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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, June 19, 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 supports for the local business community and the public.

As of Friday, June 19, 2020 yard sales will be permitted on private property within the Town of Prescott. Under the emergency orders of the Province of Ontario and the public health guidance of the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit the following precautions are recommend for hosting or shopping at a yard sale:

- Homeowners must ensure that no more than 10 people are in attendance at any one time (including yourself or family members assisting with hosting the sale).
- Host and shoppers should sanitize their hands often and thoroughly.
- Avoid touching surface items and/or passing items where possible.
- Host and shoppers must maintain a strict 2 metres physical distance from others outside of their household, or choose to wear a cotton face covering to contain personal droplets.
- Do not host a yard sale or shop at one if you or anyone in your identified social circle are feeling unwell in any manner.
- Hosts should not let shoppers into their home for any reason. Keep items for sale in an open space outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Host sales from the yard and not the garage.

Additional precautions that could be taken for added safety of host and shoppers:

- To keep yourselves and others safe, if you don't need to hold or go to a yard sale, consider waiting until the pandemic has passed. Arrange to sell items online or set up appointments for buyers to limit the number of people gathering at one time, if possible.
- If possible, shop for used items online and arrange for delivery or curbside pick-up. Limit your risk of being exposed to COVID-19 by avoiding groups of people.
- Consider using signs, chalk, or other markings to show buyers where to stand to keep a safe distance.
- Provide minimum 70% alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and ensure it is used often (especially after the exchange of cash).

- Reduce contact when exchanging money. Where possible, set up a method for contactless payment, such as electronic fund transfers. Encourage cash payments of exact change.
- If exchanging cash, maintain 2 metres of physical distance (i.e. buyer sets down payment and then steps back 2 metres, seller makes change if needed, then steps back 2 metres).
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and/or items, such as tables and countertops. Ask shoppers to avoid touching items for sale unless they are ready to make a purchase.
- Limit the number of places you visit in one trip & stay local. Avoid travel, stick to yard sales in your community, and shop alone if you are able.
- Clean and disinfect any items purchased. Wash hands after handling shopping goods. Avoid buying items that are difficult to clean, or leave them outside untouched for several days if you are unable to clean.
- Set up goods and display tables a minimum of 2 metres apart to allow shoppers to practice physical distancing.
- Avoid selling or purchasing food or drinks at the sale.

Kelly's Beach opened on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Opening bathrooms for the public using Kelly's Beach was discussed today by elected officials, staff, and public health members of the MECG. We are working diligently on a plan to provide public washroom facilities safely for beachgoers, which we are working towards having in place next week.

Recommended guidelines for enjoying the beach include:

- All beachgoers must remain at least two metres away from those outside their immediate family. Wear a cotton face covering where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Arrive at the beach dressed to swim. If applicable, pack an extra towel or plastic covering to protect vehicle upholstery on the drive home.
- Please take trash home with you, if you are able.
- Towel space on sand areas of the beach may be limited. Be prepared to enjoy the beach from adjacent grass areas when not swimming in the water.
- To prevent overcrowding on the beach and due to closed washroom facilities, guests may need to enjoy a shortened stay at the beach.
- No dogs, fishing, or motorized vessels permitted on the beach or in the bay. No BBQs, generators, glass, alcohol, or overnight camping permitted on the beach.
- No smoking or vaping permitted on the beach, or anywhere in the adjoining park.
- As an extra precaution, BYO lawn chair and/or tablecloth to enjoy picnic tables and green spaces even more safely.
- Town of Prescott and LGL Health Unit will provide notice on water quality once weekly sampling and testing has begun. Warnings are posted at beach when applicable.
- Benches, picnic tables, gazebos, and other open shared-use amenities are not being disinfected by town staff; please sanitize hands before and after use, and avoid touching your eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.
- This is an unsupervised beach; please use at your own risk. Never swim alone.
- Free vehicle & trailer parking at west side of Centennial Park, and on-street along King Street.

- Before leaving home, don't forget to check the weather for storms, and to pack sunscreen, hat and sunglasses for sun protection, and plenty of water in refillable water bottles to help stay hydrated. Be aware of symptoms of heat exhaustion and/or heat stroke which can come on quickly in hot temperatures and sun.

Due to high temperatures and humidex levels Environment Canada has issued a heat warning. Town of Prescott and LGL Health Unit warn residents to take precautions this weekend during high heat and humidity to protect their well-being. A combination of heat and high humidity can be hazardous to your health. Conditions during high heat and humidity have the potential to cause dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke and in some cases death. Do not leave children, adults, or pets in parked cars or sleeping outdoors in direct sunlight.

Everyone is at risk, however at particular risk are elderly, people with chronic illness or who take certain medications, infants and preschool aged children, and people who participate in physical activity or are involved in strenuous outdoor work for a prolonged period. If you experience the following symptoms after exposure to extreme heat, seek medical attention immediately: nausea, dizziness, blurred vision; difficult breathing; severe headache or confusion; convulsion; fever.

For more information on how to protect your health during extreme heat, please visit:

- <https://healthunit.org/health-information/home-health-safety/heat-cold/>

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

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