

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the global outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic.

During these very unprecedented times, the EOC was activated and engaged as of March 13, 2020

## **SUMMARY OF EOC – WHAT HAS BEEN DONE**

- On March 13<sup>th</sup> in response to this declaration the Town of Georgina activated our Emergency Operations Centre. The EOC is charged with planning and executing a Town wide response that ensures continuity of critical services as this situation evolves.
- The EOC has been staffed with the required Directors and Managers with authority to make the required decisions to enact our Emergency Plan to ensure the critical services are maintained. Meetings with the EOC Working Group are held once or twice daily. Meetings with the larger EOC Control Group are held once a day. Virtual zoom meetings began in the EOC on April 6, 2020.
- We are connected with the Region and York Region Public Health through the Region's EOC that also has been activated to ensure we are acting in a coordinated fashion.
- Fire Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs throughout the Region are in daily contact through conference calls and the Community Emergency Management Coordinators are in contact on a regular basis.
- We are working closely and aligning our response with our Emergency Service Partners - York Region Paramedics and York Regional Police.
- Our residents and members of council can be assured that we have a very experienced and dedicated team that are working very hard to ensure our residents are safe, their needs are met and their concerns addressed.
- Effective March 14<sup>th</sup> all recreational facilities, libraries and regularly scheduled programs and March Break programming was cancelled until further notice.
- Effective March 16<sup>th</sup> all Town facilities including the Civic Centre and Fire Halls were closed to the public. Open Air and Agricultural Burn Permits were no longer issued. Council meetings were suspended. The first virtual Council meeting will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- On March 17<sup>th</sup> the Town immediately began utilizing our Business Continuity Plans that determined which services are essential such as the delivery of Fire and Rescue Emergency Services, water and wastewater services for the continued testing of our municipal water and waste collection along with

maintenance of our roads. Services that could be reduced (interior inspections) and those services that could be temporarily suspended (Programming and Licensing) were done so. Staff with the ability to work from home are working from home.

- On March 19<sup>th</sup> Georgina Declared a State of Emergency to reinforce the need that Ontarians follow the advice of Ontario Public Health.
- On March 23<sup>rd</sup> Information Sessions on COVID-19 began for staff hosted by our Human Resources.
- On March 25<sup>th</sup> recreational spring programs, regular programming and 3<sup>rd</sup> party rentals were cancelled until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

To date all town owned trails, parks, dog park, beaches, parking lots, boat launches and the ROC have been closed, signed and in some cases barricaded.

Gateway signage at 13 locations throughout the municipality have been installed acknowledging the closures of our beaches, parks and boat launches in an effort to discourage visitors.

The EOC continues to work with the private sector to ensure our seniors who are vulnerable to this virus have access to the stores at dedicated times. As well PPE donated make it to front lines (i.e. group homes)

Current overnight parking and 3 hour limit parking is not being enforced.

Garbage bag tag requirements have been suspended, however, collection continues as business as usual.

Our facilities that remain open to staff but closed to the public have seen an increase in cleaning measures to reduce the risk to staff that are reporting to work.

Only essential staff are reporting to work to allow social distancing. Others have been assigned to work from home and those having to report for work are practicing social distancing measures.

On March 24<sup>th</sup> the Provincial Government issued its first list of essential services. This Provincial Order was updated on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This update list of essential services included the closure of trailer parks and short term rentals. The list of essential services did not affect the Town of Georgina's business continuity plans as initiated in March.

The EOC continues to work with the Region, York Regional Police, municipalities and local partners in the coordination of future planning and obtaining resources (PPE). On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Stn 1-4 received two generous donations from a local resident

and local business of masks to be distributed to our 13 vulnerable occupancies within Georgina.

The EOC is also working with other Ontario waterfront municipalities with regard to coordinating processes of our beaches, parks and when warmer weather arrives. In conjunction with our waterfront the EOC is also working with YRP, the Region and MTO.

A Traffic Management Plan is being developed by the EOC with assistance from the Regional and York Regional Policy for Lake Drive and Waterfront Parks and Beaches.

Communications Division has consistently and continually been updating the community on social media messaging and the Town's website on all updated information concerning closures and changing business continuity.

Recreation and Culture, while working with other municipalities has implemented and launched various online activities for residents and children with the focus of positivity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> Provincial Government extended of Declaration of Emergency to May 12<sup>th</sup>

## **PLANNING AHEAD MEASURES**

- Continued education and enforcement measures of our Municipal Law Enforcement team while working with York Regional Police on implementing the provisions of the Provincial Order are being put in place with the hiring of additional staffing and equipment such as jersey barriers, fencing, etc.
- Resources and contacts are being obtained for further messaging in the coming months along Hwy 48 and Hwy 404 – reinforcing the closures of our parks and beaches (working with YRP, Region and MTO on Traffic Management Plan and messaging).
- Positivity Committee (Recreation, HR and Communications) are working on future online programs to be developed.

We continue to monitor the direction from both OPH and YRPH to assist us on our decision making as we continue to work through and address the issues due to the pandemic.