

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte Video Update January 14, 2021

Video Update #16

Hi North Kawartha, I'm back with another Mayor's update. I am feeling a great sense of déjà vu right now as we head into a similar strict lockdown like last March. Once again I am participating in regular phone conferences and zoom meetings with our federal and provincial representatives, the OPP and municipal staff as we try to get a handle on the second wave of this pandemic. In fact, I am joining a conference call with Premier Ford later today.

The Provincial Stay at Home order that began at midnight is upsetting, stressful and is causing challenges for many people and communities. The impact of this order is hitting North Kawartha even harder this time around with our one and only grocery store destroyed.

The updated emergency orders have also stalled our negotiations with Loblaw to bring the PC Express Grocery service to North Kawartha. Loblaw is preparing to see a surge in online orders, like they did last spring, and unfortunately don't have the resources to offer this delivery program to us right now.

To say I am disappointed is an understatement. I know this isn't the news that many of you wanted to hear. The service is needed, and was well received in our community. Like so many of you, I wanted to see the PC Express program continue.

Although Loblaw isn't able to offer the program right now, they have asked that we stay in touch to see if the service could be offered in the months ahead. We will continue to look at options for an interim grocery solution for our community and we are working with Sayer's on their plans to rebuild.

With the number of infections growing and the increased restrictions, I recall my video updates from my self-isolation last March. This pandemic continues to be a serious worldwide crisis. We are dealing with an infectious disease that spreads exponentially and silently. No matter where we think we are in terms of handling this pandemic we are actually two steps behind. We must do whatever we can to slow the spread of COVID-19 to protect the most vulnerable among us and ensure that our health care system does not collapse.

The advice I shared last March is still relevant and meaningful. If YOU behave as if you ARE infected with the virus and that you don't want to give it to anyone else, your behavior will change. Remember, how you choose to respond to a situation is your responsibility. How someone

else behaves is beyond your control. Now more than ever we need to be understanding and considerate not only to protect others but to protect ourselves. We all need to take responsibility and follow the rules as best we can. In this time of crisis, we must guard against the fear, paranoia and frustration that is always lurking. Courage, patience and compassion will see us through, and keep our community strong and resilient.

For those of you that would like more information on the vaccine roll out in our region, please note that Dr. Salvaterra Peterborough's Chief Medical Officer of Health will be hosting a free online presentation tomorrow Friday January 15th at 2pm. The event will be live streamed on Peterborough Public Health's YouTube Channel. I will re-share the link on my page. Please stay strong everyone, be well and take good care. Thank You.