



PORT COLBORNE

Mayor's Report

June 28, 2022 Council Meeting

Great Lake St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual General Meeting

Last week I had the privilege of attending the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual General meeting held in St. Catharines, under the direction of their Chair, Mayor Walter Sendzik.

This organization brings together 128 cities on both sides of the border to discuss mutually important issues to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Members of the Cities Initiative work together and with other levels of government and stakeholders to improve infrastructure, programs and services and to increase investments that protect and restore our globally significant freshwater resource.

By working together, we can preserve and enhance the quality of life and economic well-being of the people of the region.

I was asked to lead a plenary session about cruising on the Great Lakes which was attended by over 60 attendees.

We had great discussions and it is always interesting to hear what is happening around the great lakes.

Grand Opening of Complete Hockey Factory

On Saturday I attended the grand opening of Complete Hockey Factory with owner Todd Griffith. His indoor hockey centre is located on Clarence Street next to 7-11. Todd has been working with hockey players helping them achieve their full potential on and off the ice since 2017 and this new centre provides indoor opportunities for individuals to come out and work on their skills year-round.

Budweiser CanAm Challenge

I also visited the marina on Saturday and saw 50 teams participate in the Budweiser CanAm Challenge, returning to Port Colborne after a two year hiatus.

It's great to see fishermen from Canada and US fishing the waters of Lake Erie for walleye.

St. Jean Baptiste Celebrations

On Sunday, along with our Museum Curator Michelle Mason, we attended the St. Jean Baptiste celebrations with our francophone community from across Niagara, at Club Richelieu in Welland.

Michelle is bilingual and as such it affords our museum the opportunity to connect and improve resources and access to the heritage of our French community.

This goal connects with the city's strategic community pillar to support the city-wide investment in recreational and cultural spaces, as well as the museum's vision to "serve our community and preserve the history and marine heritage of Port Colborne and Humberstone." Attending these celebrations was just the start.

The museum board of management and staff are looking to launch an oral history project of our French speaking seniors, a Filmfest of these oral history interviews and develop a pop-up exhibit that would travel to our bilingual and French speaking schools, institutions and service organizations in Port Colborne.

More details on how you can participate in this project will be released soon.

Affordable Housing Strategy Open House

Another reminder that Tim Welch Consulting, the consulting firm hired to complete the City of Port Colborne's affordable housing strategy, will be joining city staff to host an open house on Tuesday, July 5, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives, 286 King Street.

The city's new affordable housing strategy is expected to provide council and staff with an analysis of economic and demographic datasets as well as insight into the barriers or issues that have impacted and currently impact the affordable housing supply in Port Colborne.

It will also forecast the rate of Port Colborne's housing needs and make recommendations to improve affordability for groups with the greatest needs.

The consultants will lead the open house with a short presentation about housing needs in Port Colborne, followed by opportunities for attendees to browse posterboards, ask questions, and provide input on the vision, goals, and recommendations of the affordable housing strategy.

The open house will be split into two identical sessions, one beginning at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., and the other at 8 p.m. Space is limited and the 7 p.m. time slot is almost full. Online registration is required at www.portcolborne.ca/affordablehousingstrategy.

Thank you and stay safe.