



MAYOR'S REPORT
JULY 13, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

COVID-19 UPDATE

Good evening and welcome to our virtual council meeting.

I am here in the council chambers with 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. I would like to welcome our eight city councillors and various city directors who are each attending from home.

City Hall and almost all of our facilities remain closed to the public.

Staff have been working with members of our Emergency Operations Centre on recovery plans for a safe and gradual reopening once we get the go ahead from the Province of Ontario and our Emergency Operations Centre determines that it is safe to open our facilities to staff and members of the public.

In the meantime, we will continue to find new ways to deliver services to you.

Many of our restaurants are now offering service on their outdoor patios or with takeout, curbside pickup.

We ask for your patience while we all work together for a safe and gradual return of services.

Nickel Beach

As of Friday, July 10, 2020, the following operational changes were implemented at Nickel Beach.

For Port Colborne residents, season passes will be available and valid Mondays - Thursdays, excluding Civic Holiday, Monday, Aug. 3, and Labour Day, Monday, Sept. 7, and can be purchased for \$100+HST at the beach gates with proof of residency (drivers licence, property bill (hydro, phone, water, etc.).

Note that season passes do not guarantee beach access if we are at capacity. If season pass holders attend Nickel Beach Friday to Sunday, they are still required to pay the regular resident fee.

Early entry to Nickel Beach will be reserved for Port Colborne residents only on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Beginning at 10:30 a.m. the gates will then open to the general public.

A new entry point has been established at the entrance of Lake Road. This will provide additional parking for walk-on beachgoers. Parking is free for Port Colborne residents and \$10 for general public.

Accessible parking is available inside the front gates next to the playground area. Staff will direct those who require access.

These changes have been implemented for the enjoyment of all beaches goers. I have to say I have been a little disappointed in some of the comments out on social media about our visiting “out-of-towners” and I would ask everyone to be respectful of all visitors to Nickel Beach.

Hydro One Announcement

Hydro One has announced the completion of the first stage of infrastructure upgrades to improve power reliability to the City of Port Colborne and the surrounding area. A second high-voltage transmission line has now been energized, providing an additional and alternate source of power to serve communities and customers in the area.

Last summer, Hydro One announced further plans to improve local reliability by investing approximately \$30 million to advance the refurbishment of the Port Colborne Transmission Station from 2025 to 2022. Once in service, the station refurbishment will increase the amount of available power to the Port Colborne area, improving long-term reliability and supporting economic growth.

This collaboration with Hydro One, the City of Port Colborne and Canadian Niagara Power to upgrade aging infrastructure from the 1950s provides immediate and long-term benefits to our residents and businesses.

Pathstone Mental Health

Pathstone Mental Health has begun to re-open their off-site walk-in clinics designed to service children and youth up to age 18 and their families across Niagara. No referral, cost or health card is needed to meet one-on-one with a Pathstone counsellor.

New protocols require an appointment to be made in advance, either the day of the desired walk-in session or a day in advance by calling **1-800-263-4944** during business hours. This will ensure physical distancing and cleaning is maintained between appointments.

The 5-day per week walk-in clinic located at The Branscombe Centre, 1338 Fourth Avenue in St. Catharines has been meeting with clients' in-person for the past few weeks.

Starting July 29th, the Port Colborne location at Bridges Community Health Centre, 380 Elm Street will be open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Scammers claiming to be from Canada Revenue Agency

For many months, the Niagara Regional Police Service has received reports of scam phone calls involving persons claiming to be Canada Revenue Agency workers.

This scam involves threatening or coercive language to scare individuals into paying fictitious debt to the CRA, or they can be arrested. This debt repayment may involve gift cards, wire transfers or cyber based currency. The member of the public is then asked about their personal banking information and social insurance number.

This is done under the guise of paying a fine instead of an arrest and "verifying" the potential victim's identity. This scam is further complicated by the use of technology that can cause a phone display to show a local Niagara telephone number, or a Niagara Regional Police registered telephone number. This is called "spoofing".

Members of the public are advised to be cautious of such scams and know that the Canada Revenue Agency will not call you and ask for banking information while telling you are wanted. The Canada Revenue Agency would never negotiate payments for fines over the phone or roadside. Furthermore, the Canada Revenue Agency, does not accept e-transfers or wire payments for any fees or services.

If you receive a call saying you owe money to the CRA, you can call them directly or check your "My Account" online.

Closing

In closing, we must remain vigilant in fighting this virus.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our citizens as we begin a safe and gradual reopening of services and business activities. Please stay safe.