

MAYOR'S REPORT

TUESDAY, OCT. 24



H2O CONFERENCE

Thank you, Councillor Beauregard, for serving as Deputy Mayor last week while I attended the Highway H2O conference.

In Port Colborne, we are part of Highway H2O, which includes the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway system, which serves a market of more than 150 million people. It includes a network of 40 ports with intermodal connections.

The Hwy H2O conference included members of shipping companies, Seaway executives, leaders of business and industry. We learned about social sustainability, climate change, and economic impact.

The annual economic impact business on the Great Lakes is \$46 billion, as reported by the Marine Chamber of Commerce. The economic impact on Port Colborne alone is \$64 million per year.

That's how much economic impact we see in Port Colborne related to every tonne of cargo on every ship that passes through our city.

That impact is calculated not only by the cargo on the vessels, but by every dollar it takes to move that cargo. It takes into consideration the pay cheques of the crews on the ships and the salaries of staff of the Seaway, and the groceries they buy for their families, the shoes they buy for their children, the meals they buy in restaurants – all that combined creates the economic impact.

That economic impact is now affected by a strike between Unifor and the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation.

The four Welland Canal Mayors – Mayor Sisco from St. Catharines, Thorold Mayor Terry Ugulini, Welland Mayor Frank Campion and I -- issued a joint statement yesterday to encourage an end to the strike, to keep supply chains flowing.

UNIFOR AND ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY MANAGEMENT COMPANY STRIKE

No one wants to strike. No one is happy when there's a strike – not union members, and not management.

There are 360 workers on strike from Unifor Locals 4211, 4212 and 4323 in Ontario and 4319 and 4320 in Quebec.

We urge the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation and Unifor to get down to business, negotiate in good faith, and bring this strike to an end.

TRICK OR TREAT AT ROSELAWN

It's Halloween next week, so we'll see lots of ghosts and goblins out at dusk and after dark. Please, all drivers, take care and caution --- as we all should every day!

Roselawn will be dressed up like a haunted house, so be sure to take your trick-or-treaters over for tricks and treats.

POPPY WEEK

The Royal Canadian Legion annual Poppy campaign kicks off on Friday, October 27. I will be honoured by with the first poppy of the campaign for Legion Branch 56, right across the street from city hall in King George Park.

Please support the campaign, folks. When you buy a poppy, you are supporting Legion programs which help veterans and their families.

We wear poppies every year until the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, when we meet at the Cenotaphs in HH Knoll Lakeview Park and Centennial Park. We gather to honour the sacrifices made by our parents, grandparents and great grandparents, to protect freedom in our world.