



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MADAWASKA VALLEY

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For Immediate Release

RE: Continuation of Service & COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus)

Madawaska Valley Township, Barry's Bay Ontario – March 13, 2020

The Township's Municipal Emergency Control Group, comprised of the Acting Mayor, CEMC, CEMC alternate, CAO/Clerk, Treasurer and Operations Manager, met today at 3:30 p.m. to review the current situation involving COVID-19.

The Control Group will be convening as required and continue to monitor the situation. Residents are directed to the Renfrew County & District Health Unit for information and guidance on COVID-19. The risk currently remains low in Renfrew County. Please refer to instructions on how to protect yourself and your family.

<https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2>

Please follow these instructions to reduce the spread of germs:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitizers.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, unless you have just cleaned your hands with soap.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hand
- If possible, stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid visiting people in hospitals or long-term care centers if you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- It is still recommended to get your flu shot if you have not already as the flu virus is still circulating in the community.

A Special Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 9:00 a.m. to update Council and Staff on next steps and if further cancellations will be required.

The Regular Council Meeting on Tuesday March 17, 2020 is scheduled to proceed.

Residents will be encouraged to:

- a) Participate via internet through the recording.
- b) Delegations if any will be by teleconference.
- c) Not attend if symptoms of cold, sniffles, fever.
- d) Monitor the website for changes to scheduling or meeting cancellation.

A Special Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 9:00 a.m. to update Council and Staff and determine if further cancellations will be required.

The Township is maintaining essential services as we continue to monitor the situation with guidance from the Renfrew County District Health Unit and other levels of Government. The Municipal Office will remain open at this time, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to:

- a) Make payments online or at the bank
- b) Utilize the afterhours drop box (receipts will be mailed)
- c) Contact staff by email or telephone.
- d) Essential services such as the landfill, curbside pick-up and routine road maintenance are not impacted at this time.
- e) You are asked to refrain from attending municipal facilities if you are sick and keep a 2m or 6ft distance from others.
- f) Call for appointments to ensure staff member is in attendance if possible.

As of Saturday March 14, 2020 the following services are closed until March 17, 2020 and further notice is provided:

- Paul J Yakabuski Community Centre (PJYCC)
- Combermere Community Centre
- Railway Station

The following events are impacted and cancelled:

- All March Break activities at the PJYCC.
- The Volunteer Appreciation Event being organized for National Volunteer Week is postponed and will be rescheduled.
- School closures until April 5, 2020.
- Walk the Halls at the Madawaska Valley District High School until April 5, 2020.

Madawaska Valley Public Library

- March break programming has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.
- Library will maintain basic service until Monday with further updates or potential changes in service or closure-visit www.madawaskavalleylibrary.ca

The Township of Madawaska Valley and the Community Control Group continues to work closely with the Renfrew County Health Unit and community partners to monitor to COVID-19 Virus(Coronavirus) and respond appropriately. For the most up to date information and news please visit the Ontario Ministry of Health website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

If you or a family member suspect you have symptoms of COVID-19, please self-isolate and contact the **Renfrew County District Health Unit at 613-735-8653 ext. 555** as soon as possible.

We appreciate your cooperation and understand as we work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Please monitor www.madawaskavalley.ca or the Madawaska Valley Facebook page for updates.