

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte Video Update 14
December 31, 2020

Hi North Kawartha, Merry Christmas Eve. To say that this year has been a challenge is an understatement. We've seen the covid-19 pandemic impact across the world and here at home. Locally, I know many of our residents and businesses have had a tough year. The pandemic related restrictions have taken a toll on people's mental health and well-being. With the holiday season upon us, I understand the added stress this brings for many of us. I want to take a moment to remind everyone that mental health and support programs are available to all North Kawarthans. I will post a link to Peterborough Public Health's website which outlines the services that are available. If you are in need, **please** reach out to a friend or loved one, or to one of the support programs available.

With the second province wide lockdown beginning on December 26th, all township facilities will be closed to the public. This includes the municipal office, the libraries, the community centres and the arena for the duration of the lockdown period. Staff are still available to assist you by phone and email. This has already been a difficult year for residents. With the fire at Sayers Foods, I know the added pressure the loss of our only grocery store puts on many of us.

The lockdown will be especially hard for small businesses. However, the province has announced the new Ontario Small Business Support Grant, which will provide a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 to eligible small business owners to help navigate this challenging period. In addition to this grant, the provincial government announced they're capping hydro rates at the off-peak rate of 8.5 cents per kWh, beginning New Years Day. I would encourage our businesses to reach out to our Economic Development Officer, Chris Challenger at 705-656-5152 for information on the support programs that are available.

Like so many of you, I am exhausted and so frustrated with the challenges of the past 10 months. Yet through these challenges, we have realized many silver linings. We have seen our community come together like never before. Our local businesses have stepped up to meet the needs of our town. Our service groups, social support organizations and school have all seen (and continue to see) an unprecedented amount of support. The recent holiday grocery curbside pickup program through PC Express was extremely successful and we will be working with Loblaws and the Peterborough Superstore to see this program continue for North Kawartha on an interim basis until Sayers is rebuilt.

Through the trials and tribulations of 2020, North Kawarthans have rallied together to support and care for each other, and we have become a stronger, more united and resilient community because of it. And that... Is probably the best Christmas gift a Mayor could ever hope for. So THANK YOU North Kawartha. It is an absolute honour to serve as your Mayor. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.