



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Business support services coming to Port Colborne

City of Port Colborne and City of Niagara Falls Small Business Centre collaborate to launch Port Colborne Business and Entrepreneurship Support Services.

Port Colborne, ON (Oct. 4, 2018) – The Port Colborne Business and Entrepreneurship Support Services (BESS) office will open its doors for the first time on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, in celebration of October being Small Business Month. The BESS is a collaboration between the City of Port Colborne's Community and Economic Development Department and the City of Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre.

The BESS office will open at the Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Ave, Port Colborne and will serve as a satellite centre for the Niagara Falls Small Business Centre. Business development consultants from the Niagara Falls Small Business Centre will provide one-on-one consultations on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Small businesses and entrepreneurs looking to meet with representatives can walk-in or make an appointment to sit with the business consultant by calling 905-835-2900 ext. 502.

Julian Douglas, Economic Development Officer for the City of Port Colborne stated, "We are pleased to be establishing a formal collaboration with Niagara Falls Small Business Centre to increase the accessibility and level of support available to our residents interested in entrepreneurship. We will also be exploring collaborations with other local, regional, provincial and federal service providers, with the intention of ensuring we have a hub of support services right here in Port Colborne."

Through this collaboration, the office will serve as a local hub providing information, guidance and resources to assist small business owners and entrepreneurs to start-up new businesses, expand existing small businesses, and create jobs within the City of Port Colborne.

"The Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre offers new and existing entrepreneurs access to a suite of free services to help start and grow their business. This includes one-on-one consultations, business planning assistance, seminars and workshops, as well as funded programming such as summer and Starter Company Plus," said Michael Warchala, Small Business Consultant with Niagara Falls Small Business Enterprise Centre. "We are proud to partner with the City of Port Colborne to provide these services locally and we are thankful to City staff for their work at making this a reality."

Services offered at the Port Colborne BESS office include:

- Free business information and guidance;
- Free market research assistance;
- Free business plan review services;
- Entrepreneurship programs;
- Free/low cost business seminars and workshops;
- Free/low cost online business training courses;
- Training and mentorship; and

- Networking opportunities.

For more information about the BESS office, call 905-835-2900 ext. 502, email startabusiness@portcolborne.ca or, visit http://portcolborne.ca/page/small_business.

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, 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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For more information, contact:

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