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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday, April 16, 2020  
(For Immediate Release)**

### **Information Update Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic**

(Prescott) The Town of Prescott continues to operate under a municipal State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as declared on March 23, 2020.

The Municipal Emergency Control Group virtually meets regularly, working in strong partnership with Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit officials and the Ontario Provincial Police. Each meeting is used to share and review new information as it becomes available, determine what actions should be taken to address risks, and to protect the health and well-being of our community.

“I can’t say enough good things about the way that our entire team here in Prescott has come together during the COVID-19 crisis,” said Mayor Brett Todd. “While we are sadly still in what is likely the early stages of this extremely challenging situation, we are doing what we can to be proactive and protect public health, while also addressing business concerns and helping those struggling with the economic impact. Thanks to all those in the community who are cooperating as we continue with closed outdoor recreational facilities. We all have to do our part to protect one another from the community spread of this virus and save lives.”

The Province of Ontario declared a State of Emergency on March 17, 2020 and has since issued a number of orders under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* that are in effect throughout the province. Yesterday, the province extended the declared State of Emergency to May 12, 2020. Current orders such as school and non-essential business closures and the prohibition of gatherings of more than five people remain in effect. Canadian Armed Forces are activating to assist in pandemic efforts and spring flooding.

In Prescott, by-law patrols have been increased to protect the health and safety of residents. Town of Prescott by-law officers are assisting Ontario Provincial Police in enforcing the province’s physical distancing orders and requirements by responding to complaints, educating residents, and working with police where warranted.

Municipal services can be accessed by calling 613-925-2812 Ext. 6200 or by emailing [admin@prescott.ca](mailto:admin@prescott.ca). Essential services remain unaffected, including emergency services, water and wastewater, waste management, road maintenance, and health and safety measures.

Walker House Adult Recreation Centre and Prescott Public Library are offering a limited number of virtual services, such as e-books, web-based resources, and virtual drop-in sessions for older adults. Emergency Preparedness Week will also still take place May 3 - 9, 2020, but virtually through web and radio.

The Municipal Compost Site opened for the season this week, and Large Item Pick Up will take place as scheduled in May. Residents are reminded that all waste bags must be firmly tied shut. Recycling items have to be placed curbside in bins (bags for recycling are not accepted at this time). Due to the health risk to workers, recycling will not be sorted at the curb. Any bins containing an unacceptable item or items will be left behind. Residents are further asked to please hold on to any clothing and household donations at this time. Do not leave items at drop-off sites in town, including the Salvation Army on King Street.

Fire restrictions are in place across Ontario. A total open-air burn ban remains in effect across Leeds & Grenville until further notice. All municipal facilities and outdoor recreational amenities are closed to the public, including parks, play equipment, pavilions, and more. The municipal boat launch at Centennial Park remains closed. All closures will be reviewed after May 12, 2020.

In a virtual Special Council Meeting on April 8, council cancelled public events and programming on municipal property planned for April and May, and large-scale public gatherings in June 2020. This includes A Taste of Prescott, Clean-Up Day, the Community Yard Sale Day, the annual Community Pool Party, and all scheduled recreational programming and bus trips.

The Town of Prescott extends its thanks to essential businesses and front-line workers as well as our residents for doing their part in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Steadfast resolve and commitment will be required through the change of seasons as spring arrives.

In order to keep up to date with official information, please refer to the following sources:

- Town of Prescott – COVID-19 Related Information: [www.prescott.ca/COVID19](http://www.prescott.ca/COVID19)
- Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Public Health: [www.healthunit.org/coronavirus/](http://www.healthunit.org/coronavirus/)
- Ontario Ministry of Health & Self-Assessment Tool: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>
- Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

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