



Subject: Santa Claus Parade

To: Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2022-222

Meeting Date: November 8, 2022

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2022-222 be received; and

That the road closures and parking restrictions included in this report be approved for the Port Colborne Lighted Santa Claus Parade.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to recommend road closures and parking restrictions for the management and control of vehicular traffic for the purposes of the annual lighted Santa Claus Parade (“the parade”) in Port Colborne. Road closures and parking restrictions will facilitate the parade movement, help manage traffic, and will allow for the safe passage of pedestrians throughout the event area.

Background:

The annual lighted Santa Claus parade takes place on the first Saturday in December each year. This year, the parade will take place on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Staging for the parade will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the area identified in Appendix A. The parade will begin at Port Colborne High School and finish at the Market Square parking lot, directly across from City Hall.

The traditional parade has not occurred since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, with public safety in mind, the city hosted a reverse lighted Santa Claus parade at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park. Recreation staff recommend returning to the traditional parade format based on logistical concerns and public feedback.

Discussion:

To facilitate this year's parade, staff recommend temporary road closures and parking restrictions on Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of staging parade floats, as follows:

- Fielden Avenue, from the southern limit of Killaly Street to the southern limit of Elgin Street;
- Elgin Street, from the eastern limit of Steele Street to the Western limit of Elm Street; and
- Fielden Avenue, at the western limit of Delhi Street.

This request will provide parade marshals a safe and orderly area for parade floats to assemble prior to the start of the parade.

In addition, staff recommend the following areas be closed to vehicular traffic and street parking on Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., to provide for safe viewing areas from boulevards/sidewalks, and to ensure floats can move freely throughout the route and disperse at the end, as follows:

- Steele Street, from northern limit of Elgin Street to the southern limit of Clarence Street; and
- Clarence Street, from the western limit of Steele Street to the eastern limit of West Street; and
- West Street, from the northern limit of Clarence Street to the southern limit of Charlotte Street; and
- Charlotte Street, from the eastern limit of Catharine Street to the eastern limit of West Street.

The City's Public Works department will block off all parking stalls with pylons and provide waste receptacles along the parade route prior to the commencement of the parade. By-law staff will be required to remove and ticket vehicles as necessary that are inside the parade route during the time of the traffic and parking restrictions. Further, staff recommend temporary (barricaded) road closures to restrict vehicular traffic at intersections throughout the route, as follows:

- North and west intersections of Steele Street and Elgin Street;
- East intersection of Steele Street at Carter Street;
- East intersection of Steele Street at Park Street;
- East Intersection of Steele Street at Tugboat Lane;
- West and south intersections of Steele Street and Clarence Street;
- North and south intersections of Fielden Avenue at Clarence Street;
- North and south intersections of Elm Street at Clarence Street;
- North and south intersections of Catharine Street at Clarence Street;
- North and south intersections of King Street at Clarence Street
- North and east intersections of West Street at Charlotte Street;

- South intersection of West Street at Charlotte Street;
- North and south intersections of King Street at Charlotte Street; and
- East and north intersections of Charlotte Street and Catherine Street.

The parade route is attached as Appendix “A”. Prior to the commencement of the parade, the city’s roads division will begin to close the above intersections with barricades starting at Port Colborne High School with the assistance of Niagara Regional Police (“NRPS”). Once all intersections are closed, the parade will commence. traffic will be regulated with the assistance of NRPS traffic services. Once the last parade float followed by the NRPS escort has passed, each temporary barricade will be removed by the City’s roads crew.

To facilitate the parade along West Street, closure of Bridge 21 will be required. Recreation staff will communicate with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporate Traffic Control Supervisor and provide the necessary details for the bridge closure.

Internal Consultations:

This report was circulated internally with staff in the following divisions: communications, by-law services, the fire department, roads, and parks operations. There were no issues flagged with the parade route or other logistics in this report.

Recreation staff will work in collaboration with the above-mentioned divisions to coordinate the parade.

Financial Implications:

The Port Colborne Lighted Santa Claus parade is funded via the Civic Celebrations budget.

Public Engagement:

A notice of road closures and parking restrictions will be distributed to all residents and businesses in the affected areas of the road closures.

After the completion of the parade, staff will have an online voting platform for community members to vote for their favourite float in the parade.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
 - City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
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Conclusion:

In conclusion, staff recommend the road closures and parking restrictions outlined in this report are approved to ensure safe traffic flow and safe pedestrian viewing of the parade.

Appendices:

- a. Lighted Santa Claus Parade Route Map

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.