



PORT COLBORNE

Media Release

For Immediate Release

City operations continue during COVID-19

Port Colborne, ON (March 24, 2020) – In an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19, all City facilities are closed to the public until further notice; however, staff are continuing work across the municipality to maintain facilities, infrastructure, and customer service. Protocols are currently in place for staff across the municipality with alternating schedules and shifts to comply with social distancing.

With the arrival of spring the City is getting ready to implement its spring cleaning and maintenance routine to address the debris left over from this past winter.

Residents can expect to see crews implementing a two-step road-grading program on all municipal gravel roads. The first step, referred to as “scarifying” the roads, involves clearing out potholes and cracks of any loose debris before the second step of relaying the damages with fresh gravel, ensuring there are no gaps missed for a smooth drive. This process will begin on Nugent Road and move across the city from west to east over the course of a week.

Beginning March 22, weather dependent, crews will be flushing and sweeping sidewalks overnight in the downtown core, from Sugarloaf Street to Park Street and from West Street to Steele Street. This will also include all municipal parking lots in the area, including Market Square.

Parks Crews will also be sweeping the West Street Promenade and the entire trail system. Playgrounds will be inspected and all municipal parks will be cleaned of garbage, leaves, and branches. Although playgrounds are undergoing routine inspections, as a proactive measure to limit the spread of COVID-19, public use of playground equipment is strongly discouraged.

Residents can also expect street sweeping to begin the week of March 22, starting with primary roads on the midnight shift. Crews will begin by sweeping primary roads of debris before moving into residential neighbourhoods. Residents can expect to receive notification on the City’s website and social media feeds of which neighbourhoods crews will be sweeping before they move into the area. Residents are being asked to avoid placing garbage and recycling containers directly on the roadways and to try to avoid leaving cars parked on the roadways during sweeping times in order to facilitate the cleaning process.

“We would like to apologize in advance to residents for any irregular noise or inconvenience that may arise from our overnight schedule. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work to clean up your city and maintain our infrastructure,” said Richard Daniel, manager of operations.

Over the course of spring-cleaning routine, crews will also be patrolling roadways to identify areas and properties that may have suffered damage from snowplows during winter control activities. Once this process is completed, a repair plan will be organized and put into effect over the course of the coming months. If residents notice snowplow damage to their property, they are encouraged to call 905-835-5079 to file a report with the Operations Centre.

With daily changes around the COVID-19 pandemic, maintenance schedules may change. The Operations and Parks departments are continuing to do their best to maintain services while keeping the health and safety of staff and residents a top priority. For up-to-date information about these changes, including facility closures and service disruptions as a result of COVID-19, visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19.

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