



Town of Gananoque – Municipal Communication #9

The Province continues to further reopen the doors with announcements in the last week and identifying openings in the upcoming week.

The Town maintains that we need to continue to be mindful of washing our hands and social distancing as Ontario eases restrictions and people are gradually returning to work or able to access businesses. Health Units are recommending that masks be used when physical distancing is difficult to maintain or not possible.

The closure of Town buildings has been extended at this time to June 2, 2020 in keeping with the Provincial Orders.

At the May 19, 2020 Meeting, Council extended a number of temporary financial relief measures for residents:

- Dump Day: Dump Day tipping fees be waived, with a limit of one (1) truck or trailer load per household. “Dump Day” event will be on Saturday, June 27th, 2020
- Municipal Taxes: No penalty and interest will be applied on past due taxes for April, May or June 2020.
- Garbage Collection: One (1) bag of curbside waste per household will be accepted without a bag tag from March 30 to July 3, 2020.
- Parking Meters: Parking meter and parking lot fees will be waived until June 30, 2020.
- Marina Slips: Marina slip payments will be prorated for the remainder of the year.

Regular Council Meetings continue to be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. The next scheduled meeting is June 2, 2020 at 1:00 PM Via Telephone and Video Conference. Please reference the Agenda for details on how to connect to the meeting.

Community Planning and Development – Building, By-law Enforcement, Planning

Q - Are all construction projects allowed to continue?

A - Yes, the Province updated the regulation to allow all construction to continue as of May 19, 2020.

Q - With the office closed to the Public, how are building permit applications submitted?

A - The Town is still accepting building permit applications, reviewing plans, and processing applications remotely.

- Q** - With the office closed to the Public, how are building permit fees submitted?
- A** - Payments are only accepted by cheque which can be submitted using the drop box at the west door at the Town Hall, 30 King Street East.
- Q** - Are the Building Code prescribed timelines in effect at this time?
- A** - Yes, projects will be reviewed within the 10 to 30 days timeframe and inspections completed within 48 hours, as mandated under the Ontario Building Code.
- Q** - Are there any restrictions on inspections that can continue during the lifting stages of the Emergency Order?
- A** - Yes, for staff and public safety, inspections will continue to be completed using social distancing. During inspections, any inspection may be refused by inspectors for reasons of occupational health and safety. If an inspection has been refused, the work must stop or be completed by other means of inspection approved by the inspector.

Community Services – Parks & Recreation, Marina, Arena, Economic Development & Tourism Services

- Municipal Parks and Trails are open for **individual use** including all sports fields, the dog park, the BMX Park and the Skate Board Park. Health officials encourage fresh air and exercise during the Pandemic, however the public must use precautions including social-distancing and no gathering. The public is encouraged to use the trails safely and enjoy the new Story Walk that was installed by the Frontenac Arch Biosphere.
- Playgrounds remained closed as per Premier Ford's Emergency Order.
- Municipal Marina is open for marina customers to access their boat slips. Staff are onsite preparing for full opening May 29th. For marina inquiries please contact 613-382-2149 ext.1414. Boat Launches are open.
- Economic Development is here to help. We have developed a dedicated Business Support webpage that provides a snapshot of business resources and relief programming as they become available. We have also created a shop local webpage that outlines the businesses that are currently open to serve their customers. Visit <https://www.gananoque.ca/business-support> or contact the Business Development Coordinator at 613-382-2149 ext.1125
- Visitor Centre is currently closed however staff are responding to inquiries. Visit <https://www.gananoque.ca/explore-gananoque/gananoque-and-the-1000-islands-visitors-centre> or call 613-382-8044.

Finance Department

- **Water and Sewer Bills:** The Town will not be issuing the 2nd Quarter Utility bills in May 2020. Gananoque was in the midst of the Town wide water meter replacement program when the Pandemic hit. Less than half of the meters have been replaced at this point.
 - The 3rd Quarter billing cycle is scheduled for August 2020. This does not mean that customers will not be billed for water and wastewater services

consumed during this time period. The bill that is issued in August will include 6 months of consumption and flat rate fees.

- Customers are encouraged to continue to make average utility payments through online/telephone banking, by mail or drop off cheques at Town Hall.
- Join the monthly payment plan.
<https://www.gananoque.ca/sites/gananoque.ca/files/Pre-Authorized-Utility-Billing-Quarterly.pdf>
- Questions? Contact 613-382-2149 x1117 or utilitybills@gananoque.ca

Emergency Services

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911

Fire Department

- Chief Tiernan is reminding residents, while you are at home please ensure that your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are in working order. Practice your fire escape plan!
- The County of Leeds and Grenville has lifted their BURN BAN. Chief Tiernan would like to remind everyone a permit is required to have a fire in Gananoque. Please remember to burn responsibly and follow the guidelines on your permit.
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Ontario's Fire Marshal is urging all Ontarians to follow the recommendations of medical and health professionals on how to use and clean personal protective equipment (PPE) and stresses that microwave ovens should never be used to sterilize a face mask.
 - "Heating a face mask in a microwave, in an effort to decontaminate it, is a potential fire risk and should never be done," said Jon Pegg, Ontario Fire Marshal, in response to suggestions that microwaves can be used to sterilize masks for re-use.
 - Microwave ovens are not designed to heat cloth materials, so there is a risk of the mask overheating and catching fire. Many disposable masks also have a metal nose wire or staples holding the straps which can cause sparks or a fire if heated in a microwave.

Police Services

- The Gananoque Police Services reminds all persons who will be accessing the launch ramp on St Lawrence St. that physical distancing rules still apply. All persons in the area should adhere to the current rules in an effort to keep those around you safe.
- Further to the launch ramp opening, persons operating vessels on the river should ensure that all safety equipment is present in the vessel and that all persons wear a life jacket to prevent serious incidents.
- The Gananoque Police Service is happy to report that there have been very few incidents investigated related to Covid 19. This is a credit to the members of our community who strive to make Gananoque as safe as possible while we all work through this pandemic. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed by members of the Gananoque Police Service and we thank you for that.

Public Works – Roads, Water and Sewer

- Curbside brush collection commenced in mid-April and has now concluded.
- Curbside leaf and yard waste collection commenced in late April and has now concluded.
- Residential drop-off of leaf, yard waste and brush continues to be available at the James A Brennan Road entrance on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00am to Noon
- Dump Day: Public Works will be hosting the annual “Dump Day” event on Saturday, June 27th, 2020, from 8:00 am to Noon at Public Works.
 - There will be no charge this year
 - maximum allowable amount of 1 half ton truck load, or equivalent trailer size load per household
 - proof of Town residency will be required to be shown upon request to the By-Law officer
 - The site will accessed from the James A Brennan Road entrance, where the Leaf, Yard Waste and Brush drop off is located.
- Scrap Steel Bin, and E-Waste: Bins are now relocated at the James A Brennan Road entrance for everyone’s convenience. It is available on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 am to Noon.
- The main Public Works entrance off of Charles Street North is now closed to public access

The Town will continue to accommodate your requests, however, delays may occur, and we apologize in advance and thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Municipal Staff:

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- Melanie Kirkby, Treasurer (mkirkby@gananoque.ca or 613 382-2149 ext.1124)
- Penny Kelly, Clerk/CEMC (clerk@gananoque.ca or 613 382-2149 ext.1120)
- Kari Lambe, Mgr of Community Services (RecManager@gananoque.ca or 613 382-2149 ext.1127)
- Paul McMunn, Mgr of Public Works (pwmanager@gananoque.ca or 613 382-2149ext.1615)
- Steve Tiernan, Fire Chief (firechief@gananoque.ca or 613 382-3334)
- Garry Hull, Police Chief (ghull@gananoquepolice.com or 613-382-4422)
- Brenda Guy, Mgr of Planning and Development (bguy@gananoque.ca or 613-382-2149ext.1126)