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## **PROCLAMATION DRAFT - LEAVE A LEGACY MONTH | MAY 2025**

**WHEREAS**, May is recognized as **Leave a Legacy Month**, a national awareness campaign created by the Canadian Association of Gift Planners to highlight the importance and impact of charitable gifts in wills, encouraging individuals to consider how their legacy can extend beyond their lifetime and benefit future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, many residents of Port Colborne may believe that philanthropy is only for the wealthy, when in reality, even a small percentage of one's estate can create meaningful and lasting change in the community. **Generosity is a powerful force for good**, and individuals from all walks of life have the ability to make a difference by including a charitable gift in their will, ensuring their values live on through causes that matter most to them; and

**WHEREAS**, **Niagara Community Foundation (NCF)** has been Niagara's philanthropic partner for 25 years, helping turn intent into impact. Since its founding in 2000, NCF has raised over \$91.5 million in permanent endowment funds and has granted over \$31 million to charities across Niagara, supporting education, health care, environment, sports and recreation, arts and culture, and community development; and

**WHEREAS**, NCF continues to connect donors with causes, communities to resources, ensuring that charitable gifts are invested strategically to strengthen the local community in perpetuity. **NCF's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** provides an opportunity to reflect on the power of legacy giving and to inspire more residents to consider how even a 1% gift in their will can leave a profound and lasting impact on the charities and organizations that enrich life in Lincoln and across Niagara; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Steele, Mayor of the City of Port Colborne, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as "Leave a Legacy Month" and encourage all residents to consider how they can leave a meaningful gift in their will. By taking this step, we can ensure a stronger, more vibrant, and more generous Niagara for generations to come.

Dated this [Day] of [Month], 2025.

Bill Steele

Mayor, City of Port Colborne