
COVID-19 UPDATE APRIL 7, 2020

As a response to concerns from residents the Township has deemed it imperative to streamline communication and provide a media release that encompasses all Township information currently available in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. This document will be revised and updated as necessary regarding COVID-19 information. Updates are provided from the Renfrew County & District Health Unit.

The most important message we can share with our Community during these times of uncertainty is to STAY HOME, unless it is essential for you to leave your home, monitor health conditions, check for updated messages, exercise caution and physical distancing. If you become ill STAY HOME and contact your family physician, if you are unable to reach your family physician or do not have a physician contact the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre at [1-844-727-6404](tel:1-844-727-6404) or visit www.rcvtac.ca.

COUNCIL/ADMINISTRATION

Mayor and Council followed the protocol of the County and passed a Delegation of Authority By-Law at the meeting of March 23, 2020 for the duration of the current pandemic. The Delegation of Authority By-Law was brought to Council to allow changes to daily operations, taxes and processes related to human resources. This does not absolve Council interaction and does not give the Mayor and CAO sweeping power to spend taxation dollars with no accountability. The By-Law allows the Mayor and CAO to make decisions without a Council Meeting but will be reporting the updates to other Council members as they transpire. If you wish to review the Delegation of Authority By-Law in its entirety it can be found on the Township website under the Council Tab, By-Law 20-2020.

A Delegation of Authority By-Law and the Township Declaring a State of Emergency are similar however, the Delegation of Authority By-law restricts the amount the Mayor and CAO can authorize up to a maximum of \$25,000 whereas under a state of Emergency there is no maximum. The purpose of the Delegation of Authority By-Law is to ensure that appropriate decisions, purchases, changes may be made in a timely matter to reflect the ever changing information of pandemic for the safety of ratepayers, staff and for the liability of the Township.

The Township is currently working on solutions to accommodate virtual/teleconference Council Meetings to allow for business to continue with limited interruptions.

The Township Office remains closed to the public, however Township staff can still be reached by phone: 613-752-2222 and email. We will continue to serve our residents the best we can during the pandemic.

BUILDING - RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION – PERMITS AND CONTINUING INSPECTIONS

(Ontario Government Section 30 of the new Schedule 2)

Permits issued before April 4, 2020, where construction has begun, may continue, so that a potentially unsafe condition is not left for the duration of the Order and inspections will continue to be carried out by appointment only. Any permit issued after that does not allow construction to start.

Any person who continues construction in breach of the emergency order may be prosecuted. Any work done in contravention of the order that cannot be inspected will need to be uncovered/modified for purposes of inspection/correction of deficiencies once the order is lifted.

You may continue to submit building permit applications to the Township, so they are ready for issuing once the Order has been lifted.

FEES

Payments for dog tags will remain at \$15.00 until April 30, 2020, please provide payment through mail or drop box outside of the Township office and the tag will be mailed back to you.

FIRE

The Greater Madawaska Fire Chief enacted a Level 2 Fire Ban throughout the Township on March 18, 2020. This was a proactive measure taken by the Fire Chief to alleviate non-emergency calls; help maintain a safe environment for Fire personnel as well as minimize contact with the general public to curb the spread of COVID-19.

LIBRARY, RECREATION AND FACILITIES

All Township owned facilities, parks, playgrounds, trails and Library will remain closed until further notice as per the recommendations and/or requirements by the Ontario Provincial Government. This initiative is to help curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our public spaces and deter social gatherings in these areas.

TAXATION

As per the Media Release on March 25, 2020 the Township of Greater Madawaska will postpone all interest on taxes allotted for the 2020 Interim Bill due March 27, 2020 for the month of April 2020, a decision will be made regarding May interest 2020 in the coming weeks and communicated on the Township website and Facebook page.

Any arrears balances that are outstanding on accounts for 2019 and older will have interest applied as normal. This will be reviewed on a monthly basis based on the current situation surrounding COVID-19.

The Township encourages those that can pay their taxes to do so as the Township is considered an essential service and is continuing to operate as such. Municipal Taxes are the main source of revenue for the Municipality to operate and without tax revenue the Township could potentially require loans to continue to operate and provide essential services to the public.

Monthly Preauthorized Payment Plans (PAP) will continue to be withdrawn on the 15th of each month. If you require an alteration to your PAP, please contact Jenn Fleming. Payments may be made in the form of cheque or on the Township website (Visa and Mastercard only), in person at a financial institution or online banking. We would like to thank all those that have already paid their 2020 Interim Bill. If you have questions, Jenn Fleming can be reached at 613-752-2274 or at jfleming@greatermadawaska.com.

WASTE

The Transfer Sites remain open with regular operating hours, which can be found on the Township website, in the Newsletter that was enclosed with your tax bill and on your waste site card. The Township asks that **only one person** be out of their vehicle at a time to promote physical (social) distancing.

Effective April 6 – during regular hours on Wednesday April 8, 2020:

Waste sites will be accepting Construction and Demolition along with household garbage. Compost and recycling is to be incorporated with household garbage.

Effective April 11, 2020 and indefinitely during the COVID-19 pandemic:

NO Construction/Demolition, Bulky Goods, Tires, Electronics, or Leaf and yard waste will be accepted.

ONLY Household waste will be accepted. The Township has ceased recycling/composting activities for the time being, however, ratepayers may hold their recycling at home until the Township accepts recycling again. Residents who wish to dispose of recyclables/compost may do so by including it in their household garbage. This decision was the result of concerns of close contact between staff and residents as well as the avoidance of Transfer Site Attendants sorting contaminated recyclables. If residual waste is deposited in the recycling containers the Township's tipping fees would increase significantly from \$75/tonne to \$300/tonne. Employee safety is the main priority of the Township.

LINKS/INFORMATION UPDATES

Residents with concerns of patrons not practicing social distancing are encouraged to call the local Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P) Renfrew Detachment by phone at 613-432-3211 as the O.P.P. have been directed to enforce social distancing.

County of Renfrew COVID-19 Updates <https://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca/en/covid-19.aspx>

Updates from the Renfrew County and District Health Unit

<https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/>

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association has provided information to Cottagers' regarding travel to cottage country, please see the link below as it is pertinent information regarding the do's and don'ts of Cottage Country.

https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Cottage-Country-updates-in-changing-times.html?soid=1103081187936&aid=xvNAo5ldA4Y&fbclid=IwAR0W_BjFK9Rua4qEfs-jPKTnKsCpjbPmjW02Z5xF7XgWg-jy0PCZkn4_J08