



PORT COLBORNE

September 24, 2024

Mover Councillor
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WHEREAS Fifty years ago, a committee led by Sam Berkhout and the Port Colborne Lions organized a hockey exchange to Sweden with an all-star team of 14- and 15-year-olds; and

WHEREAS the plan was to send a Port Colborne team to Sweden, where the boys would play a host of Swedish teams, then invite a team from Sweden to Canada play teams from across Niagara; and

WHEREAS for almost an entire year before the trip, Team Port Colborne Boosters organized draws, dances, bake sales, bottle drives to raise the \$17,000 required for transportation, airfare, souvenirs, special dress and equipment, and a banquet for their Swedish hosts. \$17,000 in 1974 equates to about \$103,000 in 2024; and

WHEREAS the trip was considered a huge success, thanks to organizers, sponsors, family and friends of Team Port Colborne who played a stellar six wins, one loss and one tie; and

WHEREAS Coach Jack Stover, manager Hank Boyer and trip organizer Sam Berkhout were proud of their players, who conducted themselves admirably as ambassadors of our city, our region, and our country. It was an experience of a lifetime.

NOW THEREFORE To mark the 50th anniversary of the Team Port Colborne Bantam All Star Team trip to Sweden in 1974, I Mayor, William C, Steele hereby proclaim the first week of October as Team Port Colborne Week.

William C. Steele
Mayor