



For Immediate Release

March 26, 2020

Town of Gananoque - COVID-19 Update

Further to the Premier Ford's announcement, the Town continues to operate as local governments are identified as essential services. To that end, the Town continues to provide services while limiting personal contact with the public by conducting day to day services via email or telephone.

At this time, Town facilities will remain **closed to the public** until end of day April 5, 2020. However, outdoor municipal parks including playgrounds, skateboard park, dog park and trails continue to be open to the public. The Town cautions the public that these facilities are available to use at your own risk as park playground equipment is not being sanitized and social distancing is still required. Signage will be posted accordingly.

Due to the current provincial state of emergency, the Province recently passed new legislation providing municipalities with the ability to conduct business electronically. To that end, the Town successfully held its first "electronic council meeting" on March 24, 2020. During the meeting, Council adopted a number of temporary financial relief measures for residents. These measures include the deferral of the interim tax due date to May 29 and waiving of penalty and interest during this time, the waiving of parking fees until May 31st and households will be permitted to put out one untagged bag of garbage per week for the months of April and May 2020. Additionally, the brush and yard waste depot will be open early beginning April 1st for drop off on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Please see the Town webpage for a complete update.

The Gananoque Fire Department has joined the efforts of fire departments across the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville by implementing a total open-air burn ban as of Wednesday March 25th at 11:59pm until further notice.

Residents are reminded to refer to the Town of Gananoque COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information webpage for further information and updates as they become available. This page includes municipal changes, press releases from the Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit and links to government websites. Other information available includes a link to the Leeds and Grenville website for business resources and updates regarding COVID-19. Business and service providers with questions surrounding the

essential services list provided by the Province can call the “Stop the Spread Business Information Line” at 1-888-444-3659.

Residents are reminded that the Town has postponed the Neptune Water Meter Replacement program at homes and businesses for the time being. Residents may, however, be contacted by Neptune to reschedule appointments.

The public is reminded to continue social distancing, stay home if you are sick, wash your hands with soap and water, avoid touching surfaces particularly if you or your children are outside enjoying the spring time weather. Ensure that you avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth unless you have cleaned your hands.

The Ministry of Health has provided a self-assessment tool to help determine if you think you have symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has. It is available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-self-assessment>.

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