

PRESCOTT

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THE FORT TOWN

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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

(For Immediate Release)

Information Update Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic

(Prescott) The Prescott Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) met virtually today to review and discuss new information updates including the federal and provincial announcements made on May 19, 2020.

Members of the MECG would like to remind all residents in the community that COVID-19 remains a serious concern. Precautions need to continue to be taken even while Ontario as a whole continues to move toward the reopening of society with the province entering Phase I of the “Re-Opening Ontario Framework” on May 19. This means continuing to practice social distancing, wash your hands thoroughly, and wear a non-surgical mask in public situations such as shopping where you may unavoidably come into close contact with others.

“I want to thank the entire Fort Town for working with us over these past two months to flatten the curve and restrict the spread of COVID-19,” said Mayor Brett Todd. “We have come a long way together. The efforts that each of us have made have shown our resiliency as a caring community. But we are not out of the woods yet. We must remain vigilant and follow the rules when it comes to the permitted uses of municipal facilities that are now opening. It’s still on all us to ensure that community spread remains on the decline.”

Members of the Prescott MECG took under advisement the amendments made to Ontario Regulation 104/20 as part of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* – Closure of Outdoor Recreational Amenities in reviewing all municipal facilities and amenities. The following regulations have been established to reduce the risk of traveller and/or community spread of coronavirus.

As of May 20, 2020, the following Town of Prescott assets remain closed to public until further notice:

- outdoor picnic sites
- benches and shelters in park and recreational areas
- play structures and amenities in all municipal parks
- outdoor park washroom facilities
- Kelly’s Beach
- Prescott Centennial Pool
- Kiwanis Skatepark
- Prescott Scuba Park
- Rotary Lighthouse

The following are open to single-household public use, while maintaining 6 feet or 2 metres of physical distance between other users:

- Ed Brown/Tom Carr and Chick Kirkby baseball/softball/soccer fields
- Prescott Tennis Club (singles only, no access to clubhouse)
- Prescott Heritage River Trail
- Centennial Park Boat Launch

No organized or team sports or activities are permitted while using parks or open outdoor recreational spaces. Dogs must remain on leash and owners must pick up after their pet. Please do not litter. Municipal By-Law and O.P.P education and enforcement continue.

Seasonal leaseholders are permitted to dock at the Sandra S. Lawn Marina and access fuel, water, and electrical services. Canadian transient boaters may stop briefly for fuel or pump-out services but are not permitted to dock at this time. Due to border restrictions, American boaters are not permitted to enter the marina. There is no access to indoor facilities or amenities for the public or marina leaseholders at this time.

Gatherings of more than 5 people continue to be prohibited by provincial order. An exemption has been made for outdoor (parking lot) religious gatherings. Participants in these services must remain in their vehicles, together with only members of their household, parked 6 feet or 2 metres apart. No more than 5 people are permitted to conduct the service while remaining 6 feet or 2 metres apart. No materials can be exchanged. Any buildings where the gathering is occurring have to remain closed to members of the congregation.

The federal government has announced that the Canadian border with the United States will remain closed to non-essential travel until at least June 21, 2020. Mayor Todd has joined a group of border community mayors across Ontario to share information, challenges, and resources on behalf of the Town of Prescott.

Prescott Town Council continues to meet virtually to deal with regulatory and time-sensitive issues. The next live-streamed meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020. Details on the Town's website.

Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit reiterates that if you are feeling unwell, please stay at home. Do not visit public or business settings, even if wearing a cotton face covering.

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>

- 30 -

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