



PORT COLBORNE

CITYHALLNEWS

A newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

MAY 2021

66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8 | 905-835-2900 | portcolborne.ca | newsletter@portcolborne.ca



@cityofportcolborne



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COVID-19 COMMUNITY UPDATES

Effective April 17 at 12:01 a.m., additional province-wide restrictions were implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and help save lives. This includes extending the Stay-at-Home order for an additional two weeks, closing outdoor facilities like golf courses, soccer fields, basketball courts and marinas, and stopping all non-essential construction. Everyone is asked to stay at home and only travel for essential purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise, or for work that cannot be done remotely. These additional and strengthened public health and workplace safety measures will be in effect until May 21, 2021.

During the Stay-at-Home order, the City of Port Colborne will implement the following changes to City-run outdoor amenities:

- Skate Park closed
- Beaches closed
- Sports fields, courts, picnic tables and pavillions closed
- Parks and trails will remain open for passive use only, allowing for walkthrough access
- Sugarloaf Marina and boat ramp closed

Have a Question? We're Here to Help!

The City of Port Colborne is committed to ensuring the health and safety of residents and staff, while continuing to provide customer service to the community. Although the physical doors to City Hall and City facilities remain closed, we are offering limited services, staff are continuing to offer customer service support for residents, businesses, and visitors by phone, email, website, and social media channels. To reach our customer service representatives, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., call **905-835-2900** or email customerservice@portcolborne.ca. Looking for a particular staff member? Visit www.portcolborne.ca/contact. For more information and updates about the City's response to COVID-19, visit www.portcolborne.ca/covid19.

Vaccinations

Niagara Region Public Health is making strides in vaccinating Niagara residents. To date, more than 30% of residents have been vaccinated. Here's an update on vaccinations in Niagara:

- Adults 60 years or older can now book appointments online to be vaccinated at a Public Health vaccination clinic
- Adults 40 years or older can book an appointment through a participating pharmacy.

For Port Colborne residents, Boggio Pharmacy is offering vaccination appointments. Check out Mayor Bill Steele getting vaccinated at Boggio's! For more information, call **905-834-3514**.

#StickItToCOVID!



Effective: April 17 at 12:01 a.m.

All outdoor social gatherings will be prohibited, except for members of the same household or one other person from outside that household who lives alone or a caregiver for any member of the household



Update: Sugarloaf Marina & Beaches

As announced by the Ontario government, new restrictions to boating activities have been implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The City of Port Colborne will be closing the boat ramp and Sugarloaf Marina until regulations have changed. As well, during the Stay-at-Home order, both Centennial-Cedar Bay Beach and Nickel Beach will be closed to the public. This includes passive use like walking, nature observation and canoeing/kayaking, and no gathering is permitted. Premises will be monitored, and violation is subject to penalty. We appreciate your patience and understanding. For more information, please visit www.portcolborne.ca/covid19.





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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PORT COLBORNE

FARM 911 - The Emily Project

Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services launches FARM 911 as part of the Emily Project initiative.

The Emily Project - FARM 911 permits address signage to be installed on rural farmlands that normally do not have civic addresses. The address signs help to provide a street address location in case of an emergency, which can lead to a more efficient and effective emergency service response. Property owners of rural farmlands can now submit an application through the City's website to have a FARM 911 address sign installed. The application fee per address sign is \$115 (including HST). For more information visit, www.portcolborne.ca/farm911.



Photo (left to right): Rob Cosby, Associate Director Niagara Federation of Agriculture; Linda and Mark Koabel with Thomas, property owners; Scott Lawson, Port Colborne Fire Chief; and Clarke Fretz, Director Niagara Federation of Agriculture.

New Look for By-law Enforcement Officers

Starting this Spring, By-law Enforcement Officers will be easily recognizable in all black uniforms with a branded shoulder flash, as pictured below. The Community Safety & Enforcement Division is committed to keeping #PortColborne safe and is always happy to answer any questions regarding By-law Enforcement Services. For more information visit, www.portcolborne.ca/bylaws.



Spring Clean Up

The 2021 Spring season has arrived, and the City of Port Colborne is reminding residents to ensure grass and weeds do not exceed the height of 15cm (6 inches) on their properties. In Port Colborne, every property owner is responsible for maintaining their lawn, and failure to do so will result in an order placed on the property, giving 72 hours to clear grass/weeds exceeding 15cm (6 inches). If you have any questions or concerns, please give By-law Enforcement a call at **905-835-2900 ext. 207**.

Farmers' Market

The City of Port Colborne formed a partnership with the Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) to manage the Farmers' Market for the 2021 and 2022 seasons. Approved by Council early March, the Downtown BIA will manage the popular Friday morning Farmers' Market as part of a two-year pilot project. As the City plans creative and strategic ways to boost the local economy, this is an opportunity to partner with key players like the Downtown BIA to expand and attract new businesses. For more information check out the new Farmers' Market Facebook page: [@portcolbornefarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/portcolbornefarmersmarket).



Photo (left to right): Downtown BIA Market Manager, Mary-Lou Ambrose-Little; Downtown BIA Chair, Jesse Boles; Downtown BIA Vice-Chair, Norbert Gieger; Port Colborne City Councillor, Donna Kalailieff; Mayor Bill Steele; Port Colborne Events Coordinator; Luke Rowe.

Reminder

Upcoming Tax Due Date

Second interim instalment due April 30, 2021. Payments can be made through online banking, City Hall night slot or by mail.

For more information visit, www.portcolborne.ca/taxes.



PORT COLBORNE
• PUBLIC LIBRARY •

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310 King Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4H1 | 905-834-6512 | www.portcolbornelibrary.org



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PortColbornePublicLibrary

Temporary Hours

Monday - Saturday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Library staff are onsite to answer your phone calls and to schedule curbside pickup.

Please note the following:

- The book drop is open 24/7 to return your books and library materials. All returns will be quarantined for 96 hours.
- All fines will be waived on items due during the closure
- If you don't have a library card, visit our website to register online
- There are currently no in-person programs or meetings
- If you need help, please call or email us and we will respond to your questions as soon as possible. Stay safe! We will see you soon.

Curbside pickup is available Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Place your order for library materials by phone **905-834-6512**, by email at library@portcolborne.ca or online at www.portcolbornelibrary.org. Staff will contact you when your items are ready.

Computer Services & Printing

WiFi is available 24/7.

Need something printed? We can help! Contact us at: library@portcolborne.ca or **905-834-6512** for curbside pickup.

E-Resources

Did you know you can access free ebooks, audiobooks, online courses, digital magazines and videos through your Port Colborne Public Library? All you need is a library card.

FREE Take & Make Family Crafts

Every week, your family can order a kit to make an amazing craft. Call to book your kit: **905-834-6512**. Available while supplies last!

May 7 – Mother's Day Cards (All Ages)

May 14 – Blowfish Paper Craft (All Ages)

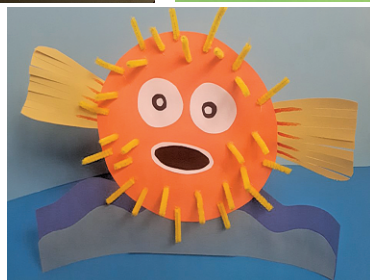
May 21 – Good in Every Grain (All Ages)

- Grow your own wheat or soybean plant from seed.

The kit comes with soil, seeds, planting cup, instructions, links to videos, fun activities, and more.

Thanks to the support of the Grain Farmers of Ontario!

May 28 – Birds Nest (All Ages)



Free Virtual Fun for All Ages

3-2-1 Weather Launch: Atmosphere Traveller with David T. Chapman

Available the entire month of May. Observe and investigate the fascinating science behind the weather. Become your family's weather forecaster by learning to read weather patterns just from looking at the sky outside your window. Our travel guide, weather expert David T. Chapman, takes us on a journey literally from the ground up. For more information visit: www.portcolbornelibrary.org.

Crayola® Imagine Arts Academy™: Coiled Turtles

Saturday, June 12, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Register for the program, pick up your art supply kit prior to the event, and then join us for a live, online tutorial. Registration starts May 27. Visit our website for more details www.portcolborne.org or call: **905-834-6512**.



Exploring the Birds of Ontario with David T. Chapman

Available March 8 – June 8.

If you enjoy bird watching, then this is the presentation for you!

Everything from the small backyard visitors that we all know and love, to some of the largest birds like the bald eagle and great blue heron. Check out rare visitors to our area like the painted bunting and northern hawk owl. For more information visit,

www.portcolbornelibrary.org.





PORT COLBORNE
- HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM -

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280 King Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5X8 | 905-834-7604 | <http://portcolborne.ca/page/museum>



@PortColborneHistoricalMarineMuseum



@PortMuseum



@portcolbornemuseum

May is Museum Month!

Museum Month is an annual program created by the Ontario Museum Association and celebrated by Ontario's 700+ museums, galleries, and heritage sites. The Port Colborne Museum is celebrating Museum Month by launching a new initiative: "I Spy: Museum Month." Starting May 1, Education Programmer Abbey Stanfield will post "I Spy" searches on social media platforms and encourage patrons to discover the mystery that lies within the walls of the Captain Sharpe Heritage Resource Centre. Every day will feature information about a new treasure that is held in our care for future generations. Follow Instagram and Facebook to search out museum gems daily for Museum Month.



Photo: Education Programmer Abbey Stanfield prepares for Museum Month.

Thank You!

On behalf of the Museum Board and staff, we want to say thank you to City Water Clerk, Carrie Simpson for helping to distribute museum membership notices last month. We truly appreciate all your help!!



Record Membership

Thank you Port Colborne for choosing to PORTicipate with your Museum.

Thanks to Sponsorship of Bell Marine and the help of Carrie Simpson, Water Clerk for the City of Port Colborne who sent out thousands of notices with the water bills, a record amount of community members have joined in April to the Museum Membership. If you haven't taken advantage of the 2021 Free Membership yet, May is the perfect time to sign up as our Museum Musings newsletter is about to go out! We'll get you started today! To sign up, email

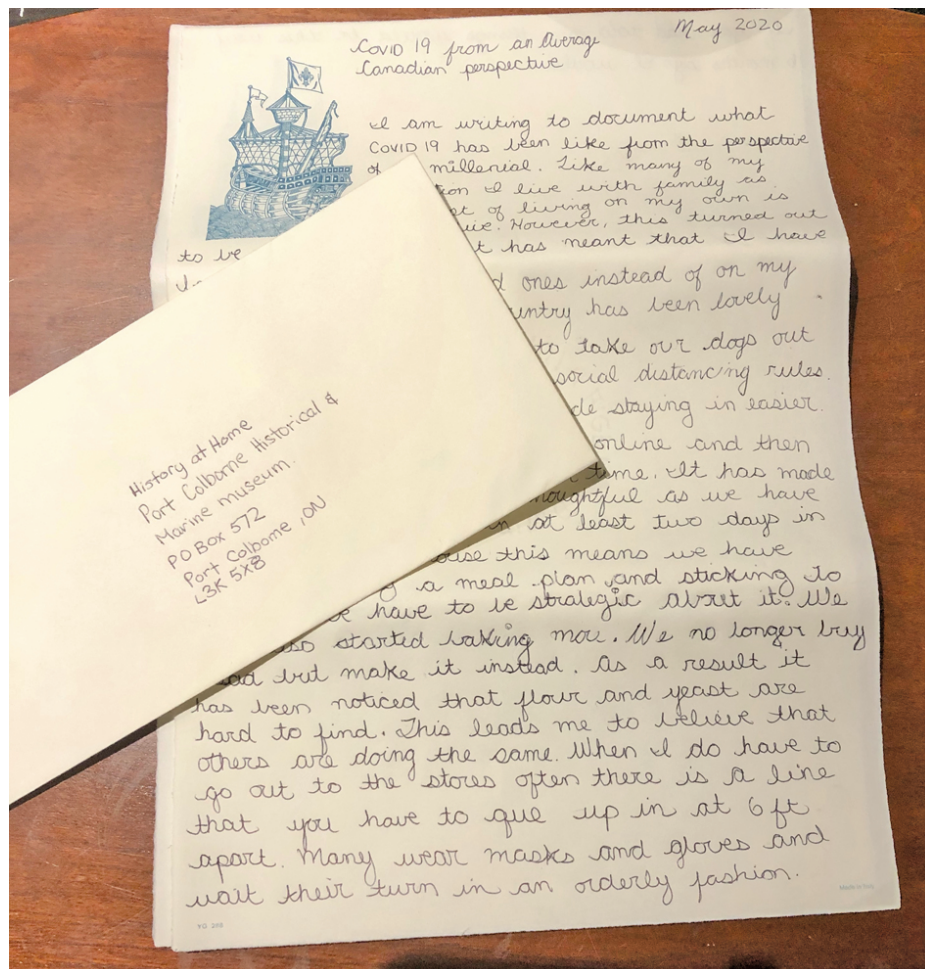
museum@portcolborne.ca

History from Home

Last year the Museum launched our "History From Home" project where the Museum called on the community to #PORTicipate in history. We asked for handwritten letters of your personal experience. This is your opportunity to share with us... your thoughts, feelings, drawings, photographs, and/or daily activities at home. Everyone is welcome to #PORTicipate. As more than a year has passed since this project was launched, we will be reaching out to our contributors to reconnect with them. We are happy to accept new submissions if you have an interest in contributing to archives with your experience.

Please mail your letters to the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum or place them in the mailbox at the museum front door.

PO Box 572
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WHAT'S IN THE WORKS

The City of Port Colborne's Public Works team is committed to making this community a vibrant place for residents to live, work and play. If you can walk on it, drive on it, drink it, flush it, bike on it, skate on it and play on it, more than likely it was the Public Works team taking care of it. Here are some great initiatives and projects happening in your community thanks to the Public Works team.

Improvements to H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park

As part of the Canadian Experiences Fund, the City received financial support to make improvements to H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park with the goal of enhancing tourism initiatives, updating facilities, and creating new experiences for both residents and visitors. Over the last year, City staff were able to make improvements to existing park foundations, while adding new infrastructure including electrical work to support concerts and events like Canal Days. Upgrades and improvements to H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park include the following:

- The Cenotaph was restored, which included significant flagstone repairs, bronzing of the plaques and lights and LED lighting was added at the top of the hill.
- LED lighting upgrades to the washroom, splashpad pumphouse, bandshell and both pavilions.
- After the Oct. 31, 2019 storm, there was significant tree damage throughout the park. City staff corrected all tree and pole damage and ensured playground equipment was intact.
- In Spring 2020, new trees were planted throughout the park.
- In partnership with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority a pollinator bed was created in Spring 2020.
- The asphalt walkway around the park was repaved to ensure a smooth service making it accessible and barrier-free for all residents and visitors to enjoy.



Always Call Before You Dig

Just a friendly reminder, always call before you dig applies to every job, big or small. Whether you're building a fence, putting in a pool, planting a tree or digging a new garden, you need to contact Ontario One Call:

1-800-400-2255



Coming Soon!

Speed Radar Sign

The Public Works Department is in the process of acquiring four Speed Radar Signs for use at various locations throughout the City. One of the first locations planned for these signs is the intersection of Chippawa Road, Dolphin Street, and Berkley Avenue. Speed Radar Signs are effective at raising driver awareness in regards to the speed at which they're travelling. Please drive safe Port Colborne.

School Zone Flashing Signals

Council has approved the installation of Flashing Signals in the school zone on Killaly Street East at St. Therese School to indicate when the speed limit is 40km/h. The regular speed limit will be raised back to 50km/h for all other times of day. Flashing signals have been proven to be effective at reducing traffic speed when activated. The goal of installing these signals is to have the speed of traffic reduced during the most critical times; when a high volume of pedestrian traffic, especially children, is present.

Spring Street Sweeping

The City's annual street sweeping is currently underway!

Here are a few ways you can **#PORTicipate** and help out City staff:

- Minimize street parking where possible
- Do not sweep your driveway and sidewalk debris onto the road
- Do not sweep the gutter or edge of road material into a pile
- Remove hockey and basketball nets from the edge of the road

For more information on how our street sweepers operate visit,

www.portcolborne.ca/streetsweeping.



Hydrant Flushing

The City performs annual hydrant maintenance activities, which includes flow testing and flushing, to ensure adequate water flow for fire fighting activities, fire sprinkler systems, residents, and businesses. It also helps maintain the City's water clarity and quality by clearing any iron and mineral deposits from the water mains. For more info visit, www.portcolborne.ca/water.