

**For Immediate Release**

## **Christmas in Port Colborne**

**Nov. 29, 2019** – Port Colborne is set to kick off the holiday season this weekend!

**Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019**

### **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grand Old Christmas Festival**

From 12 to 4 p.m. visitors are encouraged to step back in time and enjoy holidays of old at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, 280 King Street. Rediscover the spirit of the season indulging in traditional Christmas pudding and caramel sauce at Arabella's Edwardian Tea Room; enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride; decorate wreaths; dip candles; make an ornament; visit the Blacksmith shop; and cross names off your list at the museum's gift shop and craft sale in the L.R. Wilson Heritage Archives. It is easy to get in the festive spirit when carolers are singing, chestnuts are roasting, and the village is bedecked in greenery and bows.

**Dec. 2-7, 2019**

### **Christmas Pudding and Sauce Week at Arabella's Tea Room**

Arabella's Tea Room gives visitors a break from the Christmas hustle and bustle with their famous Christmas Pudding & Sauce. Volunteers dressed in Edwardian style serve Christmas pudding and caramel sauce along with tea and coffee in fine china.

**Friday, Dec. 6, 2019**

### **Teddy Bear Toss**

In support of the Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services 'Fill the Truck' Toy Campaign, in support of Port Cares, the Teddy Bear Toss will be returning to the Niagara Whalers Home Game at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019**

### **Santa arrives in Port Colborne**

Organized by the Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA), Santa arrives by tugboat into Downtown Port Colborne along West Street at approximately 1 p.m. (pending Seaway traffic), greeted by music and his adoring fans. The man in red will lead a procession to the Guild Hall, 72 Charlotte Street at approximately 2 p.m. where he will listen to everyone's wish list and parents are welcome to snap their own photos. Attendees will enjoy free crafts, complimentary fair trade hot chocolate by Ten Thousand Villages Canada and complimentary cookies by The Pie Guys.

## Port Colborne's Annual Lighted Santa Claus Parade

Since 2001 the parade has marked the beginning of the Holiday Season as an opportunity for families to watch Old Saint Nicholas rolling into Port Colborne. Kicking off at 6:30 p.m., hundreds of people line the parade route at night to watch the seemingly endless number of colourful floats lit with Christmas lights.

Beginning at Port Colborne High School and travelling south on Steele Street to Clarence Street the parade will then move east on Clarence Street to West Street. Making its way south on West Street to Charlotte Street, the parade will then travel west on Charlotte Street to end at the Market Square, in front of City Hall.

**Note:** The parade route impacts the new Welland Transits bus route. Any buses scheduled to stop at City Hall between 5 – 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 will be stopping/dropping off at the Port Colborne Public Library, 310 King Street.

Parking restrictions and road closures will also be in effect on Dec. 7.

The following areas will be closed to street parking and through traffic for staging the parade floats from 4 - 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019:

1. Fielden Avenue from the southern limit of Killaly Street to the southern limit of Elgin Street; and
2. Elgin Street from the eastern limit of Steele Street to the western limit of Elm Street

The following areas will be closed to street parking from 4 - 9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019 to allow for safe pedestrian viewing of the parade from boulevards/sidewalks, as well as allowing the parade floats to move unrestricted throughout the parade route, and disperse at the end of the parade route at Charlotte Street and Catharine Street.

1. Clarence Street from the western limit of Steele Street to the eastern limit of West Street;
2. West Street from the northern limit of Clarence Street to the southern limit of Charlotte Street; and
3. Charlotte Street from the western limit of Elm Street to the eastern limit of West Street.

Throughout the parade route, there will be temporary barricade road closures at the following intersections to restrict through traffic onto the parade route as set out in 2019 Santa Clause Parade Route:

1. North and west intersections of Steele Street and Elgin Street
2. East intersection of Steele Street at Carter Street
3. East intersection of Steele Street at Park Street
4. East intersection of Steele Street at Tugboat Lane
5. West and south intersections of Steele Street and Clarence Street
6. North and south intersections of Fielden Ave. at Clarence Street
7. North and south intersections of Elm Street at Clarence Street

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8. North and south intersections of Catharine Street at Clarence Street
9. North and south intersections of King Street at Clarence Street
10. North and east intersections of West Street at Clarence Street
11. South intersection of West Street at Charlotte Street
12. North and south intersections of King Street at Charlotte Street
13. East and north intersections of Charlotte Street and Catharine Street

Parade route map attached.

King George Park is also lighting up the downtown core, sponsored by Allison's Department Store. Niagara Face Painting will be set up in King George Park to paint kids' faces for free. A social media photo frame has also been set up in the park.

In partnership with Port Cares, the Port Colborne Fire Department will be collecting unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items along the parade route. Not able to make it to the parade? Unwrapped gifts for the 'Fill the Truck' Toy Drive can be dropped off during regular business hours at City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, the Port Colborne Public Library, 310 King Street, the Vale Health & Wellness Centre, 550 Elizabeth Street, and other participating locations.

Returning this year, parade floats will be judged and your voice matters. PORTicipate & cast your vote for the best float. The link to voting will be made available on the City's website and social media sites. Voting will close on Monday, December 9 at 10 a.m.

Afterwards, children are welcome to visit with Santa and enjoy fair trade hot chocolate at the Guild Hall.

Interested in volunteering? Email [lukerowe@porcolborne.ca](mailto:lukerowe@porcolborne.ca) or call 905-835-2900 ext. 566.

**Until Dec. 20, 2019**

### **Port Colborne Public Library Mitten Tree**

Bring new mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves for the Library's annual Mitten Tree in support of Port Cares. Non-perishable food items are also gratefully accepted.

### **Christmas Exhibit at the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum**

**Black & White Christmas:** Breaking from the traditional colours of the holidays, this exhibit showcases black & white artifacts from the museum collection. This chic, unique, elegant, and versatile Christmas display is all about style.

### **About City of Port Colborne**

Located on the south coast of the scenic Niagara Region, Niagara's Port of Call has found the perfect balance – successful industrial and commercial sectors, comfortable and scenic residential areas, white sand beaches, unique culinary choices, the world class Sugarloaf Marina, fishing, golfing, trails,



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shopping districts along the historic Welland Canal and an energized festival and entertainment scene that includes live theatre – truly a community that adds to the overall Niagara Experience.

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