



Deputy Mayor's Report to the
March 14, 2016 Council Meeting

Mayor Maloney

I am pleased to report that the Mayor is progressing well with his rehabilitation and we hope to have him back here soon.

Minister Leal

The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Jeff Leal, visited Port Colborne on February 29th with the province's chequebook in hand.

The City of Port Colborne will be receiving \$2 million towards the cost of designing and installing a complete storm sewer system to facilitate the remediation of the Nickel Street area.

There are over 300 commercial and residential properties in the Nickel Street area that are directly impacted by the inadequacies of the 1929 era storm sewer system.

We look forward to completing this project over the next 18 months.

Minister Leal then travelled to Welland to meet with area Mayors and Councillors, as well as the youth of our communities, to discuss engaging youth in civic leadership roles, developing youth or job strategies and learn about barriers facing youth in rural communities.

Although it wasn't reported in the two previous media accounts, I am pleased to say that Port Colborne was well represented around with the table with three members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee, Stefanie Klingbeil the Chairman, Katie Cornwall and Stefanie's sister and students from Port Colborne High School and Lakeshore Catholic High School, as well as Councillor Yvon Doucet.

Physician Recruitment in Port Colborne

At the February 22 council meeting, Joanne Ferraccioli, our Health Services Coordinator was asked to send a letter to the LHIN expressing our concern that our community was not listed on the Ministry's list of communities in need of doctors, thus restricting us from bringing new doctors in to our family health organizations.

I am pleased to report that the letter was sent and last week we received news that the City of Port Colborne is now on the list and we are actively recruiting new physicians.

If you do not have a family doctor, we encourage you to contact Joanne here at City Hall and get your name on a list.

Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

This year we had four businesses nominated in various categories for Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

Andy Veenstra of Andy Veenstra Farms Ltd. was chosen as Agricultural Entrepreneur of the Year and Wayne Elliott of Raw Materials Co. Ltd. was chosen as Environmental Entrepreneur of the Year.

Congratulations everyone around the Region who was nominated or who won.

We are fortunate to have so many enterprising individuals and businesses at our door step.

Tyler Crooks

Tomorrow we will be hanging yellow ribbons on the lamp posts in front of City Hall, as we have done every year since 2009, when Corporal Tyler Crooks lost his life in Afghanistan.

These yellow ribbons symbolize our remembrance of Tyler and his ultimate sacrifice while serving his country.

I would like to ask everyone to stand for a moment of silence as we remember Corporal Tyler Crooks.

Stand for one minute.

Thank you.

Sit.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the awards banquet for the Great Ontario Junior Hockey League, Golden Horseshoe Conference.

There they presented the city sponsored Tyler Crooks Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship is awarded to the player who demonstrates three qualities that emulate those of Tyler Crooks – excellence in education, excellence and leadership in hockey and strong community involvement.

Each of the eight teams submits one candidate and a selection committee then decides.

The winner this year was Sean Farquarson of the Niagara Falls Canucks.

Congratulations Sean.

Census 2016

We have been notified by Statistics Canada that they will be hiring about 35,000 people across the country to assist in the collection of the census in 2016.

If you are looking for part-time work over the next few months, check out their website at census.gc.ca.

We would also encourage all of our residents to complete the census forms you receive in the mail.

The data collected helps us plan, develop and evaluate programs and services in our community.

Goodwill Niagara

I had the pleasure earlier today to meet with Laura Hills and Bob Romeo of Goodwill Niagara. Laura is the President and CEO and Bob is the Director of Marketing.

You may have seen previously in the paper that they are opening a new store here in Port Colborne in the former Staples building on Westside Road.

They are planning for an April opening.

I have asked them to come to the next council meeting to let us know a bit more about Goodwill Niagara and the programs and services they can provide to our community, over and above the store front.