

Mayor's Message

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte

Township of North Kawartha

P.O. Box 550, 280 Burleigh Street Apsley, ON K0L 1A0

Telephone: 705-931-1342, Fax: 705-656-4446

mayor@northkawartha.ca

April 14, 2020

Mayor's Update #4

Hi North Kawartha, Mayor Carolyn Amyotte here with another video update. I am no longer in my quarantine cottage and am so happy to be able to join my husband and daughters in isolation.

I know it has been a difficult time for all of us as we continue to adjust to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to reiterate that all of us are subject to rules of the Federal Government, the Province of Ontario and the Public Health Authorities. North Kawartha fully supports all the directives, orders and guidelines that have been enacted. Everyone needs to shelter in place, eliminate non-essential travel, practice social distancing and comply with the provincial orders. We all must do our part to slow the spread and protect our most vulnerable. I wanted to take a moment and provide a quick update and answer a few questions about what is happening here in North Kawartha. While Ontario has extended the provincial emergency declaration, North Kawartha has not declared a local state of emergency as we protected and supported by the Provincial declaration. Council and staff are able to manage the business and operations of our township without declaring. Many businesses and facilities have been closed in our township in compliances with the provincial orders including all recreational facilities, beaches, parks, tennis courts, playgrounds etc. All crown lands are currently closed to camping, however municipal boat launches are currently open for accessibility and emergency purposes. The prohibition against un-necessary travel, gatherings of no more than 5 people are still applicable and enforceable in all areas of the township with the potential for fines. Ontario also declared a complete fire ban within the province's legislated fire region. This ban covers the townships in northern Peterborough County including North Kawartha. You know, it has been said that municipalities are children of the province and we must follow our 'parent's rules'! The truth of this statement

is really hitting home for me right now. Please check the COVID-19 page on the township website Northkawartha.ca for more information and updates. If any resident, business operator, or volunteer has any questions regarding closures, essential workplaces, and frontline workers please check the Ontario.ca website for more info as well and toll free numbers that anyone can call.

Again I want to thank all township staff for doing their part to keep North Kawartha functioning. One quick update, is that the Building and Planning department has launched our E-permitting program weeks ahead of schedule and is accepting online applications. We are awaiting direction from the province regarding legislated timelines and when we can start to issue permits again.

Council is also prepared to call special meetings for planning purposes in the hopes of preventing a backlog of applications and encouraging a quicker recovery for our local economy.

I want to thank all essential workers, essential places of business and community organizations for continuing to step up and serve us all.

Essential businesses in our community have implemented a variety of protective measures including curb-side pick and delivery. Thanks again to our local grocery store for serving not only our township but neighboring communities as well. I am also grateful to Sayers for giving me the chance to pay it forward and letting me volunteer to pick orders and help deliver them. I appreciate the opportunity to actively help our community in this way.

I also want to give a shout out to the volunteers that are making masks for the public. Thanks to Wilderness Wear Sewing for coordinating this effort and special thanks to Robin for putting her husband Roman's taxidermy skills to another good use making masks. He is working those scissors like a boss! I want to thank all the local organizations, associations and groups that are collaborating to get the correct information out to all residents and promote positive engagement. This situation changes daily, sometimes hourly, and I know that everyone is trying their best to cope. I completely understand as I too am worried, not only for my family and my business, but also for my entire town. Please know that I and Council are continuing to work together to support all North Kawarthans and make decisions in the best interest of our community. We must continue to support each other

with understanding and compassion and we will get through this together.
Be well and take care. Thank you