



MAYOR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

COVID-19 UPDATE

Good evening and welcome to our virtual council meeting.

Tonight we are welcoming Councillors Bodner, Desmarais, 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.

We remain in Stage 3 of the COVID-19 recovery process, however, in the past few days positive cases across the province and in Niagara have started to rise. 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 will be coming to an end soon and these businesses still need our support.

The YMCA in Port Colborne is working towards their reopening on September 30th and we have a presentation from them with all the details later in this meeting.

We will also be opening our walking track at the Vale Health and Wellness Centre on October 1st. The hours of operation will be Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Walkers will be asked sign in and the track will be monitored by staff for maximum allowed occupancy.

Walkers will also be required to wear a mask at all times and currently, we will be allowing walking only on the track.

As we enter into our fall weather, this will give residents another outlet for exercise in a safe and controlled environment.

Fire Prevention Week

October 4-10 is Fire Prevention Week and while we aren't able to hold our traditional open house this year, we want to remind you that fire prevention is everyone's responsibility.

Fire Chief Tom Cartwright has provided us with the history of Fire Prevention Week.

National Fire Prevention Week was established in 1922 in memory of the Great Chicago Fire. The Great Chicago Fire was a conflagration that burned in the City of Chicago during October 8–10, 1871.

The fire killed approximately 300 people, destroyed roughly 3.3 square miles (9 km) of the city, and left more than 100,000 residents homeless.

Let that sink in, such devastation.

Every day is Fire Prevention Day within our City; your Fire Department strives to ensure the safety of our citizens at all times.

The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Serve Up Fire Safety In the Kitchen".

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and injuries in Canada. Use Fire Prevention Week to educate yourself on cooking hazards, the dangers of unattended cooking and precautions you can take to prevent cooking-related fires.

Thank you Chief Cartwright.

Later in our meeting we will be passing a proclamation to declare the week of October 4 – 10, 2020, as Fire Prevention Week in the City of Port Colborne.

Also, remember to please check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are in working order.

Memorandum of Understanding

On Friday, the City of Port Colborne entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Welland, City of Thorold and the Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority.

Each partner acknowledges the need for a collaborative and inclusive approach to building economic sustainability in Niagara.

By signing the Memorandum of Understanding, we're solidifying our partnership with these communities in order to achieve our goal of increasing marine infrastructure.

No longer are we working in silos, but joining forces to strategically create innovative approaches to moving goods to and from Niagara by means of the Welland Canal.

I have no doubt this will have a positive impact on the Port Colborne community and surrounding area.

Christmas Card Contest

One of my favourite Christmas traditions at the City of Port Colborne is our annual Christmas Card contest.

I always enjoy seeing the creative and colourful submissions we receive from our local students.

Although holiday activities may look a bit different this year, I hope this is just one of the many ways we can still engage the Port Colborne community and celebrate this festive season.

Submissions may be painted with fingers or brushes, or drawn with pencils, crayons, pastels, or markers on a standard white sheet of paper, 8 ½" X 11" in vertical or horizontal format. Remember that deep, dark colours produce a better illustration.

The contest is open to all children who live or go to school in Port Colborne; up to and including those in grade 8.

Time is of the essence: to be chosen and reproduced for printing in time for the holiday season, all submissions must be received at the Mayor's Office in City Hall by Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020 at 4 p.m.

Please include your child's name, address, and telephone number on the back of the artwork.

Repaving of Main Street

Last week the Region repaved Main Street from Welland Avenue to Highway 140. I would like to thank Regional Councillor Butters and staff at the Region for the hard work that has gone into getting this project moved forward. This project was a high priority for both myself and Regional Councillor Butters when we were first elected.

Closing

In closing, we ask for your patience while we all work together for a safe and gradual return of services. We must remain vigilant in fighting this virus.

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