



**PORT COLBORNE**

MEDIA RELEASE

## Have a holly jolly COVID safe Christmas with the City of Port Colborne

**Port Colborne, ON (Oct. 29, 2020)** – With Christmas less than two months away, the City of Port Colborne is busy planning COVID safe holiday activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Keeping in mind the health and safety of Port Colborne residents and staff, the decision has been made to cancel the Santa Claus parade this year. However, this doesn't mean the festive fun needs to stop. In fact, the City's Community and Economic Development Department and the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum has come up with a few creative ideas that are sure to delight, including a Christmas Market, home decorating contest and Grand Old Christmas take home kits.

"We're confident these new ideas will keep the Christmas spirit flowing, although the holiday season will look different," said Ashley Grigg, Director of Community and Economic Development. "It wasn't an easy decision to call off the annual Santa Claus parade, but as we continue to navigate COVID-19 we're making operational decisions that we feel are best for the community."

Port Colborne residents are encouraged to PORTicipate in the following activities listed below:

### **Christmas Market**

On Friday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., join us at the Market Square for Port Colborne's first ever Christmas Market. Featuring various local farmers and artisan vendors selling their products, this is the perfect opportunity to look for unique gifts this holiday season. Anyone interested in being a vendor can email [marketclerk@portcolborne.ca](mailto:marketclerk@portcolborne.ca).

### **Downtown Christmas Light Display Contest**

In partnership with the Port Colborne Downtown BIA, we're inviting businesses and storefronts across Port Colborne to decorate in the most festive way they know how. There is no such thing as too many twinkle lights! All businesses who decorate this year will be entered into a light display contest with the winner being chosen by the community. Decorations must be up by Thursday, Dec. 10, with voting taking place Dec. 11 – 19. For information on how to enter, please visit our [website](#).

### **Home for the Holidays: Decorating Contest**

Calling all Clark Griswolds; we're looking for the best holiday decorations in town! Port Colborne residents are invited to PORTicipate in their very own home decorating contest. With multiple categories, including best lawn display, house lights, balcony and door display (for those who live in apartment buildings), we want to see your holiday spirit. Entries must be submitted by Thursday, Dec. 10, with voting taking place Dec. 11 – 19. For more information on how to enter, please visit our [website](#).

### **Christmas at the Museum**

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum will be spreading Christmas cheer on Sunday, Dec. 6, with Grand Old Christmas take home kits. More details on the kits and how to purchase them, will be available soon. Although things will be different this year, rest assured the Museum grounds will be decorated for Port Colborne residents to enjoy.

“This is a magical time of year and we want the Port Colborne community to celebrate with us,” said Mayor Bill Steele. “I have it on good authority, that although Santa will not be here for the parade, we’re still hoping he will make an appearance this year, even if it’s just a virtual one.”

For more information on Christmas in Port Colborne and how to PORTicipate, including full contest rules, regulations and how to enter, please visit our [website](#). Residents are encouraged to follow us on social media for more event updates.

**About City of Port Colborne**

Located on the south coast of the scenic Niagara Region, Niagara’s Port of Call has found the perfect balance – successful industrial and commercial sectors, comfortable and scenic residential areas, white sand beaches, unique culinary choices, the world class Sugarloaf Marina, fishing, golfing, trails, shopping districts along the historic Welland Canal and an energized festival and entertainment scene that includes live theatre – truly a community that adds to the overall Niagara Experience.

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