



PORT COLBORNE

**Mayor's report to city council
Tuesday, June 25, 2024**

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS

It's a proud time for Port Colborne parents as their children are graduating from elementary school to high school, and from high school to college, university and to the working world.

It feels like yesterday Debby and I joined hundreds of other parents in the school auditorium to watch our boys receive their diplomas.

We salute all our city's graduating students,

Tonight, almost right at this very moment, 162 students are graduating from Lakeshore Catholic High School

On Thursday evening, 92 students will graduate from Port Colborne High School.

In the words of Dr. Seuss: You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.

Oh the places you'll go!

I send a special congratulations to members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, each of whom earned awards and scholarships for their efforts in academics, community service, and leadership.

I am so proud of Sierre Walsh-Fiore, Eva Wachel, Maria Gonzales, Sophia Seca, Jenna Kountouris and Emma Laur. You did great work with MYAC

this year, and you all achieved highest academic standing, and you all excelled at extracurricular sports and rec.

Have a great summer! I look forward to seeing you in September.

NICKEL BEACH

Nickel Beach is officially open for the summer!

We don't drive or park on the beach anymore, but there is free parking for residents with a Participate pass. If you don't have yours yet, please come see our customer service team in city hall.

Nickel Beach is home to SplashTown Niagara, an inflatable water park that is great for thrill-seekers.

Nickel Beach now has a Dog Zone, where you and your furry friend can have a blast together in the sand and water.

Centennial - Cedar Bay Beach is great for the recreation lover, with tennis courts, volleyball courts, and horseshoe rings available for beachgoers.

Please visit our city website for a full list of amenities, parking fees, and rules and regulations for both beaches.

COMMUNITY CONCERTS

Not only is Nickel Beach so popular with residents and visitors, our Community Concert Series is also a hit. This year's concerts are sponsored by Asahi Kasei Battery Separator Canada and we are so grateful for their partnership in presenting the concerts for our community.

I am so pleased more than 800 people attended The Doobie Brothers Experience Sunday evening at the bandshell in HH Knoll Lakeview Park. It

was the second event in our concert series – the first was Abba Revisited two weeks ago, which was a cool, damp evening, but still so well attended.

The concerts are free with the donation of a non-perishable food item for the Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

The next concert is Sugar Heat July 5. Sugar Heat is a Latin band, and yes, there will be professional latin dancers and salsa lessons.

The Jimmy Marando Swing Band, featuring Port Colborne's own Genevieve-Renee Bisson, will take the stage July 13.

CANAL DAYS LAUNCH

With a little more than a month to go, we're in countdown to the 46th annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival. Our Canal Days launch is Thursday.

That's the day all the bands and all the Canal Days events will be announced. There will be a website with everything you need to know about the festival.

We are proud, and thankful, to have the good people at GIO Rail as our title sponsor this year.

GIO Rail stepped up with a \$75,000 sponsorship of Canal Days. Awesome!

We're thrilled to be working with GIO Rail, and with more than 50 other community partners who support our city's signature event. Thank you all, for stepping up with financial and volunteer support for a festival that has such a fantastic economic impact on our city. It's a lot of work, but it sure is a lot of fun.

To those companies and individuals out there who wish to be part of our summer festival of marine heritage, don't miss out. There is still time for you to join in with your support, your investment. Call my office, right now, or first thing in the morning, and we'll be happy to hook you up.

CANADA DAY

Before Canal Days, which is 37 days away, we celebrate the greatest country in the world: CANADA!

Our country celebrates its 157th birthday on Monday, July 1.

Canada Day is a national holiday for Canadians, who will gather in parks and arenas and civic squares for parties and festivals from coast to coast to coast.

Our farming heritage will be celebrated all weekend at the Learn Farm on Wilhelm Road in Sherkston.

I have been invited, on behalf of council, to participate in the opening ceremonies of the Niagara Antique Power Show and Heritage Display Saturday, June 29 at noon. The 52nd annual heritage show runs all weekend, and on holiday Monday.

Also on holiday Monday, the Port Colborne Optimist Club presents Canada Day in the Park. The Optimists have a full day of fun and activities and music in HH Knoll Lakeview Park.

Canada Day in the Park gets underway at 10am and runs until about 6pm, with bands on stage at the bandshell all afternoon.

A highlight of the day will be the Port Colborne Special Olympics Team completing the Ontario-wide Law Enforcement Torch Run during opening ceremonies at 1pm. I'm really looking forward to that.

We can all look forward to Canada Day fireworks over the Canal at 10pm!

We've had a busy few weeks behind us, and a busy summer ahead of us. Let's all slow down, enjoy each day. Don't walk so fast, don't drive so fast, take the time to take it all in. Because there sure is a lot to take in, and so much to be grateful for.

That concludes my report this evening.