

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Community Message from Mayor Virginia Hackson on COVID-19



This past week, Council approved some interesting initiatives that I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you.

Firstly, East Gwillimbury residents and visitors can enjoy free Wi-Fi internet access outside of the Civic Centre, Holland Landing Community Centre, and Ross Family Complex. Signage and barricades have been installed at each facility that identify the location of the Wi-Fi access areas within each parking lot. Those interested in connecting to the hotspots must park in one of the designated parking spots to successfully connect to the internet and to ensure social distancing.

Another important initiative is that the Town of East Gwillimbury Council has established a \$250,000 Emergency Response Benefit to support local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund will grant eligible businesses, experiencing significant negative financial impacts up to \$10,000 each. More information and the application can be found on our website www.eastgwillimbury.ca/COVIDbusiness

As we continue in the COVID-19 crisis, I am cautiously optimistic that we are moving in a very positive direction. Reports are indicating that the number of cases in Ontario is declining and the Province is taking steps to move us all forward. Our Town is focusing on our recovery plan as well and we are continuously monitoring the Provincial announcements to ensure we are aligned and following their guidance to protect the health and safety of our employees and residents. We will continue to share our updates and steps forward as they unfold.

As we move into the long weekend, and toward what we hope will be nicer weather, if you go outdoors and perhaps take a walk along our trails, please do so while practicing physical distancing. Everyone has done a great job and we are seeing the number of cases coming down, which is a trend we want to see continue. A reminder that what our tomorrow looks like depends on the action we take today.

As always remember:

- Support our local businesses and food establishments.
- Be kind and supportive and thank front-line health and essential workers.
- Please enjoy the long weekend in a responsible and respectful way.

Virginia Hackson

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

From May 5, 2020

COVID-19 Updates - The Town's COVID-19 Control Group continues to meet on a regular basis to respond to the COVID-19 situation. Six memos were included on the Agenda to outline operational updates. To read the reports visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/agendas.

Highlights of the reports include:

- York Region Forest Tract and Nokiidaa Trail have re-opened for resident use.
- The Town has an upgraded Recycle Coach app with enhanced features. You can download the app in your app store to receive waste collection reminders and check what goes where.
- The Town has launched a Community Support Hotline to share critical information and details related to the various emergency support measures for both individuals and businesses. The Hotline can be reached at 905-478-3820.
- Public Wi-Fi access is now available outside the Civic Centre, Holland Landing Community Centre and Ross Family Complex in designated parking spots only.
- Staff continue to update the online listing of business resources and are conducting direct business outreach to provide support during this time. Local businesses are encouraged to use the Town's Business Assessment Tool at www.eastgwillimbury.ca/COVIDbusiness to ask questions or identify issues requiring support.
- At the April 7 meeting, Council approved the waiving of interest on outstanding property tax and water bills until July 31. Those who are still able to pay are encouraged to do so to ensure the Town can continue to help those who are most vulnerable. Residents who have concerns about payment of their bills should contact taxwater@eastgwillimbury.ca.
- Staff are currently working on a recovery plan that will follow the Province's phased-in re-opening plan. The Town will continue to monitor Provincial recommendations and will provide updates regarding re-opening as available.
- Council has approved a new Emergency Business Response Benefit Program for businesses in partnership with South Lake Community Futures Development Corporation. Intake for the program will commence on May 11, 2020. Applications will be available online at www.Southlakefutures.ca
- Work has resumed at the Operations Centre and both Mount Albert and Queensville Community Parks. The parks are anticipated to be complete by July and the Operations Centre in early 2021.

To stay up to date on all Town-wide COVID-19 updates, sign up for the weekly eNewsletter at www.eastgwillimbury.ca/eNews, or Like/Follow the Town on Facebook (@TownofEastGwillimbury) or Twitter (@TownofEG).

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Highway 404 Secondary Plan - The Town has two preliminary land-use options for the lands north of Green Lane around Highway 404. The two plans are available online for review. A future public meeting will be held in June 2020.

Yonge St. Development - Council approved a site plan application to allow the development of restaurant, drive thru and gas bar along Yonge St., north of Green Lane. Staff will work with the applicant to prepare and execute a site plan agreement to allow site works and construction to move forward.

Litter clean up - The Town is available to assist residents who are interested in doing a community clean-up. Please contact Customer Service at customerservice@eastgwillimbury.ca or call 905-478-4282 to arrange drop-off of bags and gloves. Staff can also collect garbage that is beyond the five-bag limit if required. Please remember to respect social distancing while out.

PUBLIC NOTICES

VICTORIA DAY CLOSURES

Customer Service will be closed on May 18 and available again by phone on May 19. If you have an emergency with regards to water, sewers, or roads, please call 905-478-4282 and press option 3.

SPRING MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Street Sweeping - Street sweeping began the week of May 4 and will be complete by mid May weather permitting. Residents are asked to not park on the road as it interferes with maintenance operations.

Pothole Repair - Staff are working to repair potholes caused by winter weather. To report a pothole, call 905-478-4282 or email customerservice@eastgwillimbury.ca

SUPPORT LOCAL

Support East Gwillimbury Farmers' Market vendors online!

Visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/shoplocal for information on how you can enjoy farm fresh goodies from our EGFM vendors!



The Library at Home

Design Purposeful Playlists

With the help of a music therapist, we will dig deeper into the power of music for our mental health and explore a well-known strategy for our well-being - creating purposeful playlists.

Email carthurs@egpl.ca to receive the link

Saturday, May 16 at 10 am

Visit egpl.ca for details

