



MAYOR'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 9, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

COVID-19 UPDATE

Good evening and welcome to our virtual council meeting.

Tonight we are welcoming Councillors Bagu, Bruno, Kalailieff and Wells into the council chambers. Also joining us are our CAO Scott Luey, Clerk Amber LaPointe, Deputy Clerk Charlotte Madden, and a member of Wee Stream who are live streaming this meeting for us.

Our other four city councillors and various city directors are each attending from home.

Last week the province brought out new classifications for Public Health Units as we work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quantifiable metrics are now in place based on number of new cases per 100,000 of population with the protocols and restrictions different in each stage.

Niagara is in the second, yellow-Protect stage. We need to continue to work hard so Niagara remains here and no further restrictions are put in place. Remember the precautions you have taken over the past six months, continue to save lives.

We 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.

We ask that you continue to support our local businesses.

DOWNTOWN BIA CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

With that said, the Downtown BIA has organized their Christmas Open House for this coming weekend.

Businesses will be decorated and ready to spread some Christmas cheer.

The open house runs on Friday from 12-8 and Saturday from 10-4, and they are encouraging you to wear your ugly sweater while you shop.

Remembrance Day Ceremony and Display

The Remembrance Day Ceremony will also be different this year. The public ceremony at the Cenotaph at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park has been replaced by a private ceremony for Legion members only to be held inside the branch.

The Legion will be live streaming the event on their Facebook page.

The Legion has asked members of the public to please observe 2 minutes of silence at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th in lieu of attending a ceremony.

I would like to thank Michelle Mason, Assistant Curator at the Museum for the great display we have in the council chamber this evening.

The display recognizes Victor Lynden and a letter sent to him in 1916 from the students at Welland High School. Mr. Lynden enlisted in February 1916 and was wounded on the Vimy Ridge front near Lens and was decorated by the Prince of Wales with the Military Medal for Gallantry in bringing in a wounded comrade under heavy gunfire.

Also during “the Great War” many women and men were members of the Junior Red Cross. You may recognize some of the surnames of Cross, Lewis, Sherk, Smith, Augustine, Sidey, Steele, and McDonald as names that continue to live in our community.

There were many brothers fighting side by side during the war. The Wegrich triplets, William, John and James were the only triplets on record as having borne arms in the cause of the Allies. John served with the Royal Flying Corps and completed his training with the A Squadron in Toronto. James and William joined the 67th Battery and later transferred to the Forestry Corps. There is a drawing of the triplets in the Ripley’s Believe It or Not newspaper.

Closing

In closing, we ask for your patience while we all work together and remain vigilant in fighting this virus.

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

Please stay safe.