



## MAYOR'S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

### **Public Meeting on the Future of Specialized Transit in Niagara**

Niagara Region is holding two Public Information Sessions on the future of Specialized Transit in Niagara.

Discussion items include, single point of contact for bookings, single application process, use of current and emerging technologies, use of taxi and ridesharing services.

Each session will include a 20-minute presentation followed by a discussion/question and answer period.

Region staff will be available to answer your questions and hear your feedback.

The meetings are this week.

Wednesday September 25 from 5-7 at the Holiday Inn St. Catharines, 327 Ontario Street

Thursday September 26 5-6 at the MacBain Community Centre, 7150 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls

If you or a loved one has an interest in the future of specialized transit in Niagara, I encourage you to attend one of these sessions.

### **Port Colborne Volunteers**

We currently have 530 volunteers registered with the City who contributed over 9,000 hours of service in 2018.

Last week 250 of our volunteers attended an appreciation dinner at the Italian Hall.

They were thanked for their contributions to helping us get things done here in Port Colborne and special recognition was given to those celebrating 5 to 40 years of service.

There are lot of photos up on our website of this great evening.

## **Fire Prevention Week and Touch-a-Truck open house**

Port Colborne's annual Fire Prevention Week open house is bigger and better this year with the addition of Touch-a-Truck next door at the Engineering and Operation Centre.

On Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. families are invited to the Port Colborne Fire Hall and Engineering and Operations Centre to learn more about fire prevention and city operations.

Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services will be offering activities including fire escape routes, fire truck tours, target practice with a fire hose and a live burn cell demonstration to ensure everyone is fire safe.

Touch-a-truck offers a chance to show and teach the community about the equipment city staff use on a daily basis to serve the residents of Port Colborne.

We hope you will join us.

## **Port Colborne Urgent Care**

Last week the Niagara Health System issued a media release announcing that the new South Niagara Hospital was listed by Infrastructure Ontario in their Market Update for Projects in Pre-Procurement.

It stated that they will start issuing Requests for Qualifications in spring 2021 and issuing Request for Proposals in winter 2021 with a financial close in 2022.

The next day a media report came out stating that when the new hospital opens, the urgent care centres in Port Colborne and Fort Erie would be closed.

In September 2012 Dr. Kevin Smith, then Supervisor of the Niagara Health System submitted a Report to The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on Restructuring of the Niagara Health System. On page 37 under "Future Siting Options", the recommendation was:

In addition to the St. Catharines site currently under construction, the NHS should:

- Construct a new general acute care hospital in "South Niagara";
- Locate two free standing Urgent Care Centres in "South Niagara";
- Close the existing sites in Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Welland; and
- Relocate the Nurse-Practitioner-led walk in clinic and Family Health Program to a suitable location with much lower operating costs than the existing site in Niagara-on-the-Lake with the closure of that site when complex continuing care can be consolidated to other sites.

On page 41 of the report, it speaks to how they reached this decision.

**The Interim Recommendation by the NHS was:**

- The recommendation of the Mayors of the “Southern Tier” with input from the Regional Chair be utilized to determine:
  - The location of the new hospital in the “South”;
  - The location of a stand-alone “new” Urgent Care Centre; and,
  - Population density and access should be the primary consideration in determining location.

**Local Response to this Recommendation was:**

- The unanimous recommendation of the Mayors of the Southern Region (6 in total) and Regional Chair follows:
  - “2 Geographic areas, being described as QEW & Lyons Creek area, and East Main Street and Highway 140 area be considered as short-listed locations for the proposed development of a south Niagara hospital complex, conditional that Urgent Care Centres continue to operate in Port Colborne and Fort Erie. I cannot stress enough that the southern mayors are unanimous in their support of a south Niagara hospital being built.”

**Final Recommendation was:**

- Following significant deliberations, considering external expertise and in keeping with alternatives approved by the Mayors and Regional Chair, the final recommendation, subject to approval by the Ministry, is to build the new facility in the QEW and Lyons Creek area of Niagara. Two additional free standing UCC’s, site and location to be determined, can be supported. Hours of operation should be in keeping with patient volume and other provincial practice.

There have been no further discussions with the NHS on where the two free standing Urgent Care Centres will be located.

We will continue to ensure that residents of Port Colborne have access to health care services in and close to our community.