



PORT COLBORNE

CITYHALLNEWS

A newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

NOVEMBER 2020

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

@cityofportcolborne @portcolborne @cityofportcolborne @cityofportcolborne @cityofportcolborne

REOPENING PORT COLBORNE

Port Colborne, along with the Niagara region, remains in Stage 3 of the Province's reopening framework. As the City continues with a safe and gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, more restrictions are being lifted allowing residents greater use, and access to municipal services and outdoor spaces.

We're Open! By Appointment Only

Schedule your appointment today.

The City's municipal offices at City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, is scheduling appointments Mondays - Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for residents requiring access to City services. Departments accepting appointments at City Hall include • **Corporate Services** (for example, marriage licenses and commissioning). Residents and businesses will not be able to make appointments to pay property taxes or water/wastewater bills. • **Planning Division** • **By-law Enforcement Division** • **Building Division** • **Mayor's Office** • **Community Services** (Parks and Recreation) • **Economic Development** • **Chief Administrative Officer** •

Although the physical doors to City Hall and City facilities remain closed, or are offering limited services, staff are continuing to offer customer service support for residents, businesses, and visitors by phone, email, website, and social media channels. To reach our customer service representatives, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., call 905-835-2900 or email customerservice@portcolborne.ca. Looking for a particular staff member? Visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/City_Contacts. For more information and updates about the City's response to COVID-19, visit www.portcolborne.ca/page/covid-19.

Reopening Recreation at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre

In accordance with public health guidelines, the following recreational programs are back up and running:

Pickleball

Pickleball programming is set to open to the public beginning Monday, November 2, 2020. One-hour time slots are available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Participants must register in advance and cost is equivalent to \$5 per hour for each participant.

Zumba

Indoor Zumba classes are running every Monday and Wednesday, 7 - 8 p.m. Cost is \$5 and participants must register in advance.

Walking Track

The walking track is available Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. Walkers will be required to wear a mask and will need to sign-in at the upper level upon arrival.

Rinks 1 and 2

Both Rinks at the Vale Health & Wellness Centre are now operational and have welcomed back athletes from Port Colborne Minor Hockey, Girls Wave Hockey, and the Southern Tier Admirals. At this time, to ensure the health and safety of residents, visitors and staff, we will not be hosting public events, tournaments or public skating programs.

For more information and how to register for these programs, please visit http://portcolborne.ca/page/Health_and_Wellness_Centre.

Just a friendly reminder, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 please follow these guidelines:

- Stay at home except for essential purposes
- Keep 2 metres from everyone outside your household
- Wear a face covering
- Wash your hands
- Follow gathering limits

Council Meetings

Council meetings will continue to be held virtually the second and fourth Monday of each month and live streamed on the City's YouTube channel. Anyone wishing to be a delegate at Council meetings are asked to submit a written delegation that will be circulated to Council members prior to the meeting. Submissions must be received by 12 p.m. 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. For more information, please visit http://portcolborne.ca/page/minutes_and_agendas.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PORT COLBORNE

Remembrance Day

Starting Friday, October 30, 2020, the Port Colborne Legion will be selling poppies indoors at 65 various locations across the city, including storefronts, grocery stores and schools. There will be no canvassing of poppies this year. On November 11, 2020 at 11 a.m. the Port Colborne Legion will be hosting a small private Remembrance Day Service for invited guests only. Wreaths will be present for the event, however, they will already be displayed prior to the start of the ceremony. The Port Colborne Legion is currently exploring options to live stream the Remembrance Day Service and more information can be found at

http://portcolborne.ca/page/Remembrance_Day_HH_Knoll.

Christmas in Port Colborne

Tis the season for hot cocoa, snowmen, carolers and rosy cheeks. With less than two months until Christmas, we're busy planning a few activities that are sure to delight. Here's how we're celebrating the festive season this year:

Christmas Market

On Friday, December 11, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. join us at the Market Square for Port Colborne's first ever Christmas Market.

Featuring various retail and artisan vendors selling their products, this is the perfect opportunity to look for unique gifts this holiday season. The Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services team will also be at the Christmas Market collecting unwrapped toys for their annual holiday toy drive in support of Port Cares.

Downtown Christmas Light Display

In partnership with the Port Colborne Downtown BIA, we're inviting businesses and storefronts across Port Colborne to decorate in the most festive way they know how. There is no such thing as too many twinkle lights! All businesses who decorate this year will be entered into a light display contest with the winner being chosen by the community. Decorations must be up by Thursday, December 10, with voting taking place December 11-19. For businesses interested in entering, please email eventservices@portcolborne.ca and we will include you in the online voting process. For full details and how to enter, please visit:

http://portcolborne.ca/page/Christmas_in_Port_Colborne.

Home for the Holidays: Decorating Contest

Calling all Clark Griswolds...we're looking for the best holiday decorations in town! Port Colborne residents are invited to **#PORTicipate** in their very own home decorating contest. With multiple categories, including best lawn display, house lights, balcony and door display (for those who live in apartment buildings), we want to see your holiday spirit! Entries must be submitted by Thursday, December 10, with voting happening December 11-19.

Christmas at the Museum

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum will be spreading Christmas cheer on Sunday, December 6, with our Grand Old Christmas at Home Kits. More details on the kits, and how to purchase and pick them up will be available soon. Although things will be different this year, rest assured the museum grounds will be decorated and the holiday spirit will be flowing.

After many long distance conversations with Santa, it's been decided, the health and safety of Port Colborne residents is our top priority, therefore the Santa Claus parade has been canceled this year. Don't worry, we're still chatting with Santa and hoping he'll make an appearance this holiday season, even if it's a virtual one. Stay tuned for more details!

For more information on Christmas in Port Colborne, including full contest rules and regulations, please visit

http://portcolborne.ca/page/Christmas_in_Port_Colborne.





PORT COLBORNE
• PUBLIC LIBRARY •

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310 King Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4H1 | 905-834-6512 | www.portcolbornelibrary.org

@PortColbornePublicLibrary @PortColborneLib @PortColborneLib PortColbornePublicLibrary

Temporary Hours at the Library

Monday - Friday | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Library staff are onsite to answer your phone calls and to schedule curbside pick-up, public computer, and book-browsing appointments.

Please note the following:

- The book drop is open 24/7 to return your books and library materials
- All fines will be waived on items due during the closure
- If you don't have a library card, visit our website to register online
- There are currently no in-person programs or meetings
- If you need help, please call or email us and we will respond to your questions as soon as possible. Stay safe! We will see you soon
- **REMINDER: the Niagara Region's Mandatory Face Covering By-law is in effect. To enter the Library you are required to wear a mask or face-covering.**

Curbside pickup is available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m. — 3 p.m. For more information visit, www.portcolbornelibrary.org



Book Browsing

By appointment or walk-in by capacity. Available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. To schedule your 30-minute book-browsing appointment, email library@portcolborne.ca or call 905-834-6512.

Your Library is Growing! We're Joining the Libraries in Niagara Cooperative Family

Starting this November, we are joining the Libraries in Niagara Cooperative (LiNC) which is a group of Niagara Region libraries, including Niagara College, who have come together to improve library services in the community. We are also migrating to a new library system called Evergreen. This new system will enhance your overall online book browsing experience.

Which libraries already belong to LiNC?

Fort Erie Public Library • Lincoln Public Library • Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library
• Pelham Public Library • Thorold Public Library • West Lincoln Public Library • Niagara College Libraries

What does this mean for Port Colborne Public Library cardholders?

- Your Port Colborne Library card will work at any of the LiNC partner libraries listed above
- You can visit partner libraries to access most of their materials
- Starting in 2021, we will be able to share resources between LiNC libraries
- That also means that you will have shorter wait times for books on hold

For more information, contact us at 905-834-6512.



SEWING 101

Universal Class: Free Continuing Education Courses

Enroll in your choice of over 500 personal and professional development courses. Learn at your own pace and print certificates of achievement upon completion. Free with your library card. For example, why not learn how to sew?

NEW RBdigital: E-magazines & Video Streaming Services

With RBdigital you can stream free movies, television shows, documentaries & concerts. RBdigital has over 3,000 digital magazines! Download the RBdigital app to get started. Free with your library card.



PORT COLBORNE
- HISTORICAL & MARINE MUSEUM -

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280 King Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 5X8 | 905-834-7604 | <http://portcolborne.ca/page/museum>

@PortColborneHistoricalMarineMuseum @PortMuseum @portcolbornemuseum

Book a Safe Service

Museum staff are inviting the community to Book A Safe Service (B.A.S.S.). If you have eagerly been waiting to see our newest exhibits, "A Village by the Canal," and "Judging", or shop in our gift shop or do research at the archives, this is your opportunity. With B.A.S.S. you can call the museum at **905-834-7604** and book a time to come in. We are booking 45 minute appointments of no more than 4 guests, with sanitization taking place in between each appointment.

Contact us today to book your service:

- Guided Tours
- Heritage Research
- Gift Shop Browsing
- Picnic Facilities
- Family Outdoor Photos
- Artifact Donations & Membership Renewal



Archives Display



Bill and Lisa view H.M.C.S. Port Colborne

Did you know, two ships in the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War were named for our local communities: H.M.C.S. Port Colborne, a River class frigate, and H.M.C.S. Humberstone, a Castle class corvette? The crews of these vessels were "adopted" by the local community, who sent care packages, letters, and cards. It was a way to provide the crew with some extra comforts and let them know people were thinking about them. These and many more stories of how people reached out to each other at a distance during wartime are still an inspiration to us today.

Free Guided Tours

A long time supporter of the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, Lower Lakes Towing Ltd. have sponsored the cost of all guided tours for the season. Lower Lakes Towing Ltd. grew from its infancy in 1994 as a small tug and barge operator to become one of the largest marine transportation service providers operating on the Great Lakes today. Over the last few decades they have recognized the value of marine history in the community and with their support you can now book a free guided tour at the Museum. On behalf of the Museum Board and Staff, **THANK YOU**, for providing this gift to the Port Colborne community.



**LOWER LAKES
TOWING LTD.**

Here's a sneak peek of what a guided tour looks like:



Photo above: Education Programmer Abbey Stansfield tours Cheryl and Jim through A Village by the Canal.



Photo right: Doug and Vicky from Niagara Falls getting screened outside Museum door.

Remembrance Day

Since this year's Remembrance Day commemorations will be done differently, we at the Port Colborne Museum have decided to mark the occasion with a temporary display of the model of the H.M.C.S. Port Colborne. We want to honour all those who served, not just in the Second World War, by inviting members of the community to come see the model, and do their bit by remembering the sacrifices made by Canadians.

If you would like to see the model, please call **905-834-7604**, Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or email museum@portcolborne.ca for an appointment.



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PORT COLBORNE REMINDERS

Garbage Collection

Just a reminder, Niagara Region has moved to an every-other-week garbage collection in an effort to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills and increase the amount of recyclables and organics diverted from households and businesses. Every week, Port Colborne residents can put out the following: Blue Box, Grey Box, Green Bin and, leaf and yard waste. Starting this week, the week of October 26, Port Colborne residents can put out the following: garbage (2 bag limit), Blue Box, Grey Box, Green Bin and, leaf and yard waste. This will continue moving forward, with garbage being collected every-other-week. For more information, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/> or you can download Niagara Region's waste collection app.



Stay healthy & safe while you

#PORTicipate



Maintain two metres physical separation



Stay home if you are sick



Wash or sanitize hands frequently

Fire Safety

As the weather gets chillier and more activities move indoors, the Fire and Emergency Services team want to remind Port Colborne residents to stay alert and stay in the kitchen while cooking. It's easy to become distracted; don't think it can't happen to you. Be sure to follow them on Facebook for more fire safety tips: <https://www.facebook.com/PortColborneFire/>



Halloween

If you're planning on celebrating Halloween this weekend, please remember to follow the advice from Public Health, including:

- Only go out with members of your household;
- Only trick or treat outside;
- Do not travel outside of your neighbourhood to celebrate Halloween;
- Both trick or treaters and people handing out candy should wear a face covering. A costume mask is not a substitute for a face covering and should not be worn over a face covering as it may make it difficult to breathe;
- Do not congregate or linger at doorsteps and remember to line up two metres apart if waiting. Avoid high-touch surfaces and objects;
- Whether collecting or handing out treats, wash your hands often and thoroughly, or use hand sanitizer;
- Do not leave treats in a bucket or bowl for children to grab and consider using tongs or other similar tools to hand out treats;
- Avoid gatherings with people outside of your household;
- Stay home if you are feeling ill, even if you have mild symptoms, or if you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

Have a safe and fa-BOO-lous time as you **#PORTicipate** this weekend!



Customer Satisfaction Survey How are we doing?



City staff are continuously working to improve customer service and are interested in resident and business feedback, particularly during COVID-19. Have you interacted with us recently? Complete our short customer satisfaction survey to let us know how we are doing. To complete the survey, visit: www.portcolborne.ca/page/customer_service.