



PORT COLBORNE

Mayor's Report

AUGUST 23, 2022

Welcome council, staff, guests – hard to believe it will soon be Labour Day weekend. It may be summer's last official long weekend but remember, we still have a month of summer, which lasts until September 22.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO OUR SUMMER STUDENTS

The city employed 43 students this summer, in almost every department:

At the Beach, the Marina, in Communications, Tourism, Economic Development, Engineering, Events, IT, Planning, Roads, Water, Parks, Customer Service, Environment, Museum, and the Archives.

These students did great work. They learned work ethic and skills they'll have for the rest of their lives. We are grateful for all their efforts and we wish them well in their continuing studies at college and university.

CONGRATULATIONS CANADA SUMMER GAMES

Niagara 2022 wound up on the weekend after three incredible weeks of competition by young people from across Canada. We congratulate the athletes for their commitment, their efforts, and their spirit. From record-breaking performances to exceptional stories that touched a nation, these Canada Games will go down in history. Niagara can be so proud of presenting these athletes, coaches, trainers, and families from every province and territory, the greatest hospitality in some of the greatest facilities.

We salute the work of the organizers and sponsors of the Games, four years in the planning, including during a two-year pandemic. Many of our citizens volunteered at the Games, with hundreds of others from every municipality, and we thank each and every one of them. We were so happy to be host of New Brunswick on Acadian Day last Monday in HH Knoll Lakeview Park. Great music, great entertainment, great food, an all-round great event, and very well-attended.

KUDOS TO STAFF FOR RECONNECT ONTARIO GRANT

A salute to for their efforts and due diligence in securing a Reconnect Ontario Grant of \$115,218. We have a report in tonight's agenda; I wanted to highlight it in my mayor's report.

The grant was issued by the provincial government's Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport, to reconnect people and places in Ontario after the pandemic. The criteria included economic impact, job opportunities and innovative programming in tourism, culture and entertainment, and to "increase Ontario's profile" to tourists and local visitors. Our team was successful in applying for the grant, which helped our city present Canal Days 2022, one of the best festivals in Ontario. Good work. Well done, team.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK FAMILY EVENT

What little girl or boy doesn't want to sit behind the wheel of giant bulldozer or a firetruck? The Touch-a-Truck event is back, by popular demand, on Tuesday, September 27. Bring the family, the children and grandchildren, the young and young at heart, to the Operations Centre on Killaly Street, from 4 to 7pm.

FAREWELL NANCY

Nancy Giles retires this week – she leaves us after being executive assistant for three mayors and city managers over the past 20 years. Nancy's expertise, enthusiasm, and efficiency has been admirable and inspirational to city staff in every department. She really made a mark at city hall all these years, for staff, and for countless citizens. There has been no job too big or too small for her. She has handled some of the most complicated and delicate of situations, on top of the daily responsibilities, which never seem to end. We will all miss you, Nancy. You made a difference. We all wish you and George the very best in your retirement.

EVERYONE, PLEASE SLOW DOWN

And finally, to address an ongoing issue, a problem in every Niagara municipality, in towns and cities across the country – speeding drivers.

Every day on the news we read about single-car crashes, about pedestrians and cyclists being stuck by cars. People are simply driving too fast. Please, for your own safety, and the safety and respect of others, drive the speed limit. If you are driving in a 40 or 50 zone, then drive 40 or 50. Residents call daily to city hall, and to police, about speeders on their streets, often it's their own neighbours. School is starting in a couple of weeks, children will be walking to school, waiting at bus stops, so please, please slow down.