



## MAYOR'S REPORT – MARCH 9, 2020

### **REMEMBRANCE OF OUR SERVICE PERSONNEL**

Tomorrow we will be hanging yellow ribbons on the lampposts in front of City Hall, as we have done every year since 2009, when Corporal Tyler Crooks lost his life in Afghanistan.

These yellow ribbons symbolize our remembrance not only of Tyler and his ultimate sacrifice while serving his country, but of all past veterans and current personnel serving our country.

I would ask everyone to stand for a moment of silence as we remember.

*Stand for one minute.*

Thank you.

### **MARCH BREAK**

March break begins on Friday. If you are looking for activities for the kids, check out our Public Library and Vale Health & Wellness Centre for exciting programming. (see list)

And remember, to watch for the kids out playing as we head into spring.

### **BUDGET MEETINGS**

Our budget meeting schedule has now been set and the draft budget should be posted online shortly.

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., followed by Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and if needed, Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public and will be held here in the Council Chambers and streamed live on YouTube.

## **COMPLAINTS TO MAYOR'S OFFICE OR ANYONE AT THE CITY**

I have to say, I got a little frustrated last week when I received this letter in my mailbox, from someone, I don't know who, because they didn't sign their name, complaining that I had done nothing about a complaint that was supposedly registered two weeks earlier by some other unknown person, dealing with a parking issue on Hampton.

I take all complaints very seriously.

First, there is no record either in my office or in the By-law office of a complaint about parking on Hampton.

Please, if you have an issue, call us and file a formal complaint in the proper manner with the by-law intake clerk.

Don't assume your neighbor did it because you talked about it.

We can't act if we don't know.

And you need to give us your contact information.

This information remains confidential and is not released to anyone.

## **NHL LINESMAN DEREK AMELL**

On Saturday afternoon in Pittsburgh, Port Colborne native NHL Linesman Derek Amell skated in his 1,500th NHL Regular Season Game between the Pittsburgh Penguins and Washington Capitals.

Derek worked his first NHL Regular Season Game back on October 11th, 1997 in that same city of Pittsburgh (Carolina Hurricanes vs Penguins) at the old Civic Arena across the street from where he achieved this amazing milestone on Saturday.

I remember Derek from his days in minor hockey.

He started officiating when he was 21 and in his second year at Durham College in Oshawa taking Chemical Engineering Technology.

He used to play hockey with the referee assigner's son and after running into him, his friend said that his dad was looking for referees.

After talking to the assigner he ended up going to the next officiating clinic, got certified and was assigned to Novice out of Harman Arena and went from there.

He moved up the ranks pretty quick due to his size and calm demeanor on the ice and he worked his first Ontario Hockey League game three years later at the age of 24.

He worked the OHL for four years as a linesman. On his fourth year, the Montreal Canadiens relocated their American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate team to Hamilton, Ontario creating a need for the AHL to form a staff of local linesmen in the area.

Amell was selected along with five other Southern Ontario linesmen to work the games that year.

That year he ended up working the OHL Finals and also got the chance to work the AHL Calder Cup Finals because the Hamilton Bulldogs made it to the Final! In the summer of 1997, the National Hockey League offered him a minor league contract (40-40) as a linesman splitting his duties between the AHL and the NHL.

He was promoted to a full-time NHL linesman status in the summer of 1998 and hasn't looked back.

Derek has officiated at World Cup Hockey, Winter Classics, All-Star Games, Winter Olympics and NHL playoffs and Stanley Cup finals.

Derek was also voted by his peers to sit on the NHLOA executive committee in the fall of 2017, a position that he still occupies today.

We are Port Colborne proud of you Derek.

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Yesterday was International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Growing up my mother and Aunt Olive were two very important women in my life and then, of course, my wife Debby.

I am fortunate to be surrounded by many strong women here at the City, from councillors to staff.

We will continue to celebrate on Wednesday at the Guild Hall for Port Colborne International Women's Day celebration with guest speakers Falynn Shaw and Debbie Zimmerman.

## **FAKE ENERGY AUDITOR**

I also want to remind residents to be vigilant with door-to-door sales individuals.

Recently OPP in Haldimand Country received a complaint about a person claiming to be an energy auditor who scheduled a late afternoon appointment with a resident in Dunnville.

The unknown person went inside the home for an inspection and proceeded to ask to see utility bills.

The suspect informed the resident they qualified for a monthly rebate and would apply for the rebate on their behalf.

The contact number supplied by the suspect after his visit was out of service when the resident attempted to reach out to confirm the rebate.

The resident reached out to the Ontario Energy Board and was told there were no applications filed under their name.

OPP has received several more queries about a representative from Save On Energy visiting homes.

We have had people trying to sell water purification systems, furnaces and telecommunication systems.

Please, please don't let anyone into your house you don't know and trust.

## **COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS INFO**

I wanted to touch briefly on the Coronavirus or COVID-19 as it is now known.

As a community, we are relying on Niagara Region Public Health for advice and direction.

Information for the public is available on their website at [niagararegion.ca](http://niagararegion.ca)

The government of Ontario also has information on their website – [Ontario.ca](http://Ontario.ca), which is being updated daily at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

As an employer our senior staff have met to discuss worker safety, business continuity planning and a planned response if the virus becomes prevalent in Niagara.

Currently there are no cases in Niagara and the risk of infection is extremely low.