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Monday Message from the Mayor #3
April 6, 2020

To the residents and businesses of Arnprior:

I want to take this time to reassure our residents that the Town of Arnprior continues to maintain all essential services and we continue to monitor the situation with guidance from changes that came into affect for our residents this past week.

The Province of Ontario has issued a new emergency order to close all outdoor recreational amenities. This includes all play structures, the skate board park, ball diamonds, boat launch and gazebos. Trails are open and the parks are available for walk-through access. Please, as the weather improves with the welcoming of Spring, enjoy the outdoors with your family, while continuing to practice safe physical distancing.

You will have noticed that garbage collection continues as usual with the following exception. As of the April 1st collection date, the Town has temporarily increased curbside collection garbage bag limits per household from 2 bags to 4 bags per week. This was implemented to recognize that many families are at home all week at this time and not able to purchase additional bag tags while the municipal facilities are closed to the public. The Landfill remains closed to the public at this time. Leaf and yard waste pick up will go ahead on May 13th, as planned.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has implemented a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) across the entire legislated fire region of Ontario due to impacts related to the COVID-19 outbreak. By law, you cannot have an outdoor fire in a Restricted Fire Zone. This includes all burning, including grass, debris and campfires, even when using an outdoor fire grate, fire place or fire pit. Minimizing wildfires will ensure the province is able to address any emergency fire situations as well as will reduce necessary contact among staff, and between staff and the public. For more information on when a restriction is in place, please visit the MNFR website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/outdoor-fire-restrictions>.

As reminder, Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) was launched to strengthen access to primary care for all Renfrew County residents. The RC VTAC is a collaboration between Renfrew County Primary Care teams, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, Renfrew County Hospitals, and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, with the support of Ontario Health East.

If a person does not have a family physician or cannot access their family physician, they can call the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre at 1-844-727-

6404 for care and support from a nurse practitioner, family physician and/or community paramedic. Learn more at <http://www.rcvtac.ca>

On March 30, 2020, Renfrew County Warden Debbie Robinson declared a state of emergency due to the global COVID-19 pandemic across the entirety of the County of Renfrew under the Emergency Management and Protection Act. This declaration of emergency will further assist the County of Renfrew in maintaining essential services and addressing the increasing threat of the COVID 19 outbreak in an effective manner. The declaration also evokes the County of Renfrew Emergency Response Plan and its Emergency Operations Centre.

I also want to add my sincere thanks at this time to all in our community who are making the effort to stay home and social distance. I have driven around town and noticed the effort made to social distance when people are out. We are truly all in this together and we will win this fight as a team. I am very proud of the way our residents are doing the right things and being considerate of others around them. Thanks for doing so.

Please when you have to make a purchase buy local! The next big step in this will be the economic comeback for our businesses and the jobs they provide.

Further I want those who are working so hard under such tough conditions to know we see them and know their efforts and are grateful. To all the front line workers --- all of you in the retail outlets, pharmacies, restaurants, our Police Officers, Fire staff full time and volunteers, the doctors, nurses, support staff, kitchen, maintenance, laundry, delivery personnel and cleaning staff –THANKS!!!!

If you need something picked up or an errand run please do not hesitate to call me at 613-218-2157 and I will arrange for assistance.

Thank you to everyone making every effort possible to ensure the safety of our community by practicing physical distancing and staying home.

Walter Stack
Mayor