



## MAYOR'S REPORT

JUNE 22, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Good evening and welcome to our fourth 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.

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

### **Activities that have reopened in Phase Two**

The provincial government has moved Niagara to Phase Two of its recovery plan. Some additional restrictions have been lifted allowing our municipality to reopen some amenities.

Our Farmers' Market will reopen this Friday in its usual location at Market Square. It will be set up a little differently and there will only be a limited number of vendor spots available.

We ask for everyone's patience this week as we work with you to bring back the market you love.

Nickel Beach will reopen this Friday as well. Again, there will be limited number of spots available on the beach and you will be directed to your spot, that has been socially distanced from the next vehicle, by one of our staff.

Please respect the difficult job that they have to keep everyone safe while enjoying the beach.

Limited public washrooms have also opened throughout the city.

Outdoor patios have started to open up in Port Colborne and we hope you will get out to support our local restaurants.

The provincial government has increased your group size to no more than 10 people.

Anyone taking advantage of these spaces are to follow the best practices as outlined by Niagara Region Public Health to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

These include frequent washing/sanitizing of hands, physical separation, avoid touching of shared surfaces and staying home if displaying symptoms or having been in contact with cases of the virus.

At this time, park and outdoor amenities such as playground equipment, benches, outdoor fitness equipment, and the spray pad will remain closed.

The spray pad is our next top priority and we may hear more about that later this evening.

By-law enforcement will continue to enforce gatherings larger than ten people, dogs off-leash, and anyone using closed park amenities.

## **Canada Day**

Our usual Canada Day celebrations will not be taking place in the park this year.

Communities from across the Niagara Region are coming together for a Canada Day first - Canada Day, the Niagara Way. Join the 12 municipalities of Niagara, the Niagara Parks Commission and the Niagara Region for online activities and festivities for Canada Day.

Celebrate with performances by Tim Hicks, Avenue Inn, Great Lake Swimmers, Spencer Burton, Juliet Dunn, and Rick McLean.

The online festivities begin at 11 a.m. on Facebook. Tune in on the to The City of Port Colborne's Facebook page to catch the action!

Join St. John Ambulance in its first virtual Canada Day 5k. Register to participate online, then run or walk your own preferred 5km route anytime, anywhere between June 27 and July 1. If you are participating on July 1 make sure to wear some red and white to show your Canadian Pride! For more information, contact Alyson at [alyson.montovani@sja.ca](mailto:alyson.montovani@sja.ca) or visit [www.runforSJA.ca](http://www.runforSJA.ca)

We also encourage you to take part in the Government of Canada's program for Canada Day.

Minister Guilbeault unveiled the program for Canada Day.

On July 1, Canadians from coast to coast to coast are invited to take part in an array of virtual celebrations to express our national pride.

This year more than ever, Canada Day is an important national celebration bringing Canadians together, even if it is done virtually.

It's also time to commemorate some key events in our history, as this year marks the 40th anniversary of the official adoption of our national anthem, "O Canada," and the essential role the Métis Nation played in Manitoba joining Confederation 150 years ago. The roster of activities draws on what makes Canada strong: its diverse cultures, athletic and artistic excellence, Indigenous languages and cultures, and our spirit of innovation. Wherever you are, join in.

A virtual Celebration Kit is now available with interactive, creative and educational activities on the Government of Canada's heritage website.

Visit [www.portcolborne.ca/page/canada\\_day](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/canada_day) for more information about our virtual Canada Day activities.

## **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.