

Dear Madawaska Valley residents, businesses and community,

What would you do to save the life of your child, your partner, your brother or sister, your parent, your grandparent, your neighbour or a friend?

Would you wash your hands regularly?

Would you keep a hockey stick apart from others?

Would you stay at home?

That's what we are all being asked to do to stop the spread of COVID-19. It's what we **MUST** do to save thousands of lives.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Premier Doug Ford released the stark and sobering numbers and projections driving the difficult decisions the Provincial Government is making daily to fight COVID-19. Some of the recent actions taken by the Province include:

- Extending the Declaration of Emergency.
- Reducing the list of essential businesses and services that can remain open to the public. Many businesses that were open last week are now closed to walk-ins and restricted to taking orders for curbside pickup or delivery.
- Closing all outdoor recreational amenities such as playgrounds, sports fields, tennis courts, beaches and picnic areas. Parks, trails and green spaces are open for walkthrough access only.
- Imposing a Restricted Fire Zone across the entire fire region of Ontario. This Total Fire Ban includes Madawaska Valley, so no outdoor burning, campfires or fireworks allowed.
- Limiting construction projects to critical infrastructure such as hospitals, roads, bridges and homes already being built. No new residential building permits can be issued at this time.
- Closing all seasonal trailer parks and campgrounds. Returning Ontario "snowbirds" are allowed if this is their only Canadian residence.

The Province is taking these actions so our healthcare system and hospital Intensive Care Units (ICUs) will be able to help all the COVID-19 patients whose lives will be on the line over the next few months.

Everyone wants this to end as soon as possible. Most of our residents and businesses are following the recommendations of Public Health. Many are doing so at great personal and financial cost. The longer it takes to get full cooperation, the more this is going to cost us all.

The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Dr. Theresa Tam and Premier Doug Ford have both asked cottagers to remain at their primary residence where healthcare services have the capacity to help them should they get sick with COVID-19. They have asked for cooperation. Please consider what not cooperating could lead to.

What you do today can save lives in as little as two weeks. Please listen, act responsibly and pay it forward. Save a life tomorrow – stay at home today.

Mayor Kim Love