



MAYOR'S REPORT

DECEMBER 14, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

COVID-19 UPDATE

Good evening and welcome to our virtual council meeting.

Joining me in the council chambers tonight are our CAO Scott Luey, Clerk Amber LaPointe, Deputy Clerk Charlotte Madden, and a member of Wee Stream who is live streaming this meeting for us.

Our city councillors and various city directors are each attending from home.

Based on the Province of Ontario's Response Framework in dealing with COVID-19, Niagara remains in the orange – restrict stage as defined by this framework. We need to continue to work hard so no further restrictions are put in place as is evidenced in other areas of the province. Remember the precautions you have taken over the past nine months, continue to save lives.

We emphasize the need for social distancing, hand washing and face coverings where social distancing can't be maintained or where required by the Region's face covering by-law.

We ask that you continue to support our local businesses through this Christmas season.

Holiday Drive-Through Toy Drive

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Holiday Drive-Through Toy Drive held on Saturday, November 28th.

The Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services Team and Port Cares have gathered all the donations and they are sure to bring a smile to many families this holiday season. This was the best year they've had since starting this Toy Drive five years ago.

Fire Safety

Over the past week, our fire fighters have dealt with several structural fires in the city. I would like to extend our appreciation to our fire fighters and those who provided assistance from Wainfleet, Welland, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie for their hard work.

Our thoughts go out to those who have been impacted by these fires and we urge everyone to use caution and be fire smart in their homes and buildings.

Prevention is the gift that keeps on giving this holiday season. Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services would like to remind residents to be fire safety smart, especially during this festive time:

- Keep decorations at least 3 ft from open flames and heat sources
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Never leave a space heater unattended and turn it off if leaving the room or going to sleep
- Water Christmas trees daily and discard them when they are dry and begin dropping needles
- Inspect all decorations to make sure they do not have any frayed or pinched wires
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home; be sure to test the alarms every month
- Don't think it can't happen to you! Be safe this holiday season.

Christmas Card Colouring Contest

I received over a hundred pictures with Christmas images drawn by the children of Port Colborne for use on this year's Christmas card.

I want to thank everyone who submitted a picture.

For the front of the card, we selected a picture drawn by Madelyn Goulding, a grade 6 student at DeWitt Carter School.

For the inside of the card we selected four pictures. They were drawn by:

Ellie Cizmar, a Grade 6 student from St. John Bosco School
Natalie Walker, a Grade 3 students from St. John Bosco School
Peyton Thususka, a Grade 3 student at DeWitt Carter School
Kieran Rhoddy, a Grade 7 student at Oakwood School

Since we couldn't bring the children into the council chambers, last Friday, I met up with each of them to present them with a copy of their drawing and a framed Christmas Card. We have a short video to play to you now.

Holiday Decorating Contests

I would like to thank all homeowners and businesses for lighting up our city for Christmas this year.

Driving around the city, you can see the extra effort everyone has put out to make our city shine.

Voting will take place on Facebook and we encourage everyone to vote for their favourite property before December 19th.

Winners will be announced on social media next Monday.

New Year's Eve

This New Year's Eve will be a time to celebrate with family.

Our traditional New Year's Eve celebration at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre has been put on hold with plans to return next year to bring in 2022.

We encourage you to start new traditions within your family as we all stay together and apart.

Library Surprise Bags

You expressed your gratitude for your library, now the library would like to thank you.

Swing by the library and pick up your surprise gift bag of gently used books during curbside hours 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Each bag is labelled with a brief description of your surprise books. Please choose only one. Available while quantities last.

All surprise gift bags have been quarantined for 4 days and were packed by staff wearing gloves.

Website

The city has been working on developing a new website which we will be launching tomorrow. I encourage you to check it out for all the news and information you are looking for.

We know there will be some technical issues to work out and ask for your patience as we work through these over the next few weeks.

Closing

We continue to work together and remain vigilant in fighting the COVID-19 virus.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our staff and citizens.

Please stay safe and be kind.