



## **PORT COLBORNE**

### **Mayor's report to city council**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

### **Eclipse 2024**

Our Chief Executive Officer plans to share some insight on the eclipse and how things unfolded yesterday, but let me thank, on behalf of members of council, our entire team of staff, for pitching in to organize roads, parking, activities, and all to keep our city safe. What a great team effort, in the days leading up to the event, and all day during the event. Staff really came together. I am proud of all of you. Thank you.

We're not always happy when the weatherman, or meteorologist, I should say, gets it right. We all saw and heard in the days leading up to the greatest celestial event of our era that clouds would cover our view of the total eclipse of the sun. The sun poked through a few times yesterday afternoon, enough to see most of the phases of the eclipse.

I watched with my family from Sunset Park near our home.

How lucky were we in Port Colborne to take it all in from our backyards, our parks, our beaches? What an experience it was, what a thrill, to experience totality, that sudden darkness, for almost four minutes. Friends who live in Sugarloaf Place overlooking HH Knoll Lakeview Park said it was awesome to hear the cheering at the total eclipse. People have shared a range of emotions after experiencing the phenomenon. To the thousands who shared the experience with us in Port Colborne, thank you.

Business owners along the canal on West Street have said it was as busy if not busier than Canal Days. That's incredible. Good for them. It's a day we'll remember until the next eclipse, in 2044. It will not be in our backyard next time. We'll have to travel to Alberta for that one.

### **MYAC Spring Fling a success**

The six members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee held their first event Friday evening in the Golden Puck Room at the Vale Centre: a dance for students in Grades 6 to 9.

Their Spring Fling was a great success!

I'm proud of them for all the work they put in to make it happen. They wrote promotional announcements for schools, they designed a poster, they secured sponsorships, they collected prizes from local businesses, they decorated the room, they made playlists for music, they coordinated food and drinks, they recruited volunteers, and they collected 80 pounds of non-perishable food for the Reach out Centre from about 100 guests who attended.

I'm so impressed with this group.

One of the MYAC goals is to raise enough money to sponsor a family at Christmas.

The committee members are already working on their next event: a health and wellness session for students, with tips to manage stress during exam time.

They are a bright group of young people.

On behalf of council, I extend thanks and congratulations to the MYAC team: Sierra Walsh-Fiore, Emma Laur, Jenna Kountouris, Sophia Seca, Maria Gonzales, and Eva Wachel, who was recently awarded Youth Citizen of the Year by the Port Colborne Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce.

One day, these six young people may be seated around this table.

Councillor Hoyle, you stopped by the dance about midway through to see how things were going. Have you anything to add, about the event, or about the MYAC team?