

Mayor's Message

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte

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Mayor's Update #5

Hi North Kawartha, Mayor Carolyn Amyotte here with another video update. Council met electronically yesterday and I wanted to tell you about a few of things Council and the Municipality are working on during the continued emergency declaration as a result of this global pandemic. As you know, we have been working non-stop to communicate and provide up to date information for all residents regarding COVID-19. While there is a lot of information coming from many different sources, Council believes it is necessary to connect with all residents. So yesterday Council approved mailing out a newsletter update to every ratepayer in North Kawartha. The newsletter will include the steps we have taken so far like the waiving of late fees on property taxes, what's closed and what remains open and where to go for the latest, accurate information.

Even though we have been experiencing April's normal, bi-polar mood swings of Warm Sun to Snow and Gale Force winds we recognize that our summer season is fast approaching. We don't want any North Kawarthan to be caught off guard when it comes to following the rules and guidelines that will most likely still be in place for our protection and to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Since our electronic meetings have been going so well, Council instructed staff to proceed with the scheduling of virtual public hearings for Zone Amendments and Minor Variances beginning at our next meeting. While we recognize that the required appeal period after a decision is made won't begin until the emergency order is lifted, we hope to reduce the inevitable back log from the disruption caused by COVID-19.

Now I am not sure how many of you know what the North Kawartha Library has been up to, but Council received a report yesterday and I have to tell you they are doing some incredible things to keep our community connected and happy during this time of uncertainty. Let me tell you about a few:

They are expanding their digital collections and resources of e-books and audiobooks.

They are hosting live nightly readings of classic children's stories like Charlotte's web and my favourite... My Side of the Mountain.

They are providing learning support for families during the school closures.

The Library is also offering tech support and guidance as more and more of us are using electronic devices to stay connected.

I am so excited for the Library's next initiative, a YouTube series showcasing the positive activities that North Kawartha families have been doing during these past few weeks in isolation.

Kudos to the North Kawartha Library Staff and Board for going above and beyond to be there for our Community when we need them most! You guys are awesome!

Lastly, on a sad but important note, I wanted to let everyone know that the township flags are flying at

half-mast in memory and honour of the victims of the terrible act of violence that took place this past weekend in Nova Scotia. We may not be able to gather in person to express our grief and incredible sadness, but I know that all Canadians are gathered in spirit and have nothing but love and support in our hearts for our Nova Scotian brothers and sisters. We stand strong beside you in dealing with this senseless tragedy. Be well everyone and take care of each other.

Thank you.