horse-drawn carriage rides, saw logging and branding, and an exciting new vintage Christmas card craft with local business Stamplicity! We invite everyone to come and enjoy all the activities throughout our decorated historic village on the museum grounds.

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.

You can also find Firefighters collecting donations Dec. 3 at the Annual Lighted Santa Claus Parade.



Home for the Holidays Christmas Light Contest

Calling all of the Clark Griswolds of Port Colborne! Since 2020 we have been looking for the best holiday decorations in town! Port Colborne residents are invited to PORTicipate in their very own home decorating contest. With multiple categories, including best lawn display/house lights, and balcony and door display.

Entries must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 9, to eventservices@portcolborne.ca

The winners are chosen by the community, with voting taking place on the city's Facebook page.

The winners in each category will receive a \$50 gift card to a local Port Colborne business of their choice.



Port Colborne Business Lighting Contest

In partnership with the Port Colborne Downtown BIA, we invite all local businesses and storefronts across the City to decorate their storefronts and help us light up Port Colborne for the Christmas Season. All businesses which PORTicipate, will be entered into a light display contest with the winner being chosen by the community.

Christmas lights and decorations must be installed by Friday, Dec. 9. To enter the contest you must submit a picture to eventservices@portcolborne.ca

The winners are chosen by the community, with voting taking place on the city's Facebook page.

Prizes will be awarded to the three businesses with the most votes.

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

Join us at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre for activities on New Year's Eve for fun for the entire family. Stay tuned to our website for the details and the schedule of exciting events and activities. Following the event at 6 p.m. there will be a fireworks show outside the Vale Health & Wellness Centre.



To stay up to date on all Christmas activities, visit www.portcolborne.ca/christmas or scan the QR code.



Did you know? We have an Event Calendar on our website! Be sure to visit and subscribe to make sure your calendar is up to date with all the fall/winter fun.

<

December 2022

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SUBSCRIBE

SUBMIT EVENT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 Lighted Santa Claus Parade 6:30 p.m.
4 45th Annual Grand Old Christmas Festival	5	6	7	8 Let It Be Christmas 7:30 p.m.	9	10

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 - \$3 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.	STICK & PUCK 3:30-4:50 p.m.	SR & ADULT SKATE 9:30-10:50 a.m.	PUBLIC SKATING 12-1:50 p.m. PUBLIC 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 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 which opens November 15 and will be on display until December 20.



Winter Workshop at Roselawn:

Just in time for the holiday season, the Roselawn Centre presents a festive door swag workshop on Dec. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. The workshop is \$45 per person with limited spots available. Call 905-835-2900 x 550 or email sloane.mcdowell@portcolborne.ca for more info or to register.

Dec. 5-10, 2022 - Arabella's Tea Room and Christmas Pudding & Sauce | 2 - 4 p.m.

Arabella's is back for one week only this December! Come enjoy Arabella's special Christmas pudding and sauce.



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.



Sunday, December 4, 12-4pm
280 King St

Holiday Cheer:

Roasted Chestnuts & Apple Cider * Christmas Pudding * Carriage Rides & Carols * Shopping at the Crafters' Market * Crafts with Stamplicity * Candle-dipping * Heritage Printing Press * Photos with Santa & More

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.

Hours of Service:

The library will be closed:

December 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 2022

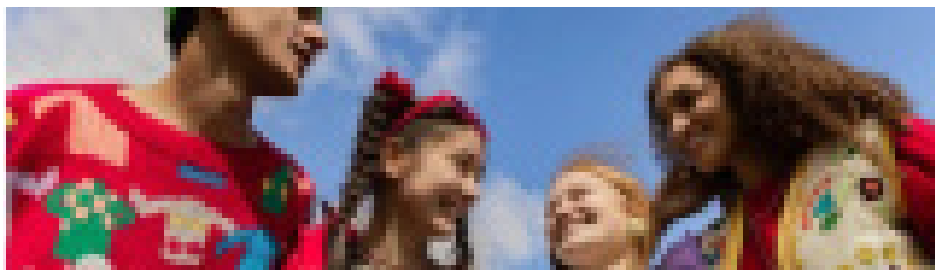
Open: December 29 & 30, 2022

Early close: Saturday, December 31, 2022 (3 p.m.)

Let's Talk About ... Teen Mental Health

Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 6 – 8 p.m.

Our Let's Talk About series returns with a presentation by local author Sara de Waard. Her writing is often inspired by her compassion for the trials and tribulations of today's youth. Q&A will follow with members from Pathstone Mental Health and Niagara Region Public Health to answer your questions. Reserve your spot: 905-834-6512.



Story Time with Shelly

Saturday, December 17, 2022, 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.

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.

Craft Your Own Ornament (teens)

**Saturday, December 10, 2022,
2:30 – 4 p.m.**

Calling all teens! Join us for this fun craft session and create a holiday block ornament. You can paint your wooden block with any design you like. Call 905-834-6512 to register. For ages 12 to 18. 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

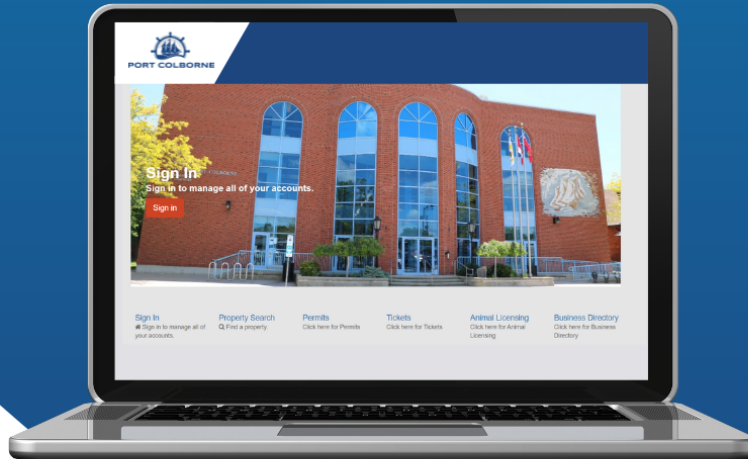
To stay up to date on snowplow operations and winter control activities, follow us on social media or subscribe to our news channel by visiting

www.portcolborne.ca/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, 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).

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.

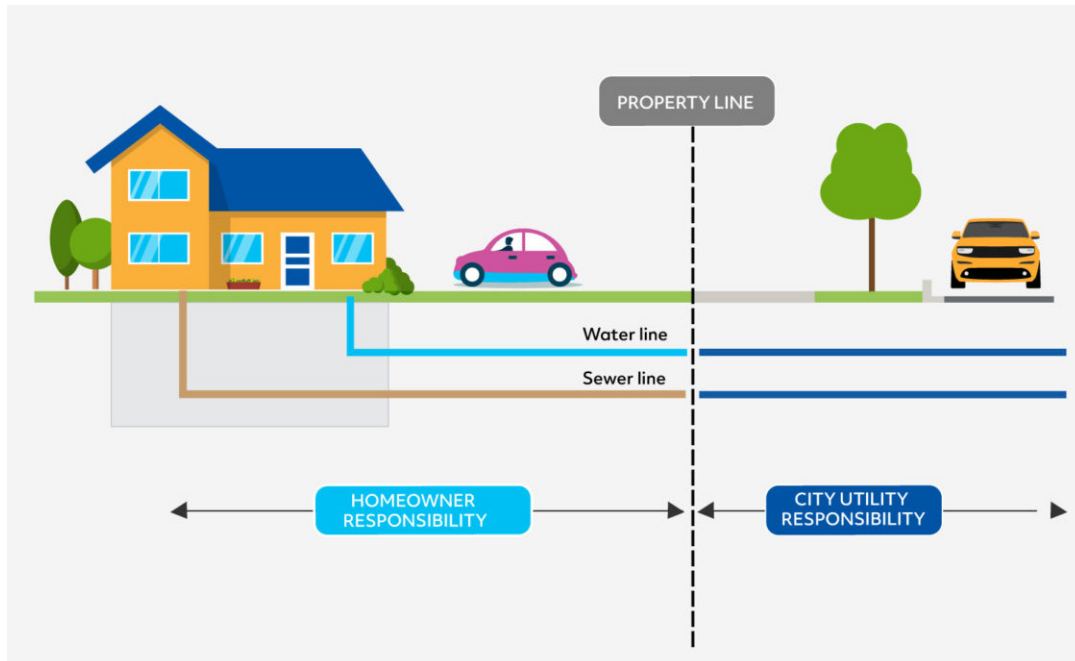
The grant policy and application can be found on the city's grant policy committee webpage at www.portcolborne.ca/communitygrant.

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.

