



PORT COLBORNE

CITY HALL NEWS

MARCH 2024

A new look
for the new
year.



A MESSAGE FROM

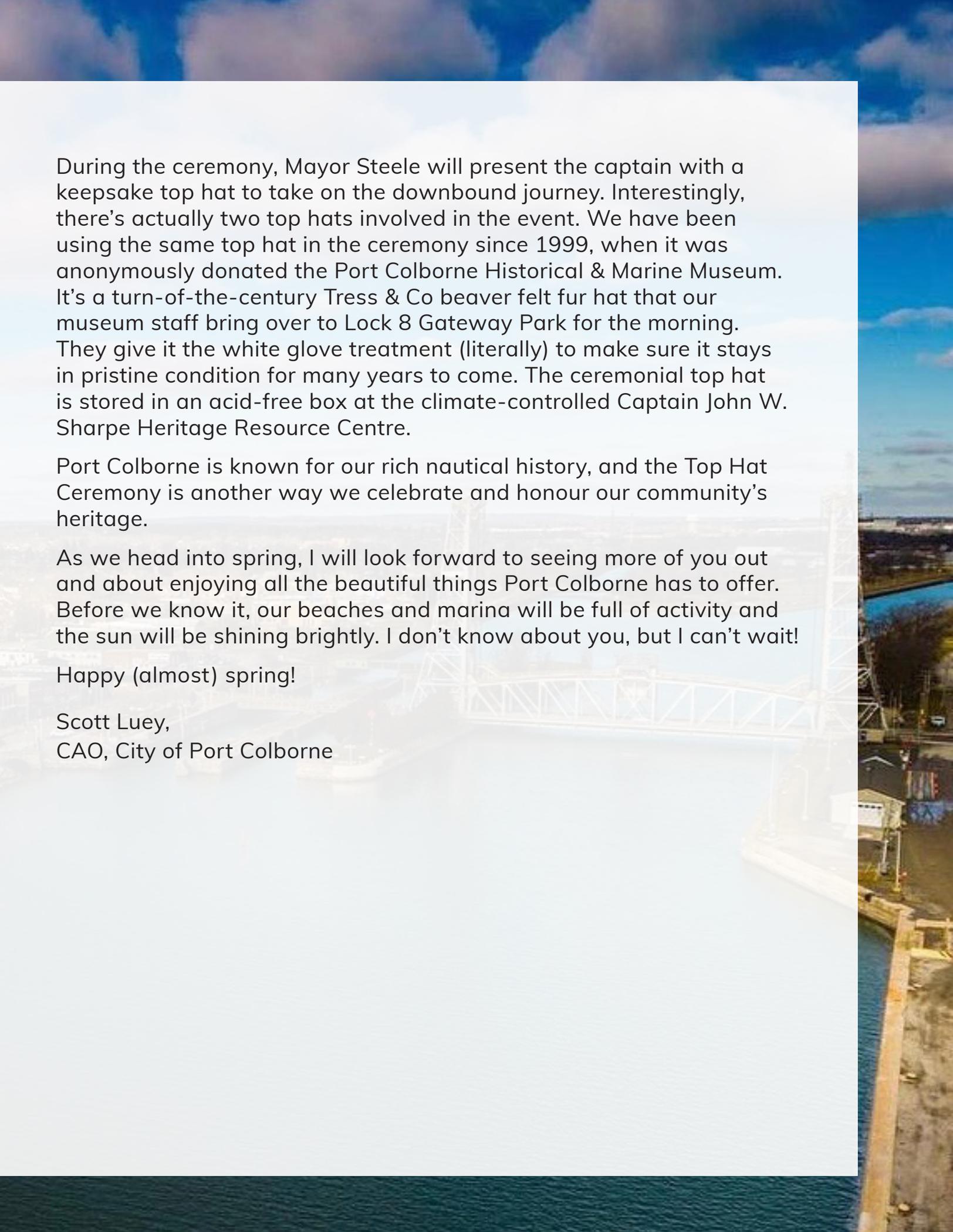
CAO SCOTT LUEY

Ahoy, residents and friends!

As we embrace the arrival of March, I'm thrilled to welcome you to this edition of City Hall News. As you may have seen, last month we launched a refresh of our online monthly newsletter to make it more relevant for you. The new design and format will better serve our community and help you easily find information about city services, programs, and events. City Hall News is your gateway to the latest updates and happenings in our vibrant community. You can even **subscribe** to receive it each month right in your inbox.

March is an exciting time in Port Colborne. It's when we celebrate the reopening of the Welland Canal and the start of the next shipping season. The Top Hat Ceremony – one of my favourite events of the year – will be held in Port Colborne on Friday, March 22 at Lock 8 Gateway Park.

If you haven't been before or haven't heard of the Top Hat Ceremony, it's a cool nautical tradition that was started in Port Colborne in the 1970s under Mayor John Buscarino. I will join Mayor Steele, special guests from other levels of government and the marine industry, and the captain of the first downbound vessel to celebrate the occasion.

The background of the page is a photograph of a harbor. In the foreground, there's a body of water with a white boat. In the middle ground, a large white truss bridge spans across the water. In the background, there are buildings and a blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

During the ceremony, Mayor Steele will present the captain with a keepsake top hat to take on the downbound journey. Interestingly, there's actually two top hats involved in the event. We have been using the same top hat in the ceremony since 1999, when it was anonymously donated to the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum. It's a turn-of-the-century Tress & Co beaver felt fur hat that our museum staff bring over to Lock 8 Gateway Park for the morning. They give it the white glove treatment (literally) to make sure it stays in pristine condition for many years to come. The ceremonial top hat is stored in an acid-free box at the climate-controlled Captain John W. Sharpe Heritage Resource Centre.

Port Colborne is known for our rich nautical history, and the Top Hat Ceremony is another way we celebrate and honour our community's heritage.

As we head into spring, I will look forward to seeing more of you out and about enjoying all the beautiful things Port Colborne has to offer. Before we know it, our beaches and marina will be full of activity and the sun will be shining brightly. I don't know about you, but I can't wait!

Happy (almost) spring!

Scott Luey,
CAO, City of Port Colborne

MARCH EVENTS



Port Colborne
Public Library



Port Colborne
Historical & Marine
Museum



City of
Port Colborne

March Break Activities



There's something fun going on every day during March Break at the Library. Come pick up a craft to enjoy at home, or stay awhile and play with our Library of Things. Pre-register for our dinosaur craft on Wednesday.

Date:
March 11-15

Time:
All day
(Library hours)

Location:
Port Colborne Public
Library

**Free
call us at
905-834-6512 to
register**

Drop-In Program: Nautical Knots



Calling all aspiring sailors, boatsmen, and captains. Join us for an afternoon of learning the classic ship knots of the seven seas.

Date: March 11 **Time:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Location:** L.R Wilson Archives

RSVP: Sloane.mcdowell@portcolborne.ca or 905-651-2036

Teen Tabletop Games



Dungeons and Dragons is back by popular demand. Join us on Tues. Mar. 12 by pre-registering to save your spot. Join us on Thurs. Mar. 14 for a drop-in board game night. Don't forget to invite your friends.

Date:
March 12 & 14

Time:
5-7 p.m.

Location:
Port Colborne Public
Library

**Free
Pre-registration
required**

The Secret Garden Edwardian Tea Party



Join us in the secret garden for an afternoon of games, dress-up, and crafts followed by a traditional Edwardian afternoon tea. Ages 7-12yrs.

Date:
March 13

Time:
1 – 3 p.m.

Location:
L.R Wilson Archives

**\$5/per child
Pre-registration
required**

Free Public Skating



Join us for free Public Skating all March Break long.

Date:
March 11-15

Time:
Various times

Location:
Vale Health & Wellness Centre

More details and scheduled times >



Digging In: Archaeology Program

Become an Archaeologist. Learn about archaeology in Canada through games and activities. Drop off program, Ages 8-12yrs.

Date:
March 14

Time:
1 – 3 p.m.

Location:
L.R Wilson Archives

\$5/per child
Pre-registration
required

Top Hat Ceremony

Port Colborne's Top Hat Ceremony occurs March 22 at Lock 8 Gateway Park to celebrate the opening of the Welland Canal and start of the shipping season by welcoming the Captain of the first downbound vessel.

Date:
March 22

Time:
7:30 a.m.

Location:
Lock 8 Gateway Park

[Learn more >](#)

Documentary Films

March 8 is International Women's Day. Celebrate by joining us for a screening and discussion of the documentary film Arab Women Say What?! (2023, 82 min). The film contemplates politics, identity, and home through the conversations, hospitality, and openness of a group of Arab women.

Date:
March 26

Time:
1:30 – 3 p.m.

Free
Pre-registration
required

Location:
Port Colborne Public
Library

Easter Closure

Municipal offices will be closed Friday, March 29 to observe Good Friday and Monday, April 1 to observe Easter Monday. Offices will re-open Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m. Public Works will be closed Friday, March 29 to observe Good Friday but will be open Monday, April 1. For after-hours emergencies during the holiday or weekend, call 905-228-8126.

Easter Egg Hunt and Tugboat Bunny

The Easter bunny will be hopping back into Port Colborne for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre.

Additional Easter activities include; colouring station, face painting, free skate, free swim, workshops and more.

Date:
March 30

Time:
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location:
Vale Health & Wellness Centre



For all events hosted by the
Port Colborne Public Library >



For more information on the Port
Colborne Historical & Marine Museum >

EASTER AT THE VALE

Saturday, March 30

The Easter bunny will be hopping back into Port Colborne for the annual Easter egg hunt at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth Street.

Additional Easter activities will be happening at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for families to enjoy.

Learn more >



**FREE
SKATING**

**COLOURING
STATION**





FACE PAINTING

FREE SWIM

EASTER WORKSHOPS



TUGBOAT ARRIVAL

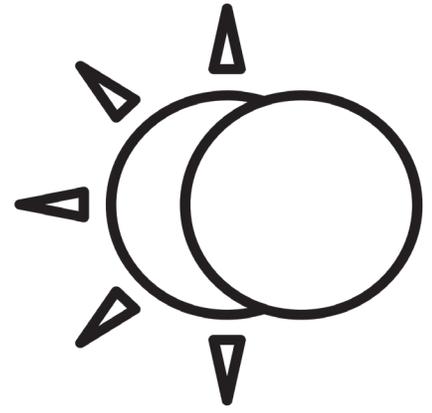


EASTER EGG HUNT

- 9 a.m. Easter Bunny arrives via tugboat along West Street
- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Eggciting Easter Workshop with Dena Gelentso
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Face Painting
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Colouring Station
- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m Easter Egg Hunt (while quantities last)
- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m Free Bouncer and Gym Activities
- 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Free Community Skate Presented by Rankin Construction - Rink 1
- 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free Community Skate Presented by Rankin Construction - Rink 2
- 12:30 p.m to 4:30 p.m YMCA Free Swimming

Notes: Bring your own basket and meet City Staff at the fenced-in soccer field for some Easter fun.

APRIL 8 SOLAR ECLIPSE



Eclipse fever hits Port Colborne

Have you heard? On April 8, 2024, residents and visitors to Port Colborne will find themselves in the direct path of totality during an historic total eclipse of the sun. This spectacular event will last for almost four minutes, starting at 2:04 p.m. and ending at 4:33 p.m., with totality occurring at 3:18 p.m.

As the moon's shadow casts its dark veil over our community, Port Colborne invites residents and visitors alike to join in a series of family-friendly events, safely view the eclipse from designated viewing areas, and immerse themselves in an incredible day of celestial fun in Port Colborne.

Activities to Enjoy

As the skies above Port Colborne offer an opportunity to witness the grandeur of a total solar eclipse, the City will also offer a variety of fun family-friendly events for residents and visitors alike:

Ontario Planetarium Programming: Planetarium Show

Visitors will have the chance to immerse themselves in the wonders of the cosmos as planetarium staff will share constellation stories, northern light insights, and so much more inside an immersive inflatable 4K planetarium. Stay tuned for sign-up details.

Ontario Planetarium Programming: Solar Tours

Stargazing enthusiasts can enjoy a tour of the universe with a live presenter. Explore the powerful sun, learn about the eclipse, how the aurora works and so much more! Stay tuned for sign-up details.

Ontario Planetarium Programming: Telescope Tours

Have your chance to view the eclipse using a 10-inch Dobsonian Telescope. Astronomy guides will provide hands-on telescope experiences, a chance for attendees to view sunspots and solar flares using solar filters to ensure safety. Stay tuned for sign-up details.

"Let's Talk Science"

Join science experts from Brock University to spark curiosity and strengthen STEM connections. Learn about solar eclipse safety and create eclipse art that will project crescents during the eclipse. More details to come.

Port Colborne Public Library and Museum

Join city staff at their interactive station to learn about the solar eclipse through crafts and activities, plus take advantage of their mobile library and even sign up for your very own library card.

FREE Community Skate Presented by City of Port Colborne

Vale Health & Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth Street.

Rink 1 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Rink 2 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Port Colborne YMCA FREE Open Swim

Vale Health & Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth Street.

Swim times to be announced.

Where to watch the Solar Eclipse:

Residents are encouraged to gather with friends, family, and fellow sky gazers at prime viewing locations across Port Colborne to marvel at the breathtaking phenomenon. From the Vale Health & Wellness Centre to Sugarloaf Marina, numerous spots offer unobstructed views of the spectacular display in the sky.

- Vale Health & Wellness Centre
- H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park
- Sugarloaf Harbour Marina
- West Street / Downtown Port Colborne
- Lock 8 Gateway Park
- Nickel Beach
- Centennial Cedar Bay Beach
- Your own front or backyard



Get your Eclipse glasses starting March 8

The City will begin offering free solar eclipse glasses for residents with a PORTicipate pass or Port Colborne Public Library card.

To get your free glasses:

1. Visit City Hall and show your PORTicipate pass. If you don't have a PORTicipate pass, you can sign up for one while you're at City Hall.
2. Visit the Port Colborne Public Library and show you library card. If you don't have a library card, you can sign up for one while you're at the library.
 - Maximum 5 pairs of glasses per household
 - Glasses are only available while supplies last

Protect your peepers!

- Use only ISO-certified eclipse glasses meeting ISO 12312-2 standards from a reputable vendor, and be sure to read the instructions on the glasses
- Don't use scratched or damaged eclipse glasses, ordinary sunglasses or do-it-yourself filters
- Never look directly at the uncovered sun without proper eye protection, even though it may be tempting during an eclipse
- Make sure children keep their eclipse glasses on

Warning! Looking directly at the uncovered sun without protection can cause retinal burns, sight loss or blurred vision. There are no pain sensors in your retinas to tell you that your eyes are being damaged. Once symptoms begin, the damage is usually too late to reverse.

FEBRUARY RECAP

2024 SPORTSFEST

From February 9 to 11, 2024 the City of Port Colborne celebrated winter with our annual SportsFest. Thank you to all the participants and partners who helped make this such a successful event.



PORT COLBORNE POLAR PLUNGE

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Feb. 11 for the Port Colborne Polar Plunge. We're thrilled to announce that we shattered records this year, surpassing our initial goal of \$20,000.

Total raised funds: \$28,116



SPORTS WALL OF FAME

At the Vale Health & Wellness Centre Feb. 10, four new members were inducted into Port Colborne's Sports Wall of Fame:

- Diane Gannon
 - Derek Wills
 - Kevin Keith
- Novice Girls PWSU Champions 1973

The Sports Wall of Fame was relocated in 2018 to the Vale Health & Wellness Centre, replacing the original Wall of Fame that was created in 1991 at the West Side Arena.

The decision of new inductees was made by the Sports Wall of Fame committee members: Mayor Bill Steele, Greg Zwiep, Manager of Recreation, and Tom Lannan.

PINK SHIRT DAY

Pink Shirt Day (also known as anti-bullying day) began in 2007 when a student in Nova Scotia was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. It has since been recognized annually worldwide as a day to wear a pink-coloured shirt to stand against bullying. City of Port Colborne staff were proud to represent the colour pink on Feb. 28 in many different departments across the City to stand up against bullying in our community.



[Learn more about the Sports Wall of Fame, or to download the application to nominate an individual, team, organization, or volunteer >](#)



Loan Items held from May to end of December 2024



EXHIBITION CALL FOR ITEMS

LOOKING FOR:

SHOES, PHOTOS,
UNIFORMS, ETC. FROM
HUMBERSTONE SHOE CO.

ITEMS AND PHOTOS
FROM PORT COLBORNE
BUSINESSES/INDUSTRIES.

Deadline: April 5th, 2024

Submit to:
tami.nail@portcolborne.ca



The Museum is busy preparing for our 2024 exhibits, 'A Step in Time: Humberstone Shoe Factory' and 'Made in Poco'. Assistant Curator, Tami Nail, is putting out a call for items to be featured in either exhibition. If you have any of the following and are open to loaning them to the Museum please contact us by April 5, 2024.



(From left to right): Emma Laur, Sophia Seca,
Sierra Walsh-Fiore, Maria Gonzalez Garcia,
Jenna Kountouris.
Missing from photo: Eva Wachel



MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE:

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) works to provide a voice for the youth of Port Colborne by offering advice and recommendations to City Council on various recreational and social issues. Since the committee's first meeting in November 2023, members have been focused on creating a healthier community and improving the quality of life for young people in Port Colborne.

The members of MYAC are dedicated to enriching the lives of the younger community. They organize exciting events, like the upcoming Spring Dance in April, to provide fun and engaging opportunities for youth.

In addition to their event planning, MYAC members actively volunteer in the community. They've lent a hand at the Friends of Roselawn Christmas Makers Market and participated in the Port Colborne Christmas Parade alongside the Mayor.

Learn more >

Members:

Chair: Sierra Walsh-Fiore

Vice Chair: Eva Wachel

Maria Gonzalez Garcia

Emma Laur

Jenna Kountouris

Sophia Seca

Council Representative: Tim Hoyle



COUNCIL CORNER



Council Meetings are scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024.

[Committees, Boards and Council Calendar >](#)

Last months Council Meeting

