



**Subject: Downtown Cruise Nights - 2023**

**To: Council**

**From: Corporate Services Department**

Report Number: 2023-80

Meeting Date: May 9, 2023

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**Recommendation:**

That Corporate Services Department Report 2023-80 be received; and

That the following road closures be approved on Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. from May 18, 2023, to August 31, 2023, as shown in Appendix A:

- Clarence Street, from the eastern limit of Catharine Street to the western limit of King Street.
- Clarence street, from the eastern limit of King Street to the western limit of West Street;
- Catharine Street from the southern limit of Clarence Street to the Northern limit of Charlotte Street;
- The Northern parking spaces in Market Square on the southern border of King George Park.

That the Port Colborne Downtown Cruiser's Association (PCDCA) be required to file a Certificate of Insurance, naming the City as an additional insured, in the amount of \$2,000,000, prior to the event;

That the fees be waived for the use of King George Park and access to hydro for the staging of the Cruise Night events; and

That the fee for a Noise By-law Exemption application be waived.

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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to present a request from the Port Colborne Downtown Cruiser's Association (PCDCA) for temporary road closures to host the 2023 Downtown Cruise Nights. The Port Colborne Downtown Business Improvement Area Board of Management (Downtown BIA) is supportive of this event and will have a supportive role

in the operations. Cruise Nights is proposed to take place on recurring Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning on May 18, 2023, and continuing until August 31, 2023.

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## **Background:**

The PCDCa was established to display hot rods, classic cars, and trucks in Downtown Port Colborne. The PCDCa has successfully hosted the Cruise Night event in Downtown Port Colborne since 2014. This weekly, summer-time event is vibrant and has successfully attracted visitors and benefits the City's tourism and economic sectors.

Cruise Nights draws participants and visitors from throughout the Niagara Region and beyond, including the United States. The event generally showcases more than 150 classic vehicles. Participants register with PCDCa to take part in the event each week.

The City's festivals and events insurance policy requires event organizers to carry a minimum of \$2 million in general liability insurance (or \$5 million for an event involving alcohol). The organizer is required to file a Certificate of Insurance, naming the City as an additional insured, to the City prior to the event. Further, event organizers are required to submit an application for a Noise By-law exemption to the By-law Enforcement Division, if they are intending to provide amplified music during the event.

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## **Discussion:**

Recreation staff are in support of this request, and recommend temporary road closures, as follows:

- Clarence street, from the eastern limit of Catharine Street to the western limit of King Street;
- Clarence street, from the eastern limit of King Street to the western limit of West Street;
- Catharine Street from the southern limit of Clarence Street to the Northern limit of Charlotte Street;
- The Northern parking spaces in Market Square on the southern limit of King George Park.

The proposed road closure map is attached as Appendix "A".

The PCDCa is also requesting the use of King George Park for staging the events. They are requesting to waive the fees for the park permit and use of hydro. In total, 16 Downtown Cruise Nights will occur, resulting in roughly \$900 in park fees being waived.

Emergency vehicles, including ambulance, police, and fire, as well as public works and public utility vehicles, will be exempt from the closures. Further, members and qualified

volunteers of the PCDCa, and registered participants, will also be exempt from the closures. Traffic accommodations through the event area will be made as follows:

- Traffic travelling westbound on Clarence Street from the Clarence Street Bridge will be able to turn left or right on West Street (road closure barricades will be installed on Clarence Street, at the western limit of West Street)
- North and south bound traffic at the intersection of King Street and Clarence Street will be permitted (subject to traffic signal controls at this intersection), with no left or right turns permitted onto Clarence Street (road closure barricades will be installed at the eastern and western limits of King Street and Clarence Street intersection)

PCDCa volunteers will install City approved signage at each intersection of the closure, stating “Cruisers Night Clarence Street Temporarily Closed – 5 to 9 p.m.”. Signage will also be installed at Market Square. As in the past, PCDCa volunteers will ensure barricades are promptly removed and returned to pick-up areas at the end of the event each Thursday.

The above plan provides an adequate staging area for event organizers, while also ensuring pedestrian safety and accommodating traffic flow.

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### **Internal Consultations:**

The By-law Enforcement Division will process the Noise Variance request in a timely manner. The Downtown Cruiser’s Association has not requested By-law Services for this event; therefore, this Division has no objections to the proposed event.

The Public Works department will ensure road barricades are dropped off in designated locations prior to the start of each event.

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### **Financial Implications:**

The waiver of King George Park permits fees, result in roughly \$900 being waived.

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### **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, the PCDCAs are requesting temporary road closures to host their Cruise Nights on recurring Thursdays from May 18, 2023, to August 31, 2023.

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## **Appendices:**

- a. Downtown Cruisers Site 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.