



PORT COLBORNE

Mayor's Report

MARCH 14, 2023

MARCH BREAK ACTIVITIES

March Break is underway!

You can be part of the Mosaic Art Project, you can play music, make crafts, you can picture yourself anywhere in the universe with the amazing new green screen – you can make yourself an astronaut in outer space, or the captain of a ship on the ocean.

Take your parents and get signed up for dozens of programs all this week at Port Colborne Public Library.

There are activities for children of all ages every day at the library, at The Vale Health and Wellness Centre, at Roselawn, and an outside bilingual story-walk on the grounds of the museum and library.

Please check the website, City of Colborne.ca for hundreds of amazing things to do this week.

TOP HAT CEREMONY

We hope you join us for our annual Top Hat ceremony in Lock 8 Gateway Park one week from tomorrow, on Wednesday, March 22.

It's the day we celebrate the opening of the Welland Canal. We call it the Top Hat ceremony because we present a top hat to the captain of the first downbound ship in the canal. The top hat tradition goes back to the days of William Hamilton Merritt, the man who envisioned and built the first canal almost 200 years ago.

We don't know yet which ship will be the first one through the locks – sometimes we find out only the day before. The Seaway, and all the ships' crews have a lot of work to do between now and then. We wish them all our best for a safe and successful 190th shipping season.

Our special events team works with the library and museum, and the Port Colborne Fair Trade Committee to present the event. It starts at 8am with pancake breakfast. Hope to see you all there!

SHERKSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE CHILI HOOK-OFF

There was some excellent chili in Sherkston Sunday! It was the annual Sherkston Community Centre Chili Cookoff. The place was packed. Three of us served as judges – Councillor Aquilina's husband Dan, Jack Feagan, and me.

We taste-tested a dozen different kinds of homemade chili, all made by resident chefs. The three of us chose our top three, and all the people who came to the event chose the people's top three. The Judges' Choice was chili made by Raven Wall; the People's Choice was the recipe entered by First United Church.

Funny how it turned out – the judges' first-place was the People's second place finalist, and the People's first place was the judges' second.

Jack's father Mike Feagan served as master of ceremonies. Mike happens to be an incredible woodworker and carpenter, and he carved trophies for the winners.

It was a lot of fun, and another great community event presented by the good people of Sherkston.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY IS FRIDAY AND EASTER BUNNY TWO WEEKS AWAY

Our local restaurants and bars have a busy weekend ahead as everyone becomes Irish and celebrates St. Patrick's Day. Here's to wishing everyone's Friday, March 17 be touched with lots of Irish luck.

Two weeks after we celebrate the leprechauns, we welcome the Easter Bunny.

Calling all children to the Promenade along West Street to welcome the Easter Bunny to Port Colborne. He'll sail in on the deck of the tug boat in the Welland Canal about 10am on Saturday, April 8.

Then it's hippety hoppity for everyone to the Vale Centre for an Easter Egg hunt at 11am. It will be great to see all the children at Vale, Saturday, April 8, for crafts and activities.

TRIBUTE TO TYLER CROOKS

You'll notice yellow ribbons tied to the lampposts outside city hall, and to the poles on Sugarloaf Street at the base of Cenotaph in HH Knoll Lakeview Park.

The yellow ribbons are our humble hometown tribute to Tyler Crooks who was killed in Afghanistan on March 20, 2009, when he served with the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

March 20 is Tyler's 24th birthday. That was 14 years ago; Tyler would have been 38 today. His family and friends, and all Port Colborne, salute a Canadian hero.

We will remember you always, Tyler.