

May 2, 2023

Re: Mayor's Remarks

Thank you to everyone who joined us on April 22nd, as we celebrated the unveiling of the Indigenous Unity Garden at the Mel Swart Lake Gibson Conservation Park, fittingly on Earth Day. The Unity Garden will be a focal point for ongoing programming aimed at celebrating the values and richness of Indigenous culture within our Community. Many City Staff, Councillors Dekker and O'Hare, Regional Councillor Whalen, MP Vance Badawey and MPP Jeff Burch were all in attendance. Thank you to the One Thorold Truth and Reconciliation Committee -Chair Fred Neale, Dan Pelletier, Mark Kawabe, Reverend Canon Katherine Morgan and Michelle Elise Burnett, as well as, Master Craftsman Dean McLellan, for all you have done to move this project forward in conjunction with City Staff (Dave Baldoni, Steve Santo and their Teams).

Special thanks to Michele Elise-Burnett for her guidance and leadership on the Indigenous Unity Garden project, we look forward to working together on future programming. We are proud to say that Niagara's first Indigenous outdoor classroom space is home to Thorold.

Thank you to all the incredible volunteers who came out to participate in our Earth Day Community-wide clean-up! Despite rainy weather, Councillors, Board and Committee Members, City Staff and Residents worked together to clean-up our parks, trails and green spaces.

Also on Earth Day April 22nd, the NPCA hosted the opening of the annual trout fishing season at the St. Johns Conservation Area-Pond, located in the City of Thorold. It was only fitting that the first cast was made by Elizabeth DiFruscia wife of the late Domenic (Mickey) DiFruscia, who served as our representative on the NPCA Board for over 25 years.

April 22nd, was a busy day in our City, I also brought greetings on behalf of City Council to the Ontario Horticultural Society, District 9 – Spring AGM, hosted by the Port Colborne and Thorold Garden Clubs. This event was held at the Ontario Paper Thorold Seniors Centre and was very well attended. Thank you to the Thorold Garden Club Chair Leslie Daniels for the invitation to bring greetings.

Final touches were put on the Port Robinson Eco-park Project this past week. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this project a reality for our Community: Thorold Secondary School Staff, particularly Principal, Janice Sargeant, Mr. Bernardi and his Tech Class Students from grades 10, 11 and 12, who worked in conjunction with Councillor O'Hare.

Walker Industries for their donation of mulch and aggregate, as well as, their employees who spent a volunteer day to come out and work with City Staff to construct the turtle mounds.

Councillor O'Hare for spearheading/leading this project, Councillor Sentence for working with local children to construct the duck nesting tubes, Niagara Beeway and AJ Slinger Service and all our incredible Staff who spent time out on site to work with our volunteers to install all of the structures and habitats.

This is another great example of what can be achieved through partnerships and collaboration, for the greater good of the Community!

On April 27th, on behalf of City Council, I attended the kick-off for the 20th Annual Help Kids Shine Campaign which raises funds and awareness in support of the Niagara Children's Centre and runs the month of May. This kick-off event was held next door at the Four Points Sheraton, here in Thorold.

Each year, more than 5,800 children and youth in Niagara with physical, developmental and communicative delays are supported by the range of services offered at the Niagara Children's Centre. This fundraising campaign helps make these, as well as, additional programs not covered

by provincial government funding possible. Your donation can help provide every child in Niagara with the opportunity to reach their full potential!

April 28th, we recognized the National Day of Mourning , flags across the City were lowered to half-mast to honour those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job, or experienced a workplace tragedy.

The Niagara Regional Labour Council held a ceremony in memory of Robyn Lafleur who tragically passed away in the Esquire Canada explosion in Port Robinson, in 1999. This ceremony was held in Port Robinson Park by the tree planted there, in her honour. Thank you Councillor Handley for being present at the ceremony and representing City Council. As always, maintaining a healthy and safe work environment, will continue to be our top priority.

International Firefighters Day is observed each year on the 4th of May. On this date, please remember those firefighters who have died while serving our Community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. Firefighters are essential to the safety and security of our Community. On behalf of City Council, Staff and our Residents we thank you for all you do, not only on May 4th, but everyday!

Yesterday was First Responders Day, I will read a quote from our Director of Fire and Emergency Services, Terry Dixon: "On this year's First Responders Day, I would like to recognize the important contributions of all of the First Responders in our Community – our police officers, firefighters and paramedics – for the incredible work they do. But it extends far beyond these primary emergency response groups that you see out on-site during an emergency. I would also like to recognize the supporting agencies that people may not normally consider a "First Responder" – public health, public works, gas utilities and hydro, just to name a few. These supporting agencies also play a

critical role in keeping our Community safe. By working together, we are able to achieve so much more for our Community.”

On May 6th and 7th, communities throughout the United Kingdom and Commonwealth will mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles 111 with coordinated illuminations of iconic locations. To echo this event, the City of Thorold will be illuminating City Hall Royal Emerald Green in participation.

Hotel Dieu Shaver Hospital Foundation and Pathstone Foundation have been chosen to receive proceeds from Tim Hortons locations in Thorold, St. Catharines and NOTL during Smile Cookie Week May 1st-7th. City Staff and Councillor Sentence were present at the Thorold Stone Road Tim Hortons today in support of this exciting campaign, buying and decorating cookies. Thank you to all those who support this initiative!

For the second year, the Bike to Beat Myeloma Canada Ride will take place on May 7th, in 7 locations across Canada. The Niagara Region ride will once again be leaving and ending at the Port Robinson Community Centre, registration begins at 8:30 am. Your support will go a long way in improving the lives of those impacted by myeloma and help to find a cure. For more information or to sign up, please go to:

www.myelomaride.ca

The Port Robinson Ferry “Bridge-it”, begins operation for the upcoming season on Saturday May 6th. It will run from 9am – 8pm, Saturdays and Sundays. Beginning Saturday May 20th, the ferry will begin daily service for the remainder of the season.

Summer Swim Lessons at the Thorold Community Pool:

The City’s online registration portal will be open on May 2nd at 8:30am for Thorold residents and on May 9th at 8:30am for non-residents. For more information visit: www.thorold.ca/pool

Congratulations to Thorold Boys - Easton Lynds and Carter Timmins on being drafted in the OHL Junior A Selection Draft.

Easton Lynds-Forward: Round 9 to Peterborough Petes

Carter Timmins-Defenceman: Round 10 to Sarnia Sting

The Thorold Museum received a \$75,000 financial gift from the Masonic Mountain Lodge No. 221 on Saturday, April 29th, the presentation took place at Fire Station #1. In attendance were Councillors Handley, Longo and O'Hare, Museum Board Members – spokesperson President Malcolm Woodhouse, Masonic Order Mountain Lodge No. 221 Members – spokesperson Treasurer Ken Atmekjian and BIA Chair Serge Carpino. Thank you for your generous financial gift to the Thorold Museum and thank you Councillor Handley for bringing greetings on behalf of City Council.

Terry Ugolini

Mayor