



MAYOR'S REPORT
OCTOBER 26, 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.

Niagara remains in Stage 3 of the COVID-19 recovery process. There have been staggering numbers of new cases across the province over the past several days. We have seen the province roll back several regions to a modified Stage 2. We need to continue to work hard so Niagara does not get rolled back as well.

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, including restaurants as patio season has come to an end and these businesses still need our support.

Lion's Club Food Drive

This past weekend was the Lion's Club Food Drive supporting Port Cares.

I would like to thank everyone who donated and participated as a volunteer. We had a great turn out.

Staff Retirements

Over the past 6 months we have had several staff members decide to retire.

Normally we would have them out to the council meeting to recognize their years of service, but these are not normal times.

I would like to publicly recognize the following for their combined 227 years of service to the City of Port Colborne and congratulate them as they enter the next stage of their lives:

- Heather Mahon 29 years
- Joanne Benson 27 years
- Terry Czerlau 17 years
- Sylvie Beaudoin 31 years
- Pete Leavere 34 years
- Mark Stead 30 years
- Jim Brown 34 years
- Brent Eden 25 years

Public Washrooms

With the winter season approaching, our Parks Department has installed a portable washroom near the Harbour Master's Building on West Street at Charlotte Street for use by the public.

This washroom will remain available to the public until further notice as our facilities at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park and Lock 8 Park are closed for the season.

Garbage Collection

Our new garbage collection schedule has started and residents are reminded they can put out up to 2 bags of garbage this week along side their green, blue and grey bins.

It was troubling today that I learned that our municipal roadside garbage containers, meant for small amounts of garbage when walking past, are being filling with household garbage.

We need everyone to do their part to manage their own garbage by using your green bin for food and pet waste and putting this to the curb each week. If your household requires a second bin, they are available for \$17 here at City Hall. Give our Customer Service Representatives a call and arrange a time to pick one up.

I know this change is new for everyone, but let's each do our part to keep our city neat and tidy.

Museum Tours

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is currently offering socially-distanced guided tours of this year's exhibits.

And as a long time supporter of the Museum, I would like to thank Lower Lakes Towing Ltd. who have sponsored the cost of all guided tours for the season.

Call the Museum at 905-834-7604 to book your private tour.

Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en is coming up this weekend and Public Health has released some guidelines if you are planning to take your children trick or treating:

- Stay home if feeling ill or if you have mild symptoms.
- Only go out with members of your direct household.
- Only trick or treat outside.
- Both trick or treaters and people handing out candy should wear a face covering:
 - A costume mask is not a substitute for a face covering and should not be worn over a face covering as it may make it difficult to breathe.
 - Consider building your face covering into your, or your child's, costume.
- Do not congregate or linger at doorsteps. Line up two metres apart if waiting. Avoid high-touch surfaces and objects.
- Whether collecting or handing out treats, wash your hands often and thoroughly or use hand sanitizer:
- Do not leave treats in a bucket or bowl for children to grab.
- Consider using tongs, or other similar tools to hand out treats.

Parents will need to make a personal decision about participating this year. If you do PORTicipate, please do it safely.

Remembrance Day and Poppy Week

The Royal Canadian Legion will have poppies available for purchase starting on Friday.

Legion volunteers will not be canvassing outside of stores this year, but rather poppy boxes will be placed in 65 locations such as stores and schools from Wainfleet to Gasline.

Please support their efforts.

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 is hoping to be able to live stream the event and details about this will be available on social media closer to November 11th.

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.

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.