

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

### Community Message from Mayor Virginia Hackson on COVID-19



Our beautiful summer weather is here and without a doubt, everyone is excited to spend some time outdoors. With the Province making announcements related to the first phase of reopening Ontario, it may feel like we can return to normal however the risk of COVID-19 remains. What this means is that we must all continue to follow the important and critical recommendations of Public Health Officials, which include:

- Continue to stay home where possible, and if you are going out keep a 2 meter distance from others in the community.
- Wash your hands often and use sanitizer.
- Connect virtually with loved ones, especially those who are vulnerable such as seniors.

If we continue to follow these steps, we can hope for a safe and successful reopening.

### How does stage one of the provincial reopening strategy effect EG?

We have reopened our tennis and basketball courts, skate/scooter/BMX parks, picnic shelters and benches. These will be available for individual use or for use by those who live together. Maintaining physical distancing continues to be a requirement as well as not having gatherings of more than five persons outside of your household. Appropriate signage will be posted as a reminder for how these public spaces are to be used safely and responsibly.

Park equipment and splash pads will remain closed however, staff are preparing procedures for when the Province advises these spaces are safe to open.

Curbside pick-up at public libraries was also identified as part of the Province's stage one reopening. In response both our Holland Landing and Mount Albert branches are preparing to reopen for curbside pick-up and drop off starting June 9<sup>th</sup>. More details will be shared in the coming days.

We will continue to respond to the provincial recommendations for reopening and will proceed keeping the safety of our residents at the forefront of all decisions.

Please, continue to be safe and respectful so we can continue this positive path forward. Our actions today will ensure better days ahead.

*Virginia Hackson*

Virginia Hackson

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

From May 20, 2020

**COVID-19 Updates** - The Town's COVID-19 Control Group continues to respond to the COVID-19 situation. Highlights of the reports include:

- The East Gwillimbury Public Library is planning to re-open on June 9, 2020 with limited curbside service. Online programs will continue for residents and are available at [www.egpl.ca](http://www.egpl.ca).
- The Province has allowed for limited reopening of public park space, including tennis courts, basketball courts, skate/scooter/BMX parks, and picnic shelters. All of these areas have reopened in EG.
- The off-leash dog area located at Bendor and Graves Forest Tract is owned by York Region and is currently closed until further notice. The decision to reopen that area will come from York Region and staff will report back once a decision has been made.

To read the report, visit [www.eastgwillimbury.ca/agendas](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/agendas)

**COVID-19 Summer Events** - The Town is moving forward with the planning of specific summer events, however with the uncertainty of COVID-19 as well as the recovery impacts and requirements to keep our community safe, the following modifications and activities are being proposed to the following events:

**Farmers' Market** - Is currently available virtually at [www.eastgwillimbury.ca/supportlocal](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/supportlocal), and is hoping to open July 2, 2020 outside the Civic Centre with public health and safety precautions in place.

**Canada Day** - The Town is planning to move forward with a virtual event in partnership with the Sharon Temple with an online concert and activities on social media leading up to Canada Day.

**Music at Civic Square** - The Town will either offer a virtual concert or in person concert experience in conjunction with Stardust Drive-in Movie Theatre. Further details will be shared later next month.

**Natural Gas Expansion** - Enbridge has approached the Town to jointly develop and submit an application to the Ontario Energy Board to expand the natural gas network in EG for residents that live in west Holland Landing and in the rural area north of Mount Albert Road and east of Woodbine Avenue. A decision from the Province on which applications are successful for funding is expected later this year.

**Non-Revenue Water Update** - On January 21, 2020 staff presented the 2020 Water and Wastewater budget to Council with a recommendation that 2020 rates remain unchanged. This was due to anomalies resulting in high levels of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) in 2018. Non-Revenue Water is water that is unaccounted for and could occur through un-billed use such as flushing, leaks, data inaccuracies or even theft. Staff partnered with York Region and engaged an expert consultant to review the water system, improve our data, and audit the system using the improved data and analysis in 2019.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

The 2019 NRW is significantly reduced from 2018 and staff have a plan to continue with a number of initiatives to further reduce NRW numbers going forward.

**Animal Care and Control By-law** - The Town is proposing to consolidate and update the Town's by-laws related to animal control. The new by-law would include provisions for kennels, rules related to pigeons and wildlife, backyard hens, setback requirements for livestock buildings, animal care provisions and more. To learn more and provide feedback on the proposed by-law, visit [www.eastgwillimbury.ca/animalcontrol](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/animalcontrol)

**Modernization Program** - In November, Council approved eight modernization programs to be funded from the Province. Below are a few updates regarding those projects:

- The Town is moving forward on the design of a new website to be launched in Q4 2020.
- The Town is creating an online portal/account system for residents to review tax/water bills online, which is expected to be available in the fall.
- The Town is working to accept payments online and is anticipating rolling this out by the end of 2020.
- The library has purchased a mobile library locker and is investigating the option to place it at the GO station. This will be rolled out by the end of the year.

For more details, visit [www.eastgwillimbury.ca/modernization](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca/modernization)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### GARAGE AND YARD SALE REMINDER

Garage and yard sales are not permitted under the Province's Emergency Closure Order. At this time, it does not follow the Province's guidelines on social gatherings, for more information, visit [www.ontario.ca/covid19](http://www.ontario.ca/covid19)

### WILDLIFE REMINDER

The Town has received reports of coyotes in the community. Please follow these tips if you encounter wildlife in EG:

- Keep a safe distance
- Do not feed or approach wildlife
- Keep pets on leash or in a fenced yard
- Never leave children unattended

To report a wildlife sighting, please call the Ministry of Natural Resources at 905-713-7400

## EG LIBRARY VENTS

**EG Food Pantry** - May 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside of the Holland Landing Community Centre. For more information, visit [www.egpl.ca](http://www.egpl.ca)

**Storybop with Judy and Mary Ann** - May 30 at 10:30 a.m. Join Judy and Mary Ann for a live storytime infused with movement. Read, dance and get excited! To register, email [carthurs@egpl.ca](mailto:carthurs@egpl.ca)