



**PORT COLBORNE**

# Mayor's Report

DECEMBER 13, 2022

## INAUGURATION CEREMONY

It was an honour for me, and for all of incoming council, to be sworn in by Madame Justice Theresa Maddalena of the Ontario Superior Court on the evening of Nov. 22 here in the council chamber. After a welcome proclamation by Town Crier Tom Pekar, we were honoured to be led into the chamber by Piper Terry Dyson, and a colour guard from Royal Canadian Legion Branch 56. We were also honoured to be escorted by two members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Sgt. Tom Scarlett and Sgt. Nicole Noonan, by Niagara Regional Police Deputy Chief Bill Fordy and Staff Sergeant Phil (pr. Lish-kai) Liciskai, by Port Colborne Firefighters Matt Lannan and Curtis Wilcox, and by Lynton Davies 79 Squadron cadets. Soloist Renee Bisson led us in O Canada. It was a ceremony of great significance, and we are all so proud, grateful, and humble, to serve the City of Port Colborne for the next four years. You can watch the ceremony in full on the city's YouTube channel.

After the pomp and circumstance of the administration of our oaths, we got right to work.

## COUNCIL ORIENTATION EFFORTS

Thank you to city staff and fellow councillors for your cooperation and patience as we worked through a busy couple of weeks of orientation. It's important we're all starting on the same page, with the same information, and have a thorough grasp of how things work, and where things are going.

## BUSINESS CELEBRATIONS

I have the pleasure of representing council at grand openings and business anniversaries, two of which occurred days after our swearing in. Owners Lisa and Ben Terreberry celebrated the grand opening of Port Side Petals and Gifts on the first anniversary of taking over the former Arlie's on Clarence Street. Across the street, Mixed Martial Arts champion Anthony Romero welcomed hundreds of clients and guests at his expansion of Genius Fitness and Martial Arts. We wish them well and thank them for doing business in Downtown Port Colborne.

#### LIGHTED SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Council salutes Luke Rowe and Amy Duffy for coordinating one of the best parades we've ever presented. Thanks to so many staff from all departments who helped with set-up, especially Dave Sabo, who put together our float. Great job Dave!

All the floats were so well done. A lot of time and effort goes into these events, and we salute all the local businesses, organizations and service clubs for work and contributions to make our little lighted parade one of the best in Niagara.

Thanks to Councillors Hoyle and Aquilina for walking the parade route with us, handing out treats to all the youngsters along the way.

Our float featured enlargements of the art I chose from more than 200 submissions from Port Colborne elementary school children. We were thrilled to have the children ride in the lighted float Saturday evening, Dec. 3. We are pleased to have them here tonight to present them with the enlarged cards of their art, to display in their homes, or in their front yards.

Tonight we present a framed memento of their original work, and the card printed from the art, with an official plaque to thank them for participating in this annual project. We're so proud of all the children who contributed Christmas art. Congratulations to all of you.

#### CHRISTMAS CARD ART

Let's have all the children come up and get the art they designed, which we enlarged for the parade float. I'll present each one of you your framed memento.

Present the individual frames with plaques.

Ask Scott (and the parents) to come up for photos

#### WISHING ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

To conclude my report this evening, our last council meeting for 2022, on behalf of all the councillors and staff, distanced tonight for health and safety in the continuing fight against covid, I send greetings to all of you at home, and best wishes for a safe, healthy, joyful Christmas.

Drive safely, slow down, let's all look out for our neighbours.

We'll see you at the Vale Centre on New Year's Eve.