



PORT COLBORNE

CITYHALLNEWS

A newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

MAY 2020

66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8 | 905-835-2900 | portcolborne.ca | newsletter@portcolborne.ca



COVID-19 UPDATE

STAY HOME NIAGARA
STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED

- NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES MUST CLOSE
- KEEP AT LEAST 6 FEET APART FROM OTHERS
- OUTDOOR PLAYGROUNDS ARE CLOSED
- GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN FIVE PEOPLE PROHIBITED

All City facilities, including playgrounds and park amenities, remain closed until further notice. These closures include: City Hall, the Engineering & Operations Centre, Fire Hall, Vale Health & Wellness Centre, Roselawn Centre, Port Colborne Public Library, Farmer's Market, Bethel Community Centre, Sherkston Community Centre, Sugarloaf Marina (including Marine Supply Store, Storage Yard, and Public Boat Launch Ramp), Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, and L.R. Wilson Heritage Research Archives.

During these closures, our staff are working hard to continue to be available to assist you, our residents, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. by phone at [905-835-2900](tel:905-835-2900) or email. For a complete listing of all municipal staff and their contact information, visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/City_Contacts. For after-hours road and water/wastewater issues, residents should call 905-835-5079. Need to drop something off to City Hall, including an application or payment? City Hall also has a 24-hour mail slot located at the east-side of the front entrance, 66 Charlotte Street.

NIAGARA'S OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES

REPAIRS & OTHER OPERATIONS

We are also continuing with critical municipal services, which includes the upkeep of public lawns/forestry/park maintenance, roads, water/wastewater infrastructure, outdoor sports facilities, and other essential construction projects. These services meet the Province of Ontario guidelines for essential services.

The City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Council and Staff will continue to monitor the situation and update residents accordingly as new information becomes available. For more information and updates about the

City's efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19, including facility closures and department service disruptions, visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19.

For more information about COVID-19 from Niagara Region Public Health, including updates, frequently asked questions and prevention tips, visit www.niagararegion.ca/covid19. For all COVID-19 health matters and/or inquiries, please call the Public Health hotline at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 (press option 7 then follow the prompts).

EMERGENCY ORDERS

To report concern over a business operating in contravention of emergency orders or gathering of groups of people in Port Colborne, contact our By-law Department by emailing bylawenforcement@portcolborne.ca. After 4:30 p.m., please call Niagara Region's dispatch line at 905-984-3690 or 1-877-552-5579 for further bylaw response and assistance. Do not call 9-1-1. For up-to-date information on all Emergency Orders issued by the province, visit www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information.



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

For the protection of staff, Council members, and the community, the Clerk's department has changed the Council meeting schedule to the fourth Monday of the month. The next scheduled Council meeting is on Monday, May 25, 2020. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Council meeting will be held virtually, with the meeting live streamed on the City's YouTube channel. During the meeting, Mayor Steele will be the only member of Council present in Council Chambers along with the City Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer. Members of Council and senior staff will participate in the meeting remotely.

Anyone wishing to be a delegate at council meetings are asked to submit a written delegation request that will be circulated to council members prior to the meeting. Submissions must be received by noon on Monday of the Council meeting by emailing deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca, or handwritten delegations can be submitted in the after-hours drop box in front of City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street. Questions about the delegation process?

Email deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca or call **905-835-2900 ext. 115**.

The agenda package for the Monday, May 25, 2020, Council meeting will be available on Thursday, May 21, 2020. To read the agenda, or to watch live at 6:30 p.m., visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/minutes_and_agendas. Alternatively, to sign up to receive council information and agenda directly to an email inbox, visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/subscribe_newsletter. Council meetings are also broadcast the Thursday following the Council meeting at 9 a.m. on YourTV (Cogeco), channel 10.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Unable to pay your tax installment or water/wastewater bill right now? Due to COVID-19, Council has approved an exemption to penalty and interest charges for all tax, water, and wastewater payments until June 30, 2020.

For information about tax bills call **905-835-2900 ext. 123**, email taxclerk@portcolborne.ca, or visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/taxes

For information about water/wastewater bills call **905-835-2900 ext. 125**, email waterclerk@portcolborne.ca, or visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/water.

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Open Burning -

Residents are asked to refrain from having fires during the COVID-19 pandemic. The City's Burning By-law does not allow for open burning unless permission has been given, or for the purposes of cooking food. At this time, in all cases, if a complaint is received, the fire must be extinguished.



Permission will not be given to have an open fire during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am requesting that residents do not have a fire, even to cook food, in an effort to reduce unnecessary calls that will involve the fire department coming to your home because of a complaint of a fire getting out of hand. Your Fire Department is made up of both career firefighters and volunteer firefighters, and any calls, including calls for open burning, add unnecessary risk to our firefighters and their families.

Your life and the life of your family members count on you being vigilant and leading a fire-safe life. Please help us in keeping our community a fire-safe community. We also ask that you continue to stay home and if you have to go out for essential services to practice physical distancing to stay healthy and safe. We are all in this together, Port Colborne. Support each other through kindness and caring about those that your actions may affect.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Cartwright, Fire Chief
Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services



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ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

Did you know? The City is required to prepare the Port Colborne Distribution System Annual Drinking Water Quality Report by February 28 each year. The 2019 report is available online at www.portcolborne.ca/page/water_quality_reports.

The City receives all of its drinking water from the Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Regional Municipality of Niagara, and the Region is also required to prepare a report by February 28. The City is required to provide copies of the Region's report, free of charge to those who request it, and it is also available at the Public Works office or at the Engineering and Operations Department, or it can be accessed on the Region's website www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/Water-Quality-Reports.aspx.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Canada Day Celebrations - The Optimist Club has informed the City of Port Colborne that due to COVID-19 they will be cancelling the Canada Day event that takes place at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park on July 1, 2020. The City is currently working on a virtual way to put on the event to keep our residents PORTicipating! Stay tuned for details. For City updates regarding the status of other City events, visit <http://portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19>.

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM

May Is Museum Month!



Although we are unable to tell you when the Port Colborne Historical Marine Museum will be open for the 2020 season, we invite you to join us as we share with you our 1812 on-line exhibit on our social media accounts [f PortColborneHistorical&MarineMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/PortColborneHistorical&MarineMuseum) [@PortMuseum](https://twitter.com/PortMuseum) [@portcolbornemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/portcolbornemuseum). To search for local 1812 artifacts and archives, type Port Colborne Museum on the search engine at images.ourontario.ca. To stay connected with museum news join as a member for 2020!

Help Capture History from Home

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is calling on you to PORTicipate in history. This is an extraordinary time within history that future citizens of Port Colborne will look back upon. We are asking for handwritten letters of your personal experience – share with us your thoughts, feelings, drawings, photographs, and/or daily activities at home. Everyone of any age is welcome to PORTicipate!



Mail your letters to the
Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum,
or place them in the mailbox at the museum front door.

**PO Box 572
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 5X8**

If you do not have the supplies to mail us a letter, you can request a kit (paper, stamp, and envelope) be mailed to you. In addition, please let us know in your letter if you would like museum staff to send you a reply. These letters will be compiled in our Heritage Resource Centre and Archives, and may one day be part of the collection for future generations to read. Thank you for your help!



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PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library's physical doors are closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, the library is committed to providing as many services as we can to you virtually during this difficult time. The following service delivery changes are currently in place:

- Library programs are now offered online! Please check our website and social media for upcoming events.
- The night drop is closed. You may keep your books and library materials at home until we reopen.
- All fines will be waived on items due during the closure. We have renewed your items for you.
- If your library card expires during the closure, we will automatically extend your privileges.
- If you do not have a library card, visit our website (www.portcolbornelibrary.org) to register online.
- Our e-resources are available 24/7 including e-books and e-audiobooks. Check out Universal Class to sign up for free online continuing education and personal development courses. All you need is your library card.
- If you need help, please email us at library@portcolborne.ca and we will respond to your questions as soon as possible. Stay safe! We will see you soon.

Be sure to like and follow us on social media too [PortColbornePublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/PortColbornePublicLibrary) [@PortColborneLib](https://twitter.com/PortColborneLib) [@PortColborneLib](https://www.instagram.com/PortColborneLib) as we share our virtual programming for families! Like:

POP-UP VIRTUAL STORY TIME

MONDAYS, May 4, 11 & 25 - 10 a.m.

Enjoy a story with our Pop-Up Librarian on Monday mornings! Thanks to the many publishers who have allowed us to read these virtual stories with our community. Virtual story time videos will be available until June 30, 2020.

GAMES & CHALLENGES

TUESDAYS, May 5, 12, 19 & 26 - 9 a.m.

Every Tuesday, we will post a new game or challenge for your family to participate in!

FELTS & FINGERPLAYS

WEDNESDAYS, May 6, 13, 20 & 27 - 10 a.m.

Do you love to laugh and sing? Check in every Wednesday for a new song to learn and sing together.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

THURSDAYS, May 7, 14, 21, & 28 - 9 a.m.

Tune in on Thursday mornings for a series of fun activities that can be enjoyed by the family!

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

FRIDAYS, May 1 & 8 - 10 a.m.

Learn basic instructions of how to play Dungeons and Dragons in our video tutorial series about the classic role-playing adventure game.

LEARN TO DRAW

FRIDAYS, May 15, & 22 - 10 a.m.

Learn some drawing techniques, such as 2-point and 3-point perspective, in our video tutorial series!

