

Dear Madawaska Valley residents, businesses and community,

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is changing our daily lives. Public Health is asking everyone to wash their hands often, keep six feet apart from others and to stay home. Doing these simple things will make it harder for COVID-19 to spread from person to person. Slowing or stopping the spread of this virus is the best way each of us can protect our families, friends and community.

Council and municipal staff have made some changes to maintain critical services and protect the health of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Municipal Office is closed to the public but municipal business is ongoing. Staff are available by phone and email.
- Payments can be made by mail, online, or the dropbox outside the Municipal Office.
- Interest on the Property Tax installment due March 31, 2020 will be waived for the month of April.
- Road maintenance, the Bark Lake Landfill, all waste Transfer Stations and Curbside Pickup are essential services that will continue to operate as scheduled until further notice.
- Volunteer Fire Department is an essential service that will continue. There is a ban on open air fires in the Township effective April 1, 2020.
- Water and Wastewater are essential services that will continue however the water meter replacement program may be postponed until further notice.
- Building and septic inspections are essential services but normal timelines may not be met and social distancing measures will be respected.
- Planning Department has legislated timelines under the Planning Act that may not be met going forward. Meetings scheduled for April 7th and 14th will go ahead.
- Recreational facilities are all closed until further notice.
- Regular Council Meetings and Council in Committee Meetings are cancelled until further notice.
- Special Council Meetings will be called when necessary and notice will be provided on the municipal website. The COVID-19 capacity of the Council Chambers will be enforced and recordings are available to the public on the municipal website.
- Information on the COVID-19 pandemic is available on the municipal website at www.madawaskavalley.ca

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to:

- Retailers that have designated special hours for seniors, maintained their stock, provided additional cleaning and added safety features so shoppers can adhere to social distancing.
- Restaurants that now take phone orders and provide pickup or delivery.
- Businesses that have changed their services to accommodate the needs of Public Health.
- Local Bank of Montreal and Northern Credit Union frontline staff.
- Volunteers offering to shop for and deliver to others who are self-isolating.
- Individuals, families and children that are hand washing, staying home, social distancing or self-isolating.

- Everyone using creative ways to connect with and support each other while staying physically apart.

In this rapidly changing environment, Council and municipal staff will continue to take the necessary steps to provide essential services and protect our community. We are asking everyone to be patient, positive and pro-active as we go about our daily lives. Help each other when possible, and don't forget to thank those on the front lines who provide us with essential services like healthcare, groceries and medications. Cooperation and compassion for others will get us through this pandemic together.

Mayor Kim Love