



PORT COLBORNE

Mayor's Report

April 26, 2021 Council Meeting

COVID-19

The province continues in a shutdown position as described in the Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework.

This shutdown includes a stay-at-home order and restrictions on numbers of retail customers in a store, cancels sit-down dining inside and out, as well as the cancellation of sporting activities and personal care services all in an effort to control the number of cases of COVID-19 in our communities.

Our beaches, marina and boat ramp are closed as per provincial orders. Playgrounds, trails and parks are open for outdoor exercise.

At the City, we will continue to serve residents by appointment.

In-person appointments will be scheduled for essential and time sensitive services. Where possible, services will be provided through remote means. To access City services, please call our customer service representative team at 905-835-2900.

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.

Currently individuals 60 years of age or older, or designated in an eligible group, can register to receive the vaccine by going to the Government of Ontario website to book an appointment or calling 1-888-999-6488.

Individuals over 40 can book an appointment for the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine through participating pharmacies – Boggio's in Port Colborne is one such pharmacy.

I ask that you please be patient and kind when speaking with staff. We will keep you informed of any new information we receive.

Recognition of Joanne Ferraccioli

I'd like to take a moment to recognize a former employee of the City of Port Colborne, who recently retired from the Town of Fort Erie.

Joanne Ferraccioli started working for the City of Port Colborne in September 2008 as our Health Services Coordinator.

Joanne worked tirelessly over the years helping to bring family physicians to our community. She was our liaison to bring many services right to Port Colborne, such as Pathstone Mental Health, Caring for my COPD Community Program and our ongoing memory clinic.

She was a champion for Rural Medicine Week, sponsored by the Rural Ontario Medical Program, which brought first year medical students to Port Colborne to show them the value of being a family doctor and living in a rural community. Several of these students have returned to Niagara to start their practices.

Joanne was an advisor during changes to the health care system being able to explain the differences in models for health care and her inside knowledge of this system was invaluable.

While she was working for the city, Joanne went on secondment with the Niagara Health System working on a special project and she was subsequently offered employment in her hometown of Fort Erie.

We were fortunate to reach an agreement with Fort Erie to have Joanne continue to provide us with her guidance.

Joanne has now decided that retirement is the right direction for her, and we wish her all the best.

Thank you, Joanne, for your years of dedicated service to the city and residents Port Colborne.

Recognition of Gary Long

I would also like to take a moment to recognize another current employee of the city, Gary Long, our Manager of Strategic Initiatives.

This year, the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators is recognizing Gary Long for his ten years of municipal service on a management capacity.

Although Gary has been with us just under one year, his ongoing support of the municipal profession and part he plays in helping to make CAMA the leading organization in fostering and sustaining municipal excellence, is truly admirable.

We look forward to continuing to work with Gary and appreciate the leadership he provides to our staff and our organization as a whole.

National Day of Mourning – April 28

On Wednesday we will lower the flags throughout the city in recognition of the National Day of Mourning – April 28, 2021.

This is a day to reflect, remember, and pay our respects to the thousands of workers who have died or been injured on the job and to the families they have left behind.

When you leave for work each day, you and your family expect you to return safely and it is the responsibility of every employer and every worker to ensure this happens.

Health and Safety is a top priority for the City of Port Colborne and we ask all employers within the city to ensure it continues to be their priority too.

Today, as we remember, we renew our commitment to the promotion of healthy and safe workplaces and the prevention of future fatalities.

Doctor's Day

On May 1st we will be recognizing Doctor's Day, celebrated across the province each May 1 to recognize Ontario's 30,000 doctors and their commitment to improving the health of all patients.

Every day, more than 350,000 patients across Ontario are treated and cared for by doctors who are working together to provide high-quality care.

In Port Colborne, there is a committed team of doctors who work tirelessly ensuring our residents receive the services and care they need in our community.

It's been a year since this global pandemic has impacted us and our healthcare workers have taken on the extra burden of fighting COVID-19 on the front lines.

They've sacrificed spending time with family and loved ones to ensure Niagara residents continue to stay healthy.

On behalf of City Council and staff, thank you to our doctors, nurses, and all frontline healthcare workers. We appreciate and are so grateful for everything you've done and continue to do.

NPCA Strategic Plan

It is time to shape the next 10 years of conservation in Niagara. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is developing a new strategic plan, and would like to invite the members of our communities to "get involved" by participating in the process. A public survey link can be found on the home page of the Niagara Regions' website, or by visiting GetInvolvedNPCA.ca.

This new strategic plan begins with a fresh approach towards achieving a shared vision. A representative team of staff experts from various departments are leading the way by working together to inform, develop, and implement the strategic planning process.

The NPCA staff and Board of Directors, of which I am a member, are now looking for public input to develop a common vision for conservation in Niagara, through these future strategic priorities.

So, get involved and have your say, by completing the survey before May 6th.