



MAYOR'S REPORT

JUNE 8, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop... And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land." Martin Luther King Jr. In his last speech.

Tonight we stand united as a council and as a community denouncing unequivocally racism and discrimination.

We know that in Canada we have our own issues of discrimination based upon skin colour, ancestry, language, sexual orientation or the religion we practice.

We as a society need to always do better

We as a society must stand together with our brothers and sisters in peaceful protest to show our message of anti racism, anti hate and the right to justice for all.

Over the last few weeks I was proud to raise our new Age Friendly flag for senior's month and our Pride Flag honouring Pride month and our LGBTQ community.

Over this last weekend we witnessed 2 marches in Niagara that saw thousands of people gather peacefully and show support against racism and discrimination. As a member of Regional Council as well as Niagara's Police Services Board I was proud of how Canadians can show their support in such a peaceful manner. I thank Police Chief MacCulloch for his comment and I quote "I think it is important that we are here with the community, listening to the community and showing our support and solidarity.

As I opened with a quote from Dr. King- Tonight we as a Council will get to the Promised Land and do what ever we can to eliminate racism and discrimination for all.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Good evening and welcome to our third virtual council meeting.

I am here in the council chambers with our CAO Scott Luey, Clerk Amber LaPointe, Deputy Clerk Charlotte Madden and a member of Wee Stream who are live streaming this meeting for us. I would like to welcome our eight city councillors and various city directors who are each attending from home.

City Hall and almost all of our facilities remain closed to the public.

Staff have been working with members of our Emergency Operations Centre on recovery plans for a safe and gradual reopening once we get the go ahead from the Province of Ontario and our Emergency Operations Centre determines that it is safe to open our facilities to staff and members of the public.

In the meantime, we will continue to find new ways to deliver services to you.

We ask for your patience while we all work together for a safe and gradual return of services.

Activities that have reopened in Phase One

The provincial government remains in Phase One of its recovery plan. Some restrictions have been lifted allowing our municipality to reopen some amenities.

- Our marina reopened to existing customers.
- Our tennis/pickle ball courts reopened.
- The Elm Street leash free dog park is open.
- Our Library opened for curbside pickup.
- The Algoport Skateboard and BMX Park reopened.
- Cedar Bay/Centennial beaches continue to be open for passive use only – meaning you can walk the beach, not sit on the beach.

Parks remain open for passive use which includes:

- Shoreline fishing, including H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park
- Bringing a chair or blanket to relax in parks
- Kicking a ball, playing catch, flying a kite and other such activities with members of your own household
- Use of basketball and soccer nets with members of your own household at community parks (excluding the Vale Health & Wellness Centre/T.A. Lannan Sports Complex)
- Individual activities such as yoga or exercising provided not in a group or class

We are working on a plan to reopen the Farmers' Market and we will keep you advised as this moves forward.

On June 2nd the provincial government extended its emergency orders to June 30th. As such, we must still abide by restrictions limiting groups to no more than five people.

Anyone taking advantage of these spaces are to follow the best practices as outlined by Niagara Region Public Health to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

These include frequent washing/sanitizing of hands, physical separation, avoid touching of shared surfaces and staying home if displaying symptoms or having been in contact with cases of the virus.

Organized sports are still restricted on municipal fields, given their necessity for gathering in groups.

At this time, park and outdoor amenities such as playground equipment, benches, outdoor fitness equipment, municipal beaches, washroom facilities, and the spray pad will remain closed.

By-law enforcement will continue to enforce gatherings larger than five people, dogs off-leash, and anyone using closed park amenities.

Curbside Pick-up

In order to support our local businesses with curbside deliveries, we have installed 15-minute curbside pick-up zone temporary signage in the downtown core for residents and visitors to use.

Since Main Street has no on-street parking, curbside pick up locations have been created in parking lots along Main Street.

Please watch for these signs when parking and be mindful they are there to help your local businesses.

Residents and visitors interested in supporting local businesses are also encouraged to visit <https://resilient.portcolborne.ca/> to learn which Port Colborne businesses are open and how they are adapting services.

Port Colborne businesses are also encouraged to visit this website to add their business and service offerings.

Public Health Statistics

Niagara Region Public Health continues to provide COVID-19 statistics as they relate to each municipality. They can be viewed on the Niagara Region website at their COVID-19 link.

Statistics for Port Colborne remain very low with no active cases as of last Friday, but we need to remain focused on proper precautions.

Celebrating June

We have faced a lot of uncertainty in the past months and June has brought us several reasons to celebrate.

June is Recreation and Parks Month. With the warmer weather here, the City is encouraging residents to enjoy some much-needed activity by getting outside to enjoy the current amenities open in Port Colborne. In celebration of recreation and parks month, the City of Port Colborne's parks and recreation division will be providing the community with a new opportunity each week throughout the month of June, encouraging residents to PORTicipate. Check out our website for this week's challenge and a chance to win a PORTicipate prize pack.

June is Pride Month and the City of Port Colborne participated in a virtual flag raising ceremony to celebrate with Pride Niagara and all residents of the Niagara Region. We are proud to be part of Team Pride Niagara.

June is Senior's Month. The City of Port Colborne has a large seniors population and we thank you for being part of our community. Remember to stay connected to our seniors.

Closing

In closing, we must remain vigilant in fighting this virus.

Our number one priority is the health and safety of our citizens as we begin a safe and gradual reopening of services and business activities. Please stay safe.