



**PORT COLBORNE**

# CITY HALL NEWS

A newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

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

@cityofportcolborne @portcolborne @cityofportcolborne @cityofportcolborne @cityofportcolborne



Natalie Walker, Grade 3  
St. John Bosco School



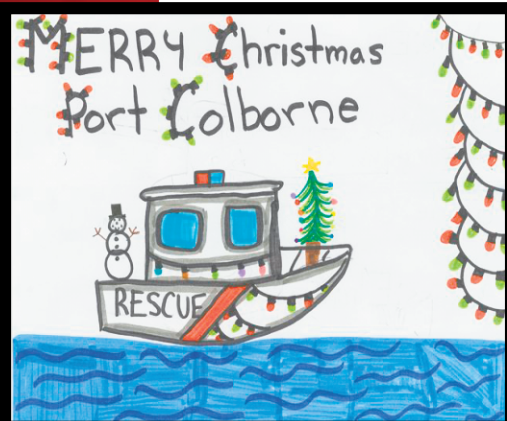
Peyton Thususka, Grade 3  
DeWitt Carter School



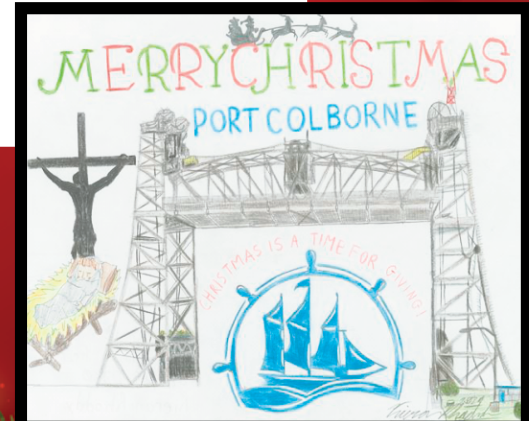
Madelyn Goulding, Grade 6  
DeWitt Carter School

On behalf of members of Port Colborne City Council and staff, may we extend best wishes and a very Merry Christmas during the upcoming holiday season. We know things may look different this year, but we hope you and your family stay healthy and safe this festive season.

Mayor William C. Steele



Ellie Cizmar, Grade 6  
St. John Bosco School



Kieran Rhoddy, Grade 7  
Oakwood Public School



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PORT COLBORNE

### Community Grant Program

**Now accepting applications for 2021!**

The City of Port Colborne welcomes non-profit organizations and service clubs serving the needs of the residents of Port Colborne to apply for a discretionary grant based on the provisions included in the Grant Policy. City Council New this year, City Council approved to **increase the community grant program by 20%**. The City is now able to provide more funds to local non-profit organizations in the community that directly benefit the citizens of Port Colborne and enhance their quality of life, especially during a pandemic.

**Applications are due January 31, 2021.** For more information and how to apply, please visit: <https://www.portcolborne.ca/en/city-hall/non-profit-grants.aspx>

### Thank you!

On behalf of Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services, **THANK YOU** for your generous donations to the annual Toy Drive in support of Port Cares. This has been our best Toy Drive yet!

Also, **THANK YOU** to Port Colborne High School's Broken Spoke program for donating more than 30 refurbished bicycles. Thank you Port Colborne, for helping make a child smile this holiday season.



### Fire Safety Message

**Prevention is the gift that keeps on giving**

In the last few weeks we've noticed an increase in fires in the Port Colborne area. The Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services team would like to remind residents to be fire safety smart, especially this holiday season:

- Keep decorations at least 3 ft from open flame and heat sources
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Never leave a space heater unattended and turn it off if leaving the room or going to sleep
- Water Christmas trees daily and discard them when they are dry and begin dropping needles
- Inspect all decorations to make sure they do not have any frayed or pinched wires
- Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home; be sure to test the alarms every month

**Don't think it can't happen to you! Be safe this holiday season.**

If you need assistance, please contact us at 905-834-4512

### Welland Transit, WellandTrans, TransCab:

Welland Transit will provide regular service on all operating days except; Thursday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31 until 7:30 p.m.

(last departures from Terminal at 7 p.m.). No service on Friday, December 25, Saturday, December 26, and Friday, January 1, 2021.



### Port Colborne Community & Link:

**Port Colborne Community Bus** will provide regular service on all operating days except: No service will be provided on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1, 2021.

**Port Colborne Link** will provide regular service on all operating days except; Thursday, December 24 and Thursday, December 31. The last Welland departure will be at 6 p.m. (6:30 p.m. from Port Colborne). No service will be provided on Friday, December 25, Saturday, December 26, and Friday, January 1, 2021. For more information, please visit [www.niagararegion.ca/transit](http://www.niagararegion.ca/transit).

### Niagara Region Transit Service:

Niagara Region Transit will provide regular service on all operating days except; Thursday, December 24 and December 31 - last Welland departure will be 6 p.m. - arrival in next municipality at 7 p.m. No service on Friday, December 25, Saturday, December 26, and Friday, January 1, 2021 To view all transit information and schedules for Port Colborne, visit <https://www.portcolborne.ca/en/living-here/transit.aspx>

### Notice something new?

**We have a new website! New features include:**

- Requesting a service online
- Community Calendar
- Business Directory (launching mid-January 2021)
- New branding
- Staff Directory
- Accessible website content

Port Colborne residents are encouraged to explore the new website, however, please be mindful City staff are still working through a few bugs and are aware there may be technical issues. We thank you for your patience during this transition.



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## REOPENING PORT COLBORNE

Effective November 16, Port Colborne along with the Niagara region, moved to Orange-Restrict under the Keeping Ontario Safe and Open Framework. As COVID cases continue to rise, we will work with Niagara Region Public Health to communicate new restrictions to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 as they become available.

### Bundle up Niagara!

Together, we can stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community and our workplaces



Monitor your health daily, and stay home if any mild symptoms



Limit your close contacts to your household



Keep 2 metres from everyone else



Wear a face covering



Clean your hands thoroughly and often

### Celebrate the Holidays Safely

The safest way to spend the holidays this year is by only celebrating in-person with those you live with and virtually with everyone else. If you live alone, consider exclusively celebrating with one additional household. To view the Government of Ontario's guidelines for gatherings and winter holiday celebrations, please visit: <http://www.ontario.ca/>

Our actions matter, Port Colborne. Together, we can stop the spread of COVID-19. If you have any symptom of COVID-19, even if it's mild, stay home and get tested.

### Stay healthy & safe while you #PORTicipate



### Holiday Hours and ImPORTant information

#### Committee of the Whole/Council Meeting Schedule:

There are no more regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole/Council meetings for the remainder of December. The first regular scheduled Committee of the Whole and Council meetings of the New Year will take place on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. virtually on the City's YouTube Channel. To view the 2021 Council Calendar, download Meeting Minutes and Agendas, or to livestream meetings, visit <https://www.portcolborne.ca/en/city-hall/council-meetings.aspx>

#### Municipal Offices Holiday Closures:

City of Port Colborne, with the exception of the Operations Centre, Vale Health & Wellness Centre, Fire & Emergency Services, the Museum and the Library, will close for the holiday season on Thursday, December 24, 2020 and will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021.

**The Operations Centre, 1 Killaly Street West, will be closed December 25 and 26, 2020 and January 1, 2021.** In the event of an emergency, such as water main breaks or winter control maintenance, emergency crews are on call for 24 hour service. Call 905-835-5079.

#### The Vale Health & Wellness Centre Holiday Hours:

Thursday, December 24, 2020 | 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday, December 25, 2020 | Closed

Saturday, December 26, 2020 | 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday, December 31, 2020 | 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2021 | Closed

#### The Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum:

The Museum will be closed December 24 - 26, 2020 and January 1 - 3, 2021. A limited number of private exhibit tours will be available December 27 - 30, 2020. Please book ahead by calling 905-834-7604.

#### Port Colborne Public Library Holiday Hours:

The library will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Friday, December 25, 2020 • Saturday, December 26, 2020

Monday, December 28, 2020 • Friday, January 1, 2021

\* The book drop is open 24/7 to return your books and library materials

\* All returns will be quarantined for 96 hours. Fines will be waived on late items.



**PORT COLBORNE**  
• PUBLIC LIBRARY •

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310 King Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 4H1 | 905-834-6512 | [www.portcolbornelibrary.org](http://www.portcolbornelibrary.org)

@PortColbornePublicLibrary @PortColborneLib @PortColborneLib PortColbornePublicLibrary

## Temporary Hours

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

Library staff are onsite to answer your phone calls and to schedule curbside pick-up.

## Holiday Hours

The library will be closed on the following days:

Thursday, December 24

Friday, December 25

Saturday, December 26

Monday, December 28

Friday, January 1



## 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

**Curbside pickup is available Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information visit, [www.portcolbornelibrary.org](http://www.portcolbornelibrary.org).**

## Surprise Gift Bags

You expressed your gratitude for your library, now let us thank you! Swing by the library and pick up your surprise gift bag of gently used books during curbside hours Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Each bag is labelled with a brief description of your surprise books. Please choose only one.

All surprise gift bags have been quarantined for four days and were packed by staff wearing gloves. Available while quantities last.

**Will you wait until Christmas, or will you open yours right away?**



## Enjoy Our New Online Catalogue with Updated Features!

Make carts, book lists, and place holds with our new online catalogue. Your carts and lists can be saved, printed, or shared with others. Check out your new account preferences including the long-requested choice to save your reading history!

**Fines and loan periods are changing.** Some fines and loan periods may change as we align our policies with LiNC standards. Please see our website for a more detailed breakdown of changes to our circulation policy.

## Take & Make Family Craft

### Refrigerator Snowman

Our first take & make craft. A family project, you take your snowman "parts" and, using your refrigerator as the snowman base, assemble your snowman at home. All you need to finish your snowman is a scarf (we suggest a ribbon). Available starting Friday, December 18, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. All craft kits have been quarantined for four days and were packed by staff wearing gloves. Available while quantities last. Ho-Ho-Hope you enjoy it!



## Teen Community Service Hours

Teens! Do you want to earn community service hours from the comfort of your home? We are looking for guest reviewers to read and write book reviews. Each approved book review will earn you five hours of community service! Items being reviewed must meet the following criteria:

- Books can be fiction or non-fiction, and in book, e-book, or audiobook format
- Must be available through Port Colborne Public Library
- Must be published within the past two years
- Must be an appropriate reading level

For more information on how to register, please email: [library@portcolborne.ca](mailto:library@portcolborne.ca)

## E-Resources

Did you know you can access free ebooks, audiobooks, online courses, digital magazines and streaming video through your Port Colborne Public Library? All you need is a library card.



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## SnowPORTant Information

### A Guide to Winter Control Services in the City of Port Colborne

#### Winter Control Service Levels

The City of Port Colborne maintains all roads based on a priority system. Roads are classified into Primary Roads, Secondary Roads and Laneways.

Our main objective during a snow event is to keep Primary Roads clear for emergency services and to maintain safe, passable school bus routes. Only after these roads are deemed clear, our plowing and sanding operations commence on Secondary Roads. Laneways are cleared when Primary and Secondary Roads are completed. It is the City's goal to plow all Primary and Secondary Roads in less than 24 hours from the end of a snowfall.

#### What is a Primary Road?

For the purposes of winter control, a Primary Road is an arterial road upon which higher volume of traffic travels on and provides access to most residential secondary roads.

#### What is a Secondary Road?

A Secondary Road is any other road not designated as a Primary Road and not a Laneway. These roads carry a low volume of traffic in both urban and rural areas of the City.

#### What is a Laneway?

A Laneway is a designated municipal rear laneway.

Road Class		Primary Road	Secondary Road	Laneway
Start Winter Control Operations	Snow Depth	8 cm (3 in.)	8 cm (3 in.)	10 cm (4 in.)
Clear Within	Time Frame	12 hours	16 hours	24 hours
Treat Icy Roadways	Time Frame	8 hours	12 hours	16 hours

#### Know your neighbourhood.

The City clears snow and ice from municipal roads only. Roads owned by the Regional Municipality of Niagara or the Ministry Transportation are cleared by their crews and/or contractors.

#### Frigid Facts:

- The City of Port Colborne has 279 km of road way (110 km urban and 169 km rural), or 520 lane km.
- For the purpose of snow plowing, the municipality is divided into eight plowing routes with a snow clearing vehicle assigned to each route.
- The total lane km for each route varies from 33 km to 97 km.
- Each plow route takes approximately six to eight hours to complete, depending on weather, traffic available staff, equipment, and the number of vehicles parked on the road ways. For each plow route, the primary roads must be completed before the secondary routes.

#### CLEAR A SPACE!

**Winter Parking** – Parked cars make plowing difficult and sometimes impossible. If you park on the road during a snowfall, you could be towed! If your vehicle is parked illegally, you will be issued a \$75 ticket along with a purple tow notice. Towing will occur between one hour to 24 hours after the notice, depending on the severity of the storm and interference with snow removal. With your help, winter maintenance crews can plow snow faster and more efficiently, and reduce the chances of your car getting stuck in a snowdrift. What to do when you don't have a driveway or more cars than off-street parking spaces? Move your vehicle to an alternate location until the streets have been cleared so they do not interfere with plowing.

**Note:** If you have a utility or mailbox, a catch basin or fire hydrant in front of your property clear a space around it. Accidents and emergencies happen, let's work together to avoid them!



**Driveway Snow Clearing** – When shoveling your driveway it is suggested you pile the snow on the right side of your driveway when facing the road, if possible. This helps reduce the amount of snow created by the snow plow at the end of your driveway. Snow plows have no place to push the snow except to the curb or shoulder of the road. Sometimes this happens just after you have finished shoveling. City staff appreciate that this can be frustrating, however; we ask your cooperation in clearing the snow without placing it on the roadway. It is illegal to push snow from your property onto the street (Highway Traffic Act

R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, section 181). If you hire a private contractor to clear your driveway, make sure the contractor does not push snow into the travelled portion of the roadway or fill in the sidewalks.

**Sidewalk Snow Removal** - In Port Colborne, every Owner or Occupant of a building is responsible for clearing the sidewalks of all snow and ice abutting their property within 24 hours of the completion of a snow event. This allows the safe passage of all pedestrians. If you are renting a property, please make necessary arrangements with your Landlord regarding snow removal. Those who do not comply may face fines or have the snow and ice removed at the owner's expense.

To view our Most Frequently Requested By-Law, visit: <https://www.portcolborne.ca/en/living-here/winter-control.aspx> As always you may call the By-law Department at 905-835-2900 ext. 207 to ask questions or discuss an issue.

To register a complaint, email [bylawenforcement@portcolborne.ca](mailto:bylawenforcement@portcolborne.ca) with the address of the complaint area and type of complaint. Generalized complaints, including reference to an entire block, cannot be filed.

#### Consider being a Snow Buddy!

After a snow event, a neighbor might need your help! Snow Buddies is a local organization that is always looking to place volunteers with those who need winter help. Volunteer by calling 905-682-3800 ext. 35.

#### 72 Hours. Is your Family Prepared?

Log on to [www.getprepared.ca](http://www.getprepared.ca) to make sure you have the tools needed to keep yourself, your loved ones, and your property safe during a winter emergency.

#### PORTicipate & Tune In

The City of Port Colborne notifies local media about municipal closures and road safety information. Be sure to like us on Facebook and Instagram, follow us on Twitter, and sign up for the news channel on our website by visiting <https://www.portcolborne.ca/en/city-hall/city-hall-news.aspx> to stay up-to-date on all winter control services provided by the City, and more!