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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, May 15, 2020
(For Immediate Release)

Information Update Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic

(Prescott) The Municipal Emergency Control Group met virtually today to review and discuss new information updates including the provincial announcement made on May 14, 2020 with re-opening strategies for some businesses, and a plan to start Phase I of the "Re-Opening Ontario Framework" on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

The provincial State of Emergency has been extended until June 2, 2020. The Town of Prescott continues to operate under a municipal State of Emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic, as declared on March 23, 2020. Essential services remain unaffected, including emergency services, water and wastewater, waste management, road maintenance, and health and safety measures. Municipal services can be accessed by calling 613 925 2812 ext. 6200 or by emailing admin@prescott.ca.

Residents must remain vigilant in undertaking all necessary precautions as recommended by Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit and the Province of Ontario. Continue to stay home, including working from home where possible. Do not have physical contact with people outside of your household, and continue to practice physical distancing by staying at least 6 feet or 2 metres apart. Do not gather in groups larger than 5, and wear a cotton face covering in situations where staying far enough apart from others outside of your household is a challenge, such as in shopping or retail settings.

"Victoria Day weekend is always a time of celebration in Ontario, but this is a different start to summer than we have ever experienced before with COVID-19 still a threat to our communities," said Mayor Brett Todd. "As society begins to reopen, it is more important than ever to take personal responsibility to protect public health. Practice smart social distancing. Keep scrubbing those hands. And please wear some form of non-surgical cotton mask when in public areas, especially our stores, to respect the employees in those facilities who are exposed to hundreds of people on a daily basis. Remember that it's about we, not me."

Prescott Town Council continues to meet virtually to deal with regulatory and time-sensitive issues. The next live-streamed meeting will take place Tuesday, May 19 at 6:00 p.m. and all streaming details, agendas, and meeting calendars can be found on the Town's website.

At the Sandra S. Lawn Harbour & Marina, seasonal leaseholders will be permitted to dock beginning May 16, 2020. Gas, water, and electrical services will be available to leaseholders and Canadian transient boaters may stop for fuel and pump-out services beginning May 19, 2020. There will be no access to indoor facilities or amenities until further notice and transient boaters are unable to dock at this time.

Gatherings of more than 5 people continue to be prohibited by provincial order. Municipal By-Law and O.P.P. education and enforcement continue, and the public are strongly encouraged to self-regulate and continue to respect guidelines and recommendations.

Town facilities will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future. Prescott Centennial Pool opening has been delayed until at least June 30, 2020. Walker House Adult Recreation Centre is operating a new “Senior Centre Without Walls” telephone program five days a week for all residents, and Prescott Public Library (now on Facebook) has many electronic resources.

Municipal parks are now permitted to be used for recreational use, however all play structures and park amenities (i.e. picnic tables, benches, swings) remain closed for public use. Please respect physical distancing, and participate in activities with members of your household only. For example, a parent and child from the same household are now welcome to kick a soccer ball within a municipal park or greenspace (while physically distancing from other users of the space), however two households meeting to play catch is not permissible. A second example is that a family from a single household could enjoy a picnic on a blanket in a municipal park, but not at a picnic table which is a park amenity currently closed. Please do not litter while enjoying municipal parks and greenspaces, or while out in the community.

For businesses, the LGL Health Unit has recently published a Fact Sheet with guidelines for public health measures that need to be taken when re-opening. If you are a business owner seeking clarifications, please telephone the Ontario Essential Services Line at 1-888-444-3659.

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

- Town of Prescott – COVID-19 Updates www.prescott.ca/COVID19
- Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit www.healthunit.org/coronavirus
- Ontario Ministry of Health – COVID-19 <https://covid-19.ontario.ca>
- Business Re-Opening www.ontario.ca/page/resources-prevent-covid-19-workplace
- Health Canada COVID-19 App & Self-Assessment Tool <https://ca.thrive.health>

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