

Mayor's Message

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte

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Mayor's Update #8

Hi North Kawartha, Mayor Carolyn Amyotte here with another video update. As summer winds down and the reopening plans for many township facilities and schools wind up, I wanted to let everyone know North Kawartha's reopening schedule. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Township staff have been working diligently with Peterborough Public Health to develop the new policies, procedures and practical standards that must be in place before we reopen to the public. Many Township facilities provide services for groups of people rather than just individuals, for extended periods of time like meetings and special events. We provide space for activities that are considered high risk like luncheons, sports and fitness, and many other activities that are currently not permitted. We serve all members of our community including the most vulnerable sectors, and our staff will be working with local groups throughout their openings. COVID-19 has made us hyper-aware of everything we touch and come in contact with on a daily basis.

For public facilities like our community centres, regular and thorough disinfection of all high touch surfaces such as handles, exercise equipment, change rooms, washrooms ... is mandatory. At our September 1st meeting, Council approved the purchase of two electrostatic disinfectant sprayers. The electrostatic spray wraps around surfaces, and provides an effective touchless disinfection, that is safer, faster and more economical than spraying and wiping by hand. With the implementation of these disinfecting tools along with all our new COVID protection procedures and guidelines, we have set dates for the opening of our municipal facilities to the public.

The North Kawartha Public Library opened on September 1st. The Municipal office, the North Kawartha Community Centre, Wilson Park and the Glen Alda Community Centre are scheduled to open on September 8th, with community centre programming and events to resume on the 14th. Tentatively, the fitness centre is scheduled to open on September 21st followed by the arena ice surface for either September 28th or October 5th. We hope that by following a staggered approach to reopening, we can address challenges and issues as they arise and adapt our procedures accordingly. The intent is to set ourselves up for success, not failure.

A crucial component of our successful reopening process will be the cooperation and efforts made by all community members and users of these facilities. As I have said before we all know the rules and guidelines that we must follow to keep ourselves safe.

I am counting on each and every one of us to do our part so we can safely welcome everyone back to our much loved and sorely missed community gathering spaces. I am grateful to all North Kawarthans that continue to act responsibly and with patience and respect. We are getting through this folk and we are doing it-together. Thankyou.