

Message from the Mayor #16
October 28, 2020

The Town has received a number of questions regarding the celebration of Halloween in the Town of Arnprior this year. We want to ensure this year is still a fun experience but also a safe experience. The Town will not be holding their normal haunted experiences at the Nick Smith Centre or Fire Hall but staff have created a Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest where residents have a chance to win Live, Love, Local Gift Certificates and the Optimist Club is hosting a costume contest.

The Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU) has put out some guidelines for celebrating Halloween. They are encouraging Halloween parties or gatherings be hosted virtually, while other ideas for celebrating such as pumpkin carving, decorating windows, candy treasure hunts, or watching scary movies, can be done within your immediate household. If you choose to go trick-or-treating, RCDHU recommends:

- Choose a costume that allows you/your child to wear a mask/face covering. A costume mask isn't a substitute for a mask/face covering and shouldn't be worn over a mask/face covering as it may make it difficult to breathe.
- Only trick-or-treat outside, and not indoors including in multi-unit residential buildings. Start earlier during daylight hours and stay in your local community and away from busier areas.
- Try to only go with members of your direct household. Youth 12 years of age or younger should consider trick-or-treating in groups of less than 6 with parental supervision. To limit high foot traffic, maintain a physical distance of at least 2 metres from those outside your immediate household. Do not linger at doorsteps and consider standing back if waiting at someone's door.
- Where possible, knock instead of pushing doorbells.
- Bring hand sanitizer, and use it before handling candy, or after touching high-touch surfaces like doorbells, doors, or railings.

For more information on Halloween in Arnprior, contests and staying safe visit www.arnprior.ca/halloween.

With our proximity to Ottawa, a designated COVID-19 "hot spot", residents must remain vigilant. We do not want to move into modified Stage 2 restrictions and therefore, everyone must do their part to stop the spread. Residents are reminded to stay home if you are sick, avoid contact with people who are ill, limit social activities, practice physical distancing (2 metres), wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained, wash your hands, and use the COVID Alert App.

Residents are also encouraged to get their flu shot. The RCDHU recommends that individuals identified as priority populations such as people who are residents of nursing homes or other chronic care facilities and individuals who are 65 years of age and over, call ahead to schedule an appointment with their primary care practitioner or local pharmacy to ensure that they have vaccine available. For those who are not identified as a priority population flu shot clinics will be set up throughout the County in November so please keep watch for these and plan to attend.



Mayor Stack receiving his flu shot.

Some other annual community events we all look forward to annually have been modified for 2020 to meet the recommendations of health units and keep our community safe. The Arnprior Legion will not be holding a Remembrance Day parade and ceremony at the cenotaph on November 11th. A Virtual ceremony will be posted on the Arnprior Legion's Facebook page. Poppy's will still be available for sale in poppy boxes at some stores in Arnprior.

The annual Legion Santa Claus Parade will be held as a "Drive by Visit with Santa" at the Nick Smith Centre on Saturday, November 29th from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. More information can be found on the Arnprior Legion's website.

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