

**For Immediate Release**

## **City of Port Colborne developing Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

**Port Colborne, ON (Jan. 15, 2019)** – The City of Port Colborne is currently in the process of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide the City’s direction for parks, fields, trails, recreational facilities, events, recreation and leisure programming for the next 10 years. The City has commissioned MacNaughton Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning Limited (MHBC) to develop the Master Plan, the City’s first one. The principal objectives of the project are to document current recreation assets and capacity, and develop a series of recommendations and an action plan to accommodate the current and future recreational needs of the City.

### **What is the purpose of the Master Plan?**

The City offers a variety of parks, recreation programs, sport services and facilities that engage citizens of all ages and abilities. The City is undertaking the preparation of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to ensure that services continue to respond to the community needs, now and into the future.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be an important document, as it will provide guidance concerning the improvement, future development and management of parks, open spaces, recreation and leisure services, programs, events, facilities and amenities, in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner.

### **The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will:**

- Include a comprehensive review and analysis of parks and recreation operational and service needs in the community in order to ensure services accommodate changes in growth and public demand;
- Provide for meaningful consultation with the public, user groups, stakeholders, Council and staff;
- Identify physical improvements to existing parks and new park amenities (including facilities, sports fields, play structures, trails, picnic shelters, splash pad, etc.);
- Provide a clear action plan and strategy to guide the development of future parks and recreation facilities, operations and services; and
- Guide the development of parks and recreation for the City and the community over the next ten years (using a community profile and a trends analysis).

“An assessment of our parks and recreation services and operations is necessary to ensure we are meeting the current and future needs of our community,” said Mayor Steele. “With this we also need to be considerate of our fiscal realities and corporate objectives to focus on being efficient, effective and sustainable in the delivery of our services.”

The Master Plan will guide and manage the direction of parks, open spaces, recreation and leisure services, programs, events, facilities and amenities. It will review recreation and leisure programs, facilities and related amenities in a cost effective, proactive manner, consistent with leading industry standards and best practices.

“The Master Plan will provide a vision and prioritization of parks and recreation operations and services over the next 10 years,” said Ashley Grigg, director of community and economic development. “Gathering feedback from local and regional residents, as well as new and long-term visitors is a crucial part of the planning process. We are looking for feedback on the current state of the City's recreational amenities, programming and services to ensure that the Master Plan can accommodate changes in growth, demand, and emerging trends.”

### **Tell us how you #PORTicipate**

The development of the Master Plan is through a comprehensive consultation process, including facilitated Community Workshops with stakeholders, community groups and the public, in addition to an online survey.

#### **Community Workshop #1:**

When: Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The consulting team from MHBC will make a brief presentation at 6:30 p.m. followed by a facilitated discussion on the strengths, challenges and opportunities for the City to consider in the preparation of the Master Plan.

Where: Council Chambers (third floor), City Hall  
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8

#### **Tentative Project and Community Engagement Timeline:**

- Community Workshop #1: Jan. 24, 2019.
- Online survey available Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019 for a four-week period.
- Stakeholder and user group Community Workshops late January/early February 2019.
- Interim reporting spring 2019.
- Final submission and approval spring 2019.

Follow the progress of the Master Plan by visiting [www.portcolborne.ca/page/prmp](http://www.portcolborne.ca/page/prmp).

#### **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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