



**For Immediate Release**

**March 31, 2020**

**Town of Gananoque Declares  
State of Emergency to Mitigate COVID-19**

The Mayor of the Town of Gananoque, Ted Lojko has officially declared today a State of Emergency, after yesterday's meeting with the Municipal Emergency Control Group and in consultation with Town Councillors. The State of Emergency was declared as new cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed locally. The Leeds Grenville Lanark District Health Unit cases have also been confirmed bringing the total to 20.

"We are seeing the numbers in Leeds and Grenville and our neighbouring City of Kingston on the rise," stated Mayor Ted Lojko "However some people and some businesses are not treating this pandemic seriously. It is not just about people returning to Canada, but many people have been infected within their communities."

"If residents and businesses in our community allow the spread of the virus to continue, the provincial and municipal governments may have to take further measures and close additional services and businesses."

While the Federal Government, Ontario Government, Health Units and the Town of Gananoque continue to send messages to stay home if you feel ill, wash your hands, and practice social and physical distancing, the new cases indicate that we must do more. If you have travelled or feel ill stay home for 14 days and do your part.

Additionally, with the announcement of the Provincial government order restricting gatherings of more than 5 people, the Town has closed all Parks to the public as another precautionary health and safety measure. To that end, playground structures and the dog park will be taped off and signed indicating the closure beginning March 31, 2020. The Trails remain open at this time, to walk, jog, walk your dog and get fresh some air, however, you must practice physical distancing of at least 2 metres. Wash your hands with soap and water when you return home.

Previously closed Town facilities will also remain closed to the public beyond the original April 5<sup>th</sup> date to an extended date of April 30, 2020. This includes Town Hall, Lou Jeffries Recreation Facility, and the Police and Fire Station. Services will remain available through telephone and electronic means.

“The Gananoque Police Service wants citizens to realize that there are enforcement mechanisms at their disposal,” stated Chief Garry Hull “however, at this time our intent is to ensure that everyone in the community is educated about requirements in relation to self-isolation, social distancing and the Quarantine Act.”

To help residents who are self-quarantined due to age or compromised immunity or who have recently traveled out of Canada, a Gananoque phone line and email address has been made available to establish a coordinated service.

The service will be volunteer-based for those in need of socializing over the phone or requiring assistance in the pick up and delivery of groceries or other essential services. Shut-ins and travellers may call **613 382-2149 ext.1128** or email **ganstayathome@gmail.com**. If you would like to volunteer, email **ganvolunteers@gmail.com**

**Gananoque ...Protect Yourself & Those Around You: COVID-19...Let’s all do our part.**

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