

City of Port Colborne
Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Members Present: M. Aquilina, Councillor
M. Bagu, Councillor
E. Beauregard, Councillor
R. Bodner, Councillor
G. Bruno, Councillor
F. Danch, Councillor
D. Elliott, Councillor
T. Hoyle, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)

Staff Present: J. Beaupre, Deputy Clerk
B. Boles, Chief Administrative Officer
J. Colasurdo, Manager of Strategic Projects
S. Double, Fire Chief
C. Dray, Road and Park Operations Manager
C. Madden, City Clerk
J. Peazel-Graham, Manager of Communications
A. Pigeau, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
S. Shypowskyj, Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

C-25- 080

That the Council agenda dated April 22, 2025, be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried

3. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. Closed Session (Beginning at 5:00 p.m.)

C-25- 081

Moved by Councillor F. Danch

Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council do now proceed to meet in Closed Session at 5:05 p.m. under:

- Section 239(2)(f) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- Section 239(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, where a closed meeting is held if the subject matter being considered is educational or training sessions, where a meeting of a council or local board or of a committee of either of them may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied: 1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members, and 2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee.

Carried

4.1 Council Orientation, Education and Training Session

5. Back to Open Session (Beginning at 6:30 p.m.)

C-25- 082

Moved by Councillor D. Elliott

Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Council does now rise and reconvene from Closed Session at 6:30 p.m. without report.

Carried

6. National Anthem

Everyone stood for the National Anthem.

7. Land Acknowledgement

The Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The City of Port Colborne stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

8. Proclamations

8.1 Niagara Community Foundation - May 2025 is Leave a Legacy Month

C-25- 083

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

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 25th 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, Mayor William C. Steele, 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.

Carried

8.2 Emergency Preparedness Week May 4 - 10, 2025

C-25- 084

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

WHEREAS Safety starts with being prepared and having a plan; and

WHEREAS All Ontarians have a part to play in preparing for emergencies; and

WHEREAS Emergency Preparedness Week is a national event that educates communities across the province about actions people can take to prepare for emergency situations; and

WHEREAS the 2025 fire prevention theme for this period is: "Plan for Every Season". This theme reflects the unique challenges facing Ontario on a seasonal basis and the opportunities to practice emergency preparedness throughout the year.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor William C. Steele, do hereby proclaim May 4 to 10, 2025 as "Emergency Preparedness Week" in the City of Port Colborne. AND, I urge all citizens to make a plan, prepare an Emergency Kit and know what to do so that they and their families can be better prepared for an emergency.

Carried

9. Presentations

9.1 Presentation for Grants to Non-Profit Organizations

Mayor Steele, Bea Kenny, Councillor Aquilina, and Councillor Hoyle presented the grants to the following organizations:

- Port Colborne Wave Girls Hockey Association (\$5,369.35)
- The Port Colborne Optimist Club (\$4,000.00)
- Friends of the Port Colborne Lighthouses (\$3,600.00)
- Port Colborne Feline Initiative (\$4,335.00)
- Community Living Port Colborne Wainfleet (\$3,000.00)

10. Delegations

There were no delegations.

11. Mayor's Report

A copy of the Mayor's report is attached.

12. Regional Councillor's Report

There was no regional councillor report.

13. Consent Agenda

Councillor Hoyle lifted item 13.4 d, which was considered as item 14.5 under Items Requiring Separate Discussion. Councillor Bruno lifted item 13.3, which was considered as item 14.6 under Items Requiring Separate Discussion.

C-25- 085

Moved by Councillor R. Bodner

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That Council hereby approves the listed consent items on the April 22, 2025, Council agenda; and

That the consent items be approved on the recommendations as contained therein.

Carried

13.1 Approval of Minutes

- a. **Regular Council Meeting Minutes - April 8, 2025**

13.2 Receipt of Minutes of Boards & Committees

- a. **Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum Board Minutes - February 18, 2025**
- b. **Port Colborne Public Library Board Minutes - March 5, 2025**

13.3 Staff Reports

13.4 Receipt of Correspondence Items

- a. Niagara Federation of Agriculture - Port Colborne Grain Terminal**
- b. Grain Farmers of Ontario - Grain Terminal**
- c. Resolutions from Various Municipalities regarding Strong Mayor Powers**
- e. Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Social Services - Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates**
- f. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness - Agricultural System Implementation**

14. Items Requiring Separate Discussion

14.1 Animal Control Services – Animal Shelter – Enhanced Services, 2025-76

Tami Gabri and Amelia Canto from the Welland District Niagara SPCA and Humane Society, and Sherry Hanson, Manager of By-law Services, presented on report 2025-76.

C-25- 086

Moved by Councillor F. Danch
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Community Safety & Enforcement Department Report 2025-76 be received; and

That Council approve providing enhanced animal control services at the Port Colborne Animal Shelter; and

That the funding associated with the enhanced services in the amount of \$14,197 for the remainder of 2025 be approved; and

That \$24,280 and \$24,905 for Years Two and Three of the contract, respectively, be allocated into the annual budget process to ensure continued service.

Carried

14.2 2024 Year End Surplus and Project Close Out, 2025-68

Adam Pigeau, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, presented to Council on Report 2025-68.

C-25- 087

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That Corporate Services Department, Financial Services Division, Report 2025-68 Subject: 2024 Year End Surplus and Project Close Out, be received; and

That the year-end levy surplus be allocated to the City's Encumbrance Reserve; and

That the reserve transfers recommended in Report 2025-68 be approved; and

That the capital and related project and reserve balances of Appendices E, F, and G of Corporate Services Department Report 2025-68, be approved.

Carried

14.3 Grain Terminal Public Engagement Update, 2025-94

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, and Jasmine Peazel-Graham, Manager of Communications, presented to Council on report 2025-94.

C-25- 088

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2025-94 be received; and

That Council direct staff to continue working with subject matter experts in the field to assess and identify viable future tenants for the Port Colborne Grain Terminal **site**.

Carried

Amendment:

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That the word "site" be added to the end of the second paragraph.

Carried

14.4 Sugarloaf Marina and Public Boat Launch Dredging Public Engagement Update, 2025-93

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, and Jasmine Peazel-Graham, Manager of Communications, presented to Council on report 2025-93.

C-25- 089

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor R. Bodner

That Chief Administrative Officer Report 2025-93 be received; and

That Council direct staff to continue gathering cost estimates for the disposal of dredged material from the area closest to the public boat launch, with two potential disposal sites under consideration: the lagoon area at Sugarloaf Marina, and the industrial land adjacent the Nickel Beach parking lot.

Carried

14.5 Town of Grimsby - Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

C-25- 090

Moved by Councillor T. Hoyle

Seconded by Councillor D. Elliott

That Council endorse the correspondence from the Town of Grimsby regarding Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada.

Carried

14.6 Port Colborne Official Plan and Niagara Official Plan Update, 2025-89

C-25- 091

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor F. Danch

That Development and Government Relations Department Report 2025-89 be received for information.

Carried

15. Staff Remarks

Joe Colasurdo, Manager of Strategic Projects, shared his experience from attending the 2025 North American No Dig Conference in Denver, where he noted they gained valuable insights and valuable partnerships. He also provided updates on the Watermain Replacement Project.

Sherry Hanson, Manager of By-law Services, reminded everyone that Clean Community Day will be taking place from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on May 24, 2025.

Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, thanked Adam Pigeau, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, for his first presentation to Council. He also thanked Jade McDowall, the Deputy Treasurer, for her efforts.

16. Councillors' Remarks

Councillor Beauregard thanked Public Works staff for providing an update from the 2025 North American No Dig Conference. He also noted Niagara Transit is currently undergoing a governance review.

Councillor Bagu inquired to Public Works staff about new piping at the corner of Sugarloaf Street and West Street.

Councillor Bruno thanked Bryan Boles, Chief Administrative Officer, for providing a plan he shared with Councillors.

Councillor Elliott inquired to Public Works staff about reinstatement of Clarence Street. He also congratulated Adam Pigeau, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer, on his first presentation to Council.

Councillor Danch inquired about the Sugarloaf Marina opening date.

Councillor Hoyle thanked staff for answering his questions. He also reminded businesses to share their events with the Port Colborne Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce so that they can be added to their events calendar.

Councillor Bodner noted there was a large turn out for the easter egg hunt at the Sherkston Community Centre, where 130 youth registered for the event.

17. Motions

There were no motions.

18. Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

19. By-laws

C-25- 092

Moved by Councillor M. Aquilina

Seconded by Councillor T. Hoyle

That the following by-law(s) be passed and enacted, as presented:

- By-law No. 7342/33/25
- By-law No. 7343/34/25
- By-law No. 7344/35/25

Carried

19.1 By-law No. 7342/33/25 - Seasonal Officer and Bylaw Intake Interim Replacement Appointments

19.2 By-law No. 7343/34/25 - Beach Staff Parking Enforcement Appointments

19.3 By-law No. 7344/35/25 - By-law to Adopt, Ratify and Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne

20. Procedural Motions

There were no procedural motions.

21. Adjournment

Mayor Steele adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

William C. Steele, Mayor

Charlotte Madden, City Clerk



PORT COLBORNE

MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025

HAPPY EARTH DAY

Today is the 55th annual Earth Day. The day was founded on April 22, 1970, to bring worldwide awareness and concern for the environment and the links between pollution and public health.

We've learned a lot in the past 55 years about how our actions impact our world and its resources. We act locally and think globally. We reduce, reuse and recycle, we compost organics, we use unleaded gas, unleaded paint, and hundreds of other earth-safe products. We still have a lot of work to do.

Climate change activities encompass a wide range of actions aimed at mitigating the impacts of global warming, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to changing climate conditions, and promoting sustainable practices. Small things make a big difference.

The Optimists and other local clubs do roadside clean-ups to mark Earth Day. A crew from our public works team was out this morning picking up litter in parks and along roads. Kindergarten students from DeWitt Carter did a clean-up at Nickel Beach today. Last week, in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and Sassafras Farms, the city gave away 500 trees and 100 seed packs last Thursday in Market Square.

EASTER FUN

Kudos to our events team for presenting a full day of fun Easter activities, including an Easter egg hunt at the Vale Centre. It was a thrill for all of us to welcome the Easter Bunny who arrived in Port Colborne on deck of the JW Cooper pilot boat. Thanks to Captain Craig Workman and his crew for delivering Mr. Cottontail safely Saturday morning via the Welland Canal.

MAY 1 IS A DAY OF MANY MILESTONES

DOCTORS' DAY

We join communities across Ontario in recognizing Doctors' Day on May 1—a day to express our gratitude to physicians for their compassionate care, dedication, and continued commitment to improving the health of people in our community.

Here in Niagara, more than 600 physicians across a wide range of specialties are transforming care every day—collaborating with healthcare teams, embracing innovation, and going above and beyond for their patients. We especially thank those who have retired this year for their years of service, and we warmly welcome the newest physicians to our region.

We are proud to raise the Doctors' Day flag to recognize May 1 as Doctors' Day and express our sincere appreciation to all physicians for their extraordinary work in shaping a healthier Niagara. In addition to the flag, the cupola atop city hall will be illuminated blue to mark the day.

COMMUNITY LIVING MONTH

May 1 is the first day of Community Living Month. Community Living Month is a province-wide annual awareness campaign to recognize the accomplishments of the Community Living movement.

We'll raise the flag next week for Community Living Port Colborne Wainfleet, one of 124 associations across Ontario, to show why authentic inclusion matters for people who have an intellectual disability and their families. Councils of Port Colborne and Wainfleet

are proud of your work, Community Living, for making our communities places where everyone belongs.

MUSEUM 50TH ANNIVERSARY

May 1 marks the opening of the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, celebrating 50 years of preserving our local heritage. Since opening in 1975, dedicated members of the community, volunteers, local business, staff, and visitors have worked together to collect and share the history of Port Colborne.

In the last 50 years, the museum collection has grown to include more than 26,000 donated artifacts. The grounds have expanded to include a Heritage Village, Marine Park, Arabella's Tea Room, the Captain J.W. Sharpe Heritage Resource Centre, the L.R. Wilson Research Archives, and the Roselawn Centre. The first Canal Days Festival was held on the museum grounds before it grew to become the city's signature multi-venue festival attended by thousands every year on Civic Weekend in August.

Working with a local graphics designer, Meghan Chamberlain, the museum's community engagement coordinator, created a beautiful 50th anniversary logo. I have a copy here. Isn't that impressive? To honour its legacy, the museum is releasing a series of monthly videos highlighting the stories behind its buildings and grounds.

The first video – you can watch it on YouTube -- features board member Terry Huffman detailing the history of the Williams House, built in 1861, and donated to the city by Arabella Williams. If you've ever been to Arabella's Tea Room, and I'm pretty sure everyone in Port Colborne has been at least once – if you haven't, this will be your year! – there is a quilt on the wall embroidered with all the signatures of the founding members of the Museum Auxiliary.

My mother's signature is on there, with so many other community-spirited ladies who developed the Edwardian tearoom experience: Ethel Birrell, Ruby Conway, Bonnie Johnston, Merle Kennedy, Jean Leitch ... check it out when the Tea Room opens with its annual Pie Social Sunday, May 25. Arabella's Tea Room opened for business July 1, 1978, three years after the museum opened. Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon was in Port Colborne to cut the opening ribbon.

Every year is a great year at our museum, but this 50th year promises to be exceptional. Council is extremely proud of the passionate and dedicated efforts of Stephanie Powell-Baswick, our Director of Museum and Culture, Michelle Mason, museum curator, Tami Nail, assistant curator, Dr. Michelle Vosburg, archivist, and their team of programmers, assistants, and coordinators. Well done, all of you. The museum opens May 1. It will be open daily noon to 5. Admission is free.

WE CELEBRATE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Finally, May 1 is the day we celebrate our volunteers – more than 250 of you – at our Volunteer Appreciation Banquet in the Italian Hall. We are so grateful for our volunteers, who return every year for seasonal events, and who serve weekly and monthly on civic committees. We now have three generations of volunteers – grandparents, parents and grandchildren from several local families – who help us make so many good things happen in our city.

I've said it before: Port Colborne has the best volunteers. That you continue to support, serve, and inspire is a testament to your love and passion for your hometown. It will be great to see you all next week. We'll present years-of-service pins – five-year, 10, 20 -- I think we're up to almost 50 years for a few dedicated people.

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC CEREMONY MAY 4

The longest, largest, and most complex battle of the Second World War was known as The Battle of the Atlantic. It lasted five years, eight months, and five days. Canada lost 2,000 sailors from the Royal Canadian Navy, 1,600 merchant mariners, and 752 airmen from the Royal Canadian Air Force. The Welland Canal and the St. Lawrence Seaway have direct ties to the Battle of the Atlantic, as many of the merchant ships which sailed through these locks came from the Great Lakes.

When called upon by their country, these sailors risked their lives on treacherous convoys, transporting essential supplies and ammunition across the Atlantic to the front lines. In commemoration of the 80th anniversary and in honour of the brave souls who were lost, the Royal Canadian Naval Association Niagara will hold a memorial service on Sunday, May 4, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 56, in Port Colborne.

In recognition of Navy Week, the White Ensign flag will be raised in King George Memorial Park and along the Canal on West Street from Monday, April 28 to Monday, May 5. Let us come together to remember our history and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We also extend our deepest gratitude to those who continue to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces today, for their courage and sacrifice. That concludes my report this evening.