

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HACKSON

As we approach the one-year mark since the Town declared our first-ever State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. With recent vaccine announcements, moving into the second phase of vaccinations including those 80 and over, and with York Region moving into the Red-Control Zone last week, we are hopeful that things will continue to progress and we can find our “new normal”.

With the Red-Control Zone, the Town can increase access to municipal facilities, including ice time at the Sports Complex and limited in-person programs through our Recreation Team.

I know many people are looking for ways for their family to get out of the house in a safe manner and get exercise. This past Monday, the Town released our Spring Health & Active Living Guide, which includes in-person and virtual programs. Registration will begin March 8. I know some people may still be uneasy about attending these programs, but all programs have increased safety measures, following all public health recommendations and are limited to 10 people per program. We are also mindful of changing public health recommendations, and should any changes occur where we can't host our in-person programs, a full refund will be provided.

As we continue to navigate these changing times, we must also remember that we continue to have new cases every day. While we wait for the full vaccine rollout, we must continue to practice the recommended safety measures to avoid further spread and potential lockdowns. This past year has been extremely difficult, and I thank everyone who continues to do their part to keep everyone safe.

We are all looking forward to brighter and better days and I am confident they are within reach.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the March 2 Council meeting will be included in next week's Town Page.

Upcoming Electronic Council Meeting
March 23 at 6 p.m.

The agenda for the March 23 Council meeting will be available on March 18 at noon at www.eastgwillimbury.ca/agendas. To watch previous or upcoming live meetings, please visit the Town's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/TownEastGwillimbury

ONTARIO SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT

Applications for the Ontario Small Business Support Grant are being accepted to assist small businesses (including sole proprietorships) in Ontario that were required to close or significantly restrict services due to Ontario's Provincewide Shutdown. Eligible businesses may receive, between \$10,000 to \$20,000 in funding to assist with any revenue losses that were a result of the Provincewide Shutdown. The deadline to apply is March 31, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/covidbusiness for more information.

EG's Economic Development Team is here to help businesses navigate available funding opportunities, for assistance contact the Team at ecdev@eastgwillimbury.ca

PUBLIC NOTICES

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS UPDATE

As of Monday, March 1 all York Region vaccination clinic appointments for residents aged 80+ have been fully booked. Once additional vaccines are available, York Region will resume COVID-19 vaccine booking online at www.york.ca/COVID19vaccine. Residents are urged to remain patient and to stay tuned for more information once additional appointment bookings become available. Information will be shared through York Region's social media channels and website.

OUTDOOR RINKS CLOSED

The Town's two outdoor skating rinks have been closed for the season due to warm temperatures. For ways to stay active outdoors in EG, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/covid19

PET REMINDERS

EG pet owners are reminded to:

- **Keep pets leashed** at all times when walking on public property, including Town parks and trails
- **Pick-up pet waste.** When walking your pets, be sure to also carry trash bags to pick-up their waste.
- **Purchase a 2021 dog tag.** Applications can be submitted online and are available on the Town's website.

Pet owners that do not follow the above reminders may face fines up to \$350. To learn more about EG's Animal Care and Control By-law, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/animalcontrol

JOIN THE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE!

Help shape your community by joining the Heritage Advisory Committee! Give advice to Town Council on heritage matters, the conservation of historic buildings in EG and matters related to the Ontario Heritage Act. For more information and to apply, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/appointedcommittees

SCHOOL CROSSING REMINDER

Protect yourself and others while using school crossings EG! Parents and students using school crossings are reminded to practice physical distancing or wear a mask when physical distancing is a challenge to ensure the safety of others.

SIDEWALK PLOWING AND SOD DAMAGE

The Town plows all Town sidewalks using staff and an external contractor. Staff take care to follow sidewalk paths to avoid damage but occasionally, during these operations grass and sod damage may occur on the boulevard and lawn adjacent to where they are plowing. This typically occurs after a thaw, when the ground is not frozen.

If you do receive sod damage, please record the location, and email photos to customerservice@eastgwillimbury.ca. The team will create a work order to ensure your lawn is repaired in the spring.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town is currently looking for a Council/Committee Coordinator & Information Analyst and a contract Municipal Law Enforcement Officer to join Team EG. The deadline to apply to both positions is March 12, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/jobs for more information.

Spring Health & Active Living Guide



Spring program registration opens March 8 and programs begin the week of April 12.

The summer Health & Active Living and Summer Camp Guide will be available online on April 13 and registration begins May 3.

View the guide online, visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/guide

Shine some Love

Brighten days and spread some love in EG!

February 22 to March 22

Pick up a paper sun or heart from a participating business or organization, share a positive message, and hang it on one of the community trees located throughout EG! Donations are accepted and will be made to Southlake Regional Health Centre.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Come to Your Senses Peer - 2 - Peer Fundraiser - Support the DeafBlind Ontario Foundation from March 8 to 12 by participating in the five day series of sensory challenges or pledging a team at www.deafblindontario.com

York Simcoe Nature Club Speaker Series - March 9 at 7:30 p.m. Join Albert Wierenga to learn about his trip with the Dubai biosphere expedition. The meeting will take place via Zoom, email yorksimcoenatureclub@gmail.com to register.

EG Gardeners Meeting - March 16 at 7 p.m. Join the EG Gardeners and special guest, Sean James to learn more about pruning your gardens! The meeting will take place via Google Meet, please email eggardeners@gmail.com to receive the meeting link.

Friends of the Library Author Reading - March 18 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Join New York Times best selling author, Mary Lawson for the virtual launch of her new book Town Called Solace. Tickets are \$10, email eglibraryfriends@gmail.com for more information and to register.

St. James Anglican Church Food Pantry - Open every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon, located at 18804 Leslie St. Call 905-478-1959 to make arrangements for pick-up.

Virtual Class Outreach

Hey teachers! Find you have more time in the classroom this March than originally planned? Check out our free virtual outreach offerings! Our staff can meet with you and your class in a live or pre-recorded setting. Book early as time slots are limited!

Visit egpl.ca/services/parents-teachers/ for more details