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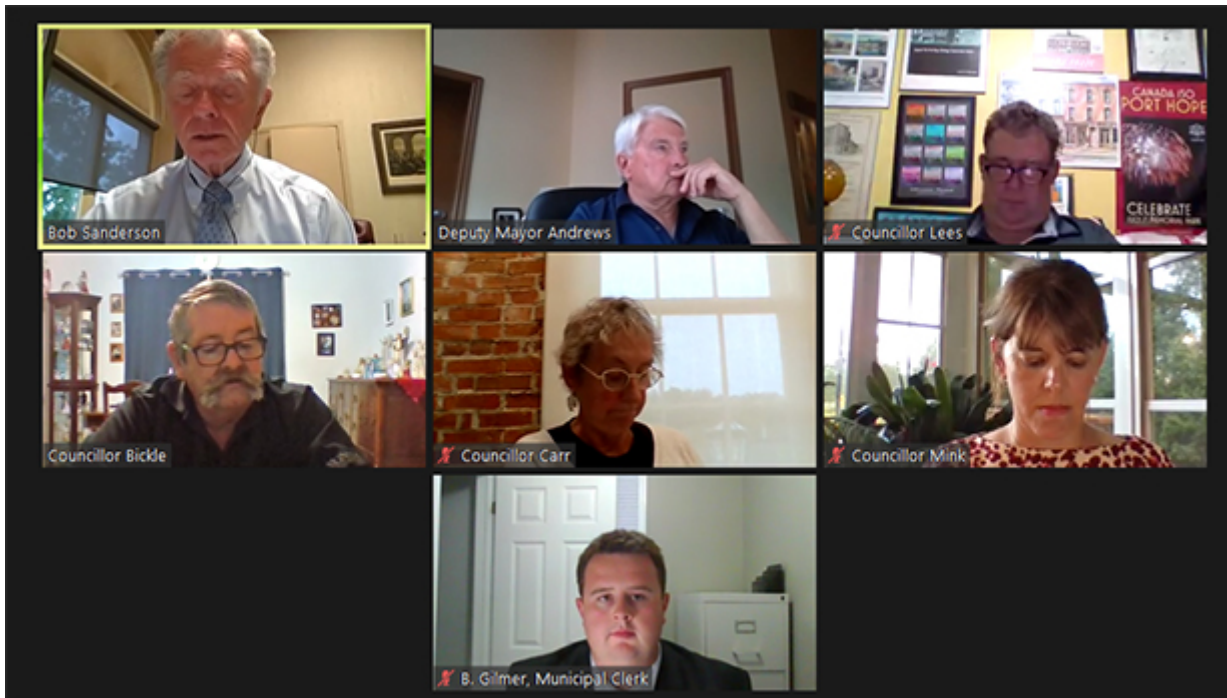
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## Port Hope Council August 4, 2020

### Parnell also mentioned some “green stuff” in the harbour, which apparently is not algae

Article by Bill Hornbostel

Presentations from Port Hope Tourism, the Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce, and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) formed the highlight of the Council and Committee of the Whole session on August 4.

On behalf of Port Hope Tourism, web designer **Ashley Strikwerda** spoke to Council about the new website and its development, finally unveiling a new live demo website of [visitporthope.ca](https://www.visitporthope.ca/en/index.aspx)

(<https://www.visitporthope.ca/en/index.aspx>), in both desktop and mobile formats. Strikwerda also stated that the new site is compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and that the municipal website is also undergoing the same redevelopment.

**Brenda Whitehead, President of the Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce**, spoke about how to rebuild the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 shutdown. Whitehead talked about the **Northumberland Economic Recovery Task Force**; “It was sixty-three community leaders who brought their sphere of influence to the proceedings and their significant networks that provided a sounding board and validation for the recommendations coming forward.” Of the 63 who participated, Whitehead noted that **8 were from Port Hope**.

Whitehead spoke on the six recommendations from the task force, and how the Chamber is contributing to each: **dealing with the gaps in broadband connectivity; helping businesses move online; fuelling consumer confidence by standardizing a requirement for personal protective equipment (PPE); enhancing the PPE supply chain; investing in workers’ mental health; and developing targeted economic recovery actions to help those disproportionately affected by the pandemic, namely women, youth, and older workers.**

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One of the ways that the Chamber is helping with the new **Recovery Activation Program (RAP)**. “It’s actually a regular program offered by the **Toronto Region Board of Trade**, and with provincial and federal dollars enhancing the program, they can now reach out to some of the smaller communities throughout the province,” Whitehead says.

Whitehead adds, “It will be an extension of our **Accelerate Your Online Presence program**.... **This would be like the Digital Mainstreet times five, because it’s huge; it’s \$40,000 worth of training at no cost to the business**, so there’s a good dollar value to it.”

Whitehead also talked about the new **Canada United Campaign**, in which the **Canadian Chamber of Commerce** has partnered with **RBC** to encourage everyone to shop locally. When doing things like watching the video at [gocanadaunited.ca](https://www.gocanadaunited.ca) (<https://www.gocanadaunited.ca/>), liking posts from @GoCanadaUnited on social media, and using #CanadaUnited to demonstrate their support, RBC donates five cents to the new **Canada United Small Business Relief Fund**, up to maximum of \$2 million. The relief fund will allow businesses to apply for a maximum of \$5,000 for PPE, pandemic-related renovations, and improving e-commerce capabilities.

Whitehead concluded her presentation with asking Council to make **August 28-30 a Canada United Weekend in Port Hope**, the official launch of the Canada United Campaign on August 27, and asking Council to add Canada United information to the municipal website.

**Scott Parnell of CNL gave the Committee of the Whole a quarterly update on the Port Hope Area Initiative. He talked about the four-phase restart of field activities in Port Hope following the pandemic shutdown in March.**

“We set up a very structured approach, really focused around making sure we can perform the work safely, maintain the appropriate controls, and have the appropriate PPE to do the work,” said Parnell. New COVID-19 protocols for safety include specialized training, screening of workers, physical distancing in the field, sanitization processes for personnel and equipment, use of PPE, and emergency planning and drills.

With work underway again, the waste management site is now receiving waste again, and the construction of one of the waste cells (2B) has also resumed. **Parnell noted that about 2.5 million kilograms of solid waste has already been stored in the site.**

Parnell spoke about progress on the different sites. **“There hasn’t been a whole lot going on” at the Centre Pier and Harbour due to a dispute with a contractor**, and CNL is working on bringing in a new contractor. Then, work will resume on rehabilitating the harbour walls, dredging the harbour to remove LLRW-laden sediment, continuing to collect and treat water on-site, and cleaning up and restoring the centre pier. CNL is also doing additional drilling on the Centre Pier to locate waste more precisely.

**Parnell also mentioned some “green stuff” in the harbour, which apparently is not algae.** “We’ve... contacted a biologist to come in and take a look at what’s going on with that, and we’re expecting to hear back from him... what he thinks happened, why it happened. Probably our biggest concern from CNL is making sure you don’t have a whole bunch of fish in there that might get damaged from that.”

At the Viaducts, CNL is doing more drilling to get a better sense of where the waste is buried. Parnell stated, “I think our biggest concern is the pillars, in making sure we stay away from those pillars because they were built a long time ago and we don’t have really good information on the design of them, so we want to make sure we don’t do anything to damage them.”

Parnell spoke about other sites. **West Beach remediation has been completed, and demolition of underground tanks and backfilling is underway. Excavation at the Mill Street site will begin in the Fall**, and water management is underway because of the elevated water table at the site. **CNL is looking to accelerate work on Strachan Street and Alexander Street Ravines, Waterworks West, and Pine Street North to being work by the end of the Fall. Parnell stated that CNL is still negotiating with the Municipality over the Chemetron Lagoon site (just off Lake Street).**

**Because of homeowner dissatisfaction with how CNL has been “chasing arsenic,”** Parnell stated that “CNL recommended a change to the cleanup criteria for arsenic and uranium to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission [CNSC].” Over the past several months, he indicated that CNL was consulting with the **CNSC, Ministry of the Environment, the local health unit, and the Municipality.** “Really, we’re going to need some acceptance from all parties before that actually gets changed.”

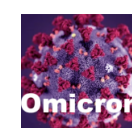


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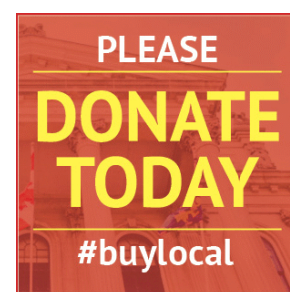
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“I’m working closely both with AECL [Atomic Energy of Canada Limited] and with the Municipality on putting together a public engagement plan,” continued Parnell. “And the bottom line has been, the final decision for a change to the actual cleanup criteria is going to be made by the CNSC. And that will be done in conjunction with all of those other public engagements and other discussions that are going on.”

*“Currently, the PHAI cleanup criteria for arsenic is the Generic Ontario Standard of 18 parts per million. CNL is requesting a change to the criteria for arsenic to 100 parts per million. The current PHAI criteria for Uranium is 23 ppm. CNL is seeking a change to the criteria for Uranium to 35 ppm.”*

**A report from Community Development to the Committee of the Whole provided an update on Phase 5 of the Penryn Mason Homes subdivision.** The report remarked on the complexity of the approvals process, citing both changes to provincial land-use and growth policies, as well as concern about heritage impacts and the future of the old-growth woodlot.

**The report noted two outstanding issues on top of the normal planning process.** One is the completion of a Heritage Impact Assessment; the Municipality has asked the Applicant to complete a Heritage Impact Assessment, and will hire an independent expert “to ensure (as required by the Official Plan) that the identified Cultural Heritage Resources are ‘protected and managed in a manner that maintains their cultural heritage value and interest and benefit to the community’, provide direction to the Applicant on the terms of reference and scope of the HIA, and conduct a peer review of the HIA when completed.”

The other outstanding issue cited in the report is the “need for a comprehensive understanding of the potential environmental impacts of this development on the significant woodland, located in the subject lands, and whether the Applicant can adequately demonstrate that there will be ‘no negative impacts on the natural features or the ecological functions.’”

“To address the matter of potential negative environmental impacts resulting from a removal of the woodland,” continues the report, “staff recommend the municipality hire an independent firm with expertise in environmental assessments, particularly as they relate to significant woodlands. This firm would undertake a peer review of the Environmental Impact Study that the Proponent has prepared.”

**Council passed two resolutions and one by-law.** The first resolution approved the Draft 2019 Audited Financial Statements. The second resolution approved an immediate contribution of \$100,000 to the Capitol Theatre; an additional \$200,000 would be considered, pending approval of the 2021 budget, and would be subject to grant-matching.

The by-law passed that evening amended Schedule “B” of the Community Grant Policy and Procedures, repealing the 2019 by-law (46/2019).

**At the Committee of the Whole, Corporate Services, Finance, Community Development, Parks Recreation and Culture, and Works and Engineering gave reports.**

Corporate Services gave one report which recommended a new Email Management Policy, updating the old policy from 2009. “The draft Email Management Policy, attached as Schedule ‘A’ to this report, sets the expectation that information that fits the definition of a record will be retained in a way that is secure, accessible and consistent with the Municipality’s Records Management Program,” states the report.

Finance gave the Committee four reports. Three of the reports gave financial statements for the 2019 calendar year (on the Parkland Cash in Lieu Reserve Fund, Development Charges, and Building Permit Fees) and recommended posting the statements on the Municipal website.

A fourth report from Finance recommended that the Finance Committee should give consideration in the 2021 Budget to: identifying strategic plan items to included or excluded; identifying service level changes; identifying other matters for inclusion or exclusion; and identifying a target increase of the municipal levy for existing taxpayers. The report also recommended the Finance Committee meet on September 1, 2020.

Community Development submitted four other reports to the Committee. One recommended going forward with a Development Agreement for 90 Ontario Street. Two other reports recommended adopting Site Plan Agreements for 85-95 Henderson Street and 45 Henderson Street in the Business Park. The fourth recommended approving the Draft Plan of Subdivision for Phase 2 of the Talbot Drive subdivision.

Parks, Recreation, and Culture gave two reports to the Committee. The first report was on the Caroline Street Rink, which needs remediation through the Port Hope Area Initiative, and gave three recommendations: that a resolution should be presented to Council on September 1, 2020, for relocating the rink; that a public engagement process should be started about a new location and what the new rink might include; and a report should be made to the Committee on the outcome of the public engagement process.

**The second report from Parks, Recreation, and Culture recommended a Council resolution on one of two options with the fall salmon run: support the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority with the closure of the fish ladder and the access ramp to the river on the west side of the river north of Walton Street, or close access to all municipal properties along the Ganaraska River between Molson Street and Robertson Street.**

The report lists pros and cons for each option, and also notes consultations with stakeholders, both partner organizations like the GRCA and also with members of the public. **Of the 120 comments submitted so far, 33 (27.5%) support Option 1, 72 (60%) support Option 2, and 15 comments (12.5%) indicate keeping access open or provide alternate suggestions.**

Works and Engineering submitted two reports to the Committee. The first recommended a Council resolution to adopt a proposed Accessibility Road Sign Policy; the report notes an average drop in speed of 6 km/h from the pilot project developed in Niagara Falls. The second report recommends Council award a three-year contract for supplying and delivering road salt: \$295,104 to K&S Windsor Salt Ltd for white salt, and \$320,208.19 to Cargill Salt, Road Safety for treated road salt.




**To watch the full video of the Council and Committee of the Whole meetings (including virtual meetings),** you may visit the Port Hope YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/MunicipalityPortHope](https://www.youtube.com/user/MunicipalityPortHope) (<https://www.youtube.com/user/MunicipalityPortHope>). Zoom meetings are now also being livestreamed on the same YouTube channel.

For agendas, minutes, and calendar of meetings, you may visit Port Hope's Council Portal, [porthope.civicweb.net/Portal](https://porthope.civicweb.net/Portal) (<https://porthope.civicweb.net/Portal/>).

The agendas for both Council and Committee of the Whole meetings gives instructions to users both on how to log into the virtual Zoom meeting by either computer or phone, and how to ask questions during question period.

***Editor's Note:** Information about the current rule for permitted concentrations of arsenic and uranium originally in the article has been changed with new info from the Historic Waste Program Management Office of the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories.*

*It is in italics for easy identification.*

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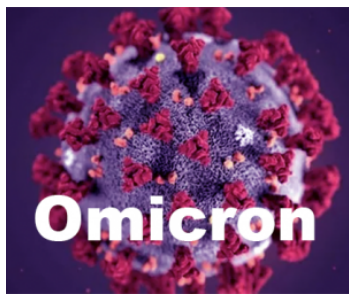
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