

Mayor's Message

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte

Township of North Kawartha

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Mayor's Update #3

Hi North Kawartha, Mayor Carolyn Amyotte here with another video update from my quarantine cottage here on Eels Lake. It's day 11 of my self-isolation and so far, I am still feeling healthy. In fact, I am feeling awesome right now, because my colleagues and I just made Council history earlier today by completing our first ever electronic meeting. We did it via video conference and everyone who wanted and was able to, joined us, even members of the public. Like all our Council meetings it will be uploaded to our YouTube channel for all to review. I want to thank my Council and staff for all their support and efforts to keep the North Kawartha Municipal machine running as smoothly as possible.

Today council deferred the penalty and interest charges on your property taxes for the next 4 months. The due dates will remain the same, but we wanted to give everyone some relief and breathing room as we all try to figure out our personal finances during this global crisis. So if you are unable to pay the first installment of your taxes tomorrow, please don't worry. You won't be penalized! We also approved increasing curbside collection for garbage. You can now put out 2 free bags and 2 tagged bags for a total of 4, starting next Monday March 30th. Our transfer stations remain open however the new rules around physical distancing are in place and we are encouraging everyone to use the curbside collection as much as possible in support of physical distancing. We are fast tracking our E-permitting system in the Building department, so we can continue to process building and planning applications.

Council will also be sticking with our regular schedule of Council meetings. We recognize that we were elected to represent all North Kawarthans and we want to continue with the usual democratic decision-making process.

We hope that this will give our community some peace of mind knowing that your municipal Council's got you covered!

Speaking of peace of mind, I wanted to address all North Kawarthans about where we are at as a community. There is no denying that we are all a part of a huge, life-altering moment in our world's history. I know there is a lot of uncertainty and fear right now which is understandable. What concerns me a bit is that that fear may be spreading faster than the virus. We all must stand guard against this as it can breed suspicion, paranoia and panic. And that my fellow North Kawarthans would be extremely destructive to our community. No one person, segment or group in North Kawartha has a monopoly on selfish, reckless behavior. I was elected to represent all the residents of North Kawartha-young, old, local, cottager, retired, working, businesses, volunteers. I will not support or endorse any kind of finger pointing, blame or attacks on each other. We need to be unified in our isolation North Kawartha, not divided. ALL OF US must follow the rules regarding self-isolation, physical distancing and good hygiene. How each of you

choose to follow the rules is your choice. How someone else behaves is beyond your control. I am so grateful for all of you that are complying to protect or most vulnerable and stop the spread of COVID-19. You know the saying - Be the change that you want to see in the world. If YOU behave as if YOU are infected with the virus and that YOU don't want to give it to anyone else, you will change your mindset, you will overcome your fear and fundamentally change your behavior whether you are staying at home or at the cottage, going to work or travelling to get food, medicine and supplies. Go above and beyond to protect everybody else around you and you will protect yourself as well. We cannot stop challenges from arising but we can choose how we respond to them. We all need work together and face our challenges with the right attitude-patience, thoughtfulness and the courage to look for solutions. I have told you all before that the greatest asset in North Kawartha is our people. None of us would be here if we didn't work together and support each other. It gives me such hope and faith to see how so many community members have risen to the challenge of this pandemic to take care of each other in what could very well be the time of our greatest need. I know that we will overcome COVID-19 and look back on this one day. Let's ensure that we look back from a place of greater understanding, compassion and gratitude for each other. Be well and take care of each other.

Thank you.

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte Township of North Kawartha