

# PRESCOTT

EST 1784

## THE FORT TOWN

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### MEDIA RELEASE

**Friday, June 12, 2020**  
**(For Immediate Release)**

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

(Prescott) The Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) met virtually today to review and discuss new information updates, including the shift into Phase II of the "Reopening Ontario" framework.

"On the unanimous recommendation of our emergency control group during its meeting this morning, the Centennial Park Municipal Pool will not be opened for the summer season," said Mayor Brett Todd. "There are simply too many hurdles to overcome to open our pool in a safe and effective manner. Difficulties hiring staff, concerns about possibly exposing that staff to COVID-19 if they have to perform life-saving operations, tight limits on the number of swimmers allowed into the pool at any one time, concerns around virus transmission at entry points, and much more all make it virtually impossible to open the pool safely -- and in an enjoyable manner for users of all ages -- this summer.

"With that said, we are very fortunate to have our fantastic Kelly's Bay Beach right next door to the pool. We are happy to announce that the beach will open for the summer season on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. This, along with the opening of picnic tables today, plus gazebos, amphitheatres, and the skateboard park coming on Tuesday show that we are gradually reopening facilities in a manner that respects public health. We do ask that users respect regulations around physical distancing, of course, but aside from that we encourage people to enjoy our incredible beach and parks alongside the majestic St. Lawrence River."

Please note that with the gradual reopening of some municipal amenities on Friday, June 12 (picnic tables and the Kiwanis Skate Park to non-vehicular traffic) and Tuesday, June 16 (gazebos and covered areas, Kelly's Beach) comes a personal responsibility of users to adhere to all public health recommendations. Remain 2 metres apart from others outside your household, wear a cotton face covering where the physical distance cannot be maintained, sanitize hands before and after touching shared surfaces, avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people, and stay home if you are sick.

If you are able, take extra precautions toward disinfection and protecting yourself and those around you; for example, bring your own chair and/or vinyl table cloth to enjoy time in a municipal park or greenspace. Shared amenities such as benches and picnic tables will not be disinfected, however residents are welcome to use them at their own risk.

There are no washrooms or changerooms available for public use. The Kinsmen Amphitheatre remains unavailable for private rental at this time. Prescott Scuba Park and dive entry ramp are under consideration for opening, in consultation with neighbouring municipalities with dive sites. The Centennial Park Splash Pad will remain an active construction site for several weeks to come. Please refrain from this area for safety reasons. All playgrounds and play equipment remain closed for public use.

At each meeting, the MECG reviews the current status of events in our municipality, public health region, province, and the nation. Members of the group include municipal elected officials, Ontario Provincial Police, health and disease prevention professionals, the Medical Officer of Health of the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit, fire services, and administration of the Town of Prescott.

As the Province of Ontario gradually allows the reopening of businesses, services, and public spaces on a regional basis as progress is made in the fight against COVID-19, residents of Prescott will see a gradual approach to opening here as well. At each meeting, the MECG interprets updated guidelines and determines the risk involved in a variety of topics. It is critical that we all work together with continued diligence.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to fight this deadly disease. We are all in this together.

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