

City Hall News

A Newsletter written by Staff for the Residents of Port Colborne

January 2009

Welcome to the City of Port Colborne Newsletter



City Council recently endorsed the circulation of a regular newsletter to the citizens of Port Colborne.

City Hall News will update Port Colborne residents about "what's going on" at City Hall.

We are confident that City Hall News will enhance communication with our residents. It is extremely important that our residents are well informed about the great deal of activity the City is currently involved in. The growth of our community is dependant upon all of us working together toward common goals. However, it all starts with consistent communication.

This first edition of City Hall News provides updates on initiatives such as the revitalization strategy outlined in the recently adopted Community Improvement Plan for the Main Street area of the City and the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) program intended to identify extraneous wastewater flows in the sewer system to hopefully provide for separation of sewer and storm water. There is also information related to Building Permits, Dog Licensing, Library Hours, 2009 Marina Dockage Rates, and other City-Business information.

An e-version of City Hall News will be available on the City's new website planned for release around January 28, 2009. While you are exploring the City's newly designed website, don't forget to sign up to Port Colborne's event email club!

If there is information you would like to see in future issues of City Hall News, please feel free to email us at newsletter@portcolborne.ca.

NEW Website Launch www.portcolborne.ca

The City of Port Colborne is intending to release a new website on or around January 28, 2009. During the Strategic Planning process it was identified as a priority to refresh the design and include features that were not specified or available on the previous sites. A second goal identified and achieved was the combining of six City websites into a one stop shopping experience. The City of Port Colborne website, at www.portcolborne.ca, will continue to include all City business including the Marina and at the same time include www.pcetdc.ca, www.roselawncentre.com, www.carbohydratevalley.ca, www.canaldays.ca and www.experienceportcolborne.com.

The new site will retain the wealth of information collected in previous years and displayed on the earlier websites.

The latest website takes advantage of new internet technology.

The new site has a clean, crisp graphical interface and uses the latest Web technologies. A browser-based Content Management System will allow the site to be updated on demand, hourly if necessary.

The site is designed to attract local citizens, tourists and those investigating business opportunities, along with preserve our marine heritage.

Interesting features include Quick Links, Popular Pages, External Links, an Events Calendar and a place to sign up on-line to receive e-mails from the City of Port Colborne.

The first City website was launched in 1997 and has continually grown to meet the needs of the community. Websites are dynamic tools that change as new technology becomes available and demands are increased in the service delivery areas.

The new site is a wonderful blend of graphics combined with ease of use, searching and minimal number of clicks.

As this information is available 24/7, it is hopeful that this site will provide the first point of contact when searching for City information.



COMING SOON....

Port Colborne Specialized Transit

A partnership of Port Cares, the Canadian Red Cross and the LHIN (Local Health Integration Network) will soon be offering Specialized Transit service in the City of Port Colborne and Township of Wainfleet.

Eligibility

The Red Cross Port Colborne Accessible Specialized Transit provides curb-to-curb transportation intended for Seniors 55+, persons with age accelerating conditions or disabled persons, not limited to functional mobility. This program will operate within the Port Colborne and Wainfleet areas only.

Trip Types

Include medical, shopping, social, compassionate, Day Programs.

Fees

Clients pay a \$2.00 ticket fee for each one way trip.

Days and Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm
NO SERVICE available on weekends or Statutory Holidays

For Further Information, or to register, Call: The Canadian Red Cross at 905-680-4099

Applications can be picked up at Port Cares or downloaded online at Port Cares website, www.portcares.on.ca

Message from the Chief Administrative Officer



Communication and transfer of information is an extremely valuable component of good government. This newsletter is intended to help the residents of the City of Port Colborne, from Cement Plant Road and Townline Road to Holloway Bay Road and north to the Townline, stay informed about what we do at City Hall and in your Community.

This edition of "City Hall News" is the beginning of an on-going communications tool to help keep Port Colborne residents "in the know" and provide a link between what we do at City Hall and how it can help you. In addition to formal advertisements, website information and independent reporting by the various newspapers, this newsletter will help you to become familiar with City events, programs, services, and plans.

Fostering and building upon an open relationship is a key way for Council, City Hall, and residents to work together to build a stronger Community.

The eight page issue of City Hall News will be prepared periodically by City Hall staff and distributed by the Welland Tribune in their Wednesday In Port section.

In order to ensure that the lines of communication are two-way, we are always open to ideas and gratefully accept comments or suggestions. You can write to us at City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street, ON L3K 3C8, or email us at newsletter@portcolborne.ca

Inside This Issue:

- ▶ Sportsfest Celebrity Evening ▶ Just For Seniors ▶ Port Colborne Library
- ▶ Planning a Raffle ▶ 2008 Property Assessment Notices ▶ Museum
- ▶ Port Colborne Economic Development Staff work with local business to expand markets
- ▶ Olde Humberstone Main Street Area Community Improvement Plan (CIP)
- ...and more



Building Division,

(Department of Planning & Development)

The Building Division receives, reviews and processes applications for the many types of permits which are required, to ensure that construction and other regulated activities within the City meet the standards set out in the Ontario Building Code Act and any other applicable law.

Common permits include Building, Plumbing, Sewer, Water, Entrance, Culvert, Demolition, Moving a Building, Swimming Pools, Temporary Event Tents, Signs.

In addition to specific permit fees, other fees or charges may be applicable, such as City and Regional Development charges.

Permits are a vital step in the enforcement of codes and regulations. Permits **MUST** be obtained before any works or activities begin. Permits provide the means for the City to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors, while helping residents to understand what the local Bylaws and regulations are. They enable municipal officials to review and inspect the works or activities authorized by the permits, to ensure that minimum standards are met.

Why Bother With a Building Permit?

Building Permits provide the means for Building Officials to ensure the health, safety and welfare of building occupants.

The Building Permit process helps you understand what the local Bylaws and regulations are. Before any construction or remodelling work begins, a permit must be obtained.

Building Officials use Building Permits as a vital step in their enforcement of codes. You have a major investment in the home or business you are about to build or remodel. When that home or business does not comply with the codes, the value of your investment could be reduced. Applying for a Building Permit notifies the Building Official that you are constructing or remodelling a building so he or she can ensure the regulations in the Ontario Building Code are followed.

When is a Building Permit Required?

A Permit is required to construct or demolish a building. Construction can include anything in the erection, installation or extension or material alteration or repair of a building.

The following building projects require permits:

NEW BUILDINGS - over 107 square feet (10 m²) in area (i.e. houses and other dwelling or residential buildings)

ACCESSORY BUILDINGS - over 107 square feet (10 m²) in area (i.e. detached garages, tool sheds, etc.)

WOOD DECKS

ADDITIONS/EXTENSIONS - to existing building even if under 107 square feet (10 m²) in area - (i.e. sunrooms, porches, carports, garages, dormers, second storeys, etc.)

RENOVATIONS - (i.e. skylights, patio doors, rec rooms, family rooms, interior renovations to commercial/ industrial, etc.)

CHANGES IN USE - to a use with an increased hazard (i.e. from office to retail)

STRUCTURAL ALTERATION - (i.e. removing load bearing walls, beams or columns, repairing or reconstructing basement walls, foundations, floors, roof structures, etc.)

PREFABRICATED BUILDINGS - over 107 square feet (10 m²) in area (i.e. portable classrooms, kiosks, garages, tool sheds, patio roofs/enclosures, etc.)

FARM BUILDINGS - (i.e. barns, sheds, greenhouses, silos, etc.)

MOBILE HOMES

FIREPLACES AND STOVES - (i.e. wood stoves, solid fuel burning appliances, chimneys, etc.)

MATERIAL ALTERATIONS

- alterations to, or new, fire separations (i.e. fire rated ceilings, wall or floors)
- alterations to, or new, exit facilities
- alterations to, or new, fire protection systems (i.e. fire alarms, sprinklers, standpipe and hose systems etc.)

PLUMBING - alterations to, or new, plumbing systems

SWIMMING POOLS

STRUCTURES DESIGNATED BY THE BUILDING CODE, TENTS AND TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

BUILDING RELOCATED OR MOVED

continued on page 7...

The Special Projects and Corporate Strategic Initiatives Office

The Special Projects and Corporate Strategic Initiatives office was established by Council to provide additional support to the Offices of the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer in the development and implementation of major initiatives approved by Council. The Special Projects Office reports directly to the office of the CAO and provides regular updates on activities to the CAO and Council.

Because most of these initiatives involve complex legal and confidential discussions related to land and business transactions, these reports are generally provided to Council on an In-Camera status until completion, when they are presented in open Council for final review and approval. It is important to understand that no decision can be finalized or approved by the Special Projects Office and that any recommendations require a public approval in an open Council meeting. The Office effectively operates as a facilitator, negotiator and implementation evaluator of new initiatives and new proposed business ventures, which the City is a party to.

Since 2007, the office has been involved in several continuing projects including NYON Energy Park proposal, Nyon Marine Fuelling proposal, G-En Wind Mill proposal, New Community Centre project, a review of Sugarloaf Harbour's current and future

operation options, a review of Roselawn operations, ongoing review of land matters related to Sherston Shores, Inco lands acquired outside their core operations, Ministry of Transport Lands currently under SLSMC control, and discussions over possible acquisition of lands deemed needed by the City for future development.

The Office has also, with the support of Council, provided Strategic Planning facilitation support to several Community organizations including the Downtown BIA, Roselawn and Showboat as well as facilitation for a public organizational meeting to create a "Safe Communities" organization. The Office recently completed facilitation of the 2009-2010 City of Port Colborne Strategic Plan, which provides ongoing guidance to Council activities over the next two years.

The Special Projects Office is involved in projects that require long term oversight and continuity. Under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer and the Office of the Mayor, the Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives Office strives to ensure the City of Port Colborne and its citizens receive a careful evaluation of all issues under its review.



Update on "The Port Colborne Energy Park"

a proposal by Nyon Energy Corp.

The Energy Park proposed for the City of Port Colborne is poised to begin renewed planning review of the project including matters raised by the public for the proposed Regional and City Official Plan amendments and requested City re-zoning for site specific uses.

A formal public meeting under the Planning Act was held at Lakeshore Catholic High School on April 19th, 2005 for the proposed Regional and City Official Plan amendments, after which the City in January 2006, signed an offer of purchase and sale with Nyon Energy Corp. for approximately 700 acres of land subject to Official Plan and Zoning amendments.

In response to the issues raised by the public as well as those necessary to be addressed to satisfy planning matters under the Planning Act, the City engaged AMEC Earth and

Environmental in January in 2006. These reports were received by the City July 2007 and were presented to an open house at Port Colborne City Hall on October 22, 2007 by the president of NYON Oil Inc., Mr. Gordon Baker. Representatives of AMEC were also present to answer questions from the public.

Mr. Baker in his presentation indicated that, "The energy park is a proposed tank farm distribution hub for commonly used fuels. The developer is Nyon Oil Inc.," Mr. Baker went on to indicate, "Phases 1 and 2 of the Energy Park is the construction of a facility that will receive and distribute gasoline, ethanol fuel, diesel and bio-diesel." Mr. Baker stated that, "Potential future development for polymer storage and a small windmill farm will be subject to further zoning applications, and the planning process, if proceeded with."

Finally with respect to possible uses on the site Mr. Baker stated, "The original proposal included a liquid natural gas or LNG facility. The proposal has changed. The LNG facility has been removed from the project. Also, so there is no misunderstanding, I wish to make it clear that there will be no refining or manufacturing on the site. This is a storage and distribution facility only" The City has been working closely with the proponent to establish the appropriate information and direction for the next formal meeting as required under the planning process to review and decide on the requested Official Plan amendments and re-zoning requested by the developers.

On November 10th, 2008, City Council approved a report from the Office of Special Projects and Corporate Strategic Initiatives

to reactivate the planning process on the project. Part of the report was approval for the engagement of Urban and Environmental Management as an independent planner for the City on the project.

Urban and Environmental Management will provide the City with an independent review of all planning issues related to this project and will provide Niagara Regional Planning Committee and Port Colborne City Council with a report for final decision on possible approval of the requested Official Plan and re-zoning changes.

As dates for meetings are finalized and information is available the City will provide the public with notice as required. It is hoped that the report to Council and the Region will be provided early in 2009.

Port Colborne Economic Development Staff work with local business to expand markets



Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development Corporation is working with local manufacturing and service-to-businesses companies to identify growth sectors and new market opportunities. Partnering with the Ontario Government and neighbouring cities, Port Colborne businesses have access to participate in several unique activities over the next two months as means to expand and diversify their businesses. The Niagara Industrial Buyer-Seller Tradeshow helps businesses in the Niagara Region learn about supply-chain opportunities and the National Buyer-Seller Forum helps link manufacturers from across Canada with opportunities in Alberta including those in the oil and gas sector.

NIAGARA INDUSTRIAL BUYER SELLER TRADESHOW

On February 19, 2009, Niagara Economic Development will be hosting the second Niagara Industrial Buyer-Seller Tradeshow. Building on the success of last year's show, there will be over 100 Niagara area industries and businesses exhibiting their products and services. Representatives from industries in Niagara and southern Ontario are being invited to increase trade and

awareness of Niagara's strong industrial sector. Throughout the day, various workshops will be held on innovation and efficiency, opportunities for supplying to the oil sands in Alberta, and marketing. Keynote addresses will be given by the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation, and the Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Economic Development & Trade. The day is designed to be educational, and should be a great venue for marketing and networking.

All interested companies in Port Colborne are invited to participate as exhibitors, attendees (including keynote addresses and workshops) or may show up to walk the floor. As a sponsor of this event, the Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development Corporation will be present, fostering local buyer/seller relationships.

February 19, 2009 – 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Fallsview Casino Resort, Niagara Falls

For more information contact Stephen Thompson at Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development Corporation at 905-834-1668. To register, call 1-888-270-9151 or visit www.niagaracorridor.com.

Fee Schedule:

Exhibit space: \$350 +GST

Attendee Fee: \$50 +GST

There is no charge to attend and walk the tradeshow floor

NATIONAL BUYER/SELLER FORUM

From February 10-12, 2009 the third National Buyer/Seller Forum will be held in Edmonton, Alberta. This event will bring together national and international leaders in the heavy oil and oil sands industry. With projects worth billions of dollars under development in Alberta, there exist many long-term supply and manufacturing opportunities to serve this sector. Representatives from industries ranging from environmental services to structural steel, machine shops, fabricating, and heavy engineering are invited to attend. Local companies, particularly those involved in fabricated metals and machining are encouraged to consider this forum as a means to develop new business through supplying goods and services developed in Port Colborne to customers in Alberta.

For more information, contact Stephen Thompson at Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development Corporation at 905-834-1668, and visit www.nationalbuyersellerforum.ca.

Department of Engineering & Operations

In 2008 the City of Port Colborne replaced approximately 1036m of 150mm PVC water-main taking the place of the existing cast iron which was approximately 60 years old. The contractor for this project was Peters Excavating of Fort Erie. The total cost of the works was approximately \$745,000.00.

Numerous asphalt repairs were completed in 2008. Circle P Paving from Stevensville was the contractor for the asphalt repairs. Estimated expenditures are \$80,000.00.

Approximately 6,200m of roadway was repaired by hot laid asphalt in 2008. The first phase of the resurfacing contract was completed by Rankin Construction of St. Catharines. Total cost of the project is \$975,000.00. The second phase of the contract, which was completed by Norjohn Contracting & Paving from Niagara Falls, used a different approach to road resurfacing. Various types of cold laid asphalt were placed totaling 3,100m of road resurfacing repaired with a cost of \$250,000.00.

The replacement and repair of sidewalks and curbs around the City also occurred in 2008. Many trip hazards around the City were eliminated as a result of the construction done by CTC Contracting Ltd. Flooding problems on Omer Avenue were resolved by raising the sidewalk; making it safer for children to walk to school.

Areas with no sidewalks, such as the north side of Highland Avenue between Steele Street and Oakwood Street, now have new sidewalk leading into St. John Bosco School.

Any concerns about hazardous sidewalks around the City can be brought to the attention of the Department of Operations and Engineering at 905-835-2900 Ext. 225 for further inspection and the consideration of replacement for future construction.

Sanitary sewer cleaning and CCTV inspection began in December 2008. The sewers in the designated areas have been flushed and a camera inspected the pipes for any blockage, breaks or infiltration.

Current Studies

Operations Centre

The City's Works Yard is no longer deemed to be adequate for the present operations and Council has agreed that the feasibility of a new facility be investigated, through presentations made at Strategic Planning and budget deliberations. Presently Philips Engineering Limited is conducting an Environmental Assessment Study for a new Port Colborne Operations Centre.

Industrial Park

The City of Port Colborne is undertaking a study to assess potential industrial sites

within the urban and rural boundaries of the City of Port Colborne. This will be a comprehensive approach to land use and infrastructure planning within the study area, and will involve a process of problem/opportunity identification, alternative solution identification, inventory of the natural, social and economic environments, an evaluation of alternative solutions and the selection of a preferred solution. Public consultation is a key component of the integrated planning and environmental assessment process. Because the study has recently commenced, there is an opportunity for you to provide input to the City of Port Colborne as they collect comments and information regarding this project in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the Planning Act. A public meeting will be scheduled at a key point in the project. The date, time and location of the meeting will be posted in the local newspapers.

Extraneous Flow Reduction Program

In conjunction with the Regional Municipality of Niagara, the City of Port Colborne is committed to reducing unnecessary sewage treatment costs, the potential for basement flooding, and combined sewer overflows, by reducing infiltration of storm water to the sanitary sewage collection and treatment system through its Extraneous

Emergency Preparedness Starts With You!

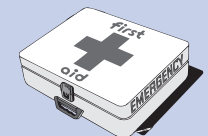
Emergency Survival Kit

In the event of an emergency, everyone should be prepared to take care of themselves and their families for up to three days. Make sure that your emergency survival kit has:

- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries or crank radio
- Spare batteries
- First-aid kit
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Extra car keys and cash
- Important papers (identification)
- Food and bottled water
- Clothing and footwear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and other personal items
- Medication
- Whistle (to attract attention, if needed)
- Playing cards, games

Be Prepared! Not Scared!

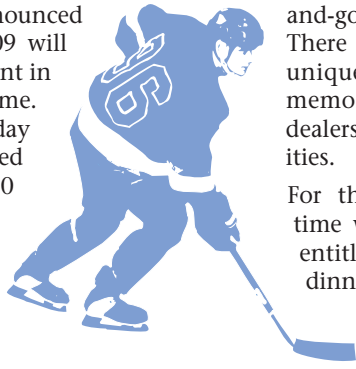
For more information, please visit
Emergency Management Ontario at
www.ontario.ca/emo



Serving Our

SPORTSFEST CELEBRITY EVENING TO MARK HISTORIC NIGHT

Mayor Vance Badawey announced today that "Sportsfest 2009 will be a celebration of a moment in the history of Canada's game. It will be 33 years to the day when Darryl Sittler stunned the hockey world with a 10 point night against the Boston Bruins," stated Mayor Badawey. "Therefore, it is appropriate to bring Sittler down to Hockeytown Niagara to celebrate this milestone."



Organizers of the tenth annual Sportsfest Celebrity Evening have selected Saturday, February 7 for the 2009 event. The date is a bit earlier than in previous years, but the significance associated with the entire weekend made the case for the change.

Sittler's name is synonymous with hockey in Toronto during the 1970's, and his famous #27 hangs over the ice at the Air Canada Centre. Inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame a few short years after he retired from the NHL in 1985 Sittler spent time in Detroit and Philadelphia, but is most remembered for leading a bruising, high-performing Leafs squad in the days of Harold Ballard.

Sittler was the first Leaf in history to reach the 100 point mark. He still shares the NHL record for most goals in a playoff game (five) with the likes of Mario Lemieux and Maurice Richard. However, there is a single accomplishment which sets Sittler above all else in NHL history.

On February 7, 1976, in a regular season game against the Boston Bruins, Darryl Sittler scored 6 goals and assisted in four others, garnering 10 points in a single game. This individual one-game achievement has stood the long test of time and eluded even Gretzky. Sittler has described the game as "an amazing part of my life...like one of those days on the golf course where every putt goes in." Toronto beat Boston 11 - 4 that evening. Bruin's goaltender Dave Reece never saw another NHL game after Sittler's last goal, shot from behind the net, ricocheted off Brad Park, Reece's skate, and over the line.

Port Colborne Event Manager Shawn Doney also points to the fact that Sittler's jersey was hoisted to the rafters and honoured at the ACC on February 8, 2003. "Sittler's fingerprints are all over this weekend historically" says Doney. "It's a great way to celebrate our tenth annual and it's a really great honour to have him join us on this particular night."

With the move to Saturday night, doors at the Roselawn Centre will open at 6:00 pm. New activities in 2009 will include the Nintendo Wii long-drive golf challenge, live Sports Trivia competition, and free sit-

and-go Texas Hold'em Poker tables. There will be a silent auction of unique, rare, and signed sports memorabilia, games, sports card dealers, and a variety of other activities.

For those seeking some personal time with Sittler, Platinum tickets entitle the bearer to a five-course dinner with the celebrity - prepared by chefs from the Buffalo Canoe Club - and an autographed keepsake. The dinner, which also takes place at Roselawn, will begin at 7:00 pm.

The evening culminates in the Roselawn theatre, with a live Hotstove interview between Sittler and perennial Master of Ceremonies Mark 'Hebsy' Hebscher. The current host of CHTV's Live @ 5:30, Hebscher spent a significant portion of his early broadcast career covering the Leafs. Alluding to a few off-the-record moments, Hebscher assures, "I've got a couple of terrific Sittler stories from when I was a young reporter."

The tenth annual Sportsfest Celebrity Evening is a fundraising event that benefits the volunteer-run minor sports organizations in Port Colborne and over 2000 young people who play. All proceeds from the auction and proceeds from many of the activities go directly to minor sports in the community. Anyone interested in making a donation to the auction should contact Shawn Doney at 905-834-1668.

Tickets for the Sportsfest Celebrity Dinner are available at the Gold and Platinum levels. Gold tickets are general admission and allow the bearer to access event activities and the live interview. Cost for a Gold ticket is \$20.00 for an adult and \$12.50 for a youth under 16 years. Youth tickets include a free draw for a variety of great prizes and collectibles. Golds can also be purchased in discount bundles of ten, where the tenth ticket is free of charge. Based on availability, Gold tickets may be purchased at the door on event night, February 7, 2009.

Platinum tickets cost \$100.00, are limited in number, and include dinner with Darryl Sittler, autographed TML hockey puck, all event activities, and preferred seating for the interview. Platinum tickets must be purchased before February 3, 2009.

Purchasers are encouraged to phone the Roselawn Box Office at 905-834-0833; all major credit cards are accepted. Tickets will be mailed out until mid-January, or upon request can be held at the venue. The Roselawn Centre is located at 296 Fielden Avenue, at Carter, in Port Colborne. Event information will be available online at www.portcolborne.ca

SPORTSFEST PORT COLBORNE

ROSTER SET FOR TENTH ANNUAL SPORTSFEST

Port Colborne and area residents should be on the lookout for the 2009 Sportsfest brochure. Copies will be distributed to businesses throughout the community this week and the brochure will provide a full listing of Sportsfest activities, venues, and contact information. The annual winter festival takes place a week earlier than in previous years and will be held between February 5th and 8th, 2009. Most activities come with a nominal participation fee, but proceeds from each of the events benefit local charities and non-profit organizations.

The goal of Sportsfest is to present an entertaining program of indoor and outdoor activities to help encourage winter exercise while supporting local community organizations. Residents are encouraged to take part in this unique winter event and visit the host venues throughout the Sportsfest weekend.

Sportsfest activities for 2009 include: The Mayor's Cup Hockey Tournament, Snow-Golf, Indoor Volleyball, Soup Cook-off, Texas Hold'em tournament, Nintendo Wii Sports,

Trivia competition, Name That Tune, Celebrity Evening with Darryl Sittler, Trap and Skeet Shooting, and free skating at West Side Arena and swimming at Centennial Pool.

Event hosts and organizers for 2009 include Club Frontenac, Canalside Pub, Port Colborne Economic & Tourism Development, Whisky Run, No Frills, Knights of Columbus, and the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club. Sportsfest activities will benefit Port Cares, Special Olympics, local volunteer-run minor sports, and other groups dedicated to the public good.

All events are open to the public with the exception of the Mayor's Cup Hockey Tournament, which hosts teams from other cities across Ontario. In most cases, participants must pre-register for events. Contact information for each activity will be available in the brochure or via the www.portcolborne.ca website. Information can also be sought by calling PCETDC at 905-834-1668.

CITY OF PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC NOTICE

REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM PUBLIC SIDEWALKS AND ROOFS AND DUMPING OF SNOW ON HIGHWAYS

OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS OF PROPERTY within the City of Port Colborne are hereby reminded of the provisions of Bylaw No. 1892/11/87 which requires that every owner or occupant of every class of building shall clear away and remove as completely as is practicable, all snow and ice from roofs and public sidewalks on the highways, in front of, along side and at the rear of such buildings.

All ice and snow shall be cleared away from such roofs and from sidewalks adjoining their premises within 5 hours after the formation of ice or snowfall ends, or before the hour of nine (9) o'clock in the forenoon, whichever shall first occur.

Where an occupant of buildings adjoining a highway in Port Colborne refuses or neglects to comply with the requirements of the two preceding subsec-

tions, the snow and ice shall be cleared away and removed from the roofs of such buildings and from sidewalks adjoining their premises, or the ice on the sidewalks shall be covered with sand, or other substance, by the Corporation, at the expense of the said occupant and the Corporation may recover the expense incurred in so doing by action or in like manner as municipal taxes.

OWNERS OR OCCUPANTS OF PROPERTY within the City of Port Colborne are also reminded of the provisions which prohibit the dumping of snow from private property on to highways.

Your co-operation in complying with these provisions would be appreciated and would avoid the use of the enforcement provision of the bylaw.

Community

2008 Property Assessment Notices

MPAC's Role in Property Assessment

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for assessing all property in Ontario. It operates under the authority of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Act.

MPAC does not set assessment policy but it does administer these policies. Its main responsibility is to calculate assessed values, and to classify properties according to their use. These values are provided to municipalities on annual assessment rolls. Municipalities and the Province use these values when they calculate property taxes and education taxes.

To establish your property's assessed value, MPAC analyzes property sales in your community. This method is called Current Value Assessment.

It is used by most assessment jurisdictions in Canada and throughout the world. In addition to sales, they look at the key features of every property. As many as 200 factors are considered when assessing the value of a residential property. About 85 per cent of your assessed value is based on five key factors – location, lot size, the living area, age of the property adjusted for any major renovations or additions and the quality of construction.

You should have recently received your 2008 Property Assessment Notice for the 2009–2012 property tax years. It indicates the value of your property based on a January 1, 2008 valuation date. The last Province-wide assessment update took place three years ago and was based on a January 1, 2005 valuation date.

There are a number of ways to determine if the assessed value of your property is accurate.

First, ask yourself if you could have reasonably expected to sell your property for its assessed value on January 1, 2008, the date on which the assessed value is based.

Second, check to see that the information they have about your property is accurate. You can find detailed information about your property online using AboutMyProperty at www.mpac.ca (your password and user ID can be found on your assessment notice) or by contacting MPAC through the contact information in the upper right hand corner of your assessment notice. Access to this information is free of charge.

Third, check to see what similar properties in your neighbourhood sold for in and around January 1, 2008.

Resolving Assessment Concerns

If you do not believe your assessed value or classification is accurate, you can ask MPAC to review it **free of charge** through a **Request for Reconsideration (RfR)**.

The deadline to file your RfR is March 31, 2009, for the 2009 tax year.

Forms are available at www.mpac.ca, by calling MPAC, or at City Hall. You may also choose to file your RfR electronically through AboutMyProperty. You will be able to attach documents, pictures and reports to accompany your RfR.

Appeal process through Assessment Review Board (ARB)

If your property, or a portion of it, is classified as residential, farm or managed forest, you must first complete the RfR process with MPAC before you are eligible to file an Appeal with the ARB. The classification of your property is indicated on your Assessment Notice.

You have 90 days after MPAC has notified you of its decision on your RfR to file an Appeal with the ARB. The ARB has its own Appeal process. For more information, please contact the ARB at 1-800-263-3237 or 416-314-6900 or visit their website at www.arb.gov.on.ca.



Just For Seniors: WHO-WHAT-WHEN-WHERE

Just For Seniors is a group of volunteer men and women who have set out on a mission to ensure that the 7,000 seniors of Port Colborne become the most envied seniors in Ontario. Just For Seniors intends to achieve this goal by making sure each and every senior in Port Colborne has a way of becoming aware of all the programs and services available to them.

Some services may be known to many and other services such as 211 are not so well known. Each week Just For Seniors endeavours to focus on a new feature topic for you to learn about. Seniors - the information you will receive from Just for Seniors will help to make your life better!

Each Friday you will find Just For Seniors inside City Hall from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon handing out the information that might just make your life easier. You will find books showing all the services and programs in Ontario, 211 information, health issue information and many more topics of importance to all seniors no matter what financial status or age.

On January 10th, 2009, Just For Seniors in partnership with the City of Port Colborne, St. James/Brendan Church and local merchants coordinated the very first Celebration of Seniors Saturday. The day was dedicated to honouring seniors for their contributions to our City. Local merchants

participated in special offers for seniors and the day ended with something very special. The very first Celebration of Seniors Dance was held at the Guild Hall next to City Hall. Seniors danced the evening away to the music of Andy La Marche. Look forward to another Celebration of Seniors Saturday in the spring.

Circle January 17th on your calendar! Just For Seniors will launch a monthly Community Information Saturday. One Saturday each month you will have the opportunity to attend PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS at Roselawn Centre.

The January 17th Community Information Saturday will focus on the topic of diabetes. The Diabetes Association, the Institute for the Blind, the Kidney Foundation and Revenue Canada will all be in attendance. Each group will give a presentation telling what their organization does and how it can help you. After the presentations you will then have an opportunity to visit with each organization on a one-on-one basis to get your questions answered and any further information from them you might need. If you or anyone you know is diabetic then this is a MUST meeting for you to come to.

These information meetings are for all ages and FREE TO THE PUBLIC. Make plans now to attend. Doors will open at 1:30 pm on January 17th.



February's Community Information Saturday topic will be dealing with heart and stroke health issues and care. Remember one new topic each month will be presented so keep your eyes open for announcements of topic and time.

REMEMBER, Just For Seniors is working JUST FOR YOU! If you have any concerns, questions, or ideas to make our community better for the 7,000 seniors who live here, visit Just For Seniors at City Hall each Friday morning. Or leave Just For Seniors a message at the information desk of City Hall. Just For Seniors may be contacted at 905-834-1620 at anytime.

Being a senior should be an enjoyable time of one's life; the goal of Just For Seniors is to help you to be able to do just that!

Being a senior should be a time of life when we are enjoying every minute of the day. Our goal is to help you in any way we can to be able to do just that.

Roselawn Theatre (upcoming events)

Thursday January 28/09
Readings at the Roselawn

Friday February 6/09
Food & Wine Series at Roselawn
Featured Winery Kacaba Vineyards
Tickets \$85 pp inc

Thursday February 7/09
Sportsfest Celebrity Evening/Dinner
An event for minor sports
Spotlight Guest-Darryl Sittler
\$100, \$20, \$12.50 +GST

Thursday February 12/09
Ladies Night Out at Roselawn
Tickets \$25

Friday February 14/09
Ducks Unlimited
Dinner & Auction

Saturday February 21/09
Adopt An Instrument
Port High/Bad News Bears

Thursday February 26/09
Readings at the Roselawn

Saturday February 28/09
Tribute Show
Patsy Cline and a Bottle of Wine
Tickets \$22.50

For info and tickets please contact the Roselawn Box Office at **905-834-0833**

Showboat Festival Theatre is pleased to announce Thom Currie is on board as the new Artistic Director. Many of the Showboat patrons will recognize Thom from his performances here on the Showboat stage in "The Foursome", "Storm Warning", and "The Love List". We welcome Thom to the Port Colborne Community and look forward to an exciting line-up for summer 2009!

Showboat Festival Theatre
296 Fielden Ave
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 4T6
905-834-7572 Voice
905-834-2072 Fax
www.roselawncentre.com

City Hall News

Port Colborne Public Library

310 King Street, Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 4H1 905-834-6512
Fax: 905-835-5775 E-mail us at: library@portcolborne.ca

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday10 am – 8 pm
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday9 am – 5 pm
Saturday (June 1st to September 30th)9 am – 1 pm

Joining the Library

Library cards are available free of charge to any resident or property owner of the City of Port Colborne. Two pieces of valid identification are required, one of which must contain the applicant's name and current address.

Memberships are also free for non-residents who reside in the Southern Ontario Library Service Escarpment Area and who present two pieces of valid identification at time of registration. Four-month temporary memberships (at a cost of \$10.00) are available to non-residents whose permanent address is outside the Escarpment Area.

Parents/legal guardians must be present at time of registration of a child (under 16 years of age) and are responsible for all items borrowed on the child's card.

Please notify the library of any change in address or telephone number. Lost or stolen cards must be reported to the library immediately. A \$2.00 charge for replacement cards applies.

Borrowing and Returning Materials

Borrowing Materials - Library cards must be presented each time you borrow materials. The number of items borrowed on a specific subject may be restricted at the discretion of the library.

Returning Materials - Books may be returned to any library in the Niagara Peninsula. Audio-visual equipment, DVDs, videos, music CDs, spoken word CDs, and interlibrary loans must be returned to the Port Colborne Public Library. A night-drop is located at the Elgin St. side of the Library to be used when the Library is closed.

Renewing Materials - Materials may be renewed, either in person or by phone, unless holds or other restrictions apply. DVDs and videos may not be renewed by phone.

Rentals

Auditorium -- \$25 per half day, \$45 per full day

King St. Sign -- \$40 per side per week, Monday to Monday

Services

Access - The library is fully accessible with one designated parking space, wheelchair ramp on Elgin St., washroom facilities, and an elevator.

Art and Cultural Exhibits in the Atrium - Displaying the works of local artists and artisans. Call the library to find out how you can display your art in the Atrium.

Audio-Visual - Loans of DVDs, videos, talking books, & music CDs.

Books - Loan of regular and large print books.

Computer Access - Free access to the Internet, e-mail, electronic databases, reference titles, children's titles, periodicals, and complete Microsoft Office Suite from public terminals. Call to reserve a computer.

Films for Seniors - Held the first Wednesday of each month, October to May, at 1:30 pm. Free admission & free refreshments. Call the library for programme details.

Interlibrary Loans - Requests filled from national and international sources.

Magazines and Newspapers - Local, national, and international newspapers and magazines. Access to full-text magazines in electronic format.

Microfilm Reader - Providing access to archival information on microfilm. Local newspapers from 1850 to present.

Reader's Advisory - Library staff will make suggestions to satisfy your reading needs.

Reference - Answers to simple and complex inquiries.

Reserves - Reservation service for new and popular titles.

Services With Charges - Photocopies, computer print-outs, and programming.

Shut-In Service - Delivery of library materials by The Friends of the Library to patrons unable to visit the library due to short-term illness, physical disability, or age.

School Visits - Providing instruction in the use of the library to area schools. Classes scheduled October to May.

Summer Reading Club - July & August. Call the library for details.

Donor Recognition Programme

To show our appreciation and to recognize your support, the names of contributors of \$50.00 or more will be listed on our Donor Recognition Wall. Donations are tax-deductible and a charitable tax receipt will be issued.

Memorials

A thoughtful way of remembering a loved one or friend who may have had a special fondness for the library. For gifts of \$50.00 or more, your loved one's name will be added to our Donor Recognition Wall.

Charitable tax receipts will be issued for monetary gifts of \$10.00 or more.

Library Fund Raising

Materials Donations -- The library gladly accepts donations such as books, magazines, videos, DVDs, and music CDs. Donated materials become the property of the library and are either added to the collection, sold in the book sale, or discarded at the library's discretion. The Port Colborne Library appreciates your generous contributions but cannot issue tax receipts for material donations.

Ongoing Used Book Sale -- Books, magazines, videos, music CDs and more! Prices start at \$0.25. Find a treasure, buy a gift, support your library.

Library Book Bags -- An environmentally responsible way to take your books home.

Planning a Raffle?? Did You Know??.....

A lottery exists if money is paid or some other consideration is given for a chance to win a prize. This includes draws for baskets, penny sales and fifty-fifty draws. It is a violation of the Criminal Code of Canada to conduct a lottery scheme without a licence.

Groups eligible for lottery licencing must have charitable purposes and objects that fall within one of the following four classifications:

- The Relief of Poverty
- The Advancement of Education
- The Advancement of Religion
- Other Charitable Purposes Beneficial to the Community not falling under a, b, or c such as: Cultural and Arts, Health and Welfare, Amateur Sports Organizations, Enhancement of Youth, Public Safety Programs or Community Service Organizations (Service Clubs)

Ineligible Groups:

- Profit making entities
- No charitable mandate ie. political, business, administrative, government
- Municipalities, their agencies or departments
- Promotes private benefits to a restricted class of members
- Sub-groups or auxiliaries (must be legally, financially and organizationally independent)
- Fund raising entities that do not have any other programs or services

What else do I need to know?

All proceeds from lottery events must be deposited into a designated lottery trust account and reported on regularly until all proceeds are spent.

If you are unsure of whether you need a licence to conduct your event, please call the Licencing Clerk at (905)835-2900 Extension 121. Conducting a lottery event without a licence can jeopardize future licencing opportunities.

2009 Dog licenses are now available!!

Fees

All dog licenses purchased prior to March 15/09

Neutered/Spayed Dog (must show proof)\$15.00

Un-Neutered/Un-Spayed Dog\$25.00

All dog licenses purchased after March 15/09

Neutered/Spayed Dog (must show proof)\$25.00

Un-Neutered/Un-Spayed Dog\$35.00

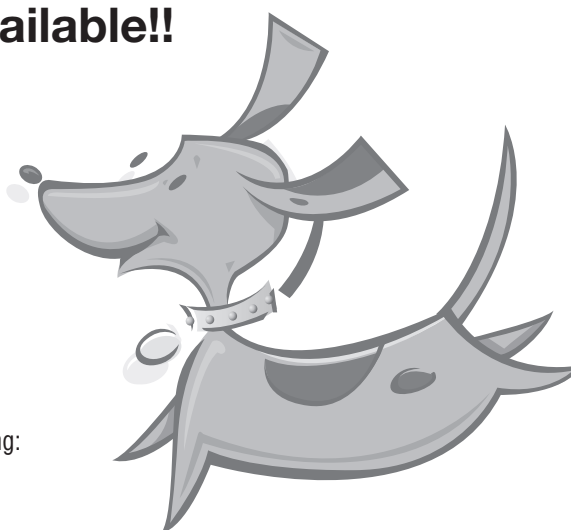
For your convenience, licenses may be purchased at any of the following:

City Hall, 66 Charlotte St., Port Colborne

PC Animal Shelter, Elm St., Port Colborne

Pet Valu, Westside Plaza, Port Colborne

Independent Discount Pet Supply, Wainfleet



Fines will be issued for failure to produce a dog tag for the current year.

By-Law 4930/155/06 of the City of Port Colborne provides that no person shall keep a dog which is 12 weeks or more in age in the City of Port Colborne without registering and obtaining a license from the City for every such dog.

SUGARLOAF MARINA'S Used & New Boat BUY • SELL • TRADE • EVENT

There is one thing that has occurred on the first Saturday in June, every year since 2005, that some people of Port Colborne may not be aware of.

Sugarloaf Marina opens its doors and docks to the public, for anyone wanting to sell their boat.

Sugarloaf's Buy Sell Trade Event allows sellers to showcase their used boats in one location making it easy for buyers to shop and compare. Sellers are provided a slip for their boat to go in the water or if necessary a spot on the land while potential buyers are invited to come down and see what's available. Most buyers of used boats prefer to "test drive" a boat they are considering, or at the very least, they like to see it in the water to see if it is seaworthy.

Arrangements to participate in the show as a seller will start in February, right up to 1 week before the Boat Show in June.

Hand-outs are given to potential buyers listing all of the boats for sale along with the specs on the boat, often with a picture, the price, and contact information. There is no cost for Buyers.

There is NO CHARGE if you are a Sugarloaf Customer wanting to sell your boat.

For all other Sellers wishing to participate the cost is:

Up to 20 foot Boat YY...\$45.00

All Boats over 20 feet Y...\$60.00

Late hand-ins (after June 3rd) are subject to a \$10.00 charge (seasonals included)

Participants can put their boat in the water after noon on Friday June 5th until 5 pm Sunday June 7th. Keep your boat at the Dock Saturday for Public viewing. Make appointments to interested parties to come back Sunday morning for test drive etc... It's a Great Deal!!!



Preparing for the 2009 Season at Sugarloaf Marina

Boating safety and education will take on a new and potentially costly meaning for those boaters that get caught short without a Pleasure Craft Operator Card for the SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 deadline. As of that date the fine is \$250.00 for not having your card. For personal watercraft users and operators born after April 1, 1983 the regulation is in effect already.

A graduated program that began 10 years ago is in its final phase, and as of September 15, 2009 all operators will require proof of competency which must be on board at all times.

A simple call to Sugarloaf Marina at 905-835-6644 can put you on track for getting your card before the deadline. For seasoned boaters that prefer to self study and are looking for supervision to write their test, appointments can be scheduled

throughout the winter and spring at the marina. For those with less experience and feel more comfortable taking a course, or for the enthusiast looking for a more intensive course there are a few options available that Sugarloaf can also help you with. Courses can be scheduled according to demand - Just let us know, we're here to help!

For returning customers don't forget to get your deposits for the 2009 season in January to hold your slips. Tired of being a ramp user - we have a dock waiting for you!! Just call Sugarloaf at 905-835-6644 and we can help.

And for the fun side to summer down at your waterfront - Watch for What's happening at Sugarloaf Marina Pavilion in 2009 - Our Marina Events are open to everyone!!

Building Division,

(Department of Planning & Development)

.... continued from page 2

NOTES:

The above list should not be considered all inclusive. There may be other situations which require a permit and if your project is not mentioned or you are not certain whether a permit is required, please contact your Building Department.

All buildings are required to meet certain restrictions as to building location as set out in the applicable Zoning By-law. These restrictions apply whether a Building Permit is required or not.

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR A BUILDING PERMIT?

Application forms for Building Permits can be obtained from the Building Division at City Hall or on the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca.

In addition to completing the Building Permit application, the application process involves submitting two sets of scaled construction drawings including a proposed site plan referenced to an up-to-date survey to the Building Division at the City Hall. There are specifications regarding how to and who can submit drawings and plans. For more information, please contact the Building Division at City Hall at the number below.

Once submitted, your application and plans must be checked by Building Division Staff for compliance with the Zoning Bylaw, the Ontario Building Code and other applicable regulations. You may also be required to request an inspection or provide notice to the Chief Building Official of the various stages of construction.

Remember, Building Permits help to ensure the health, safety and welfare of building occupants and Permits MUST be obtained before any works or activities begin. For information about the Building Permit application process, contact Building Division at City Hall at 905-835-2900 Ext. 229.

CITY OF PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC NOTICE

NO PARKING INTERFERING WITH SNOW REMOVAL ON ALL HIGHWAYS

OWNERS of vehicles within the City of Port Colborne are hereby reminded of the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act and Bylaw No. 89-2000 which regulates parking and traffic on city roads.

No person shall park or stand a vehicle on a highway in such a manner as to interfere with the movement of traffic or the clearing of snow from the highway.

Upon discovery of any vehicle parked or standing in contravention of the above mentioned, an officer may cause it to be moved or taken to and placed or stored in a suitable place and all costs and charges for removing, care and storage thereof, if any, are a lien upon the vehicle, which may be enforced in the manner provided by the Repair and Storage Liens Act.

Your co-operation in complying with these provisions would be appreciated and would avoid the use of the enforcement provisions of the Bylaw/Act.

Vehicle -(includes a motor vehicle, trailer, traction engine, farm tractor, road- building machine and any vehicle drawn, propelled or driven by and kind of power, including muscular power, but does not include a motorized snow vehicle or a street car)
Large Motor Vehicle - (means a commercial motor vehicle, bus, school bus, boat, boat trailer, or mobile home)

Improved Parking for City Hall Visits

The reconstruction of Charlotte Street in front of City Hall in 2007/08 provided staff with the opportunity to review parking requirements in and around City Hall. Many will have already noticed the three new free "15 minute City Hall" spaces directly in front of City Hall. These spaces will provide better access for everyone briefly stopping by City Hall.

There is also one handicapped space and a bus stop. Longer term free parking is available in Market Square. Other regular metered parking is still available on Charlotte Street.

It should also be noted that the parking lot behind City Hall has been changed to a Staff Permit Parking only lot. Parking for visitors is no longer permitted.

We feel these changes will provide better access to City Hall.



Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum

New members are encouraged to call for an information package at **(905) 834-7604**.

\$3.00 Senior or Student \$10.00 Family
\$5.00 Individual \$100.00 Life Membership

Members of the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum receive museum newsletters, advance notice of special events, 10% discount at museum gift shop and FREE ADMISSION to our museum's events. Join us in preserving Port Colborne's past for our future and have fun at the same time!

NEW for our members! With your 2009 membership you will receive FREE ADMISSION to the following MONA (Museums of Niagara Association) museums. Just present your membership card or museum volunteer name-tag to become a welcome guest at:

- * Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Society Museum
- * Grimsby Museum
- * Jordan Historical Museum
- * Riverbrink Gallery & Samuel Weir Gallery, Queenston
- * St. Catharines Museum at Lock 3
- * Willoughby Historical Museum
- * Lundy's Lane Historical Museum, Niagara Falls, ON
- * Battle Ground Hotel Museum, Niagara Falls, ON

**Open May 1st, 2009. Come and see our new exhibits.
Free Admission. Open daily May to December, 12-5 p.m.**



Around the City

Community Improvement Plans

Olde Humberstone Main Street Area Community Improvement Plan, Urban Design and Streetscape Guidelines

On December 8, 2008, City Council adopted a community improvement plan (CIP) for Olde Humberstone Main Street Area. The CIP Area contains those properties fronting on Main Street West from the easterly intersection of Elm Street to the current Canal. The purpose of a CIP is to coordinate public works and capital expenditures with private land and building improvements in a comprehensive and complimentary manner that will improve the appearance and encourage new economic investment in the area. The CIP also enables the City to provide financial incentives to private landowners for improvements to lands buildings, signs, landscaping and other works.

The CIP contains provisions for improvements to the streets, sidewalks, street landscaping and public parkland. It also provides opportunities for property owners to acquire financial assistance from the City and the Region of Niagara for

improvements to private property including: Building Façade Improvements, Adding Residential Units to Existing Buildings, Providing Affordable Housing, Sidewalk Cafes, Improving Parking Areas, Landscaping and Improving Commercial Signage.

Brownfield Strategy / Community Improvement Plan

Council is also presently in the process of adopting a Brownfield Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the City. The CIP will facilitate and promote the redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the city. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or underused industrial and commercial properties where redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The CIP will outline specific municipal programs and actions designed to encourage private sector investment in cleaning up and redeveloping brownfield sites. This will help to improve the environmental, economic and social conditions in employment areas and neighbourhoods in Port Colborne.

CMT School Lots

The City presently has sixteen (16) fully serviced single family lots for sale on the former Caroline M. Thompson School lands. Each lot measures 18.5m x 41.1m (60' x 135') in size. The lots are bounded by Ash Street to the north, Scholfield Avenue to the west, Hampton Avenue to the east and Sugarloaf Street to the south in the City's southwestern neighbourhood.

A minimum purchase price of \$60,000 per lot has been set. The City will entertain the purchase from one lot up to all sixteen lots. They are being sold on a first come first serve basis to the general public. To obtain more information on the lots and their development requirements, you can download the "CMT School Lots" from the front page of the City's website at www.portcolborne.ca under "News from Around the City" or obtain a copy at City Hall, 2nd Floor, Department of Planning and Development, during the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

If you require further information on any of the above, please contact Dan Aquilina, Director of Planning and Development at 905-835-2901 ext. 203 or by email danaquilina@portcolborne.ca



Olde Humberstone Community Improvement Plan Streetscape Master Plan - Sept. 09



CITY OF PORT COLBORNE 2009 BUSINESS LICENCES

PERSONS OPERATING THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF BUSINESSES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE IN 2009 ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN OR RENEW A BUSINESS LICENCE:

- TOURIST CAMPS**
- PUBLIC GARAGES**
- LODGING HOUSES**
- HAWKERS AND PEDDLERS**
- REFRESHMENT VEHICLES**

PLEASE CONTACT THE LICENCING CLERK,
AT 905-835-2900 EXT. 121
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.



Test CO alarms at least once a month and replace them according to manufacturers' instructions.

What Is Carbon Monoxide?

Each year hundreds of people die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Many of these deaths could have been prevented by CO alarms in the home. CO is an invisible, odorless gas that is produced by burning wood, coal, charcoal, natural gas, gasoline, propane, oil, methane, and other common fuels.

CO is also produced by automobiles and other gasoline or diesel engines. Electrical equipment does not produce carbon monoxide.

What is the danger?

CO enters your body, undetected, through your breathing. CO poisoning can be confused with the flu, food poisoning, or other illnesses. Symptoms include headache, nausea, dizziness, light-headedness, and shortness of breath.

High levels of CO can cause death within just a few minutes. A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a long period of time or by a large amount of CO over a short period of time.

Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

Buy only CO alarms that bear the label of an independent testing laboratory.

Install a CO alarm in a central location outside your home's sleeping areas. If sleeping areas are spaced far apart, each area will need a CO alarm. Some communities may modify these requirements, so it's always good to check with local authorities.

Your community may have different emergency phone numbers for fire and CO emergencies.

Be sure everyone in your household knows the difference between the sound of a smoke alarm and the sound of a CO alarm and knows the right number to call in an emergency.

