

Success Despite COVID-19

February 18, 2021

Earlier this morning, I delivered my virtual City address – Success Despite COVID-19 sponsored by Ashton Homes and in support of United Way Niagara. Proceeds for United Way Niagara total approximately \$3200.00.

The following are a few key highlights I would like to share....

Welland experienced exponential growth last year resulting in a total of 767 new permits issued. Growth in residential development is impressive and largely driven by people wanting to move to Niagara from the GTHA and other areas.

Empire Communities is investing between \$18 - \$21 million in Welland. This investment will include the following:

- building nearly 2,200 homes in Dain City
- a new \$2.75 million multi-court sports park at the Welland International Flatwater Centre
- \$6.3 million for the realignment and widening of Canal Bank Street
- \$5 million towards the Forks Road Bridge replacement

The Economic Development Team continue to support private sector development and stimulate new business and industry. We are expanding our Economic Development Vision with several projects on the go such as:

- Kit Steel construction underway on 12,787 sq. ft. rebar fabrication facility – lot in River Road Industrial Park
- Holiday Inn Express scheduled to open June 2021
- Tamarack Lumber to start construction on their Woodlawn Road facility this year
- Gas station, car wash & convenience store under construction at the Seaway Mall

As one of the only local area municipalities tendering linear infrastructure replacement during the pandemic, the City of Welland was able to deliver on almost \$11 million of 2020 Capital Construction projects in record time. With support of City Council, senior staff has been able to develop a Capital Works program for 2021 that is larger than ever before. Total infrastructure investment in 2021 increased by \$25.8 million to \$43.3 million (+147%).

Public Works received a perfect 100% from a Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Inspection in 2020, demonstrating that the City of Welland is maintaining high water quality standards and meeting all provincial requirements during the pandemic.

As you can see, despite COVID-19, Welland's economy remains resilient and continues to grow through the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Update

Niagara Region remains in the grey zone. However, numbers do indicate that Niagara could move into the red zone in the near future.

The City of Welland is making arrangements to host a vaccination center in Welland – when supplies are available.

Ontario is moving to vaccinate people older than 80 years of age – more information to come.

COVID-19 is still with us and we must remain vigilant in the fight against this deadly virus.

For further information, visit [COVID-19 public health measures and restrictions | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#)

Visit the Niagara Region vaccination statistics page for the progress on vaccination administration [COVID-19 Vaccinations Administered by Niagara Region Public Health - Niagara Region, Ontario](#).

Please stay safe, stay home and save lives.