

MAYOR'S REPORT

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 2023



PORT COLBORNE HIGH SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING

Kudos to the organizing committee, led by Alicia Arnold, Melissa Bigford and Port High Principal Paul Taylor. You and your team did a fantastic job organizing the 100th anniversary homecoming reunion on Saturday, Sept. 23.

What a homecoming it was – Port High Blue bears attended from as far as Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, California, and hundreds from here in Port and across the Region.

Everyone really enjoyed it – wandering the halls and classes after 10, 20 or even 50 years or more!, flipping through old year books, reminiscing the mischief and mayhem of our teenage years --- Alicia and her alumni parents the Arnolds, and all the team, did an awesome job pulling all the decades of students and teachers together.

The Belmont was busy Friday night with alumni, and the after-parties continued Sunday with so many reunions of friends and family.

Not many schools make it to 100 years, folks. We are so fortunate to be able to celebrate a century of our school, with its amazing new track and field facility.

Reminder to everyone that the Centennial Art Show is on at Roselawn until Oct. 23. The “Old School” exhibit is on at the museum until December.

TOUCH A TRUCK OPEN HOUSE

Kudos to our staff at the Operations Centre and Fire Station One for joining forces to present an Open House and Touch a Truck. What an amazing event we'll always remember on the 21st of September!

It was clear many parents and grandparents enjoyed it as much as the children did. It was pure joy on faces, as children of all ages climbed up in behind the

wheel of a grader, or a snow plow, or a fire truck. The chance for a child to pull on bunker gear and a fireman's helmet and aim the fire hose – is there anything more exciting?

Council and I are so proud of all the staff involved in coordinating this event. You did a super job. You impressed everyone who attended. Thank you all, and thanks to all of you who attended! See you again at next year's event.

FINAL COMMUNITY CONCERT: MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Thanks to all who attended the Billy Joel Community Concert Friday evening in King George Park downtown at Market Square. Another great crowd for the sixth of our community concerts this summer. Elton Lammie, who played Billy Joel, is an amazing talent. We are so glad you all enjoyed him, and all the concerts we've presented this year.

You'll enjoy the final concert of the season this Friday in HH Knoll Lakeview Park -- it's called Message in a Bottle – a tribute to the Police and Sting. Bring your lawn chairs and settle in – the concert runs from 7 to 9pm.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and Orange Shirt Day. The day honours the children who never returned home, and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. September 30 reminds us that Every Child Matters.

Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

We have offered council and staff several ways to reflect on the 94 calls to action established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We have made available several educational resources.

Everyone is invited to the library for Lunch and Learn programs presented by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. The library will broadcast the free programs every day this week from 1:30 to 2:30.

On Saturday, Sept. 30 at 2 pm, the library presents a special screening of the short film “Orange Shirt Day” in the L.R. Wilson Archives. Everyone is invited to see the 50-minute film about the life of Phyllis Webstad, founder of Orange Shirt Day. It’s free for everyone.

SLOW DOWN

To conclude my report this evening, a final reminder to all drivers: **please slow down**. Residents call my office daily to report incidents of speeding. We see accidents and fatalities on the news every day. Please everyone, if the sign says 50, drive 50. Slow down to 40 in school zones. We don’t need more signs; nobody wants more signs. It’s up to all of us to be responsible, and safe.

That concludes my report this evening. It’s been a busy week!