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Message from the Mayor #13 **August 4, 2020**

As we settle in to Stage 3 of the provincial recovery plan, some things are getting back to a slightly different normal while others are still restricted at this time. Although we have come a long way from the beginning of the pandemic in March, the numbers of new cases, especially in our neighbouring community, are rising. I would like to remind residents to continue to remain vigilant and follow health guidelines to avoid a setback and keep our community safe.

I know that many residents are staying close to home this summer which means this is a perfect time to explore your own backyard. Arnprior has so much to offer and many opportunities to enjoy the summer in Town.

One of the places we encourage you to visit this summer is the Arnprior and District Museum. The Museum is filled with rich local history and has a very fitting visiting exhibit, Unmasking Influenza. Our museum is constantly being updated and exhibits are being added to showcase as much of the collection as possible. The museum admission is by donation and is currently open by appointment only. Also visit the museums [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) for more information on their weekly summer camp in a box program.

Robert Simpson Park/Beach and McLean Ave Beach are great places to spend the day. Enjoy the beautiful weather while cooling off in the water, enjoy a picnic with a view or find a shady spot to read a book or even work remotely. Please help keep our parks and beaches safe and enjoyable for all by following all posted signage.

Visit your favourite local shops and restaurants. Most businesses and restaurants are now open and could use your support. Spend the day browsing your favourite stores, enjoy a meal from your favourite restaurant or even catch a movie at the theater. Our local businesses have been working tirelessly to ensure a safe environment and experience for their customers.

Take in the natural beauty of Arnprior. The Town has a number of trails for you to explore such as the Ottawa Valley Recreation Trail, the Grove Trail and the MacNamara Trail to name a few. Walking is a great way to explore your Town while getting some exercise.

Again thank you all for your efforts to work through this pandemic. But even as we adjust to life under these challenging circumstances there are other issues that require attention and refocus.

While exploring your backyard please continue to follow COVID-19 regulations and guidelines and treat everyone with kindness and respect – we don't know what others comfort levels are and how they are coping with this situation. It is the caring and thoughtfulness of our community that has brought us to this point, and our resilience and compliance with health unit protocols that will carry us through the months to come.

While some residents may not feel the guidelines, rules or requests made of us all to preserve, protect and keep beautiful our community, apply to them, I would like to remind you and ask you to show respect for all the others that share your community with you.

Please poop and scoop. I have witnessed and received numerous complaints about this on private lawns, the trails and, believe it or not, on the sidewalk of our main streets. Please consider others and the community at large and do your part to keep our town clean.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind that all Off-Road Vehicles, such as ATV and Side-by-Side, are for **trail use only**. In the Town of Arnprior, you are permitted to travel on the street only to take the most direct access from your home to the trail and return. Otherwise they are not allowed to be driven on town streets and are definitely not allowed on any park areas or in downtown Arnprior. All vehicles allowed on the trail must be insured and licences and helmets are mandatory. The maximum speed for these vehicles is 20 KPH anywhere within the town limits.

Please monitor the Town's website, social media and the Town app for further updates and important communications. For all other COVID-19 related links and resources for both residents and businesses, please visit the Town's COVID-19 webpage www.arnprior.ca/covid.

Walter Stack,
Mayor