



## PORT COLBORNE

Mayor's Report to the  
January 23, 2017 Council Meeting

### **Picture of Prime Minister Trudeau**

You may have noticed we now have the official photo of Prime Minister Trudeau hanging in our council chambers.

As is tradition when there is a change in the political leadership of our country, our sitting member of Parliament presents us with the official photo of the Prime Minister.

I would like to thank MP Vance Badawey for providing us with this.

### **Nickel Street Fire**

As you are all aware, we had a serious fire on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 with the loss of four lives.

I would like to acknowledge and commend members of the Port Colborne Fire Department and Operations Department staff, Niagara Regional Police, Niagara EMS, for their assistance during this very difficult period for our community.

As well, thank you for the many donations from members of the community to these groups during the days immediately following the fire while these individuals were still on site.

### **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority**

Pursuant to council's direction, letters were sent to the Premier Kathleen Wynne, and Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Auditor General of Ontario expressing concern about the operations of the NPCA and requesting a forensic audit.

At the Board Meeting of January 18<sup>th</sup>, the NPCA passed a motion to conduct an independent, Phase 1 operational review and performance assessment from 2011 - 2016.

A low estimate of the costs would be between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

There are a number of items for discussion on this issue.

### **Pedestrian Activated Crosswalk**

I would like to extend our appreciation to the Region of Niagara for the completion of the pedestrian activated crosswalk which now allows our residents to safely cross Main Street (Hwy 3) at Wellington Street.

For those travelling in the area, please use extra care when approaching the crosswalk.

I understand from speaking with Councillors Desmarais and Doucet that this crosswalk is very appreciated by the residents.

### **Upcoming Budget Meetings**

Starting on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m., council will be holding our first in a series of budget meetings to establish the city's working budget for 2017.

These meetings are open to the public.

As with every council meeting, if a member of the public wishes to make a presentation at this meeting, you must contact the Clerk's Office.

You can also check our website for a listing of subsequent meetings.

### **Welland Canal Fencing**

Last year we wrote to the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation with our concerns about the new security fencing that was installed along the Welland Canal in Port Colborne.

MP Badawey has also raised our concerns with the Seaway.

The Seaway, in their letter to us of July 26<sup>th</sup>, has said that "the chain link fence currently installed is the most "see through" style of fencing so as not to obscure the view of the canal."

The areas of most concern are lands on the east side of the canal bordering onto Canal Road and Welland Street below the Clarence Street Bridge and Bridge 19A.

This area was designed and is used as an operational area for tying up vessels, as well as an approach wall to guide ships into Lock 8 (vessel interchange). Security regulations require that all interchange points be secure in order to facilitate the operations."

They do go on to say “when practicable to undertake the design and location of fencing that balances the primary need of security with aesthetics.

That being said, do we want the Seaway to change this fencing and if so exactly what alterations we would like to see to the existing fencing i.e. locations and type of fencing?

### **Sportsfest**

While we haven’t really experienced much of a winter yet this year, our upcoming Sportsfest festival is designed to get residents out and enjoying some fun activities to break up the winter blues.

The brochure is now available on the City’s website.

Activities include the Mayor’s Cup Hockey Tournament, volleyball, lacrosse, snow golf (if we get any snow), soup and chili cook-offs, a bike race, trap & skeet shoot, music trivia as well as free family skating and free family activities at the YMCA.

I hope everyone will get out and PORTicipate in these activities. If you have any questions, you can contact Mr. Hakim and our Community Services department at any time leading up to the events.