



Deputy Mayor's Report to the
March 29, 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.

Opening of the Welland Canal

Last week saw the opening of the Welland Canal.

We welcomed Captain Josh Penney and Chief Engineer Gerald Flynn of the tug and barge, Victorious and John J. Carrick into Lock 8 for our annual top hat ceremony.

Their vessel is owned by McAsphalt Marine Transportation Ltd. and was heading to Hamilton.

I would like to thank our Fair Trade Committee members – Jane Nigh, Nancy Salvage, Rosemary Armstrong and Lisa Bowers for putting on an excellent Fair Trade pancake breakfast.

A special thanks to the other local businesses – Bremfields, Smokin' Buddha, Bodners, Agape Valley, ADM Milling and Ten Thousand Villages for their support with the breakfast.

Over 100 people attend on that chilly morning.

If you missed the breakfast this year, they plan to be back next year.

Thanks also to St. James St. Brendan Anglican Church for a fun filled Mariner's Service the night before.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the sailors and their families as they head into the 2016 season.

Water Budget

On Monday, March 21st we held a special meeting of council concerning the water/wastewater budget. There will be an average annual increase of \$35 per household or \$8.75 per quarter or 2.58% increase.

The report, which can be found on our website, was passed by council with some funds coming from reserves to cover major work currently being completed around the city, namely completing the Lakeshore Road watermain, replacement of frozen services and water meter replacements, new west side bulk water station, start of Elm St watermain and storm sewer outlet

I do want to point out that there was a second report dealing with a fixed charge for storm sewer drainage fees for future new and replacement of storm sewers in the urban area.

This report calls for a couple of public meetings over the next six months to receive your input, so please go to our website, read the report and make sure you come out to the public meetings.

Council received this report for information purposes only.

These proposed charges, if passed by council, would not be implemented until 2017.

Door to Door Salesmen

Residents have recently contacted the City about door-to-door water filtration marketers who have been visiting homes in Port Colborne and asking to check people's water shut offs and water meters, and trying to sell them filters.

Some residents indicate that the marketers are implying that Health Canada requires these filters and are also implying that the City's drinking water is somehow compromised, and that a filtration system is required to further treat the water.

The City would like to reassure residents that the water delivered to their homes meets or exceeds strict provincial guidelines and is safe to drink.

Residents concerned about the safety of their water are asked to contact the Public Works Department at 905-835-5079.

There are no City staff going door-to-door presently; however Neptune Technology Group is currently replacing water meters throughout the City.

Neptune staff are wearing Neptune uniforms and carry Neptune ID, and will have a Neptune placard on their vehicle.

Neither the City nor its contractor is selling or installing filters, nor is it mandated by Health Canada that residents install these filters.

There was also a further complaint to the city about door-to-door salespersons wanting to inspect furnaces and hot water tanks and telling residents that they are obsolete and need to be replaced.

Should any residents feel uncomfortable with a door-to-door marketer's sales approach, they should contact the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services.

The City cannot contact the Ministry to complain on a resident's behalf; the resident that was approached by the company must make the complaint before the Ministry will investigate.

It's important to remember that you do not have to allow a salesperson to enter your home, nor should you unless you are confident in the credentials and intentions of the person at your door.

Should you have any apprehension, suspicions or uneasy feelings about the salesperson's credibility or motive, it's best that you do not let them in your house and ask them to leave the property.

In the event, that the salesperson refuses to leave the property upon request, or attempts to force their way into your home, you should call the police.

Southern Tier Mayors' Luncheon

The area Chambers of Commerce hosted the Southern Tier Mayors' Luncheon at the Italian Hall last week.

It was well attended and provided each of us with an opportunity to let business leaders know what is happening in our communities and in South Niagara as a whole.

Port Cares Fundraiser

I would like to thank the members of the Port Colborne Fire Department and employees of Sobey's for the great food drive and BBQ that was held over the Easter weekend to support the Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

On Thursday and Saturday they raised \$4,400 and filled two trucks full of food donations.

Thank you to everyone in Port Colborne who supported this great cause.

Federal Budget

The Federal budget was announced last week and council will be working with our Directors to ensure that the City of Port Colborne applies for any new funding programs that have become available.

It will take a bit of time for the details of these programs to be announced, however, we plan to be ready to apply and with the assistance of our MP, Mr. Badawey, benefit from these funds.

Regional Council

I attended my first Regional Council meeting on March 24th and my first regional committee meetings earlier today.

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