

THE MAGAZINE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

BELLEVILLE

BELLEVILLE.CA

DECEMBER 2020



Caution, respect and support have reached great heights in our community during this crisis.

THANK YOU.



CITY OF BELLEVILLE

169 Front Street
Belleville, Ontario K8N 2Y8
Tel: (613) 968-6481
TTY: (613) 967-3768
Belleville.ca

MAYOR
Mitch Panciuk

COUNCIL
Paul Carr, Sean Kelly,
Chris Malette, Kelly McCaw, Bill Sandison,
Garnet Thompson and Ryan Williams

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Rod Bovay

**DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING &
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**
Stephen Ashton

DIRECTOR, FINANCE
Carol Hinze

DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES
Veronica McAlea Major

**DIRECTOR, RECREATION, CULTURE &
COMMUNITY SERVICES**
Mark Fluhrer

**DIRECTOR, CORPORATE
SERVICES/CLERK**
Matt MacDonald

**DIRECTOR, EMERGENCY SERVICES/
FIRE CHIEF**
Mark MacDonald

**MANAGER, ECONOMIC &
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**
Karen Poste

**GENERAL MANAGER,
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**
Perry Decola

**GENERAL MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION
AND OPERATIONS SERVICES**
Joseph D. Reid

BELLEVILLE Magazine is published
by the City of Belleville.

Magazine Contributors:
Jenna Leslie and
Marilyn Warren

Editor - Marilyn Warren
mwarren@belleville.ca

BELLEVILLE Magazine is available online at
Belleville.ca and an accessible text-only format
is available upon request.

Printed in Canada

All information ©2020, City of Belleville.
No use is permitted without written consent.

BELLEVILLE Magazine Welcome



On behalf of City Council, Executive Management and the staff of the City of Belleville, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the December 2020 edition of the BELLEVILLE magazine.

I feel comfortable in saying that 2020 has not been the year any of us anticipated. We have been tried and tested in ways never imagined. As this edition of the magazine goes to print, our region has recently been moved to the Yellow Protect Level of the provincial government's Keeping Ontario Safe and Open plan. Having previously been in the Green Prevent Level this is unsettling to be sure but we need to view this as a warning. It's a warning that we must not let down our guard and become complacent. COVID-19 is here and to protect our residents and our businesses we must continue to follow the safety precautions regarding physical distancing, hand sanitizing, mask wearing and limited groups. Don't invite guests from the high risk areas and limit your travel to avoid these regions.

As in all dark times, there are also glimmers of light. In this publication you will find many examples of these positive moments. Our community has shown great depths of kindness, generosity and compassion. Rather than helplessly throwing their hands in the air, business owners have rolled up their sleeves and modified their operations to protect their employees, their customers and themselves. The City is deeply committed to ensuring our residents can count on the essential services they depend upon and has applied savings in every way possible in an attempt to ease the stress you are currently experiencing.

I would like to close by saying – Choose Belleville. Rather than making your purchases online from distant locations and unknown people, support our community. The options are amazing, many one-of-a-kind and by spending your money locally you are helping to keep our economy strong which benefits all of us who have chosen to call Belleville our home.

If this is a test, it is one we must pass. Now is the time to dig deep. We need to draw on the inner strength we never knew we had - and reach out a supporting hand to help others make the climb. May we be stronger, wiser and kinder when we get to the top.

Although far from typical, I wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mitch Panciuk

Belleville

Contents

- 2 2020
a year like no other
- 3 CITY COUNCIL CONNECTS
through virtual means
- 4-5 DOORS CLOSED
following provincial government orders
- 6 HEALTH UNIT CONFERENCE CALLS
for regional updates
- 7 STAYING CONNECTED
with residents during pandemic
- 8 RESTAURANTS PIVOT
from indoor to outdoor
- 9 DOWNTOWN GETS CREATIVE
to support their businesses
- 10 BELLEVILLE TRANSIT
pushes on amidst closures
- 11 INTRODUCING IMPROVEMENTS
to transit payment options
- 12-13 CITY PAVES THE WAY
for growth and development
- 14 HELPING RESIDENTS COPE
by reducing costs wherever possible
- 15 WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN
Recreation, Culture & Community Services
- 16-17 THANK YOU
to our community
- 18-19 STANLEY PARK PLAYGROUND
on city's east side
- 20 BELLEVILLE CARES
acts of kindness
- 21 PATRICIA CULHANE
big heart, strong convictions
- 22-25 CITY COUNCILLOR SNAPSHOTS
life during COVID-19
- 25 REMEMBRANCE DAY 2020
lest we forget
- 26-27 NEW HOME ANNOUNCED
Belleville Agricultural Society
- 28 CELEBRATING COVID STYLE
business launches much different
- 29 CHIEF MICHAEL CALLAGHAN
official swearing in ceremony
- 30 OUR BEAUTIFUL PARKLANDS
have never been so appreciated
- 31 DEVELOPING A MASTER PLAN
to guide public park investments
- 32 AVONDALE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION
for cyclists and pedestrians
- 33 CHOOSE BELLEVILLE
they're more than a business,
they're our neighbours

2020 IN BELLEVILLE

a year like no other

When we first heard that a novel coronavirus was identified as the cause of an outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan, China in late 2019 it seemed far away and of little impact on our lives here in Belleville. Then, Ontario confirmed its first case of COVID-19 on January 25, 2020. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11. Our lives as we knew them were about to change.

The City's Emergency Response Committee met on March 13 and the decision was made to close all City facilities on March 16 which included City Hall, the Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre, Glanmore National Historic Site, Belleville Public Library, the John M. Parrott Art Gallery and all of the community centres. On March 17 the Government of Ontario announced that it was taking decisive action by making an order declaring an emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. This allowed Ontario to create and enforce emergency orders, such as ordering non-essential workplaces to close, restricting retirement and long-term care home employees from working in more than one facility and prohibiting events and gatherings.

Residents were reeling as these provincial orders were put in place practically overnight. Businesses were forced to close, and the use of parks, playgrounds and sports fields was prohibited. The Parks and Open Spaces division immediately sprang in to action, cordoning off the playgrounds and outdoor facilities.

Amidst all of this, Mayor and Council were determined that essential services would continue. They understood and empathized with the stress and concerns people were struggling to cope with. They wanted to ensure the uncertainty of whether or not residents could count on necessities such as water, transit, sewage, and street maintenance would not contribute to this pressure. The doors to City Hall may have closed to public entry but staff continued to work behind the scenes to provide these resources.



VIRTUAL MEETINGS HELD *to ensure city business continues*



The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for many aspects of City business. One of those challenges in particular was the way that Belleville City Council operates. When the Province first declared an emergency, Council and staff had to quickly pivot the way that business was conducted to ensure there would be no interruptions to essential services for residents.

During their first physically distanced meeting, Council approved a temporary delegation of authority to Chief Administrative Officer Rod Bovay and his designates. This delegation allowed CAO Bovay with the support of Carol Hinze, Director of Finance and Stephen Ashton, Director of Engineering and Development Services to make decisions related to purchasing and planning without Council's further approval. This authority applied to the approval of Request for Tenders, Request for Proposals, extensions of previous purchases, approvals of uncontested minor variances, exemptions to part lot control bylaws, subdivision agreements, exemptions and more. It ensured business continuity for the day-to-day operations of the City during a time of emergency.

On March 19, the Province allowed municipalities to conduct business virtually by introducing the Municipal Emergency Act, 2020. With this legislation in place, councils, committees and boards across the province could meet electronically without needing to be together in-person for quorum.

Belleville City Council was then able to move to virtual meetings via Zoom Video Communications. Each Council member could participate from their home or office while maintaining physical distance and limiting non-essential trips. No meetings were missed and City business was able to proceed without interruption.

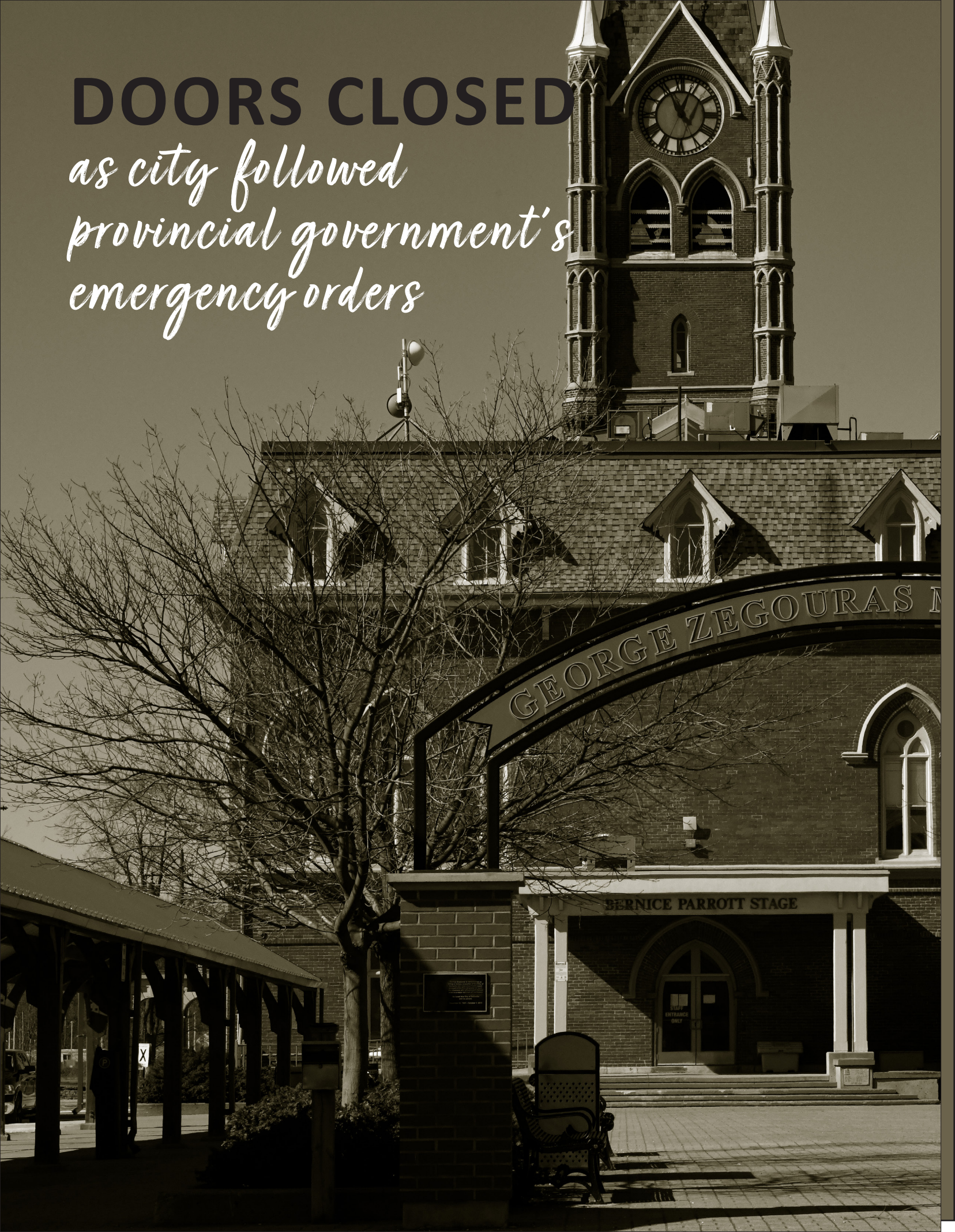
Essential committees such as the Planning Advisory Committee and Committee of Adjustment also made the switch to virtual meetings resulting in a continual flow of planning matters and further development within the city, in addition to maintained day-to-day operations. Meetings were streamed online and recorded for the public's viewing on the City's website and YouTube channel.

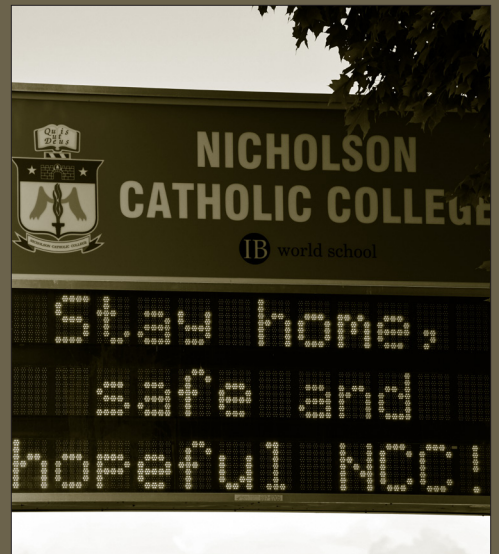
"As a Council, we recognize the importance of maintaining these services for our residents. Staff has remained reasonable and flexible as we pivoted our operations and we are very grateful for that. Thank you to everyone who has cooperated along the way. I have never been more proud to be part this supportive and resilient community. We, as a City, have and will continue to do whatever we can to support residents during this time of need."

Mayor Mitch Paciuk

DOORS CLOSED

*as city followed
provincial government's
emergency orders*





REGULAR CONFERENCE CALLS PROVIDE

virus updates within our region

Since March, City officials have been meeting through conference calls with representatives of Hastings Prince Edward Public Health, Quinte Health Care, Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services, neighbouring municipalities and other community partners on an ongoing basis to receive updates on the COVID-19 situation locally and beyond. Initially, when information was being released with such intensity and frequency, these meetings were held three times each week. They are now held on Wednesdays and the frequency will increase again should circumstances warrant doing so.

What began as updates from Dr. Piotr Oglaza, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Hastings Prince Edward Public Health has evolved to include updates from Dave Pym Coordinator Emergency Preparedness, Protection Services and Privacy Quinte Health Care, and Doug Socha, Chief of Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services.



Dr. Piotr Oglaza
Chief Medical Officer of Health, Hastings
Prince Edward Public Health



Dave Pym Coordinator
Emergency Preparedness, Protection
Services and Privacy
Quinte Health Care



Doug Socha,
Chief of Hastings-Quinte
Paramedic Services

The City looks to Hastings Prince Edward Public Health (HPEPH) for their guidance regarding preventative health and safety measures. Their recommendations regarding face masks, playground equipment and social gatherings have been supported and echoed by the City. The conference calls have been an excellent way for our region's officials to stay connected and ask questions.

Residents are encouraged to visit the Health Unit's website at hpepublichealth.ca for information regarding the regional COVID-19 cases on the HPEPH COVID-19 Dashboard which they strive to update with the latest information Monday through Friday by 2 p.m.

Dave Pym's updates are primarily about the Belleville COVID-19 assessment centre Quinte Health Care has established at the former Quinte Secondary School on College Street. It was necessary to implement access protocols for the health and safety of those coming for testing and those conducting the testing.

Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services began doing onsite testing prior to the opening of the assessment centre and continues to do so now. Chief Doug Socha reports on the testing numbers of his group in long-term care facilities, the homes of those unable to come to the centre and the support they offer to the assessment centres when needed.

Quinte Health Care has created a resource page for COVID-19 testing which includes assessment centre information and online registration forms. Pre-registration is now required for testing. Residents are encouraged to use the new online pre-registration form available at qhc.on.ca. The centre remains open on weekends.

CITY STRIVES TO KEEP RESIDENTS INFORMED

by reaching out in many ways

It is always a priority for the City to keep residents informed regarding the City's municipal projects and events. This communication is carried out in many ways. Media releases are sent to all of Belleville's media professionals, posted on the City website and shared on social media through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For several years the City has published the Belleville magazine throughout the year which is mailed to all Belleville residents.

In March of this year, the City recognized the importance of a more all-encompassing messaging approach to ensure Belleville residents receive up-to-date information regarding the provincial government's safety precaution directions in response to COVID-19 and the actions the City is taking to protect our community. New information was being released daily at the federal and provincial level and the City was rapidly adapting to ensure residents could continue to depend upon essential services such as transit, water, roadways and waste collection.



“Mayor Panciuk has appeared on YourTV throughout the crisis. Speaking directly to our viewers he provides key information that keeps our citizens informed of city plans and activities. Reaching the viewer through YourTV provides the Mayor with a direct channel to get the right information out in a timely manner.”

SCOTT MEYERS, MANAGER,
PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, YOURTV QUINTE

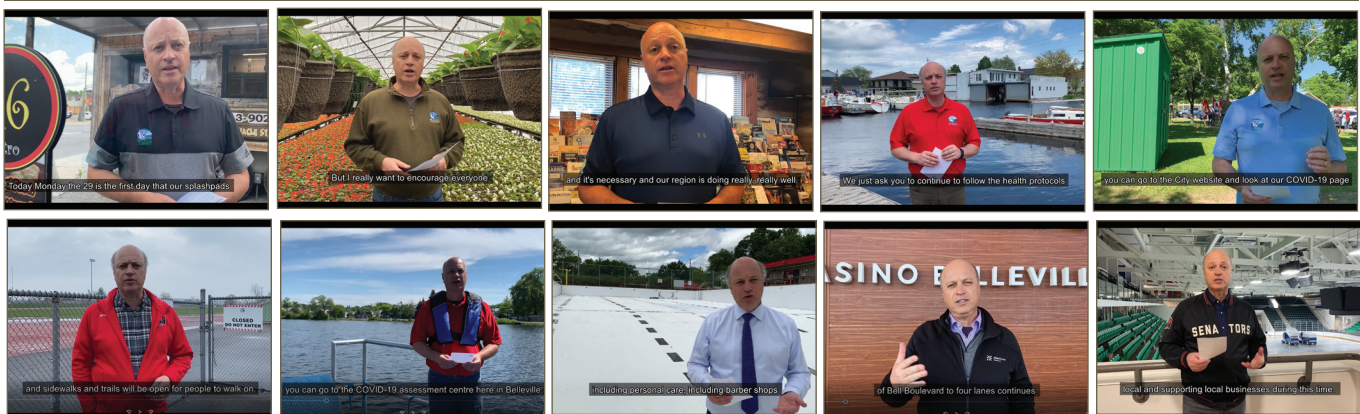
Rather than publish the Belleville magazine which was distributed every few months, we paused that communication tool and changed direction. We immediately created a webpage on the City site dedicated to updated information on any actions or service changes the City was making in response to COVID-19. Mayor Mitch Panciuk began publishing regular video updates on Facebook and Twitter as changes occurred, sometimes multiple times a week. A series of messages were shared through local radio station ads and the Mayor did frequent interviews and updates with YourTV and the Lorne Brooker radio show. Local print media representatives were in constant contact with the City. The monthly newsletter, Belleville Updates, continues to be shared on social media and the City website

The Mayor and Council are committed to making decisions to support residents during this time and to ensure this has been happening, not a single Council meeting has been missed. To respect physical distancing during the lockdown, Zoom meetings were live streamed so the community could follow what was happening and why.

“My priority to the listeners during this pandemic is to get the proper and correct information out. By having Mayor Panciuk and the other local Mayors on we are able to do that. It is great that they also feel like they are able to come on the show with short notice to pass on any new information to the listening audience. This really makes a difference in how I deal with this ever changing story on air.”

LORNE BROOKER
THE LORNE BROOKER SHOW, CJBQ

EXCERPTS FROM MAYOR PANCIUK'S REGULAR VIDEO UPDATES



RESTAURANTS QUICKLY PIVOT

from indoor dining to pick-up, delivery and patio service



On July 3, as part of Stage 2 of the Ontario government’s framework for reopening the province, a new emergency order and an amendment of another under s.7.0.2 (4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act was issued. The decision was made to help restaurant and bar owners reopen and safely serve more customers. This action allowed municipalities to quickly pass temporary bylaws for the creation and extension of patios and allowed covered outdoor dining areas to serve customers.

Belleville City Council acted promptly on this decision and immediately sanctioned the bylaw changes. This cut

through red tape enabling restaurants and bar owners to create or extend a patio space. Within days, business owners had modified their operations and once again our community was able to enjoy dining out.

Restaurants and bars are an important part of our economy and valued employers in our community. We admire the innovative approaches these business owners have taken and thank them for finding ways to provide these services to our residents.

On July 17 Belleville entered Stage 3 of the provincial recovery plan which allowed restricted indoor dining.

DOWNTOWN BELLEVILLE RESPONDS

creatively to support businesses

Downtown Belleville was among the many businesses and organizations impacted by the effects of COVID-19. When the provincial government first ordered the closure of all non-essential businesses in March, the Belleville Downtown District Business Improvement Area (BIA) quickly began shifting their operation in order to support their members.

Downtown District Marketplace

On April 17, the Downtown District launched a local e-commerce marketplace in which retailers, restaurants and services-based businesses could create their own virtual shop to sell their products and services online. Customers were able to make purchases through the website and pick up curbside or have the order delivered directly to their doorstep. Residents can explore and shop 1000+ top-selling items from over 30 local downtown businesses in the Downtown District Marketplace at: shop.downtownbelleville.ca

Al Fresco in the District

As the Province started to roll out plans for reopening Ontario, the Downtown District and City of Belleville began thinking of creative ways to maximize the outdoor space downtown. At their June 8 meeting, Belleville City Council approved a by-law to allow for the expedited of encroachment agreements and waiving of application fees for downtown patios. City staff and the Downtown District worked diligently to approve these agreements, extend patios and install parklets to allow for physical distancing on downtown streets.

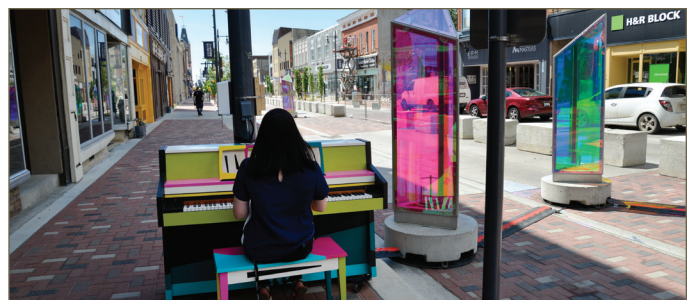
Prismatica

From July 17 to August 16, the Downtown District with funding and support from the City of Belleville welcomed Prismatica to Front Street. The interactive installation featured 25 pivoting prisms over two metres tall, covered with a dichroic film that reflects the colours of the rainbow. The display could be enjoyed from afar or spun up-close by hand, creating a “kaleidoscope of colours”. Hand sanitizing stations were placed throughout the display and residents were encouraged to sanitize frequently and practise infection control precautions at all times.

The installation combined with beautiful parklets, weekly live music and extended store hours made the Downtown District a destination for residents to enjoy shopping, food and entertainment in a safe, physically distanced manner.

“When restrictions shut down the main street, it became apparent early on that we would need to act quickly and think way outside of the box in order to support our downtown members. COVID-19 created a strong desire for community, so that is what we focused on. With the support of Belleville City Council and City staff, we were able to roll out safe, new, creative ways to attract visitors to the downtown, and in turn our community rallied to support our businesses; a win-win for all.”

Marijo Cuerrier, Executive Director of the Belleville Downtown District BIA.



BELLEVILLE TRANSIT

pushes on amidst closures

From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belleville Transit has recognized the critical role they play in ensuring residents get to work and appointments, and in accessing essential services. As such, service has continued without interruption.

On March 16, the City of Belleville began planning for the impact of the virus. Belleville Transit extended the use of March bus passes until the end of April and began preparing for changes to how service would be offered, including introducing extensive sanitization processes.

Three days later, after the Province first declared a state of emergency, rear-door boarding was put into effect and fare collection was suspended for the foreseeable future to reduce contact between drivers and riders.

Ridership on public transit decreased by 94% as residents were urged to stay home whenever possible. On March 24, service transitioned to on-demand only, and riders were

asked to only utilize transit for essential trips (employment, groceries, pharmacy, etc.).

As the province slowly began reopening and the demand for public transport grew, staff transitioned to a modified scheduled service, offering select routes on a reduced schedule. On Sept. 8, Transit returned to regular scheduled service and on Oct. 1, fare collection and front-door boarding resumed. Extensive sanitization processes remain in effect and riders are required to wear face coverings on buses and at the terminal.

In addition to providing ongoing service, Transit also worked to push through major updates to their current services including renovations to the Robert E. Ladoucier Transit Centre, accessibility upgrades to 75 transit stops throughout the city and installation of 13 new transit shelters. Transit also introduced a single-rate monthly pass for all users and new mobile payment app, making paying for bus fare as easy and convenient as possible for riders.

“Since the beginning, it has been the City’s priority to keep residents safe and help reduce the impact of this pandemic as best we can. By continuing to offer service, putting a focus on community safety and suspending payments, we feel that we have done just that. I am very proud of the work that Transit has done over these past several months and continues to do on a regular basis. I think our residents have appreciated their effort and flexibility, and it shows through their cooperation with the safety measures in place. We will continue to adapt and do whatever is best for our residents as we make our way through this.”

Mayor Mitch Paciuk



INTRODUCING IMPROVEMENTS *to transit fare payments*

Belleville Transit has introduced some exciting changes to the way that they accept fare payment.

During the Sept. 14 Belleville City Council meeting, Council approved a single-price monthly transit pass. The new \$65/month standard rate pass would be available to all riders, removing the need for identification when purchasing a pass (children 5 to 12 years may still use transit at no cost). Previously, participating locations required riders to show identification so that they could determine the price point at which to sell the pass to the customer. There were Adult, Student and Special/Senior rates that varied in cost and required additional time and resources to sort through.

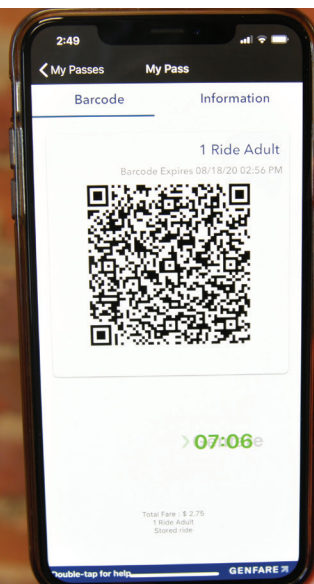
This new, simplified pricing model allows vendors such as Shoppers Drug Mart, Giant Tiger, convenience stores, etc. to sell monthly passes in addition to tickets without any need for

identification, therefore increasing access and convenience for both the vendors and customers. The model has also allowed Transit to install a new fare media vending machine at City Hall to make purchasing passes even more straightforward. In addition to improving in-store sales, Belleville Transit has also launched their new mobile pay app, B-TAP. The app was created by Genfare and sales transactions are handled by Moneris - one of the largest electronic payment processing organizations in Canada - and was launched just in time for the return of fare collection.

Riders can purchase single ride tickets and monthly passes at any time of day using their mobile devices. The app is available for free download in the App Store or Google Play. Users can set up their account, enter their payment information and begin loading passes and tickets right away. More information is available at BELLEVILLE.CA.

“Throughout the pandemic, we have worked diligently to get passengers to their destinations safely. As the world has shifted, it has become more apparent than ever that our passengers need to be able to access our services in new and more attainable ways. We are very pleased to be able to offer these convenient new options to our riders and think these changes will create a smoother and improved experience for everyone. Thank you to everyone who has been cooperative and understanding in our efforts.”

Transit Services Manager Paul Buck





“Our thanks goes to MPP Todd Smith and MP Neil Ellis for the funding both provincial and federal governments committed to this project. The growth in this area is amazing. We are proud as a city to be able to support this progress by providing this valuable infrastructure.

Not only are Phase One and Two complete, but they were completed ahead of schedule! Thanks to Gordon Barr Ltd. and City staff for the excellent execution of this project. We are not only open for business, but also the great economic opportunities that await.”
 Mayor Mitch Paciuk

Phase 1 completion ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 5



Phase 2 completion ribbon-cutting ceremony on Nov. 24



CITY PAVES THE WAY *for growth and development*

Construction on the 1.75 kilometre Bell Boulevard Widening project is now complete. This project has been ongoing throughout 2020: it was tendered in January, awarded by City Council in February, and Gordon Barr Ltd. broke ground in March.

A ribbon cutting was held in August marking the completion of Phase One of the project from Shoreline Casino Belleville's new signalized intersection to the western contract limits. Phase One was completed in advance of the Shorelines Casino's re-opening on September 28 and features a new four lane roadway, turning lanes, new active transportation facilities, and provisions for future traffic signals at Jenland Way and a new intersection west of Jenland Way. The new intersection and future signals have been planned for access to future development and to accommodate increased traffic volumes associated with accelerating development growth on this major arterial roadway.

Phase Two of the project extended from the Shorelines Casino to Sidney Street. This section of Bell Boulevard has also been widened from two to four lanes complete with an asphalt multi-use path on the south side and a concrete sidewalk on the north side of the roadway. New traffic signals have been installed at Hanna Court and new street lighting and landscaping have been installed along this four-lane road.

The Bell Boulevard and Sidney Street intersection has been widened to provide additional turning lanes to accommodate increases in traffic volumes attributable to future development. The intersection work also included concrete medians and pedestrian crosswalks on each approach.

Construction crews will return in 2021 to complete the reconstruction of Sidney Street from Bell Boulevard to Maple Drive.

The \$20-million Bell Boulevard Widening and Sidney Street Corridor Improvements project received \$4,166,500 through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) – Rural and Northern Funding Stream.

The Bell Boulevard Widening project is providing safe and efficient transportation infrastructure necessary to support this rapidly developing commercial, industrial, and employment corridor. The widening of Bell Boulevard from two to four lanes will ensure safe access and increased traffic capacity for not only existing businesses, but also currently proposed and future developments.





From the moment COVID-19 arrived on our doorstep, Mayor Mitch Panciuk stressed that residents could count on the City to continue to provide the essential services our community depends upon and that is exactly what has happened. This support has extended well beyond that promise. To ease the financial stress residents are experiencing a number of changes were introduced.

First, and perhaps most exciting, was the announcement at the beginning of July that City Council had approved a property tax decrease for 2020. The direction from Council to staff had been that these were exceptional times and we needed an exceptional budget. It was important to show that the City was willing to do its part.

The City's Finance Department set out to achieve this and returned with exactly what had been requested. The negative tax rate was made possible by accessing reserves designated to cover COVID-19 expenses, reducing the City's summer staff by two thirds and by finding \$600,000 in savings on 150 budget line items. These factors, combined with a -4.97 education tax rate merged with the City property tax rate, resulted in Belleville residents seeing their overall property taxes take a slight dip. New growth in the City also added additional assessment to the City's tax base allowing more flexibility in budget planning.

To preserve future investment in the City, no capital budget items were cut to achieve these results.

By approving the budget later in the year – after a series of major revisions to an earlier draft in February – it was easier to assess mounting costs, some associated with COVID-19. The City was very pleased to present this tax decrease to residents during these difficult times.

A number of additional action items were also approved in March to help reduce stress for residents, while maintaining operations of the City.

At that time, the three remaining 2020 tax instalment payment dates were deferred to later dates.

All property tax and water bill administrative fees, late payment fees or interest charges were waived during this time. Belleville Water and Elexicon continued their no-disconnect policy also.

Transit continued to operate for all essential services. From March through until the end of September fares were not accepted by our drivers in an additional effort to further promote social distancing.

City parking passes were extended through the month of September. No interest was charged on parking tickets or municipal fines during this time.

In March garbage bags were accepted with or without tags and in April a change was made to allow up to two bags per household without tags. This service continued through until this fall when regular bag tag requirements resumed.

Late charges for overdue items at the Belleville Public Library were waived. All due dates and fines were suspended or cleared, and borrowed materials did not accrue fines. Residents were asked to keep all borrowed library items at home and not return them until the facility re-opened.

Many of the City's services were made available online giving residents the opportunity to conduct their business from home and avoid doing so in person.



The staff of the City’s Recreation, Culture & Community Services Department was excited about 2020. The year was off to a great start with fresh new programming added to the long-time favourites. The Belleville Senators were having a great season which meant the Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre, as their home location, was a hub of activity. Then on March 16, COVID-19 necessitated closing the doors of City of Belleville facilities which included this department’s Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre, Community Archives and Glanmore National Historic Site. Staff immediately reached out to clients to inform them of the changes and began implementing new health and safety protocols for staff. Following the directives of the provincial government and our local Health Unit, the team has worked diligently to safely stay in touch with the community during this time. Below is a brief screenshot of just some of what’s been happening in their area.

QUINTE SPORTS & WELLNESS CENTRE

- hundreds of indoor & outdoor programs, rentals & events were cancelled
- AHL (Belleville Senators) season was cancelled
- while closed, staff worked on arena maintenance and projects, including painting, deep cleaning and annual pool shutdown activities
- staff has continued to reach out to clients by email, website & social media
- the Cooling Centre was activated here in July
- facility, aquatic and customer service staff were re-assigned to public works, properties and harbours from May to September
- virtual recreation programs were offered during the summer and in-person outdoor classes in August
- reopening videos were created to help clients understand the new safety procedures
- registration for Fall Recreation programs began in August
- Wally Dever Arena reopened Sept. 14
- Templeman Aquatic Centre reopened Sept. 28
- FDC Arena reopened Sept. 28
- protocols for parents/guardians in arenas were developed
- aqua fitness and swimming lessons started in October
- the gymnasium reopened for health & wellness programs Oct. 26
- CAA Arena reopened Nov. 2

The team reopened the boat launches and harbours in May with procedure modifications to protect clients and staff.

GLANMORE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

- during closure staff worked on site maintenance, collections management, exhibits, website & marketing, education & public programming, research activities, the volunteer program & professional development
- established online ticketing for visitors & reopened with restrictions July 14

COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

- while closed worked on crowd sourcing project, updated the Community Archives online catalogue, did an analysis of older digital files & continued to respond to queries
- reopened with restrictions Aug. 10

Recreation, Culture & Community Services continues to find ways to connect with our community as safely as possible.

thank you!

During the past few months we have faced unprecedented challenges. While many followed direction and worked from home to try and help to contain the virus, there are others whose positions demand they be out on the front lines. Each role plays an integral part in helping to keep our community safe and to ensure essential services are available. Your resilience and support have been exceptional. We value and appreciate all that you do.

“Hastings-Quinte Paramedics involvement in dealing with COVID-19 on the frontlines began when over 900 repatriated Canadians were returned to be quarantined from China and cruise ships. Since then, a specialized team of community paramedics have been actively swabbing and testing in the community, at assessment centres, long-term care homes, and establishing pop up drive-through testing sites. This dedicated team has performed over 20,000 swabs and continues to support other health-care partners. In an effort to decrease pressures on the emergency room, a specific protocol was developed to discharge stable patients back to their homes equipped with remote monitoring equipment which was followed up by paramedics. Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services was the first in Ontario to establish a program specific to patients with COVID like symptoms to keep them in their home thereby decreasing their exposure. Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services has an amazing team of well-qualified professionals committed to delivering the highest medical standards.”

Doug Socha, Chief,
Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services

TO OUR
ESSENTIAL
SERVICE
PROVIDERS

DOCTORS

NURSES

FIREFIGHTERS

POLICE SERVICES

PARAMEDICS

COMMUNITY
SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION

MEDIA

VEHICLE DEALER-
SHIPS & REPAIR

ESSENTIAL
SERVICE
SUPPLIERS

TRANSIT

“

Belleville’s Emergency Management Control Group worked swiftly, beginning mid-March when the pandemic risk elevated greatly. The date was easy to remember – St. Patrick’s day March 17. There continues to be frequent communications between health agencies, the Province and all City services to ensure we have the best plan to protect our community from COVID-19. Belleville Fire took early measures to adapt protocols in step with the recommendations of health experts and we continue to conduct staff screening to ensure our responders stay healthy to come to the aid of those in need. Members of the department researched best practices and even came up with a re-usable mask design for staff to wear at work, at the start of the pandemic and long before it was made mandatory. To date we have tested many responders with no positive COVID-19 results. We believe this is attributed to clear procedures and wearing of full PPE at all of the many medical calls we attend where a person is ill and screening indicates they may have been exposed to the virus. We all need to continue to do our part to knock this virus off its feet!”

Mark MacDonald, Fire Chief,
Belleville Fire and Emergency Services



“Our teams of staff and physicians at all four Quinte Health Care hospitals have been just fantastic during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our physicians and frontline staff have had to learn about an entirely new illness, including how to diagnose and treat patients that are afflicted by the virus. The amount of planning and preparing our organization has undertaken has been incredible and many staff members have taken on new roles to help out in whatever way they can. Everyone at QHC has gone out of their way to put our patients first and I could not be more proud of the teamwork we’ve seen within our hospitals. We’re all so grateful for the support from our community – from ribbons around trees, signs in windows, siren salutes, PPE donations, food deliveries and all the other wonderful gestures of support – it’s been so appreciated.”

Mary Clare Egberts, President and CEO,
Quinte Health Care

TO OUR
ESSENTIAL
SERVICE
PROVIDERS

GROCERY
STORE WORKERS

TRANSPORT
DRIVERS

HEALTH UNIT

CONVENIENCE
STORES

RESTAURANTS
(TAKE-OUT,
DRIVE-THRU,
DELIVERY)

PHARMACIES

GAS STATIONS

BEER STORES
AND LCBO

“There are many examples of the compassion and caring our officers have shown our citizens during this pandemic but one in particular stands out. By utilizing police auxiliaries, and some police officers volunteering their own time, Cst. Comeau developed an initiative to deliver food to the elderly, and to members of our community shut in due to health reasons during the crisis. He worked with the United Way and the Good Food Box Program for the logistics, to ensure the officers, police auxiliaries and recipients were safe during this good will gesture. Between April 23 and August 25, 343 deliveries were made. We were also able to provide Teddy Bears, which had been donated to us from a local charitable organization, to some of the elderly who seemed to be very lonely. I am incredibly proud of all our members who participated in this initiative.”

Mike Callaghan
Chief of Police, Belleville Police Service

and so many others -your service is noted and valued!

STANLEY PARK PLAYGROUND

young family oasis on city's east side



The July 30 launch of the Stanley Park playground was greeted by excited squeals and laughter as a group of youngsters clamoured over the new play structure. The timing for the ribbon cutting was perfect. The provincial government had just announced that Belleville would be included in the Stage 3 reopening of Ontario which included playgrounds.

Families there had been without a neighbourhood play area since 2015. In the summer of 2019, city staff conducted a survey and engaged with residents to learn what they would like to see the park transform into. There were over 750 responses to the online survey. The survey provided great insight into what the community wanted to see in the park and the play structure.

VanMEER Engineering Ltd. was selected to complete the topographic survey and prepare part of the documents required to provide potential contractors with the existing site conditions, including compiling data on zoning, setbacks from Bell Creek and other factors regarding the work. Many proposals were submitted. The top three were invited to present their proposals at a Public Information Centre on Dec. 10 at the Parkdale Community Centre. Information was gathered from the public and the recommended proposal was from Wentworth Landscapes Ltd. Construction began in June and the city was pleased to be able to open this playground at Forest Hill Crescent and Edgehill Road at the end of July.

“It’s great to have a nice quiet park here in our neighbourhood where we can take our kids to play and we can relax in the shade,” said Josh Fraser. “Prior to this it was a car trip across the city but now we are within walking distance and can enjoy it on a regular basis.”

“As a family, we have been looking forward to having this playground in our neighbourhood for a long time and the kids were thrilled to be at the opening ribbon-cutting ceremony,” added Sherrie Tipper. “It’s been a great experience for the whole family. By participating in the city surveys and public information centres we were able to have input into what we would like to see in the playground which makes us feel that we were a part of creating this space for our children. We watched with anticipation as it was being built and were thrilled when the COVID restrictions were lifted just as it was completed. Even walking to the play area is an adventure as we cross Bell Creek on the walking bridge and explore the trails as we go. We’re enjoying connecting with our neighbourhood friends and meeting new people now that we have a fantastic neighbourhood gathering place.”

Residents are reminded that all City parks currently open to the public are to be used at their own discretion. Parents and caregivers are asked to ensure children are physically distancing at all times. It is recommended residents bring hand sanitizer and that hands are washed carefully with soap and water before and after use. Please remain at home if feeling unwell or exhibiting any symptoms.



CHALLENGES BRING OUT *the best in our community*

Coming together while staying apart.

Within days of the provincial government's March announcement of closures and restrictions, stories of kindness began circulating within our community. Some were simple, thoughtful gestures, others took on a larger life impacting many. The City decided to reach out and ask residents to share their 'kindness' stories. #BellevilleCares was launched at the end of March, a time when people were hungry for good news. The stories that rolled in on the City's social media channels were moving, heart warming and inspiring.

#BellevilleCares



RED RIBBONS THROUGHOUT CITY SHOW SUPPORT FOR FRONT LINE WORKERS

Frontline Workers appreciate
garage donates tire swap proceeds to BGHF
Parkhurst Parade
local businesses produce PPE face shields for health care sector

Quinte Homebuilders Association shows frontline healthcare workers support with BGH drive past parade
small painted rocks placed along city sidewalks to brighten passers' day
church serves free lunches

Belleville Senators & Ottawa Senators Foundation donate \$100,000 to local charities

unknown woman pays \$170 for senior's groceries when his card failed to work at checkout

Belleville business presents Gleaners with \$20,000
former resident sends masks from Hong Kong

resident living alone receives bouquet delivery

LOCAL BUSINESSES START PRODUCING HAND SANITIZER

free lunches for Loyalist facilities, security and cleaning staff from college's food service provider

local builders craft wooden serving boards to auction online for BGH Foundation & Gleaners Food Bank

local food producer donates hundreds of sandwiches to essential service workers

teachers run online storytime for students

residents busy sewing face masks for frontline workers

Canadian Korean Community donates 600 PPE masks

Elxicon donates \$3,000 to BGH Foundation

local restaurant provides over 250 free meals to 1st responders & healthcare workers



SHOWING APPRECIATION TO HOSPITAL WORKERS AND LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENCES' STAFF
SIREN SALUTE FROM REGION'S FIRST RESPONDERS



MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL



SNOWBIRDS FLY-PAST



PATRICIA CULHANE

*big heart
strong convictions*

We were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of Belleville City Councillor Patricia Culhane. Surrounded by family, she passed away on November 8 at the Belleville General Hospital where she had spent over 50 years of her life caring for others in our community as a pediatric and emergency nurse, and then as a supervisor.

Councillor Pat Culhane was first elected to Belleville City Council in the 2006 Municipal Election and re-elected in 2010. She sought election as Mayor in the 2014 election narrowly losing by only 161 votes. After a four-year break during which she did contract nursing in the Arctic, she returned to City Council in 2018 where she served on numerous committees and represented Belleville on Committees of Hastings County and the Quinte Source Water Protection Committee.

At the November 9 Council meeting Councillor Culhane's seat at the meeting was draped with a Belleville flag and each Councillor came forward and placed a single red rose by her photo. On November 21, respecting COVID distancing and mask requirements, City Council and staff respectfully lined the street as her funeral procession paused briefly on Market Street where piper Troy Dulmage played a tribute to Councillor Culhane.

A special memorial ceremony was held at the November 12 Council meeting. Each Councillor paid tribute to Councillor Culhane and a moving collage presentation of photos taken during her time on Council was accompanied by piper music. The tribute concluded with the flag which had been lowered for the previous two weeks at City Hall, and the book of condolences which hundreds of members of the Belleville community had signed, being presented to Councillor Culhane's family.

"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened."

Dr. Seuss

rest in peace

"The City of Belleville has lost a passionate advocate for our City and a defender of all our citizens - especially those she considered the most vulnerable. Pat always took the view that her seat at the Council table gave her an opportunity to be a voice for her community and she was determined to exercise it. Whether you agreed with her or not -- we always knew where she stood and she was able to articulate her position clearly and effectively. We have lost an important member of our Council and we will feel this loss for many years to come."

MAYOR MITCH PANCIUK



On November 21, City Council and staff were joined by members of the community to respectfully line the street as Pat's funeral procession paused briefly on Market Street.

COUNCILLOR SNAPSHOTS

beyond city hall during covid

There is no one within our community unaffected by COVID-19. Physically, financially or emotionally, it has touched everyone in some way. City Councillors have been doing everything within their power to ease the pressures of Belleville residents. This has demanded creative, proactive thinking and collaboration. But, like every other individual, the virus has changed their lives too, at home and at work. Here is a snapshot of their personal lives over the past few months.

Paul Carr, Belleville City Councillor

In addition to being a Member of Council, Councillor Paul Carr is a Manager of Assessment and Intervention at Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) -Bath Institution. He oversees case management and supervises parole officers. In alignment with the Government of Canada and CSC's response to COVID-19, there were operational adjustments to implement in rapid fashion to maintain a safe and healthy work environment, as well as protect the inmate population. Councillor Carr and his parole officers had to make rapid adjustments, including modifications to a partial remote work environment, while still attending the penitentiary for legislated job duties. Councillor Carr found creative ways to keep his team connected, particularly now that strict physical distancing is required. To help his team remain connected during this time, they held periodic virtual coffee breaks – to ease the tensions that come with teleworking largely in isolation.

COVID-19 impacted his home life as well. His wife Lisa is a teacher and following March break, she had to quickly convert from in-class studies to online learning. There were no pre-established guidelines to follow as this was a first for elementary school and many rural students struggled with limited internet access. His oldest daughter was in her final semester of nursing at Queen's when the University halted all classes and placements. She was able to write her certification exam in July and is now working full-time at Quinte Health Care. His youngest daughter finished her final semester of high school online and is now a Queen's University student, completing first year courses virtually from home. Neither of the daughters experienced the memorable milestones of celebrating their graduations with their peers.



“Has COVID impacted our lives? Yes. Do we live in fear? No.

We are respecting the guidelines the Health Unit is recommending and look forward to once again sitting in our family's season ticket seats at the Sens game surrounded by Belleville fans.”

Sean Kelly, Belleville City Councillor

March 17th has always held a special spot in Councillor Sean Kelly's heart. This date in 2020 will stand out in his memory as none before. In response to COVID-19 the provincial government made the decision to close businesses and services. Councillor Kelly's role as Quinte Broadcasting's Director of Programming (MIX 97, Rock 107 and 800AM CJBQ) and Co-Host on the Morning Show at MIX 97 immediately took on an extreme intensity. He had to create a game plan to ensure our community was receiving news updates as they happened. His colleagues stepped up to the challenge as they entered a 16-week period of extended hours and additional shifts, positioning themselves as a source of current information for local residents on all three Quinte Broadcasting stations.

“It's interesting because I feel like I have built relationships with people I've never met. They were isolated in their homes and depending on us to keep them informed during a stressful and frightening time. I received letters and phone calls saying how much they had come to depend upon hearing our familiar voices at this time.

“I am always deeply proud of our community, but during this time I have witnessed the most amazing acts of kindness and that appreciation has reached a whole new level. The making of masks, the donations and delivery of food - people were stepping up and reaching out to support others in the most compassionate ways. I have never before felt as connected to my profession as I have during these challenges.”



Chris Malette, Belleville City Councillor

When Councillor Chris Malette retired from his career in the newspaper industry he wanted to find part-time work to keep him busy. The Commissionaires reached out and asked if he would be interested in a security position. The part-time hours were exactly what he was looking for.

Councillor Malette's primary post at 8 Wing/CFB Trenton is the air passenger terminal. Having spent a great deal of time providing coverage for the base when he was a journalist, Councillor Malette feels at ease in the surroundings. Then he and other Commissionaires were called upon to help facilitate extra security, working what quickly became a very strictly controlled medical quarantine area on the base for returning cruise ship passengers, repatriated to Canada from the United States and the Caribbean. His uniform transformed to include protective clothing – a gown, mask and gloves.

“These people were from across Canada, secluded from their friends and family, and scared. Once this group was gone, one of the military flights to Latvia was placed under a 14-day quarantine and I was part of that having been in contact with the group. This has been a great experience. Now I'm seeing our troops, which were initially brought home under COVID sanctions, being sent overseas once again. I am proud to be Canadian and this experience has strengthened that even more. I make a point of always thanking our troops for everything they do for our country.”



CITY COUNCILLORS ALWAYS WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BELLEVILLE RESIDENTS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO EMAIL YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES.

PAUL CARR: COUNCILLOR.CARR@BELLEVILLE.CA

SEAN KELLY: COUNCILLOR.KELLY@BELLEVILLE.CA

CHRIS MALETTE: COUNCILLOR.MALETTE@BELLEVILLE.CA

KELLY MCCAW: COUNCILLOR.MCCAW@BELLEVILLE.CA

Kelly McCaw, Belleville City Councillor

When the Ontario government announced the business closures in March Councillor Kelly McCaw's initial emotion was fear. She and her husband Ken own three restaurants. This is their family income, including that of their two kids who work in the businesses also. It was very unnerving not knowing exactly what the restrictions would be. She was worried staff layoffs might be necessary and was concerned for their employees' financial wellbeing. The first three weeks of the lock down were unsettling to say the least. Business ground to a halt as if people were hiding at home – afraid to have contact with the outside world. By the third week residents rebounded and rallied around the small business community. The phones were ringing off the hook with takeout orders. Councillor McCaw now felt a glimmer of hope that everything was going to be okay.

“The most painful part of the lock down for me was when the long-term care residence where my mother lives in Kingston was closed to visitors. My greatest fear was that I would never see her again and that the image of her through the residence window would be my final memory.

“The highlight of all this is that I have been able to spend more time with my 16-year-old daughter and really get to know her better as a person, not just as my daughter. That's been wonderful. These past few months have caused me to pause and completely assess my life goals. I now feel more focused on the things I truly value and better prepared to pursue those ambitions.”



COUNCILLOR SNAPSHOTS

beyond city hall during covid

...CONTINUED

Bill Sandison, Belleville City Councillor

During the past few months, Councillor Bill Sandison and his wife have been complying with the restrictions and staying close to home. He admits it has been very hard to be unable to spend time with family and friends and although he is thankful for technology such as Zoom to stay in touch, nothing can replace those family dinners or a hug from your grandchild.

However, he also acknowledges that the extra time has provided him the opportunity to really take an in depth look at the Ward he represents. During this stressful COVID time, people have wanted to talk. People have needed to talk. And Councillor Sandison feels these conversations have given him a broader perspective of Ward 2 and the people living there.

“I miss sports and the social component that accompanies them but have kept busy doing some home improvements that I previously did not have the time to do. COVID has sparked many emotions but perhaps the greatest one is appreciation for our local businesses. They immediately adapted and made changes which enabled me, and my family, to isolate and be safe. Each week we make a conscious effort to order from our Belleville restaurants to show our support for their resilience and the service they are providing our community. There is no place I would rather live and I have never been so very proud of our residents as I am at this time.”



Garnet Thompson, Belleville City Councillor

Councillor Garnet Thompson has had to switch gears in many aspects of his life as we work our way through COVID-19. His retail position at Lafferty's Crossings in downtown Belleville was initially affected when the store closed for 2 ½ months in alignment with the government restrictions. They became a part of the online Downtown District Marketplace and a series of precautions were put in place when they were able to reopen. Councillor Thompson was now signing in to work, answering health questions prior to entering and wearing a mask. Each time a customer left, a thorough disinfecting took place and if clothes had been tried on they were removed and isolated from the display room for a period of time.

Councillor Thompson also works part time at Bush Funeral Home. The amount of hours he would typically work is significantly reduced. Services are still being conducted but the number of people able to attend the services is restricted so the need for staffing has decreased. Again, they are being diligent about disinfecting surfaces and physically distancing to help prevent spreading the virus.

“The most difficult and heartbreaking COVID repercussion my wife Grace and I are dealing with is our inability to have physical contact with our first great grandchild. He was born last fall and we loved every moment we were able to spend holding him and playing with him. Since March that physical contact has ended. I can't begin to explain how heart wrenching it is to back away as he approaches. I understand that we need to be very diligent – we owe it to each other to curb the virus spread as much as possible. I guess this is one of those times when your head knows what you have to do but your heart aches for something different.”



CITY COUNCILLORS ALWAYS WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BELLEVILLE RESIDENTS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO EMAIL YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES.

BILL SANDISON: COUNCILLOR.SANDISON@BELLEVILLE.CA

GARNET THOMPSON: COUNCILLOR.THOMPSON@BELLEVILLE.CA

RYAN WILLIAMS: COUNCILLOR.WILLIAMS@BELLEVILLE.CA

Ryan Williams, Belleville City Councillor

As Vice-President of Williams Hotels, Councillor Ryan Williams saw firsthand the impact COVID-19 had on the tourism industry. The depleted number of guests did enable them to offer lodging to local groups which typically would not need their services. When Loyalist College closed the campus residences, the students were able to find accommodation at the Williams hotels, along with essential health care workers. Heightened safety protocols were put in place to protect their guests and staff from the virus.

Councillor Williams is passionate about the attraction and retention of entrepreneurs to the Quinte region and he is determined to find ways to help Belleville businesses

through COVID-19. He believed it was important to connect with these individuals and gain insight into what they were experiencing and the coping mechanisms they were using. He reached out to a group of 50-60 business leaders in the area through social media and 100% of this group was looking for support networks. The feedback he received was shared with the City's Economic and Destination Development Committee to provide them with a deeper understanding of COVID's impact on our businesses.



“I am always inspired at how our local businesses pull together and help each other. It's not a competition, just a group stepping up and supporting each other as a whole.”

This year's Remembrance Day ceremonies looked much different than those in the past. Due to COVID restrictions only a small group was asked to join the Belleville Veterans' Council at the cenotaph on November 11. We sincerely believe that although not physically together, our Belleville residents paused that morning to observe a moment of silence. Mayor Panciuk and City Councillors Carr and Sandison also attended a small ceremony at Elmwood Cemetery on River Road in Corbyville. Marking the sacrifice of the many who have fallen in the service of their country, and acknowledging the courage of those who still serve is an important tradition for our community.



BELLEVILLE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY *moving to great new location*



“It is a great honour for me to be able to announce that the City of Belleville and the Belleville Agricultural Society have come to an agreement to relocate their activities and operations from the current Belleville Fairgrounds property on Sidney Street. This agreement is the product of negotiations which have spanned multiple City Council terms and truly represents a win-win situation for both our organizations.”

Mayor Mitch Panciuk
City of Belleville



ROD BOVAY
CAO City of Belleville

EXCERPTS FROM MAYOR PANCIUK’S SPEAKING NOTES:

“There were a lot of reasons why our talks to get to this deal would have been easy to walk away from. It was complicated and there was a great deal of history to overcome. But we persevered and I am glad for that – 200 years of history deserved the extra effort to find solutions. This agreement represents a fresh start for both the Belleville Agricultural Society (BAS) and for the City as we redevelop the current site they will vacate.



PAUL CARR
Belleville City Councillor

“First, I want to thank President Jamie Chatten and the BAS Board for this agreement. In particular, I want to thank Bobbie Jarrell, Ross Parks and Rick MacIvor who were part of their negotiation team. I also want to thank Belleville City Council for their ability to see the potential that comes with today’s announcement. Councillors Paul Carr, Kelly McCaw and I serve on the Fairgrounds Property Use Committee tasked with these negotiations and they provided excellent oversight and suggestions to keep this process moving. Thank you to former Councillors Jack Miller and Egerton Boyce who along with Councillor McCaw were members of the Fairgrounds Property Use Committee (FPUC) in 2016 which brokered a deal with the Society for the portion of the property where the former Ben Bleeker building was situated. The work of the Committee and the previous Council set the stage for us to take up that torch this term. Lastly, I want to say a special thank you to Robert Jarrell Sr. Bob assisted us greatly in acquiring the land from the Boyce family for the new site. This new site was his idea and I am grateful for his assistance.



KELLY MCCAW
Belleville City Councillor

“The BAS will be moving to a new site on land immediately north of Black Diamond Road and east of Highway 37 in Ward 2 of the City of Belleville. This land was owned by the family of the late Roy Boyce who was an enthusiastic horseman, harness racer and supporter of the BAS prior to his passing.

“The BAS will have exclusive use of a 25-30 acre parcel of land and a new building that will be constructed to allow for year-round activities. This will set the stage for a renaissance of this organization which is the second oldest fair board in Ontario and only the third oldest in Canada. The very first Belleville Fair was held on October 1, 1821.

“We are hoping to regain some of our previous enthusiasm and generate different sources of income by hosting a wide variety of events. We were fortunate to have such a solid group doing the negotiations – Mayor Panciuk, City Councillors and our representatives from the Agricultural Society. In the end we found common ground and were able to strike a deal.”

Jamie Chatten
President of the Belleville Agricultural Society

“Over the years the Fall Fair evolved into horse racing, horse and cattle shows, motorcycle races with the legendary Norm Carr Classic, concerts and many other activities for the benefit of Belleville residents and to showcase our agricultural roots. It has been a partnership between the City and the Ag Society and we have both benefited greatly.

“On May 1st, 1954 Mayor John Booth and the Belleville Parks Commission represented by President Ben Bleecker entered into a 99-year lease between the City and the Society for the current fairgrounds property. This agreement we are announcing today will see the BAS terminate their lease with the City on the Bridge Street West and Sidney Street property and enter into a 50-year lease at the new location. The City of Belleville will be able to develop this existing fully-serviced site which will continue to be the home of the Quinte Curling Club.

“We have made no decisions regarding the future development of the rest of the property at the current site other than having committed five acres for the new YMCA building which will proceed when funding from upper levels of government is announced. A public process to determine how to make use of those lands will be started soon but we envision a mix of commercial, residential and community recreational and parkland space.

“This is a great day in our history and a proud achievement for all involved. I am grateful for having this opportunity to be part of such a positive development for our entire community.”



JAMIE CHATTEN
President, Agricultural Society

MATT MACDONALD
Clerk, City of Belleville

“To acquire this new site, the City purchased 60 acres and will sell the remaining land for commercial and light-industrial development. We expect the property to sell very well particularly as those lots will be fully serviced. Extensive site work including clearing the land, servicing, tendering and construction of the building will be undertaken by the City and will start immediately based on the Memorandum of Understanding which both organizations have formally provided authorization to enter into. Financially, this is a win-win situation for both parties. The City of Belleville will provide the site and the building and will lease them to the BAS. This is similar to how we currently deal with some other organizations including the Lawn Bowling Club. The City will be protected in our investment by retaining ownership of the lands and this initial building. The BAS will have their interests protected by having an unrestricted lease to permit them to use the site year-round and a sufficient term to allow them to add structures and improvements with enough time to ensure proper depreciation and amortization.

“City Taxpayers will not be financing this move nor the improvements or this new building at the new location. The value of the property we will be able to sell at both sites will more than off-set the associated costs and there will be considerable tax revenues generated at these properties. The future tax revenues will benefit the residents of Belleville for many years to come.



WHERE THEY WERE

WHERE THEY'RE GOING



celebrating COVID STYLE

Without question, COVID-19 has altered the ways in which we are able to celebrate important milestones. However, our community has shown a determination and creativity in commemorating these occasions. Donning masks and keeping our physical distance, while respecting the limited group gatherings, we have found ways to pay tribute to these special events.

Sadly, we have lost some businesses during this time but we have also seen new businesses opening their doors and we ask that you extend a warm welcome and whenever possible, support them in their new ventures.

Here are some of the new faces you'll find in Belleville and hopefully soon without the masks!



WORLD ELITE TRAINING, 199 Bell Blvd. #7



OBI'S KITCHEN, 199 Front Street



THE BEAUTY BOUTIQUE, 121 Dundas Street E.



INDRA GROCERY, 385 Front Street



EXPORT GRILL, 182 Front Street



THE STATION, 470 Dundas Street E.

CHIEF MICHAEL CALLAGHAN

official swearing in ceremony



POLICE CHIEF
MICHAEL CALLAGHAN

KELLY McCAW
CITY COUNCILLOR & BELLEVILLE
POLICE SERVICE BOARD MEMBER

JACK MILLER
BELLEVILLE POLICE
SERVICE BOARD CHAIR

On November 13, Belleville Police Service Board Chair Jack Miller and Mayor Mitch Panciuk were pleased to hold the Swearing in Ceremony for Belleville's new Police Chief Michael Callaghan. Chief Callaghan initially came to Belleville Police Service in 2016 as an Inspector, was sworn in as Deputy Chief in 2017 and has been serving as Acting Chief of Police since October.

Chief Michael Callaghan was born and spent the first seven years of his life in Belleville. He then moved to Amherstview and returned to Belleville in 1982 to attend the Law and Security program at Loyalist College where he received the Loyalist Protection Services Award.

During Michael's 30-year-long career with the Ottawa Police Service, he had the opportunity to work in many areas of policing, including Patrol, Accident Reconstruction, Forensic Identification, Fleet Services, Marine, Traffic, Collision Reconstruction, Motorcycle Escort, Criminal Investigations, Youth, Guns and Gangs Unit, Firearms, Emergency Planning, Major Event Planning, as well as the Duty Inspector Program. He was a Civil Litigation Liaison Officer and is a nationally-certified Critical Incident Commander. He also had the opportunity to give his sons, Josh and Shamus, their badges when they were sworn in to the same service. His sons returned this honour by presenting him with his badge when he was sworn in as Deputy Chief in Belleville.

"You are the right person at the right time. You provide solid leadership with a quiet confidence that assures the community and your service that you care about people. Belleville City Council will continue to provide you with the support you need to do your job and keep our community safe." Mayor Mitch Panciuk

Chief Callaghan has made several outstanding contributions to the field of criminal justice. As a member of the Ottawa Police Identification Section, he launched the Chemical Biological Radioactive Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) team, and led the implementation of the Direct Action Response Team (DART). He was responsible for a Mentoring Program for officer development and implemented a Walk-About Program with City Councillors to address chronic or emerging community trends. He has been published in the American Medical Journal for his work around anthrax dispersion rates. Chief Callaghan was seconded to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to spearhead internal security logistics for both the G8 and G20 held in Canada. He was also seconded to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to help develop the National and Regional Emergency Response Management Team. In October 2019 Chief Callaghan was invested as an officer of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces by Julie Payette during a ceremony at Rideau Hall. The Order of Merit of the Police Forces was created in 2000 to recognize conspicuous merit and exceptional service by members or employees of Canadian police forces. He was also nominated for a Premier's Award by Loyalist College in 2016.

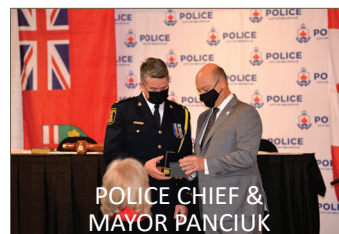
Chief Callaghan's family attended the ceremony and once again, his sons presented him with his new badge - this time as Chief of Belleville Police Service.



POLICE CHIEF
MICHAEL CALLAGHAN



POLICE CHIEF & SONS
SHAMUS & JOSHUA



POLICE CHIEF &
MAYOR PANCIUK



POLICE CHIEF &
JUDGE HUNTER

OUR BEAUTIFUL PARKLANDS *have never been so appreciated*



When the provincial government initially announced COVID-19 regulations the City was required to close all of the playgrounds, sports fields and park areas. For a community that embraces outdoor activity this was huge. There were no more picnics on the grass or social interactions that naturally evolve around play areas and soccer fields. The one bright spot in all of this was our waterfront trails. They gave residents a way to get outside, enjoy the fresh air and clear their minds. The City had to immediately close off the other areas and install signage warning walkers to stay on the path and physically distance from one another.

On June 25 the Rotary Club of Belleville dedicated their new Rotary Fitness Park on Keegan Parkway to City of Belleville in honour of 100 years of service. Soon after the dedication the City was able to open the facility to the public.

As some of the restrictions began to ease the City was able to announce that the 2020 Pop-Ups on the Bay was going to take place in West Zwick's Park.

Mayor Mitch Panciuk made the announcement on June 18 and said, *"We are so pleased we have found a way to host this great group of entrepreneurs at our waterfront. I would like to thank City staff and staff from the Hastings and Prince Edward Health Unit for their hard work in addressing the COVID-19 challenges we are dealing with and for finding ways to safely provide this wonderful waterfront attraction."*



As the heat of the summer descended upon us, the news that the City's three splash pads would be opening on July 2 was met with enthusiasm. As would be expected, there was some apprehension but for those without backyard pools or air conditioning it was deeply appreciated. Parents and caregivers exercised caution with the children while they enjoyed this element of 'normality'.

On July 17 the Ontario Government announced Stage 3 of their re-opening plan which included outdoor play areas and City employees immediately began opening the playgrounds. In March it was necessary to install precautions to prevent their use. Now these measures had to be removed and the facilities received an overall inspection prior to opening to the public. Following the advice of Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Alexa Caturay, the City asked residents to use the playgrounds at their own discretion. Parents and caregivers were requested to ensure children were physically distancing at all times and recommended using hand sanitizer.

As a community we had grown accustomed to our amazing parklands and outdoor spaces but this year has given them a new value and level of appreciation. The City's summer staff was reduced by two thirds during the pandemic but they worked above and beyond to provide us with beautiful safe spaces throughout the City.





DEVELOPING A MASTER PLAN *to guide public park investments*

The City of Belleville has contracted Sierra Planning and Management to develop a comprehensive Parkland and Recreation Master Plan.

Once complete, the document will act as a guide for investments to enhance the City's public park system, including land acquisition, development/redevelopment, community use, and funding over the next 10 years.

The Plan will be developed through a thorough public engagement process (which began in September), a detailed analysis of current and projected community needs, and best practices. Residents, community groups and stakeholders alike will be invited to take part in a number of online and in-person sessions over the course of the project.

To date the community engagement has included:

- Online Survey for Residents
- Online Survey for Sport and Recreation Groups (by invitation only)
- Initial Sessions for User Groups (online) – (by invitation only)
- Initial Community Session (online)

More information on the project is available online. Residents are encouraged to stay tuned to the Parkland and Recreation Master Plan webpage for upcoming engagement opportunities and updates.

One of the areas being examined is Hillcrest Park. The City purchased the former Hillcrest School from Hastings and Prince Edward District Public School Board in October. The school had been declared surplus to the needs of the school board.

The Belleville Lawn Bowling Club has been relocated to this site and a portion of the property has been designated for the Children's Safety Village, currently located behind the former Belleville Police Service headquarters on Dundas Street. The Children's Safety Village was first established in 2004 to teach primary grades traffic and pedestrian safety. They expanded their operation in 2018 to include a "Rail Safety" program in partnership with VIA Rail and CN, and "Fire Safety" program in partnership with Belleville Fire, and have since added more modern classes like "Internet Safety" and "Tricky People" designed to teach internet safety skills. All programs are taught by safety professionals and run at no cost to school classes.

The City is now determining the best way to develop the remainder of this 2.8 hectare property at 88 West Street. A community-based assessment of options is being conducted online. The purpose of this survey is to provide information and resident feedback prior to a public meeting to be held in early 2021. That meeting will focus on specific options for the future of the park, which will then be developed into concept plans.

"The Parkland and Recreation Master Plan will provide direction for all future development and use of our City parks and green spaces over the next decade. Feedback collected from the public engagement process will be crucial in gauging the needs and priorities of our community. We urge residents to follow along with the project, stay tuned for each opportunity to provide their feedback, and participate in any way they can." CAO Rod Bovay

PATH TO LOYALIST COLLEGE

provides safe, efficient route for cyclists and pedestrians

This fall, an off-road asphalt trail was constructed through an existing City owned right-of-way from Meagher Place to Avonlough Road (back of Loyalist College property). The addition of lights along the 750-metre pathway will complete the City's Bridge Street West Cycling Route.

The City's Transportation Master Plan, 2014 identified a recommended cycling network to accommodate and promote active transportation. This includes a recommended cycling route along all of Bridge Street. Implemented in phases, the City's Bridge Street West route features a network of on-street bicycle lanes, shared roadways, and active transportation paths to provide a direct link for cyclists and students to Loyalist College.

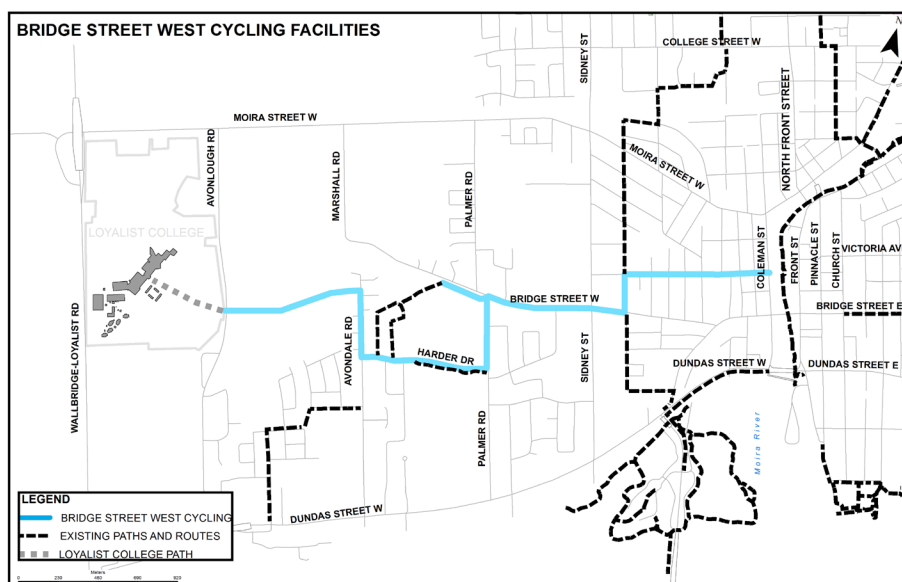
The City of Belleville has partnered with Loyalist College to complete a connection between the campus and downtown Belleville. Next year, Loyalist College will create a pedestrian/cyclist path on College property. The path will run from the College, over a newly-constructed bridge across Potters Creek to Avonlough Road to connect to the City's newly constructed path.

Loyalist's 450-metre path and bridge leading up to Avonlough will be fully lit, and maintained and monitored by Loyalist security through surveillance cameras. There will be emergency blue light phones installed along the path which will also be monitored by Loyalist security to ensure the safety of trail users. The City of Belleville contributed \$100,000 to the cost with Loyalist College funding the remainder of the project.

"This path and bridge have been desired and discussed for many years, so it is wonderful to see it come to fruition," said Dr. Ann Marie Vaughan, Loyalist College President and CEO. "The new path and Avondale route will enhance safe and easy access between the College and our community, encouraging sustainable travel along an active transportation system. We are thankful for the City of Belleville's support and contributions, and look forward to making this exciting new link available for summer 2021."

"The City of Belleville's Transportation Master Plan identified a need for cycling networks to accommodate and promote active transportation in the city," said Mayor Mitch Panciuk. "The Avondale route and Loyalist path will complete the City's Bridge Street West cycling route and provide a connection between the campus and downtown Belleville."

Just south of this new path, the Avondale Road Reconstruction project will include the addition of new bike lanes and a new sidewalk on the west side of the road from Aldersgate to Harder Drive. Stage 1 of the long-awaited Avondale Road reconstruction project from Dundas Street to Aldersgate Drive is now complete. The contract for the complete reconstruction of the road from Dundas Street West to Harder Drive was awarded in June and construction began this summer. The project included the addition of curbs, gutters and catch basins to eliminate ditches, as well as a new road base and asphalt. The remainder of construction from Aldersgate Drive to Harder Drive, as well as Holmes Road Reconstruction is set to be completed in 2021.





MALEK TALEB
BOILER ROOM
CLIMBING GYM
40 Hanna Court
Belleville

"I love movement and I'm fascinated by solving the puzzle of the wall - looking to find the unique optimal way to get to the top."

Malek Taleb and his wife Stephanie had already made their plans to open the Boiler Room Climbing Gym in Belleville prior to the arrival of COVID-19. Although a little later than initially anticipated, they opened their doors on Hanna Court on August 4.

Their Belleville business is their second climbing gym, their first is located in Kingston. In addition to operating that business, Malek was the Team Manager for the Canadian National Climbing Team from 2015-2019, part of the World Cup Circuit competing internationally.

The Belleville gym is amazing, simulating outdoor boulder climbing that reaches 16 feet above floor level. The mats on the floor cushion the landing and participants learn to fall properly in addition to climbing techniques.

Until the virus restrictions pass, numbers are reduced and online booking requested. With the cold weather approaching this is an ideal spot for some physical fun as there are circuits of different levels of difficulty suitable for all ages and experience.

The Boiler Room Climbing Gym is a wonderful addition to our community and yet another great example of why we should always explore the options here in our City when looking for a service or product. CHOOSE BELLEVILLE - it's just the right thing to do!

CHOOSE BELLEVILLE

Businesses in our community are finding creative ways to adapt, streamline and modify the way they work to not only serve our community during these challenging times, but to keep their businesses afloat. You can help.

Check to see if what you're looking for is available locally. Buy gift certificates - they can be used any time and inject cash into the businesses. Post positive experiences on their websites. Challenge yourself and friends to do all your Christmas shopping here in our city. Your actions are so important.

There are things you had planned to enrich your quality of life. Gym memberships, yoga classes, personal trainers or music lessons – you budgeted for them. Now imagine your life without those options? If you can afford to, don't cancel. Consider the money paid now as an investment in the life you want, for you and your family. Help businesses bridge this gap so that when we reach the other side, they'll be there waiting.

They're more than a business.
They're our neighbours.



Happy Holidays

This year the City of Belleville, the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Belleville have tried to find safe, creative ways for you to step away from the worries and concerns for at least a brief period of time and enjoy some holiday magic. The drive-by Santa Claus Parade was one such escape and now you can drive through the Festival of Lights along the waterfront or book a free pedicab ride through Enchanted downtown.

Nothing like a little magic to soothe the soul.

BE SAFE. BE STRONG. BE KIND.

