

October 5, 2021

Re: Mayor's Remarks

On Wednesday, September 22nd, I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Pathstone's School located on the corner of Merrittville Highway and Hurricane Road in the City of Thorold. The school has been renamed the Mountainview Centre of Innovative Learning, thanks to a donation of one million dollars from the Mountainview Building Group. This donation was used to overhaul the building's HVAC system, replacement interior lights and skylights as well as, developing a series of outdoor learning and play hubs on the property which includes two outdoor classrooms. I presented Mountainview Building Group President, Mark Basciano with a Certificate Of Appreciation on behalf of City Council. Councillor Neale also attended this special event, which was held outdoors and included outdoor tour.

On Thursday, September 23rd, I along with Councillors Neale, Sentence, Kenny and Regional Councillor Whalen, attended the Bioveld/Hopa Open House which was held at the Thorold Multimodal Hub site. CAO, Manoj Dilwaria and Economic Development Manager, Marco Marino were also in attendance. It was great to speak at this event, as well as, see the excitement and traction this Multimodal Hub is experiencing. I look forward to many more positive announcements regarding this site, in the months ahead.

On Monday, September 27th, I was honoured to drop the puck at the Thorold Blackhawks Junior "B" season opener vs. the St. Catharines Falcons, Councillor Neale was also in attendance. Their home opener on the new Monday home night was successful with a 1-0 shootout victory, in front of a very good crowd.

On Friday, September 24th, CAO: Manoj Dilwaria and I met with Interim President: Lynn Wells and Executive Director, Government and Community Relations: Meaghan Rusnell of Brock University. This meeting focused on off-campus student issues, especially in high density student areas within residential neighbourhoods. We stressed the importance of these concerns to our Community.

On Wednesday, September 23rd and 29th, I met with our Community Partners (Brock University, BUSU, Brock Security, Niagara Regional Police Service, Regional Bylaw and Waste Management), Jason Simpson, Chief Building Official who oversees our Bylaw Department also attends these meetings. We focus on off-campus student issues in residential areas, particularly high-density residential areas like the Winterberry/Juneberry Area. By working together and doing a weekly review with our partners, we are seeing improvements as they monitor, patrol and enforce infractions. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th.

As directed by Council letters were sent out on September 27th, to Brock University Interim President: Lynn Wells and Niagara Regional Police Service Chief: Bryan MacCulloch regarding off-campus student issues, especially in high density student areas within residential neighbourhoods. Copies of those letters were distributed to Council.

On Wednesday, September 29th, we held a flag raising ceremony at City Hall to honour the inaugural, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (which was Thursday, September 30th), a Federal Statutory Holiday, which the City of Thorold recognized and observed. Councillors Neale, Dekker and Wilson were in attendance, as well as, Regional Councillor Whalen and many City Staff. A special thank you to Michelle-Elise Burnett, Artistic Director: Celebration of Nations, as well as, many other titles/positions for attending, speaking and raising the flag at this important ceremony.

This Saturday, October 9th, Dan Giancola will be hosting a fundraising bottle drive and barbecue at his fitness club (BTO Performance located at 106 Ormond Street, South). The event runs from 10am-4pm, with the barbecue running from noon-2pm. The Niagara Ice Dogs Mascot, Bones will be there between 1 and 2pm. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the GROW Community Food Literacy Centre.

Giving Back Weekend will be held on Friday, October 15th and Saturday, October 16th, hosted by the Knights of Columbus 2319, at Holy Rosary Hall, 35 Queen Street. It will include a bottle drive, used battery drop-off and non-perishable food collection. The bottle drive and used battery proceeds will go to support the

Walker Family Cancer Centre. The food drive items collected will go to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Bank.

Fire Prevention Week 2021 runs from October 3rd to 9th. The theme this year is “Learn the Sound of Fire Safety” and is a great way for our Fire Department to reinforce the importance of home safety and fire prevention. Please ensure that you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home and outside the bedroom area. Develop and practice a home escape plan with your family. Thank you Thorold Fire and Emergency Services for all you do to keep our Community safe.

Dr. Hirji provided the latest Public Health COVID-19 Status Update on Friday, October 1st, with the next one scheduled for Friday, October 15th, at 2:00pm. Once again, these sessions are live streamed on the Niagara Region Website.

As we continue in Step Three of the Provincial Roadmap to Reopen, please continue to follow the Public Health Safety Measures and get vaccinated if you are able to and haven’t already done so. Clinics are available by appointment or walk-ins for first and second dose of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. Check out niagararegion.ca/covid-vaccine for more information and answers to commonly asked questions.

Beginning September, 22nd, Ontarians need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities. Detailed information on this and increased capacity limits are available on the Provincial Website.

On behalf of Council and City Staff, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving Long Weekend!

Terry Ugulini
Mayor