



**PORT COLBORNE**

# CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter written by staff for the residents of Port Colborne

## MARCH 2023

66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8 905-835-2900

@cityofportcolborne @portcolborne portcolborne.ca newsletter@portcolborne.ca

### March Break in Port Colborne: FREE Public Skating

Thanks to our community sponsors, we are proud to announce the following FREE public skates in March at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre

Upcoming dates include:

- Monday, March 13, 1–3 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 14, 1:30–3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 15, 2–4 p.m.
- Thursday, March 16, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
- Friday, March 17, 12–2 p.m.



### Museum Programming

The Museum is excited to announce two fun-filled March Break programs this year! If singing a shanty isn't your forte try making a sailor's valentine craft for someone special at the Mementos from Sea program at the Roselawn Centre on **March 15, 1–3 p.m.**



If it's the pirate life for you, sign up for the Museum Buccaneers program at the Museum on **March 17, 1–3 p.m.**, for a day of costumes, prizes and snacks. Both programs are ages 7–12 and \$5 per person. Sign up by contacting Sloane McDowell at 905-834-7604 or [sloane.mcdowell@portcolborne.ca](mailto:sloane.mcdowell@portcolborne.ca).



### Library Programming

Community Mosaic Art Project

(For all ages) March 13–18, 2023. FREE.

#### Monday, March 13, 2023

Take & Make: Plant a Seed & See What Grows (All ages) Available while supplies last. FREE.

Bilingual Storywalk® (For families) 10 a.m.–4 p.m. FREE.

March Tots (For ages 2–5 accompanied by a parent/caregiver) 10:15 – 11 a.m. Pre-register. FREE.

Green Screen Photography (For families) 4–7 p.m. FREE.

#### Tuesday, March 14, 2023

Take & Make: Penguin Headband (All ages) Available while supplies last. FREE.



Rock Painting (Ages 8–12) 10–11 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Pre-register. FREE.

Design a Button (For families) 4–7 p.m. FREE.

#### Wednesday, March 15, 2023

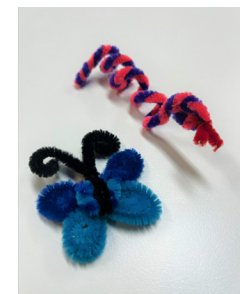
Take & Make: Catapults (Ages 4–12) Available while supplies last. FREE.

Green Screen Photography (For families) 10 a.m.–12 p.m. FREE.

Intro to Dungeons & Dragons (Ages 13–18) 2–4 p.m. Pre-register. FREE

#### Thursday, March 16, 2023

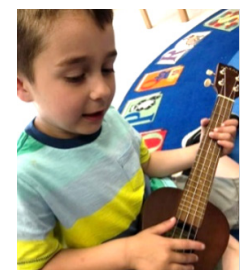
Take & Make: Jack and the Beanstalk Kits (All ages) Available while supplies last. FREE.



Red Cross Babysitting Basics at L.R. Wilson Archives (For ages 11–15) 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Proof of birth date required at registration. Cost: \$80. Pre-registration & pre-payment required.

Tween Bingo (Ages 8–12) 10–11:30 a.m. Pre-register. FREE.

Music Makerspace (For families) 12–7 p.m. Pre-register. FREE.



#### Friday, March 17, 2023

Take & Make: Pipe Cleaner Animals (Ages 6–12) Available while supplies last. FREE.

Library of Things - (For families) 10 a.m.–4 p.m. FREE.

#### Saturday, March 18, 2023

Free Book Giveaway (Ages 3–8) Available while supplies last. FREE.

Library of Things (For families) 10 a.m.–4 p.m. FREE.

Story time With Shelly 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. FREE.

## 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 its annual investment program.

From Feb. 27 to Mar. 10 the Clarence Street Bridge in Port Colborne will undergo bridge maintenance. 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 were mailed out by Feb. 7, 2023.

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

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

## 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 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> <small>*effective September 2022 – April 2023</small>							
<small>Rates (Rinks 1&amp;2) Pre-School - Free Students - \$3 Seniors - \$3 Adults - \$4 +PAYP - \$3 Open PAYP - \$5</small>	<b>SR &amp; ADULT SKATE</b> 9:30-10:50 a.m.  <b>OPEN PAYP</b> 12-1:20 p.m.	Ice Maintenance   <b>STICK &amp; PUCK</b> 3:30-4:50 p.m.	<b>OPEN PAYP</b> 11-11:50 a.m.  <b>SR &amp; ADULT SKATE</b> 12-1:20 p.m.	<b>PARENTS &amp; TOTS</b> 10-11:50 a.m.	<b>50+ PAYP</b> 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.		
	<b>Vale Health &amp; Wellness Centre, Rink 2</b> <small>*effective September 2022 – April 2023</small>						
<small>*Stick &amp; Puck - \$5 for adult &amp; child; \$3 each additional child (10 years &amp; under must be accompanied by an adult)</small>	<b>50+ PAYP</b> 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.  <b>PARENTS &amp; TOTS</b> 1-2:20 p.m.	Ice Maintenance	<b>50+ PAYP</b> 11 a.m.-12:20 p.m.  <b>PARENTS &amp; TOTS</b> 1-2:20 p.m.	<b>STICK &amp; PUCK</b> 3:30-4:50 p.m.	<b>SR &amp; ADULT SKATE</b> 9:30-10:50 a.m.		<b>PUBLIC SKATING</b> 12-1:50 p.m.
						<b>PUBLIC SKATING</b> 7-8:20 p.m.	

## YMCA Aquatic Enrichment Programs

Certification as a lifeguard or swimming instructor can lead to employment opportunities at the YMCA and elsewhere. You will also develop leadership skills that can have a profound impact on your future success. For more details, visit

<https://ymcaofniagara.org/programs/aquatics/aquatic-certifications/>



## Swim Lessons and Child & Youth Program Registration Coming Soon!

The YMCA is offering drop-in programs and registered skill-based programs. Early Registration for YMCA members is March 6. Open Registration for all community members is March 10.

## Winter Personal Training Promo

Meet with a certified YMCA Personal Trainer virtually or in-person, depending on your comfort level and plan a tailored workout routine to help you stay physically active and healthy. No matter your age, fitness level, or lifestyle, the key to the success of training is accountability.



Your Trainer will supervise you virtually or in person indoors to ensure that you complete your workout safely and effectively. They help you make the best use of your time to become the best version of yourself. Whether you're just getting started, looking to get active, or need a mental break, our trainers provide a customized plan, supervise your progress and motivate you to succeed. For more details: <https://ymcaofniagara.org/programs/health-fitness/personal-training/>



**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

## Coming in 2023...

Our two main exhibits for 2023 are British Home Children: Local Stories and Old School: Port High's 100th Anniversary. Assistant Curator Tami Nail is in the process of transforming the Museum gallery and creating both exhibits for their May 1 debut. If you have any connections to either of these topics or memorabilia (ie. trophies, clothing, diplomas, etc.) and think they would be great additions to the exhibit, contact Tami Nail at 905-834-7604 or [tami.nail@portcolborne.ca](mailto:tami.nail@portcolborne.ca) before March 24. Items do not need to be donated to the collection permanently to be included.



## New Digital Series: Registrar's Pick

Get to know the collection through Registrar, Katelynn Best's, perspective as she handles artifacts from donation, through the accession process, and into the collection. The last Tuesday of every month the Museum's Facebook page will feature an artifact from the collection that Katelynn has been working on, fascinated by, or newly acquired. Learn more about the duties of the Registrar, volunteer contributions, and the collection.

## 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 our outdoor areas.

Additionally, the Museum website also offers a variety of online exhibits to explore. Check out [www.portcolborne.ca/onlineexhibits](http://www.portcolborne.ca/onlineexhibits) to brush up on interesting local history.

If you are looking to conduct research, you can book an appointment at the L.R. Wilson Archives by calling 905-834-7604 or emailing [archives@portcolborne.ca](mailto:archives@portcolborne.ca).





# 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](http://www.portcolborne.ca/wintercontrol).

To view our most frequently requested by-laws, visit [www.portcolborne.ca/bylaws](http://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](http://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](http://www.portcolborne.ca/RequestAService).

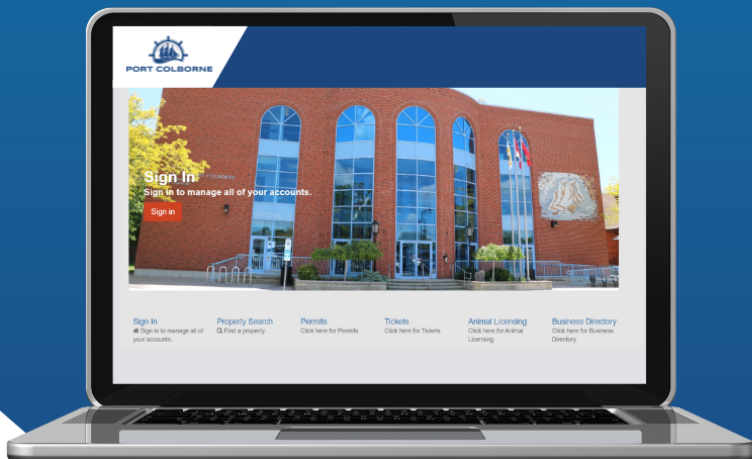
## PORTicipate & Tune in

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/subscsribe](http://www.portcolborne.ca/subscsribe). For information about winter control operations, visit: [www.portcolborne.ca/wintercontrol](http://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.



### 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).



### REGISTER FOR PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

### UPDATE INFORMATION

Update mailing address and contact information.

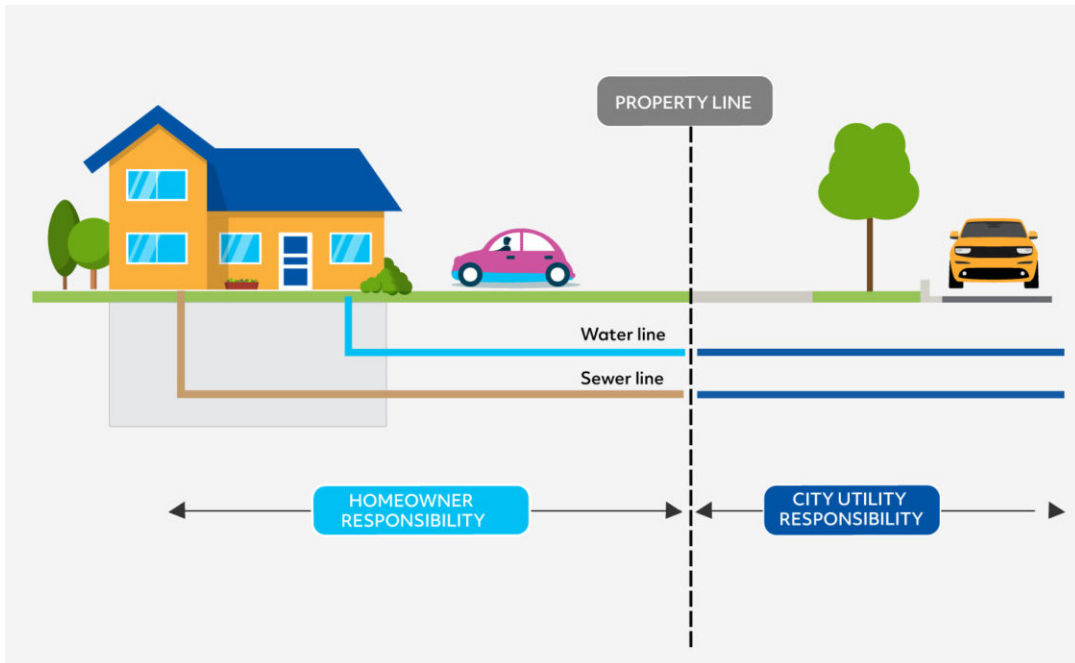
To get started creating your account, or for more information, including 'how to' videos, visit our website [www.portcolborne.ca/virtualcityhall](http://www.portcolborne.ca/virtualcityhall) or scan the QR code.

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).



## 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](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.

