

**City of Port Colborne
Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting 11-19
Minutes**

Date: April 8, 2019

Time: 7:10 p.m.

Place: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices, 66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Members Present: M. Bagu, Councillor
E. Beauregard, Councillor
G. Bruno, Councillor
A. Desmarais, Councillor
D. Kalailieff, Councillor
W. Steele, Mayor (presiding officer)
H. Wells, Councillor

Absent: R. Bodner, Councillor
F. Danch, Councillor

Staff Present: T. Cartwright, Fire Chief
J. Ferraccioli, Health Services Coordinator
A. Grigg, Director of Community and Economic Development
N. Halasz, Manager of Parks and Recreation
S. Hanson, Supervisor, By-law Enforcement Division
A. LaPointe, Manager of Legislative Services/City Clerk
C. Lee, Director of Engineering and Operations
S. Luey, Chief Administrative Officer
C. McIntosh, Deputy Clerk (minutes)
P. Senese, Director of Corporate Services

Also in attendance were interested citizens, members of the news media and WeeStream.

Note: Mayor Steele called a temporary recess, reconvening the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

1. Call to Order:

Mayor Steele called the meeting to order.

2. Introduction of Addendum Items:

Addition:

The addition of item 15, Community and Economic Development, Health Services Division, Report No. 2019-43, Subject: One-time Funding Request for Walk-in Mental Health Clinic for Youth in Port Colborne. This item was circulated via addendum on April 5, 2019.

3. Confirmation of Agenda:

Moved by Councillor D. Kalailieff
Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That the agenda dated April 8, 2019 be confirmed, as circulated or as amended.

CARRIED.

4. Disclosures of Interest:

Nil.

5. Adoption of Minutes:

(a) Regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole 10-19, held on March 25, 2019

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor D. Kalailieff

(a) That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole 10-19, held on March 25, 2019, be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

6. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion:

The following items were identified for separate discussion:

Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 15.

By general consensus Items Requiring Separate Discussion were considered in the following order: 8, 15, 5, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 10.

7. Approval of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion:

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That items 1 to 15 on the agenda be approved, with the exception of items that have been deferred, deleted or listed for separate discussion, and the recommendation contained therein adopted.

Items:

1. Motion by Councillor Danch Re: Site Plan Approval Process for 399 Killaly Street, West

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That Council redelegate the site plan approval process for 399 Killaly Street West.

9. Geoff Black, Don Cherry's Sports Bar and Grill Re: Request for Letter of Non-objection for a Liquor Licence Extension for the Budweiser CanAm Tournament, June 20 – 25, 2019

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne does not object to the application for a Temporary Licence Extension to an existing licence held by Don Cherry's Sports Bar and Grill for an event to be held on the premise of Don Cherry's (pavilion) for the Budweiser CanAm Tournament, June 20 – 25, 2019.

11. Vance Badawey, Member of Parliament, Niagara Centre Re: Update regarding the 2019 Budget which Proposes a One Time transfer of Federal Gas Tax Funds to Niagara Centre

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the correspondence received from Vance Badawey, Member of Parliament, Niagara Centre Re: Update regarding 2019 Budget which proposes a One Time transfer of Federal Gas Tax Funds to Niagara Centre, be received for information.

12. Town of Fort Erie, City of Welland, Township of Wainfleet, Town of Pelham, Town of Lincoln, Town of West Lincoln, Town of Grimsby Re: Provincial Review of Regional Government

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the resolutions received from Local Area Municipalities regarding the Provincial review of Regional Government, be received for information.

13. City of Thorold, Town of Lincoln Re: Niagara Region Proposed Base Services for Next Collection Contract

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the resolutions received from the City of Thorold and the Town of Lincoln Re: Niagara Region Proposed Base Services for Next Collection Contract, be received for information.

14. City of Thorold Re: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

Committee of the Whole recommends:

That the resolution received from the City of Thorold Re: Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, be received for information.

CARRIED.

8. Presentations:

- (a) **Don Gilbert, Manager of Operations and John Sander, Manager of Customer Engagement, Canadian Niagara Power Regarding Port Colborne Reliability Discussion**

Don Gilbert, Manager of Operations for Canadian Niagara Power presented to Council with respect to 2018 system improvements, system reliability, 2019 capital investment, Hydro One Network discussions, and customer engagement. John Sander, Manager of Customer Engagement for Canadian Niagara Power spoke regarding communication with customers including increased direct dialogue during power outages. Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Sander addressed Council's questions with respect to the reliability of the provision of electricity to the community. A copy of the presentation is attached.

9. Delegations:

- (a) **Patty Moss regarding road side mowing initiatives and to request additional changes and will be providing a summary on last year's observations**

Patty Moss provided a verbal presentation with respect to the delayed roadside mowing initiatives undertaken in ward 4 for the last four years. Ms. Moss requested some changes to the road side mowing initiatives in attempt to improve the program. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais
Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That the City's second roadside mowing list consist of only Brookfield Road, Chippawa Road, Killaly East, West of Lorraine road, Sherkston Road, Welland Street, Elm Street, Killaly West, Seaway Service Road; and

That staff be directed to delay the spring roadside mowing in the study area until June; and

That staff be directed to advance the fall roadside mowing in the study area to September; and

That staff be directed to post the appropriate signage with QR codes within the pollinator study area.

Moved in deferral by Councillor A. Desmarais
Seconded by Councillor M. Bagu

That consideration of the roadside mowing initiative as proposed by Patty Moss at the April 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting be deferred to the May 13 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED.

(b) Cathy Kalynuik, 851 Pinecrest Road in response to Patty Moss delegation

Cathy Kalynuik provided a verbal presentation to Council expressing concerns about flooding, restrictive sight lines, and noxious weeds attributed to the delayed roadside mowing program. A copy of the presentation is attached.

(c) Bob Saracino regarding Council Composition

Bob Saracino appeared before Council to request that a committee on Council composition be established as soon as possible. Mayor Steele advised that the Advisory Committee on Council Composition, Remuneration and Ward Boundaries, is on hold pending the Provincial government's review of Niagara's municipal governance.

10. Mayor's Report:

A copy of the Mayor's Report is attached.

11. Regional Councillor's Report:

Nil.

12. Councillors' Items:

(a) Ward 4 gathering (Wells)

Councillor Wells advised that a gathering for Ward 4 residents will be held at the Sherkston Community Centre on April 28, 2019 from 1 until 3 p.m.

(b) Site Alteration Permit Additional Review – Port Colborne Quarries (Desmarais)

Moved by Councillor A. Desmarais
Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That the City Clerk release a copy of the Port Colborne Quarries Site Alteration staff report as soon as it is available rather than waiting for the agenda to be published.

CARRIED.

(c) Parking issues on Church Street (Desmarais)

In response to a concern expressed by Councillor Desmarais with respect to parking issues on Church Street, the Manager of By-law Services advised that she is working with Engineering and Operations Department staff to review the best locations for additional no parking signs.

(d) Streetlights on South Crescent (Bagu)

Councillor Bagu thanked Engineering and Operations Director, Chris Lee, and Manager of Projects and Design, Steve Shypowskyj for ensuring repair of the streetlights on South Crescent.

(e) Watermain break on Catharine Street (Bagu)

Councillor Bagu thanked City staff for punctually addressing the watermain break on Catharine Street.

(f) Watermain break on Catharine Street (Bruno)

In response to an inquiry by Councillor Bruno, the Director of Engineering and Operations advised that the water loss attributed to the watermain break on Catharine Street amounted to approximately 3-3.5 million gallons at an estimated cost \$7,900 for which the Region has not indicated any leniency.

(g) Davis Street no trucks signage and traffic calming (Beauregard)

Councillor Beauregard thanked the Chief Administrative Officer, Engineering and Operations staff, as well as Community and Economic Development staff, particularly Mike Audit, for addressing a complaint by installing no trucks signage on Davis Street and amour stones on both sides of the rail line to prevent vehicles from cutting across the Friendship Trail at Davis Street.

(h) Cigarette butts on West Street (Kalailieff)

In response to a concern expressed by Councillor Kalailieff on behalf of West Street business owners about the accumulation of cigarette butts on West Street and the sidewalks, the Manager of By-law Services advised that the Region of Niagara regulates the smoking by-law and she will obtain suggestions from them about where cigarette butt receptacles can be located.

Staff Responses to Previous Councillor Enquiries:

(a) Downtown spring maintenance (Lee)

The Director of Engineering and Operations advised that Operations crews are performing overnight street and sidewalk flushing and sweeping in the downtown core which will be completed in one week, rather than the 5-6 weeks of daytime maintenance formerly performed. The Director thanked residents for their patience with irregular noise or inconvenience.

(b) Parks and Recreation Ontario Conference (Grigg)

The Director of Community and Economic Development advised that she attended the annual Parks and Recreation Ontario Conference including sessions with respect to natural playgrounds, parkland development, cycling, physical literacy, and youth engagement. The Director advised that staff will be

sharing information with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan consultants and implementing some new ideas into daily operations.

13. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion:

2. Motion by Councillor Beauregard Re: Informal Residential Care Facility Licensing By-law

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That staff investigate an informal residential care facility licensing by-law and report back to Council with recommendations.

CARRIED.

3. Community and Economic Development Department, Parks and Recreation Division, Report 2019-44, Subject: 2019 Budweiser CanAm Walleye Challenge

Moved by Councillor H. Wells
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That City sponsorship of the 2019 Budweiser CanAm Challenge be approved, with sponsorship to be provided as follows:

- a. Waiving of permit fees for the use of, and camping in, H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park;
- b. Provision and installation of snow fencing, and waiving of associated fees;
- c. Provision of security and waiving of associated fees;
- d. Provision of portable washroom facilities and waiving of associated fees;
- e. City assistance with event promotion and marketing on social media;
- f. \$10,000 in financial support; and

That, in accordance with By-law 5642/73/11, the Budweiser CanAm Challenge be provided with access to H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park for permitted RV camping/parking beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019, and that RV camping/parking be cleared from Park by Sunday, June 23 at 6:00 p.m.; and

That approval of the above noted event and sponsorship is conditional on the Budweiser CanAm Challenge submitting a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000, naming the City of Port Colborne as additional insured.

CARRIED.

4. Community and Economic Development Department, Parks and Recreation Division, Report 2019-45, Subject: Proposed New Event – Community Bonfires at Nickel Beach

Moved by Councillor D. Kalailieff
Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That the Community Bonfires Event at Nickel Beach, to be hosted from 8:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Friday, June 21, Friday, July 26, and Friday, September 20, 2019 at Nickel Beach be approved, as outlined in Community and Economic Development, Parks and Recreation Division, Report 2019-45, Subject: Proposed New Event – Community Bonfires at Nickel Beach;

That the provisions of By-law 6280/106/15, Being a By-law to Regulate Open Air Burning in the City of Port Colborne, respecting open air burning within the boundaries of the City, be waived in order to accommodate the Event at Nickel Beach;

That the provisions of By-law 5503/100/10, Being a By-law to Manage and Regulate Municipal Parks, respecting fires and bonfires in municipal parks, be waived in order to accommodate the Event at Nickel Beach;

That funding for the Event be allocated under the “Community Group Events” account under the Community and Economic Development Department budget, at a total approximate cost of \$2,653.44.

That swimming at Nickel Beach be prohibited for the duration of the above noted Event, and that appropriate signage denoting same be posted on site.

That Vale Canada Ltd. and other appropriate parties be so notified of the dates and times of the Event.

CARRIED.

5. Community and Economic Development, Health Services Division, Report 2019-46, Subject: Request to Amend the Terms of Reference of the Port Colborne Medical Education, Recruitment and Health Services Committee

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno
Seconded by Councillor A. Desmarais

That By-law No. 4876/101/06, Being a By-law to Establish a Committee Known as the “Port Colborne Physician Recruitment and Medical Education Committee” and to Provide for the Appointment of Members Thereto, as amended, be further amended by adding the following under Subsection 3(A):

“3(A)(e) That the Port Colborne Health Services Committee shall comprise the following non-voting members, who shall serve in an advisory capacity:

- (i) One representative of Niagara Health; and
- (ii) One representative of Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Unit.”

That By-law 4876/101/06, as amended, be further amended by replacing throughout the by-law the words “Port Colborne Medical Education, Recruitment and Health Services Committee,” with the words “Port Colborne Health Services Committee”; and

That the appropriate by-law be presented for approval.

CARRIED.

6. Engineering and Operations Department, Engineering Division, Report 2019-47, Subject: Project 2019-05, Carter Street Watermain Replacement

Moved by Councillor G. Bruno

Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That Project #2019-05, Carter Street Watermain Replacement, be awarded to Cotton Inc., of Niagara Falls, Ontario, for the submitted tender price of \$451,990 (plus applicable taxes); and

That the \$254,990 for the municipality’s portion of construction costs, and contingency allowance be funded from the Water Capital budget; and

That the by-law be prepared and the City Clerk and the Mayor be authorized to execute the contract agreement.

CARRIED.

7. Corporate Services Department, Finance Division, Report 2019-50, Subject: City of Port Colborne – Strategic Asset Management Policy

Moved by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor D. Kalailieff

That the Port Colborne Strategic Asset Management Policy attached as Appendix A to Corporate Services Department, Finance Division Report No. 2019-50, be adopted by Council.

Moved in amendment by Councillor M. Bagu

Seconded by Councillor D. Kalailieff

That the Port Colborne Strategic Asset Management Policy attached as Appendix A to Corporate Services Department, Finance Division Report 2019-50 be amended by adding under item 11 of section 7, Key Principles, the words “and or improve” between the words “maintain” and “ecological”.

The vote was then called on the main motion as follows:

That the Port Colborne Strategic Asset Management Policy attached as Appendix A to Corporate Services Department Finance Division Report 2019-50 be adopted by Council, as amended.

CARRIED.

8. Planning and Development Department, By-law Enforcement Division, Report 2019-49, Subject: Proposed Encroachment By-law, Policy and Fees

Moved by Councillor D. Kalailieff
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That Council approve the proposed encroachment by-law, policy and fee structure outlined in Planning and Development Department, By-law Enforcement Division, Report 2019-49, Proposed Encroachment By-law, Policy and Fees.

CARRIED.

10. Paul Dobson, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, Hydro One Ltd. Re: Power Interruptions Experienced in the City of Port Colborne and Hydro One's reliability

Moved by Councillor D. Kalailieff
Seconded by Councillor G. Bruno

That the letter received from Paul Dobson, Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, Hydro One Ltd. concerning power interruptions experienced in the City of Port Colborne and Hydro One's reliability, be received for information.

CARRIED.

15. Community and Economic Development, Health Services Division, Report 2019-43, Subject: One-time Funding Request for Walk-in Mental Health Clinic for Youth in Port Colborne

Moved by Councillor D. Kalailieff
Seconded by Councillor E. Beauregard

That the City of Port Colborne enter into a contract agreement with Pathstone Mental Health for the purpose of supporting the initial implementation of the Hear & Now Walk-in Clinic, a mental health walk-in clinic for youth in the City of Port Colborne, at a one-time cost of \$20,000, to be funded from the Physician Recruitment Reserve Fund; and

That the appropriate by-law be presented for approval.

CARRIED.

14. Notice of Motion:

Nil.

15. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor E. Beauregard

Seconded by Councillor H. Wells

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at approximately
10:40 p.m.

CARRIED.

AL/cm

Canadian Niagara Power Inc. Port Colborne Reliability Discussion

City of Port Colborne – Council Meeting

April 8, 2019



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Agenda

- 2018 System Improvements
- System Reliability
- 2019 Capital Investment
- Hydro One Networks Discussions
- Customer Engagement



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2018 System Improvements

- CNPI completed Intensive inspections of two of the most troublesome feeders (43-M-11/43-M-12) 4 issues were identified and mitigated.
- In co-operation with Hydro One Networks Inc. relay enhancements were completed at Port Colborne TS.
- CNPI has completed coordination enhancements to current protective devices (re-closers) within the PC service territory to align with upgrades occurring at Port Colborne TS.
- Enhanced fault indicating devices have been purchased and deployed.



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2018 System Improvements

- A review of all protective devices and their coordination to minimize impact of fault on the CNPI distribution system's has been completed.
- Enhanced automation is being investigated and reviewed to further minimize outage times as a part of the continued Distribution Automation Program.
- The 2018 vegetation management program was completed.



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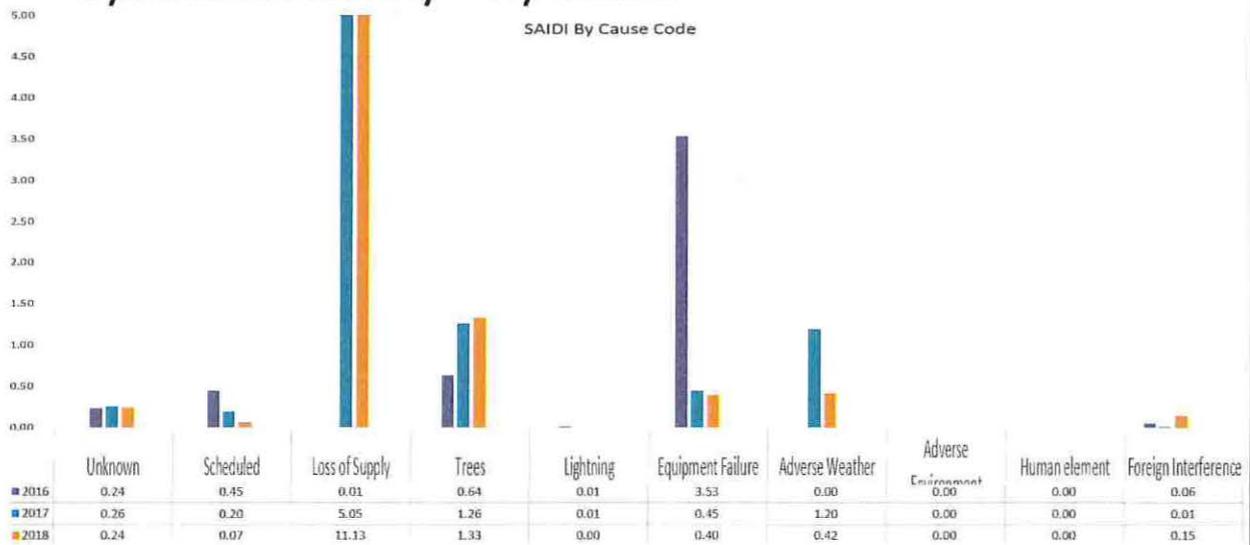
System Reliability (as reported to the OEB)

Customers Affected	Customer Hours	Year	Customer count	SAIFI YTD	SAIDI YTD
26372	45,335.86	2016	9196	2.87	4.93
21152	29,246.45	2017	9205	2.30	3.18
24939	18,698.80	2018	9210	2.71	2.03



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System Reliability – By Cause



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2019 Capital Investment

- Fielden TB1 \$400k.
- Jefferson Station Rebuild \$1,900K.
- Distribution Automation \$400K.
- Various Distribution Lines Enhancement \$500K.



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2019 Capital Investment

- Distribution Automation.
- Auto reclosing installations (Hydro One currently in the process of updating legacy relaying).
- Automated switching placement.
- Enhancement of fault indicating devices.
- Updated system protection and control review.



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Maintenance

- Annual inspections.
- Critical switch maintenance .
- Vegetation management.
- Substation maintenance.



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Transmission Discussion & Distribution Redundancy

- Discussion focusing on reinstatement of Second Transmission circuit feeding Port Colborne TS.
- Accelerated renewal of Port Colborne TS.
- Outage redundancy Crowland TS.

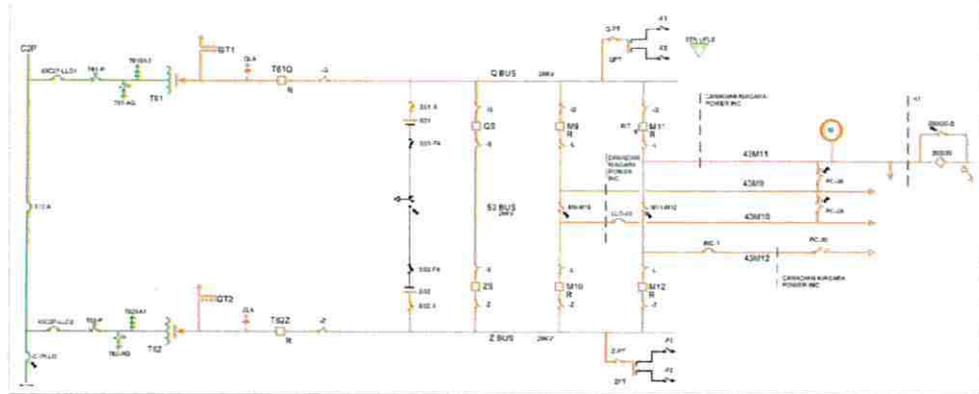


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hydro 
one

System Overview – Transmission Fed Port Colborne TS

- Ongoing discussion to address current transmission performance



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System Overview Distribution Redundancy

- 2018, Canadian Niagara Power no longer has availability of the interconnection tie on 41-M-14 out of Crowland TS.
- Negotiations have commenced regarding redundancy – reinstating the idle feeder 41-M-21.



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Customer Engagement

• Communication

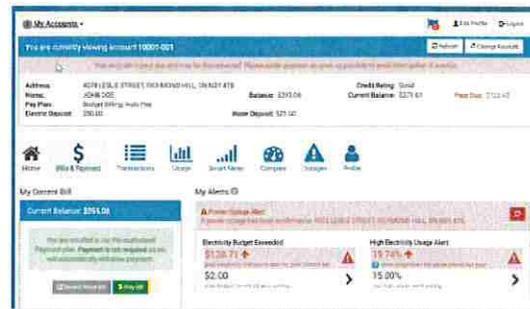
- Social media based interaction during larger outages
 - Increased direct dialogue with customers (via Twitter and Facebook).
 - More detail in periodic updates from Power Assist.

• 2019 Projects

- Self-help Portal.
- Text based outage notifications.
- Showcase ongoing capital work.



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Questions?



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Request for new Bylaw and request changes on Port Colborne's Roadside Mowing Initiative March 25th and April 8th Council Meetings

I like to start off this summary stating my thanks to all the members of the EAC committee for their support and advice to this roadside project. Also thanks to City Staff and Councilors that have worked along and implemented ideas to make this initiative possible. I believe this project will have huge benefits in the future years, and wouldn't have been possible without everyone's support and understanding.

I will be a delegate at two council meetings, due the fact the 10 min time requirement I have to speak. The next meeting on March 25th I will be asking for the implementation of a Bylaw creation to protect city owned roadside vegetation from herbicide. And at the April 8th meeting I will be giving a brief update on my study summary of last year and discuss the other requests I have for the roadside initiative.

Plant Studies

Last year was the first year after the initial three year trial area study time period. So my monitoring was changed where as I focused my study more on the 'difficult' plants and their disbursement and growing patterns throughout all the roads besides the original trial area. The plants I still find that are concern are the thistle species especially Sow Thistle, and Canada Thistle because of the aggressive seed development throughout the growing season. I still have come to the same conclusion with this species as the years prior, is other than using herbicide for removal there is no other method to control the development of seeds. As noted before in previous presentations, these species however produce more seed heads if they receive the 2nd cut during the summer months due to the fact they go into stress mode, however they are of shorter height growth.

Another 'difficult' plant is Canada Fleabane, it is a concern due to the fact the plant has evolved to have developed a resistance to herbicides. This plant does not release seeds until mid-September, therefore I believe the correct timing of mowing can eliminate any concerns of the plant species seed dispersal. A mention about this plant, it thrives in poor soil therefore it is commonly seen around culverts where there is runoff of chemicals, and along the shoulders of roadsides.

Popular tree seedlings are found throughout the roadside ditches of Port Colborne, these tree seedlings have been able to grow more vigorously with the delay of summer mowing. I have spoken with the roads department regarding any concerns with the mowing of branches of these species. They stated that the mowers are still able to cut them down in fall even with the extended growing period. I also looked at how these trees can collect other plant debris and garbage carried by water flow and whether it has caused blockage or impediment of the water flow. So far I haven't found a drainage area blocked by these Popular species.

I asked last year to have the first roadside mowing performed at a later date; the city had the contracting company start on June 4th, which is about 2 weeks later than usual. I wanted to allow the spring flowers to have a full bloom period and determine if the later cut would delay the seed development of the Canada Fleabane plant and other fall species. I still want the later cut to be preformed for the next few years, so I can't comment whether this does delay seed development. Too many factors are involved regarding temperature and rainfall for each year and will take years to determine if the later cut helps.

I was happy to see that the delay in the first cut didn't impact the Common Milkweed or the flowering species for pollinators since there were flowers within the two weeks after the cut,(and the weather was dry!)

Last summer less roads received the second cut, Killaly street East of Lorraine road, Second Con., Chippawa Road, 3rd Con. were some of the roads that received the delay as well. Was great news for me, and for the pollinators! I collected over 300 eggs and caterpillars of the Monarch Butterfly from Brookfield Road however!! Curious to know any concerns from residents regarding the addition of roads being delayed..

Pollinators along the Roads

Once again lots of Monarch activity was observed along the roadsides on the Common Milkweed plants. The timing of roadside mowing has proved to benefit the Monarchs migrating through our area.

I also studied the various pollinators that are to be found along the roads, noticing the increase of various species of butterflies.

These vegetative strips provide continuous habitat for certain pollinators that also play a role of a predator species for crop and garden pests. So having natural strips of plant vegetation will help in the reduction of required pesticides in some cases.

An increase of Red Wing bird habit was noticed along the ditches that didn't receive the second cut, these birds make their nests in ditches with tall vegetation, and these birds main food source is bugs.

I have noticed more residents leaving their ditches natural, I am hoping in the future in we can implement some sort of recognition for their support. But I feel the city has to do more to support the pollinator habitat in on their lands, before we start recognizing resident's efforts.

Drainage

I also observe the ditch growth and cutting waste of the fall cut to see if it impedes the flow of water and cause flooding. The fall growth cut waste is thrown in clumps along the top edge of the ditch, not in the base of the ditch. Also, education has to be done in order for residents to understand that the natural growth needs to be established along the ditch were the original runoff is occurring. Such as farmers fields (especially the fields that have drainage systems in place under their crops) and residents who have landscaped yards with no natural vegetation to slow the runoff of water. In the future, public education and implementation of natural vegetation growth along our roadsides in the properties in the North section of rural

Port Colborne could help reduce flood problems of residents that live along the roads closer to the lake.

Another problem is erosion from fields with fast water runoff carrying dirt and sediments into our ditches. And roads such as Chippawa road, having the grading of the road too high, and the shoulder gravel in place slide into the base of ditches. Natural vegetation in these areas can help prevent erosion.

I don't want to seem I'm against farmers needs to keep their fields drained, I understand the climate is becoming more extreme with heavy downpours. However it will actually benefit them to have a natural vegetative strip to control the erosion and run off of important nutrients from their fields. Having a natural strip could improve soil conditions along the edges of the crops, and still allow water to flow off their fields.

This year's Requests

The creation of a Bylaw to prevent Herbicide in ditches

Upon observation of these roadsides I have been noticing certain property owners applying herbicide to the ditches. I have done some reading this past year regarding the impacts of Roundup to our waterways, and also how the product should be used by the manufacturer.

There are six Roundup products developed by Monsanto for Canadian commercial uses.

They are as follows: R/T 540
Roundup Weathermax
Roundup Transorb
Roundup Xtend
XTendimax
Visionmax

The labels of these products state...

- Toxic to aquatic organisms
- Avoid application to any body of water
- Keep product out of drains, ditches and waterways
- All ask the user of the product to observe buffer zones needed when applying product
- Recommends including a vegetative strip between treated area and bodies of water

Please understand Roundup is not the only type of herbicide products available in Canada, however many herbicide products state the same requirements of the product use.

The bylaw should just enforce the city's drainage ditches to have live vegetation to help with erosion, chemical runoff absorption, and protecting the corridor habitat for pollinators. I'm looking for support and ideas on how we can create this Bylaw with consideration of the farmer's needs as well; I believe this can be possible!

Let us be the first city in Ontario to look at the health of our ditches in a future forward vision. This roadside initiative is not just about the butterflies and bees anymore, it's our water supply too!!

Other requests for this year's Roadside Initiative

I would to see if short widths of cuts (approx 3 feet) can be performed on roadsides, and be done more often especially where there is a higher concentration of unwanted plants. Or where there is poor growing conditions along roadsides i.e.; Chippawa Road. And have a full cut performed during the fall.

I had this discussion with the Roads Department in the fall, and how could a study like this be performed. They suggested using roads that very little residents or farmers on, such as parts of 3rd Con. and Ramey road west of 140. I'm hoping to include some of the residents who have already supported the idea with having a ditch strip of vegetation.

I am interested in this idea because by having a full cut performed only later in year could increase the amount of desirable pollinator plants such as Goldenrod and New England Aster to be able to grow to flower stage. Having smaller cuts could be performed more frequently in areas to help control Poison Ivy, Canada Fleabane, and perhaps Sow Thistle.

And by having a smaller cut performed along our roads could if fact maybe enable the city staff to take over control of the mowing. This is really something I can't discuss further because the city staff knows best on budgeting and equipment and staffing requirements.

Having the fall cut preformed earlier

I would like to ask if the fall cut to be preformed earlier than October 1st this year. I believe this could eliminate any concerns of the dispersal of the Canada Fleabane seeds. As long as the cut is performed after Goldenrod has finished its bloom period, due to the fact that plant is the last of the main nectar and pollen sources for bees. Temperatures are dropping in later September weeks, and therefore pollinators are greatly reduced along with the majority of Monarchs have departed for Mexico. I'm trying to figure out ideas to implement the best mowing practices to please the pollinators and help the farmers with growing our food!

Support of this Initiative

I had received lots of great feedback from the display I had at the Market in August last year. Residents seem to notice and understand the importance of the natural vegetation along our roadsides; I even spoke with a couple from England that was thrilled to see this happening

here. They stated where they live the natural hedgerows along fields have enforced protection from their municipality.

There has been mowing performed from one farmer who has stated he would start mowing himself since the trial period is done. He cut the roadside in areas where Sow Thistle and Canada Thistle is established. I understand there are always concerns about seed dispersal of thistles especially for farmers who farm organically.

And there are farmers who have always had practiced mowing alongside their farm lands, and I understand and respect their farming practices. I'm hoping though with more observance and studying the roadside habitat we can come to an agreement of the best roadside management practices to benefit everyone.

Future Ideas..

As one farmer stated to me, residents have to do more to protect and encourage a healthy environment on their own properties. And with that comment, I feel more education for the importance of native plants in not just rural areas of our community. More focus is also needed on the use of chemicals in urban areas which there is no natural vegetations to absorb the chemical before it runoffs into our storm drainage systems.

Patty Moss

Port Colborne's Roadside Mowing Initiative.









MAR 25 2019

CORPORATE SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONAL SERVICES



PORT COLBORNE

MEMORANDUM

EXT. 219

DATE: March 25, 2019
TO: Amber LaPointe, City Clerk
FROM: Janice Peyton, Executive Assistant, DEO
RE: Environmental Advisory Committee
Motion Regarding Patty Moss Presentation
Re: Roadside Mowing Initiative

Please be advised that, at the meeting of March 13, 2019, the Environmental Advisory Committee resolved as follows:

Moved by Jack Hellinga
Seconded by Beth Palma

That after receiving the presentation of Patty Moss regarding the roadside mowing initiative, the Council of the City of Port Colborne be advised that the City of Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee is unanimously in support of Patty's presentation and endorsement request as presented. The Environmental Advisory Committee requests that Council give consideration in endorsing Patty Moss' request.
CARRIED.

Thank you.

Signed: 

Janice Peyton
Executive Assistant, DEO
Recording Secretary, Environmental Advisory Committee

It's nice to see some new faces sitting on council. There are a few of you who will recognize me from attending this annual review every April since its inception ~~in 2015~~ (as a 3 year trial) ^{in 2015} and voicing our objections with legitimate concerns, specifically severe drainage issues causing our property to ~~flow~~ ^{flow}.

As council should be aware the area in front of our house often referred to as a ditch is in fact the Mill Creek Drain and ^{it} is responsible for the drainage of local farm fields. To date we have paid \$3682.52 in maintenance charges from the city but this drain distresses ^{us} more than it relieves our flooding issues, and despite contrary observations by Mo Moss our situation has worsened since council has implemented this ~~specific~~ idealistic project.

It has been stated that elimination of the summer cut resulting in the substantially larger October grass cut (which by the way we did not receive in 2018) does not form clumps which fall into the drain but the fact is that the large clumps left behind ARE blown into the drain by wind and vehicle traffic. ①

To the south of our property at the point where Linda Grant stops her own drain maintenance (which she has invested significant ~~time~~ ^{time} funds into) the clumps of grass join up with the tall cattails ^{the plants} restricting the flow of water. Adding to our distress our neighbour directly ^{west} south of our property has done extensive drainage work ~~below~~ beneath the soil which now directs precipitation from his 100 acres

of land to ^{the} culvert which crosses under Pinecrest
between ^{addresses} ~~813~~ 808 and 813 (Linda Grant) to meet
up with the Oil Mill Creek Drain. This past
December we had several days of rain which
when it joined with this drain clog in front
of Linda's couldn't get beyond the clog.
So all the precipitation proceeded to take the path
of least resistance which is ~~over~~ our front lawn and
Combined with a sudden deep freeze caused us to
have a frozen catch basin on our front lawn for
2 1/2 months. There was 2 days when the water was
over our driveway which we have spent considerable
funds building up with stone because of a flooding
years ago that made my vehicle inoperable after
travelling through similar flooding.

But to not make this ^{issue} just about us, there are
serious safety issues that have been created by this
initiative. #1 being restrictive sitelines for
driveways and the Friendship trail. Despite
our efforts to clear the mess of ^{tall} weeds ^{on} ^{the} ^{side} the combination
of the weeds and ~~no~~ neglected brush has created
a serious problem at the Friendship trail which I
have spoken to Mike Audit about (and Nancy Gillespie.)
Last August ^{there} ^{last} ^{year} after a young lady on a bicycle
travelling east on the friendship trail collided
with a jaguar (car) travelling south on Pinecrest
^{intersecting} with the cars rear passenger side window.
The young lady received head trauma, cuts and bruising
to her arm and face requiring medical attention.

The driver of the ~~truck~~^{van} was visibly shaken and still traumatized when he returned to our home several weeks later to tell us the girl wouldn't reimburse him for the damage to his car.

There is also the issue that we have no sidewalks or shoulders. There are spots where the pavement abruptly drops off as much as 4 inches to the ground. When the excessive growth of weeds including poison ivy spreads onto the roadway you can't tell if ^{you're} you are walking until it's too late. I had an incident on Cedar Bay Rd just south of Bell Acres, where ~~when~~ I was forced over by an ^{oncoming} approaching car and my foot got turned over by the drop off causing me to fall, ~~and~~ hit my head and lose consciousness. We have had 2 vehicles get their wheels ~~so~~ caught in the drop off in front of our house and end up in the ditch. These incidents can be verified by the ambulance who attended the girl, the tow truck driver who pulled the cars out of the ditch and the neighbor who called my husband to pull me up after my fall.

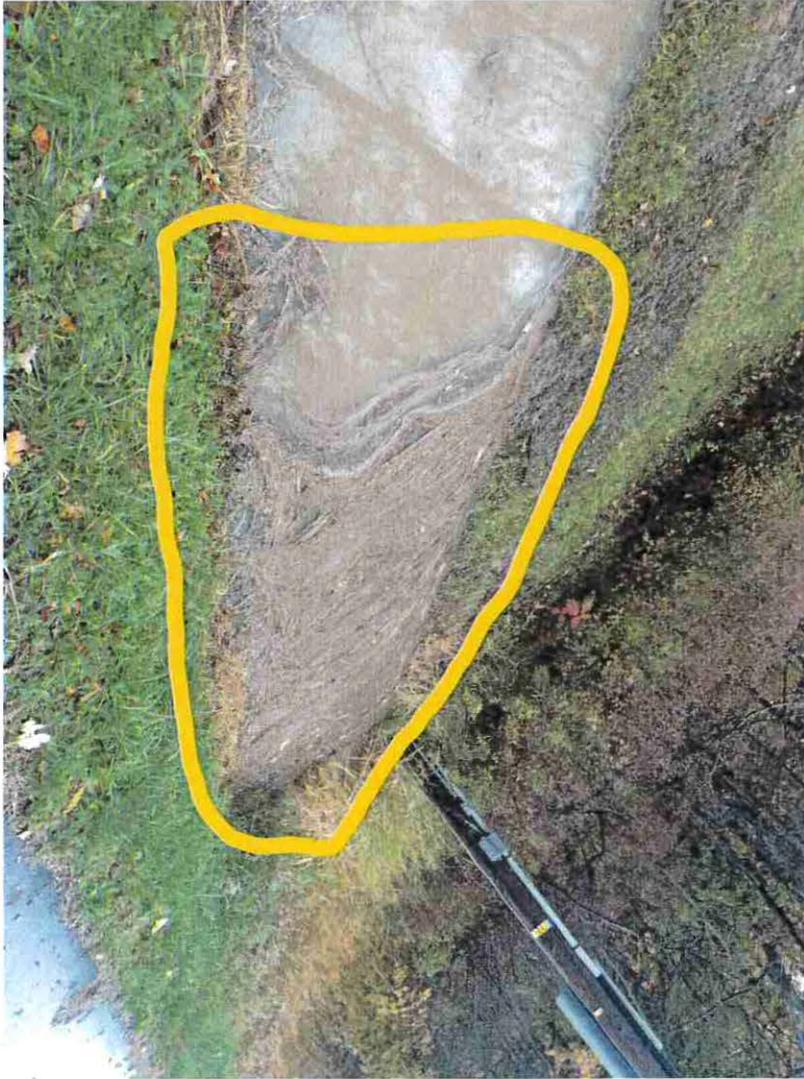
In closing I want it noted that ^{contrary to} ~~in spite of~~ the personal attacks ^{made by the press} ~~to~~ ^{applied} to my neighbours that I am poisoning ~~our~~ water and butterfly habitats, I in fact marvel at the butterfly migration and their ability to annually travel to Mexico and return to Canada but just as ~~they~~ ^{the butterfly} have this ability to perform this phenomenal feat I believe that they are also able to adapt to ^{many} changing ^{weather} conditions ^{including} ~~the~~ ^{as they} weather ^{that} the plants they seek to make their home ^{are} ~~are~~ located somewhere other than Pinecrest Road. There are thousands of milkweed plants lining the Friendship Trail. I think that prudent scientific methodology would be to observe and document these creatures in other areas rather than continuing with the same input. The fact is that the data we are being presented with here is the observation of one person with a personal agenda.

The area encapsuled by Pinecrest, Vermig and Cedar Bay Roads as well as the extending lakefront is an area frequented by tourists and seasonal residents and it is ~~is~~ being ~~is~~ revitalized by new substantial residential development. The ~~is~~ unkempt, neglected appearance that this initiative has created presents our town as a depressing, economically deprived area to be avoided and I hope ~~that~~ this revigized council will see ^{that} this is not a road to trail.

Roadside Cuttings



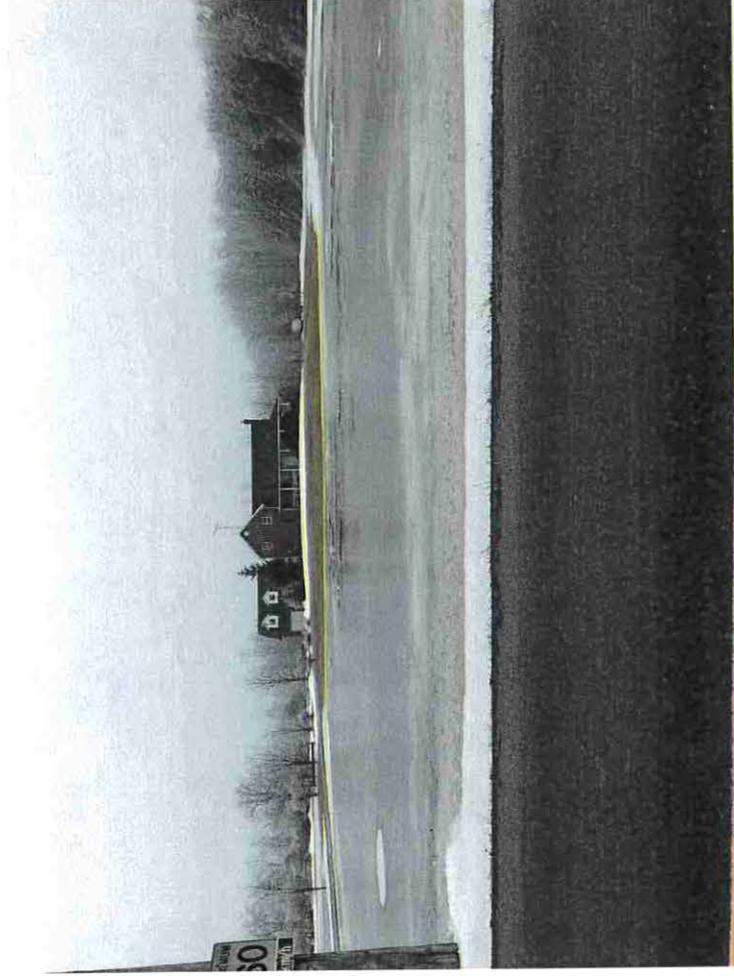
Clogging of Ditch



Clogged Ditch



Property Flooding



From: Ron Baarda <[REDACTED]>
To: H. MacD <[REDACTED]>; Harry Wells <[REDACTED]>; Harry Wells <[REDACTED]>; Ron Bodner <ronbodner@portcolborne.ca>; "projectmanager@portcolborne.ca" <projectmanager@portcolborne.ca>; Bill Steele <wsteele@cmsteeleinsurance.ca>; "scottluey@portcolborne.ca" <scottluey@portcolborne.ca>; "markbagu@portcolborne.ca" <markbagu@portcolborne.ca>; "frankdanch@portcolborne.ca" <frankdanch@portcolborne.ca>; "angiedesmarais@portcolborne.ca" <angiedesmarais@portcolborne.ca>; "donnakalailieff@portcolborne.ca" <donnakalailieff@portcolborne.ca>; "ericbeauregard@portcolborne.ca" <ericbeauregard@portcolborne.ca>; "garybruno@portcolborne.ca" <garybruno@portcolborne.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2019 9:49 AM
Subject: Fw: Roadside maintenance

Subject: Roadside maintenance

The Federal and Provincial Governments already regulate the use of herbicides, we do not need to create a bylaw to prevent the use of herbicides. Her pictures are lovely, but the one alluding to spraying appears to have been taken late in the year, after the fall cutting as you can see the autumn leaves in it. But as we all know perception is everything.

Please continue the routine maintenance of roadside cutting. Keeping the roadsides free of sight restrictions is paramount for safety. The plants and insects will continue to thrive along all the farmers fields as well as in all field edges and bush areas through out the city.

The ditches are essential for proper drainage of the roads and the lands adjacent to them to redirect excess water. When roads are only mowed once or twice a year, large accumulations of grass and weeds end up as large clumps of mowed material at the sides of the roads and it ends up in the ditches by the wind and the wing of the snow plow if left there when snow flies. Yes all that long grass does end up clogging the ditches and culverts and impedes the flow of the drains which the City is striving to maintain. More cutting will yield less clogging of the ditches as smaller amounts of cuttings will compost much easier than large clumps.

When roadsides are not mowed along roads and highways, drivers who need to pull over or swerve to avoid an accident or critters have no idea where the ditch is or how deep it is. Roadsides need to be maintained and mowed. Critters and deer that jump out leave drivers less warning if the roadside is full of long grass and weeds which are impairing their visibility. Also anyone that has had an insect, especially bees enter their vehicle know the danger that this can create. More people are pulling over to the side of the road to check cell phones as well. We know that when a vehicle goes into a ditch, sadly major damage is inevitable to property, vehicles and passengers.

Butterflies, birds and native plants and flowers are in every field and bush in the Niagara Region. We encourage the growth of all these species and have many of them on our property and others have them on theirs as well, however the roadsides need to be kept safe.

Not just us, but many very concerned residents



MAYOR'S REPORT – APRIL 8, 2019

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The City has several activities taking place over the upcoming Easter Weekend.

Our Fire Department has partnered with Sobey's and Port Cares for an Easter Food Drive taking place on Saturday from 10 – 4 in front of Sobey's. We encourage you to give what you can to support our local food bank.

Also on Saturday, the Vale Health & Wellness Centre will be alive with family activities starting at 10 a.m. Check out our Leisure Guide or Website for details and times and get your family out PORTicipating.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

Today starts Volunteer Appreciation Week and we know that many of our services and activities in the city would not happen without the generous donation of time from our many volunteers.

These volunteers impact our community and communities across Niagara with their abundance of time and energy, and we thank you.

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The City of Port Colborne declared April, Autism Awareness Month and we raised their flag to celebrate last Tuesday.

This past weekend, citizens of our community participated in the Ontario General Insurance Hockey Tournament with proceeds going to Autism Niagara.

Way to PORTicipate everyone!

STRATEGIC PLANNING

We will be embarking on a new Strategic Plan starting on Monday, May 6th. A special council meeting will be held at the Roselawn Centre starting at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome to come and listen to these discussions that will lead this council and staff for the next few years.