



PORT COLBORNE

MAYOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 22, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

On February 16th Niagara moved to Grey-Lockdown, as described in the Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework.

There have been some changes to this level and supporting our local businesses with in-person shopping is now permitted for all retail stores, subject to the following:

- 50 per cent capacity for supermarkets and other stores that primarily sell groceries, convenience stores and pharmacies
- 25 per cent capacity for all other retail, including discount and big box retailers, liquor stores, hardware stores and garden centres
- Hair salons, barbershops, tattoo parlors and gyms will remain closed

We continue to emphasize the need for social distancing, hand washing and face coverings where social distancing can't be maintained or where required by the Region's face covering by-law.

Polar Plunge

The City of Port Colborne is inviting residents to PORTicipate in this year's Virtual Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Ontario.

This will be the second time the City has PORTicipated in this signature fundraising event, with PORTicipants braving the cold and jumping in Lake Erie at Sugarloaf Marina last year. With current COVID-19 restrictions in place, this event will be completely virtual, asking participants to take the plunge safely in the comfort of their own home.

I'd like to show you a quick video of how my wife Debby and I PORTicipated this past weekend.

- Register for the plunge by visiting www.polarplunge.ca
 - Residents are encouraged to join the Port Colborne team
 - Plunge anytime before February 28, 2021 from the comfort of your own home: <http://polarplunge.ca/ways-to-plunge>

- Fundraise and receive amazing prizes and incentives while helping support over 26,000 Special Olympics athletes across the province
- Post your Plunge video on social media using the hashtag #PlungeON and #PORTicipate
 - Be sure to tag the City of Port Colborne in your post for a chance to be featured on social media, or send your video to eventservices@portcolborne.ca

Participants are encouraged to be creative and have fun, however, safety is very important.

Clearing snow from sidewalks

With more snow in the forecast, we would like to remind residents to keep sidewalks clear of snow after all snow events.

In Port Colborne, every owner or occupant of a building is responsible for clearing sidewalks bordering their property of all snow and ice within 24 hours of a snow event. This allows the safe passage of all pedestrians. If you are renting a property, please make necessary arrangements with the property owner regarding snow removal.

If you're looking for a way to help your fellow residents, consider being a snow buddy! After a snowfall, your neighbours may need a hand shovelling their driveways and sidewalks. Snow buddies is a local organization that is always looking for volunteers for those who need winter help. Volunteer by calling 905-682-3800 ext. 28.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Today is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

When you hear about human trafficking you think of places far away but sadly this is not the case. This is a very real problem here in Niagara, Ontario, Canada as well as the world at large.

Human trafficking involves acts that lead to the exploitation of human beings for the ongoing gain of traffickers or exploiters.

Victims and survivors of human trafficking are often unwilling to come forward to report human trafficking situations to law enforcement. This can be due to fear of retaliation from traffickers or the fear that they may have committed offences themselves, which creates difficulty for law enforcement in gathering credible evidence.

Raising awareness is the first line of defence in fighting human trafficking.

Please join us in raising awareness so we can prevent this crime and help survivors get the supports they need.

Closing

We will continue to work together and remain vigilant in fighting the COVID-19 virus.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our staff and citizens.

Please stay safe and be kind.