



MAYOR'S REPORT – MARCH 25, 2019

TOP HAT CEREMONY

On Friday, the Welland Canal officially opened and we celebrated with our traditional Top Hat Ceremony. I would like to thank the members of the Fair Trade Committee for providing a great pancake breakfast and to Bremfields, Smokin' Buddha and the Green Apple Café for their contributions. Special thanks to the students from McKay Public School for providing musical entertainment as well as assisting with the breakfast.

Captain Croucher of the Algoma Spirit was our guest of honour being the first downbound vessel. I understand that he received a second Top Hat for being the first vessel to enter Hamilton Harbour. He had a busy weekend.

The Welland Canal is at the forefront of Niagara's transportation infrastructure.

Going forward we want to return Port Colborne to an important location within the Seaway, where marine related businesses can flourish and young adults can look to the marine business to make their living as our forefathers did many years ago.

Through strong partnerships with those in the marine industry we continue to create opportunities for marine related development within the Seaway trade corridor and within our City.

ROUNDTABLE WITH MP VANCE BADAWEY

We recently hosted a roundtable discussion with MP Vance Badawey and members from local and regional government, businesses and chamber of commerce.

Through discussion, we determined we need to move forward to develop strong trade corridors that will benefit businesses in our communities.

All participants are eager to continue the discussion and to move forward with a Niagara Trades Corridor Strategy and the creation of the Port of Niagara.

The City of Port Colborne takes seriously our responsibility to work with the marine industry to enable them to move their goods through the marine system in an efficient and economical manner.

News of our meeting has reached the Chamber of Marine Commerce on-line news and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Review magazine.

GREAT LAKE PROFESSIONAL PILOTS ASSOCIATION

I would like to extend my appreciation to Mike Kilpatrick of the Great Lakes Professional Pilots Association for the invitation to attend their annual dinner last Friday.

They have offered their support of our initiatives in creating a Port of Niagara.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

As discussed at our last meeting, I spoke with the Acting CAO of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Gayle Woods, about timing for replies to applications from the City. Ms. Woods has assured me that she will be implementing changes for all parties in order that we can make informed decisions in a timely manner on all planning applications.

LEISURE GUIDE

Our Spring and Summer Leisure Guide has just been released and registration is open for all programs. Copies were delivered last week in the newspaper and are available at all City facilities.

These programs fill up quickly so don't delay – get out and PORTicipate!

NEW FUNDING

Last week we received notification from the Federal and Provincial Governments that we will be receiving one time funds. The Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing fund is \$711,467 and the Federal Gas Tax Fund is \$586,822.

These funds must be used for new initiatives such as service delivery, infrastructure, sharing partnerships that will help reduce costs to our ratepayers.

I met with senior staff on Friday and asked them to investigate projects that fit with the government's initiatives and bring back a report that we can discuss in order to move forward.