

MEDIA RELEASE

Port Colborne Farmers' Market ends 2020 season early

Port Colborne, ON (Oct. 15, 2020) – As the City of Port Colborne continues to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the health and safety of residents and staff, the operational decision has been made to close the Farmers' Market early. The final day for residents and visitors to enjoy the Farmers' Market is Friday, Oct. 30, 2020 from 6 a.m. – 1 p.m.

"Normally the Farmers' Market runs year-round," said Ashley Grigg, Director of Community and Economic Development. "The decision to end the 2020 season in October was a collaborative effort by many different City departments. As always, when making these decisions, the health and safety of both residents and our staff is a top priority."

To celebrate the final day and thank the community for its support, the City is putting a spooktacular twist on the Oct. 30 Farmers' Market. City staff will be handing out a delicious treat, keeping in mind all COVID-19 health and safety protocols, to any child visiting the market in their Halloween costume. As well, a limited quantity of pumpkins will be handed out for free to children to take home and decorate.

"We can't thank the community enough for their support this summer," said Grigg. "It was great to see the number of people who continued to shop local and we hope to see the same support and enthusiasm next year."

Since the market reopened in June, City staff have worked closely with Niagara Region Public Health to ensure best practices and safety measures were implemented for vendors and customers. This included limiting the number of customers allowed in the market at one time, making sure vendors were positioned appropriately to maintain social distancing and only allowing essential items to be sold, including produce and agriculture businesses.

The City of Port Colborne looks forward to welcoming back both vendors and customers to the Farmers' Market next year. Information regarding when the Farmers' Market will reopen next year is currently being finalized. Anyone interested in participating as a market vendor next year can contact the Market Clerk by email, <u>marketclerk@portcolborne.ca</u>.

About the Port Colborne Farmers' Market:

Niagara has long been known for the quality of its tender fruits and vegetables and here in Port Colborne, the market provides a connection to our community, the seasons and our farmers as well as providing excellent health and environmental benefits. With multiple vendors from throughout the region providing fresh-from-the-farm, ripe-off-the-trees, local produce, meats, honey, baked goods and a variety of colourful flowers and bedding plants – shopping at the Port Colborne Farmers' Market brings out inspiration, imagination and creativity in everyone! The Farmers' Market is typically open every Friday, October to May, 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. and May to October, 6 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Market Square across from City Hall.

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