

PELHAM NEWSLETTER

December 2020

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It's the most wonderful time of the year! This year, of course, is a little different due to the pandemic. Some Christmas in Pelham events have been cancelled. However, many of your favourites are still available in various formats.

Christmas Market cancelled; other festive favourites preserved

The Town of Pelham's annual Christmas Market event, part of the overall Christmas in Pelham festivities, will not occur this year.

After careful consideration and discussion of Provincial and Regional Public Health guidelines and recommendations, the decision to cancel the event is in the best interest of health and safety pursuant to Public Health guidelines.

Though the Christmas Market is not running this year, some of the most cherished market traditions will surface within a variety of other planned events.

"We know that people were looking forward to the Christmas Market, this year especially, and it's

disappointing that we had to cancel," said Mayor Marvin Junkin. "The good news is that Town staff are working on a variety of events and activities for Pelham residents to enjoy within the best public health guidelines; everyone's safety is our main priority."

Those missing the sights of the holidays at the market are encouraged to participate in the Christmas lights competition and self-guided tour, whether by festively decorating their homes or travelling the route to view Pelham's most decorated homes.

The official route will be posted on the Town's website after the Dec. 13 entry date has passed.

Winter break camp, free skates, and Santa's Workshop all remain on the calendar this year. New this year is the Town's assistance in helping Pelham children get their letters to Santa. To learn more about these events, please visit www.pelham.ca/christmas.

All events are subject to change based on the Provincial and Niagara Regional Public Health recommendations.

To learn more about the Town of Pelham's response to COVID-19 and view its award-winning reopening framework, visit: www.pelham.ca/covid19

Recreation Staff facilitating letters to Santa this holiday season



There have been many changes to the way we do things year, and letters to Santa is no different. To help the big man in the red suit get messages from all the boys and girls in Pelham, the Town's recreation, culture, and wellness staff have called in some elf favours and are working with Santa's elves to get all the children of Pelham letters to the North Pole.

There are two ways the Town has teamed up with the elves to get your letter to Santa:

A drop off at the Meridian Community Centre. You'll see a red mailbox marked "Santa's Mailbox" near the Christmas tree through the main entrance. Drop your letter in the mailbox by December 12 to ensure Santa has enough time to get you his response. Don't forget to include your return address

Email. Yes, Santa is on email, and the Town has worked out an arrangement to provide

Santa with his own Pelham email address. For quick and easy letter submissions, you can email Santa your letter to sclaus@pelham.ca. Santa will be checking his email right up until December 23, before he heads out on his Christmas route!

For more information on the Town of Pelham's Christmas in Pelham activities and events, visit www.pelham.ca/christmas.



This newsletter is designed to provide you with news, updates, information, and more regarding what happens at Town Hall and in the community. Primarily, this will be an electronic communication, though hard copies* will be available in limited quantities at Town Hall, the libraries, the Community Centre, and Nick's Cleaners, usually within a few days after the online version is posted. You are encouraged to subscribe online by visiting: www.pelham.ca/newsletter and clicking the subscribe button. *Not available in hard copy during pandemic.

Pelham, Fort Erie and Wainfleet get innovative in addressing legal costs, hire shared solicitor

The Town of Pelham, the Town of Fort Erie and the Township of Wainfleet are pleased to announce the joint hiring of Jennifer Stirton as the municipalities' shared in-house Solicitor.

For more than 15 years, Stirton has defended municipalities across south-western Ontario in a wide range of cases. A graduate from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2002, in the top nine percent of her class, Stirton also holds an Honours Bachelor of Science from McMaster University.

Stirton articulated and practiced at a national firm in Toronto until 2005 before joining McCall Dawson LLP, a litigation firm in London focusing on municipal clients, practicing as an associate and a partner. Stirton has represented municipalities and other local public authorities before all court levels in Ontario.

"I am thrilled to be the new Town Solicitor for the Town of Pelham, Town of Fort Erie and Township of Wainfleet," said Stirton. "I look forward to focusing on the legal needs of the three municipalities in service to the communities."

The innovative initiative is expected to reduce legal costs and is, to the municipalities' understanding, the first such shared in-house position in Ontario. The agreement positions all three municipalities to reduce their legal expenditures, supporting financial sustainability.

"Local governments in Niagara are again being municipal innovators," said Pelham Mayor Marvin Junkin. "All three municipalities will be saving our taxpayers money and bringing valuable expertise and skill to our teams, while engaging in cost-sharing services with our municipal neighbours. This hiring is significant on many levels."

Stirton will take over routine legal matters, leaving conflict work and specialized work to the municipalities' highly capable external legal counsel. The process, beginning in March 2020, received full support from all three Councils. In the agreed-upon terms, Stirton is a direct employee of the Town of Pelham; however, all three municipalities will contribute towards employment costs.

It is anticipated that the exact amount of time worked for any municipality will vary from month-to-month but is expected to ultimately result in a 40-40-20 (Pelham, Fort Erie, Wainfleet, respectively) split based on historical data. If the percentage paid by each municipality requires future adjustment, contractual and budgeting processes will address the issue.

All three municipalities warmly welcome Jennifer Stirton to Niagara and look forward to benefiting from her skills and knowledge in the years to come.



Winter operations: what happens and when

As the Town of Pelham's public works department prepares for the upcoming winter season, there are things residents should expect and keep in mind when the snow starts falling.

When snow accumulates, snow plowing operations commence. Pelham is divided into "routes." Each route is assigned one piece of equipment, made up of priority roads plowed and treated first.

The Town is proactive and environmentally responsible for dispensing winter sand/salt to treat winter road conditions. Equipment is dispatched at the onset of a winter storm or when staff becomes aware of imminent icy road conditions to apply either salt or sand/salt depending on road classification and other environmental conditions.

Responsible for approximately 572 km of roadway, 64 km of sidewalk, and 2.1 km of paved walking trails, the Town is also responsible for snow removal from three commercial areas. With areas to reach, near and far, the Town uses a priority system to plow the roads, based on regulatory requirements.

Throughout the winter, the Town of Pelham provides sidewalk snow clearing services utilizing a local contractor. Sidewalk clearing commences once a snowstorm has passed, and snow accumulation is 5 cm or more. The contractor makes every effort to clear sidewalks within 24 hours following the end of the snowfall event. Heavy snowfalls and successive storm events can sometimes extend this period. All sidewalks are maintained in a snow-packed surface condition as the equipment does not allow for clearing down to the bare surface. Sidewalks in unassumed subdivision developments are not cleared.

Residents are reminded that parking on any street in the Town of Pelham during the winter season is not permitted at any time during plowing, sanding, or salting operations. Parking on the street in any way to interfere with a winter maintenance operation will result in a parking ticket.

If you have concerns about the quality of winter control operations after the prescribed service level has passed, please contact the Public Works Department at (905) 892-2607 ext. 332, or use the Town of Pelham Public Service Request system found on the website: www.pelham.ca/psr.

Snowfall	2.5 cm	5 cm	5 cm+	Post storm	Post storm clear
Forecasting	Storm Begins	Facility parking lots & sidewalks	Plowing operations	Sidewalks and cul de sacs	Post storm patrols
Staff monitors multiple weather sources for a consistent forecast and plans operations.	Staff begins salting & sanding operations of arterial & collector roads, sharp corners & steep hills	Staff clears snow in front of all municipally owned and operated facilities.	Staff starts plowing operations of roads in priority sequence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arterial collector rural residential 	Staff begins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearing municipal sidewalks removing snow from commercial areas, if required clearing cul-desacs, bullnoses & deadends 	Staff debriefs and tends to any service concerns, if necessary

Holiday Closures

Please note the following holiday closures for Town Hall and the Meridian Community Centre:

Dec. 24 - 12 p.m.
Dec. 25
Dec. 26
Dec. 28 (*MCC OPEN)
Dec. 31 - 12 p.m.
Jan. 1

Face coverings protect others

niagararegion.ca/COVID19