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Town responds to Province's stage 3 reopening plan

NEW TECUMSETH, ON – As the Province announced its Stage 3 reopening plan, the Town is continuing to work through the details of how the announcement impacts Town services.

“We understand and appreciate that our community and facility users are eager to get back to enjoying our recreational amenities. We will continue to move towards recovery effort, particularly in our Parks, Recreation and Culture area. However, we will do so carefully and cautiously to ensure we are able to meet all of the directives of our public health officials and in keeping the safety and well-being of our community and staff as our top priority,” said New Tecumseth Mayor Rick Milne.

The Town will reopen its buildings, facilities, and recreation centres in a phased approach.

“Reopenings are not a matter of just turning a key and unlocking a door. The way we operate some of our facilities and services will look different than they did prior to COVID-19. We have to adjust some of our operations and redeploy our resources in order to meet all public health protocols including limiting the number of people in our facilities at any given time,” said Milne.

The Town is currently in **Phase One** of the its recovery plan which includes:

- Bookings are now being taken for all outdoor sports fields with the single restriction of Field 1 at Coventry Park in Tottenham due to a lighting project being completed. Individuals and groups can book through email at rentals@newtecumseth.ca or call the Town.
- Bookings are being taken for all indoor and outdoor events up to the Province's limits on the number of people allowed (currently 50 for indoor for the entire facility and 100 for outdoor). However, users are required to submit their plans on how their booking will specifically meet all COVID-19 health protocols.
- The majority of our playgrounds reopened on July 17. Riverdale Park and John W. Taylor in Alliston as well as Potter and McKnight in Tottenham require work and repairs and are anticipated to be open this week. Users are reminded that playground equipment is NOT sanitized and users of all our outdoor recreation amenities must follow all public health directives including maintaining physical distancing of at least 2 metres, washing and/or sanitizing hands frequently and staying home when ill.

Phase Two of our recovery plan for our Parks, Recreation and Culture services will include the following openings as of **Tues., August 4:**

- The Museum on the Boyne will reopen to the public by appointment only.
- Our recreation centres will open for limited use and revised hours.
- The New Tecumseth Recreation Centre will see the field house open for bookings and walking track use.
- The 54+ centre will also be permitted to reopen.
- The Alliston Memorial Arena and the Beeton Memorial Arena will open for floor and hall rentals.
- The Tottenham Community and Fitness Centre will open for bookings and drop in use of the gymnasium floor and the walking track will reopen. The fitness centre/the gym at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre will reopen however drop-in use will not be permitted and members will need to book a time slot to use the equipment either online or by phone. When performing physical exertion, masks may be removed as required.
- Due to the restrictive size of the fitness centre at the New Tecumseth Recreation Centre and the challenges associated with being able to ensure safe physical distancing of users, the gym at the NTRC will remain closed for the time being. However, all New Tecumseth fitness memberships can be used at the Tottenham Community & Fitness Centre.
- The Town Administration Centre, (including the Building Department) and the Joint Operations Centre will open to the public by appointment only starting Mon., August 10, 2020. (Examples of services that would require an appointment include discussing a project, application or permit with our building or planning departments, marriage license pick-up and freedom of information pick up of documents). Where possible, residents are encouraged to continue to use online options whenever possible to promote safety and efficiency.

When reopened to the public, masks or face coverings will be required upon entry to all Town buildings/facilities and recreation centres and while moving throughout buildings.

Users of all our indoor and outdoor spaces must continue to follow all the public health guidelines for COVID-19 including maintaining physical distancing of at least 2 metres, washing

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and/or sanitizing hands frequently and staying home when ill. Signage to remind users will be placed throughout our buildings.

Phase Three of our recovery plan will include looking at:

- The process of preparing the ice surfaces in our arenas which typically starts near the end of August.
- Looking at re-establishing fitness classes with reduced numbers.

To keep up to date on the latest impacts on Town services as a result of COVID-19, please visit and subscribe to our website at www.newtecumseth.ca/COVID19.