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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, May 8, 2020

(For Immediate Release)

Information Update Regarding COVID-19 Pandemic

Municipal Boat Launch Reopened / Burn Ban Lifted

(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 regularly meets virtually, working in strong partnership with Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit officials and the Ontario Provincial Police. The Council of the Town of Prescott also continues to hold bi-weekly Special Council meetings to deal with legislative, regulatory, and time-sensitive matters.

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. The province has extended the declared State of Emergency to May 19, 2020. Provincial parks and conservation areas continue to be closed along with publicly funded schools. The provincial government is allowing certain businesses and workplaces to reopen as long as they comply with strict public health measures and operate safely during the COVID-19 outbreak.

At the Town of Prescott Special Council meeting of May 4, 2020, Council approved the opening of the Prescott boat launch effective May 8, 2020. The Open-Air Burn Ban has also been lifted effective May 8, 2020. All Open-Air burning will be strictly enforced with **ZERO** tolerance for violations of the Town of Prescott Open-Air Burning By-Law 11-2008. Only small confined fires that are used for the purpose of cooking/recreational enjoyment, that meet all by-law regulations and are always supervised, shall be permitted.

"Even though the province is beginning to move into the lifting of restrictions on the operation of businesses and public facilities, we all have to remember that COVID-19 is still out there and that we need to continue with the social distancing, limits on gatherings, and other measures that have allowed us to handle this virus so well locally over the past couple of months," said Mayor Brett Todd.

"We remain under provincial and municipal declarations of emergency, as well, to underline the ongoing seriousness of this situation. Whether you are using our boat launch, having a small backyard cookout, or shopping in some of the reopened and reopening stores in the community, remember that we all still need to work together to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health."

Town of Prescott by-law patrols continue to protect the health and safety of residents. By-Law Enforcement Officers are assisting the 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 Essential services remain unaffected, including emergency services, water and wastewater, waste management, road maintenance, and health and safety measures. Information is also available on COVID-19 and Town Services and can be accessed by calling 613-925-2812 and pressing 5 at the main menu.

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.

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
- Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Public Health: <https://healthunit.org/coronavirus/>
- Ontario Ministry of Health: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

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