

May 4, 2020

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**OPERATIONAL IMPACTS**

**Closures:** The Town of New Tecumseth is further extending facility closures of the Town Administration Centre (including the Building Department) and the Joint Operations Centre until at least **May 31, 2020**.

As per the Province of Ontario's Emergency Order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the Town's recreational centres, arenas, libraries, Museum on the Boyne, Banting Homestead, 54+ Centre and all indoor recreation amenities including splash pads, playgrounds, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, Beeton's off-leash dog parks, skateboard parks, picnic areas, outdoor community gardens, park shelters, outdoor exercise equipment and other outdoor recreational amenities remain closed – as per the Province's direction. These closures will be revisited pending potential future changes in the current Provincial closure and health directives.

**Impacts on staffing:** As a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all recruitment plans and activities have been halted including not hiring any seasonal, student or contract staff, fill vacancies or move ahead with new hires. These positions that were planned to be filled for 2020 equate to 93 positions; 94 part time and contract employees have been laid off from their employment with the Town. Additionally, 22 full-time, permanent employees have been temporarily laid off.

**Municipal Projects:**

- **Coventry Park & Doner Diamond lighting projects** – construction activities have resumed onsite.
- **Tottenham Library** – Construction activities will resume onsite shortly.
- **Tottenham transmission main** - The Tottenham Transmission Main Construction Project is continuing to proceed.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE UPDATES**

**Burn ban and fire permits:** New Tecumseth Fire Rescue are not issuing burn permits and backyard chiminea permits as a temporary fire ban remains in place in New Tecumseth until further notice.

However, while the burn ban remains in effect for New Tecumseth, we are now issuing 15-day Agricultural Burn Permits ONLY which will be provided at no charge to agricultural property owners needing to clear land in preparation for the 2020 planting season.

Once approved for an Agricultural Burn Permit, fires may only occur within the hours of 8am and 4pm. Permits must be requested through the Fire Administration office either by phone at 705-435-3900 ext.1425 or email at [fire@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:fire@newtecumseth.ca). A permit will be emailed to the property owner for completion, the property owner will then return to the Fire Administration office by email for approval. Once approved a signed copy of the permit will be returned to the property owner.

The Burn Ban remains in place and No Open-Air Burning is allowed except for those permitted through the Agricultural Permit.

**County Mulch & Compost Program:** The Mulch and compost program is put on by the County of Simcoe and is not available at this time.

The County will update the municipality of the Town of New Tecumseth and its residents on the program when details become available. Residents are encouraged to call the County of Simcoe toll free at 1-866-893-9300 for further inquiries.

You may also visit the Simcoe County website at [www.simcoe.ca](http://www.simcoe.ca) and view their public notices page to see a list of any services they provide that have been placed on hold.

**Impacts to bookings, cancellations, events:** As the Town has to plan and prepare in advance, and based on the best information available and directives through the Province and top health officials at this time, the following will be in place for 2020 and Town staff will contact any affected permit holders to cancel bookings and/or tentatively postpone. Should Provincial orders and health directives and restrictions change in the coming months, booking postponements will be revisited.

- All bookings for sports fields including ball diamonds, soccer pitches, tennis courts and basketball courts will be cancelled until September 7, 2020.
- All bookings and rentals for indoor room, hall, field house and ice surface area will be cancelled until September 7, 2020.
- Town-organized events - such as Canada Day celebrations and the Charity Rodeo - are cancelled.
- Community-led and/or organized events scheduled to be held at any of the Town's outdoor spaces will be cancelled until September 7, 2020.

**Impacts to summer camps, outdoor Rotary Pool, Tottenham Conservation Area:**

- Town run summer day camps will not be planned for the season, however, may be organized at a later date.
- The Tottenham Conservation Area will be closed to campers/users/events for the 2020 season.
- The outdoor Rotary Pool will remain closed for the 2020 season.

**Interim Property Taxes / Water & Wastewater Billings:** We have taken financial relief measures to help our residents who need some additional time to make payments. Please note that the following payment dates have been extended:

The second tax bill installment originally due April 30, 2020, is **now due on May 29, 2020**

Beeton water bill originally due on April 15, 2020, is **now due on May 15, 2020**

Alliston water bill originally due on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, is **now due on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Interest and penalties will not be added as a result of these due dates being extended.

**Pedestrian crossings:** Adjustments have been made to high-use pedestrian crossing intersections. Vehicles may notice a slightly longer wait at these intersections as a result. These specific pedestrian crossing signals work without the need to push the activation buttons. Signage has been installed reminding people not to touch the buttons. In keeping with public health guidelines, residents should avoid using their hands to touch shared surfaces in the public like pedestrian push buttons and other common items such as handrails and benches.

**Trails and open spaces:** Trails and other open green spaces remain available for residents to use responsibly and while practicing safe physical distancing and all health-related directives. Users of open spaces and trails are asked to park vehicles in designated places, being respectful and cautious to not block roadways and/or private property.

**Virtual recreation, fitness and activities:** As a result of the current situation, we are unable to provide fitness programming in traditional ways, so we have been developing the virtual fitness and activities component of our New Tec Connects program which focuses on opportunities for families

and individuals to interact virtually. These activities can be viewed on the Town's website here: <https://www.newtecumseth.ca/en/living-in-our-community/new-tec-connects-program.aspx>. To assist with physical activity, the Town of New Tecumseth's Parks, Recreation & Culture team has put together a variety of short fitness videos to help our residents remain active and keep your mind and body moving. Please visit the Town of New Tecumseth's YouTube channel and our [Virtual Recreation playlist](#) for more and be sure to subscribe to receive notifications of new class additions. Please check back weekly as we continue to add new videos and activities to keep you moving.

#### CONTACT US:

You can continue to do business with the Town on our website at [www.newtecumseth.ca](http://www.newtecumseth.ca), or by phone at 705-435-3900 or 905-729-0057 (Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm) or by email at [info@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:info@newtecumseth.ca). For recreation related questions, please call our Parks, Recreation and Culture team at 705-435-4030 ext. 1500 or 905-936-4203 ext. 1621 or by email [recreation@newtecumseth.ca](mailto:recreation@newtecumseth.ca). For the most up-to-date impacts and information on Town services, subscribe to our webpage at [www.newtecumseth.ca/COVID19](http://www.newtecumseth.ca/COVID19).

#### KEY MESSAGES

**Health tips:** The Public Health Agency of Canada and World Health Organization recommend that you:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the washroom or blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; before preparing food; or after you have been in a public place. You can use hand sanitizer with at least 60 per cent alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily including: toys, toilets, phones, electronics, door handles, bedside tables television remotes, light switches, countertops, desks, faucets and sinks.

**Physical distancing:** Together, we can slow the spread of COVID-19 by making a conscious effort to keep a physical distance between each other. Physical distancing is proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of illness during an outbreak. Stay home, if you can. Limit your contact with others and avoid non-essential trips in the community - it's the best way to practice physical distancing. While you may not feel sick, we ask that you be mindful of those more vulnerable in our community. With patience and cooperation, we can all do our part.

**Provincial changes:** The Ontario Government announced it will allow more businesses to reopen as of May 4, including garden centres and nurseries (curb-side pick-up and delivery only), car washes, car dealerships by appointment, lawn care and landscaping businesses and a wider array of construction projects shuttered under earlier orders. They also encouraged golf courses and marinas to prepare for the summer season as long as they stay closed to the public. It has prepared sector-specific guidelines to help protect workers, customers, and the general public from COVID-19 as it prepares for a gradual reopening of the provincial economy. Guidelines released for six sectors including: Construction, Food processing, Restaurant and Food services, Agriculture Manufacturing, Long-term Care.

**Please visit the Town's website at [www.newtecumseth.ca/COVID19](http://www.newtecumseth.ca/COVID19) for the latest local information and be sure to subscribe to the page to automatically receive updates.**

### ENFORCEMENT DETAILS

New Tecumseth By-law Enforcement Officers are assisting the Nottawasaga OPP to enforce the Province's COVID-19 Orders by doing proactive patrols and partnering with the OPP to educate residents and working with the Nottawasaga OPP where Police intervention may be warranted. Charges may be laid for violations of the Province's Orders in two ways. People not abiding by the Provincial Orders may receive a ticket with a set fine between \$750 to \$1000 dollars per charge. Alternatively, Officers may lay a charge by way of a summons in which case the fine and penalties are potentially more severe, ranging from up to \$100,000 for individuals, \$500,000 for Directors or Officers of a corporation and up to \$10,000,000 for a corporation. In addition, offenders may be subject to up to one-year imprisonment.

Date	Number of Questions or Concerns Received (Email/Phone)	Number of Education Occurrences (times Officer spoke to public during patrols*).	Number of Charges Issued Pt.1 or Pt.3	Number of Warnings Issued
March 30 <sup>th</sup> - April 8 <sup>th</sup> By-law	24	10	0	0
March 30 <sup>th</sup> - April 8 <sup>th</sup> OPP	6	3**	0	2
April 9 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> By-law	3	12	0	0
April 9 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> OPP	5	5**	0	0
April 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> By-law	4	7	0	0
April 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> OPP	9	9**	0	4
April 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> By-law	7	1	0	0
April 20 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> OPP	6	6**	1	2
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> By-law	8	1	0	0
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> OPP***	5	9**	0	2

COVID-19 UPDATE

April 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> By-law	5	1	0	0
April 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> OPP***	2	3**	0	2
April 30 <sup>th</sup> – May 3 <sup>rd</sup> By-law	16	0	0	0
April 30 <sup>th</sup> – May 3 <sup>rd</sup> OPP***	2	5**	0	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>

\*By-law Patrols are occurring 7 days/week 9am-4pm approximately.

\*\* This number only represents the total number of OPP patrols conducted.

\*\*\* OPP Officers have been instructed to patrol grocery stores to increase Community/visible presence.

RELIABLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[Town of New Tecumseth](#)

For up to date information, visit [newtecumseth.ca/COVID19](http://newtecumseth.ca/COVID19)

The Town's **Economic Development Office** is gathering important information and resources to assist local businesses and their employees in responding to the economic impacts of COVID-19.

[County of Simcoe](#)

For COVID19 service updates, visit [simcoe.ca/Coronavirus](http://simcoe.ca/Coronavirus)

[Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

For the most up-to-date local information, visit the [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website](#).

[Stevenson Memorial Hospital](#)

For the latest news from Stevenson Memorial Hospital, please visit their website at: <http://www.stevensonhospital.ca/index.html>

[Province of Ontario](#)

The Province of **Ontario's Action Plan** will provide **support for people and businesses** through tax credits and deferrals to improve their cash flow, **protecting jobs and household budgets**, while providing the resources necessary to protect their health.

[Government of Canada](#)

The Government of **Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan** includes a wide range of measures to **support for Canadian individuals and families** who are facing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic.