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**Mayor's Message**

To the residents of Arnprior:

COVID-19 is a concerning issue for all of us! It presents a first time challenge for all levels of government and staff. I would like to speak to you specifically about Arnprior.

I am sure you are aware of the measures we have taken in an attempt to manage COVID-19 locally.

All town facilities are currently closed to the public, but communications are open by email and phone to all departments. We have put plans in place to backup and ensure all municipal services. Our public works group has ensured continuous operations for water and wastewater plants, garbage and recycling and all public works operations.

Staff are in the town hall and the Nick Smith Centre to respond to your enquiries.

Our emergency management team is meeting regularly, monitoring and responding to all information as it becomes available - and it changes hourly.

Council meetings are cancelled, special meetings will be called as needed. We are waiting for government legislation to allow meetings electronically.

Staff are working at home as much as possible and those in the offices are rotating a week on and a week off. This ensures their health and safety and that of their families. It further allows for the important practice of social distancing. Please be sure to thank your staff as they are truly going above and beyond. On behalf of council I want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for their efforts.

I am communicating with council and staff regularly, Robin our CAO and I speak numerous times a day. I am in constant communication with MP Gallant, Minister Yakabuski, Eric Hanna of Arnprior Regional Health (ARH), Mike Nolan of the County EMS and Public Health. Also Mayor Peckett and I speak frequently to ensure the best for the greater community of Arnprior and McNab/Braeside. I want to thank each of them for their extraordinary effort to ensure we have the most recent information.

On behalf of our residents, council and staff I want to express our absolute respect and gratitude to all front-line health workers in all the health services. We wish them and their families well and please be safe.

I further want to express our gratitude to the complete retail community for their continuous effort to ensure all important supplies such as medicine, food, banking and many other needed services are available to our residents. Also to all service clubs and organizations our community depend on for their commitment to continue to serve, such as the food bank, TAP (Teachers Against Poverty), the churches, etc.

You the residents of Arnprior have a huge responsibility in this challenging time! Your efforts to protect our community by doing the right things is imperative to help end this virus.

So please: Monitor any changes in your and your families' health and that of your friends and neighbors. Please practice social distancing and self isolation when needed - we can't tell you how important they are. Watch our website and local media for information and communicate to all others you can.

I want to thank the school kids out there. We know the fun part of no school can fade quickly under these terms. You can do your part by helping your parents and grandparents and by listening to them. You can go outside but you too must social distance!

Thank you for your attention and please watch over each other, help a neighbour and be safe.

Walter Stack

Mayor, Arnprior