



PORT COLBORNE

**Mayor's report to city council
Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

Happy 100 Joanne Jackson

Friends and relatives gathered in Lakeside Yacht Club Sunday afternoon to celebrate Joanne Jackson who turned 100 years old. On behalf of city council and staff, we wish her all the best. See you next year for 101, Joanne!

Arabella's Pie Social and History Fair 2024

Also on Sunday afternoon, my wife Debby and I enjoyed homemade pie in Arabella's Tea Room. It was the 40th annual Pie Social, one of the most popular events of the season.

The volunteers of the Ladies Auxiliary were run off their feet!

We had to wait in line, as many did, between noon and 4pm. But it was so worth the wait! It's the ONLY time you get pie at Arabella's.

Instead of pie, guests will enjoy fresh-baked tea biscuits served with homemade jams and jellies, starting June 1, for the rest of the season. And fresh brewed tea, of course.

At the same time as the Pie Social, the staff and volunteers of what we all consider the best museum in Niagara, were busy in all the buildings -- inside and out -- on the grounds of the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum with the History Fair. Well done, all of you, and thank you.

Just a reminder: the two major museum features are **Made in POCO** – I'll bet you didn't know so many things were made in Port Colborne -- and **A Step in Time**, all about the Humberstone Shoe Factory and its 90 years in business. It's remarkable how many local families have history with "The Shoe Factory" at Main and Elm, now one of the nicest apartment buildings in the city.

95 years of Garden Club, 75 years of St. John Bosco CWL

Speaking of history in our city, the Port Colborne Garden Club, formally known as the Port Colborne Horticultural Society, celebrates its 95th anniversary next week on June 5.

On Sunday, June 2, the St. John Bosco Catholic Women's League celebrates 75 years of service to our community.

It is a testament to the passion and commitment of members that these volunteer organizations have endured through so many challenging decades, doing so many good works for our city. We salute them and thank them.

Concerts on the Lawn at Roselawn

Pack up your lawn chair and find a good spot on the beautiful grounds of Roselawn to enjoy the first of four Concerts on the Lawn Sunday afternoon, June 2, starting at noon until 2pm. Organized by members of the Museum Board, sponsored by the Friends of Roselawn, the first band of the season is Back in the Daze.

A week later, on June 8, the city's Community Concert Series kicks off with Abba Revisited on stage in the Bandshell in HH Knoll Lakeview Park.

These concerts are all free. We ask for your support by bringing nonperishable items to keep the shelves full at the Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

MYAC Self Care for Students Wellness Fair

We're all aware of mental health challenges faced by so many in our community, as faced by so many across our country.

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee has stepped up to help young people cope with the stress and anxiety of school. Young people who learn to manage their mental health grow into adults with good, positive mental health habits.

MYAC members have partnered with Bridges Community Health Centre and Port Colborne Public Library to present a Self Care for Students Wellness Fair. The event is tomorrow, Wednesday, May 29 from 4 to 5:30pm.

There will be six stations set up in the library and the Archives next door.

Students of all ages travel between each of the stations.

They'll learn, for example, study tips, how to handle the transition from elementary school to high school, the benefits of healthy snacks, and how to cope with stress in different ways. Each station is led by one of their peers, someone their own age, someone young people can relate to.

I'm proud of the MYAC members for their initiative in coordinating the Wellness Fair, and for reaching out to Bridges for advice and leadership.

Salute to Dr. West. Welcome Dr. Adiga

Speaking of advice and leadership, one of our long-time family physicians, Dr. John West, retired recently. He took care of hundreds of Port Colborne patients, sometimes three generations of families, for more than 40 years.

In addition to his own demanding practice, Dr. West served on the wards in the hospital, he did shifts in the emergency department, he assisted surgeons in the operating room, he did Wednesday night walk-in clinics. And he did house calls. He did all that, while taking care of his family. His patients are really going

to miss him. On behalf of council and staff, thank you to Dr. West, for almost half a century of caring for the citizens of Port Colborne.

Dr. West didn't leave his patients without a replacement.

Let us all welcome Dr. Samyuktha Adiga, who has taken over Dr. West's patients.

She and her husband Roshan, who is a pharmacist (now there's a team!) have seven-month-old son. Sounds like you have your hands full already!

We've put together a basket of goodies for you and your family, Dr. Adiga, to welcome you to our city.

We included some baby things, including a baby quilt made by former Councillor and Regional Councillor Barbara Butters. There are some other handmade baby things by some of the talented members of Niagara Crafters on King Street.

Because we're a Fair Trade town, celebrating 15 years this month, we included Fair Trade coffee (to keep you awake!) and some Fair Trade toys for you and your baby from Villages on Clarence Street. And of course, you'll find some fun Port Colborne branded items we hope you'll be proud to wear.

Welcome to you, and your family. We look forward to you enjoying many years of life in Port Colborne.