

COVID-19 Community Update for May 6, 2020

Essential services required for maintenance

With the warmer weather beginning, municipal crews, private contractors, construction companies and others will be out cutting grass, weeding and mulching, maintaining sports fields, repairing potholes and sidewalks, conducting winter cleanup, etc.

Given the current situation with COVID-19, the Provincial and local state of emergency, and the directives to stay home, people may wonder why these crews are out doing works, despite the fact they are essential services.

While full upkeep, maintenance and performance measures won't be the same as previous years, Operations Staff is being safely mobilized to perform essential maintenance work so that the Town does not incur additional costs to bring fields or parks back to seasonal standards once restrictions are lifted.

Keeping up with maintenance will also help avoid seasonal issues such as phragmites, ticks and allergies. Town efforts will be based on maintenance initiatives rather than beautification in order to save on future restoration costs.

Garage sales in Fort Erie are discouraged

The Town of Fort Erie discourages residents from having garage and yard sales at this time, though they are permitted. If you are planning on having a garage or yard sale within the Town of Fort Erie please be responsible.

The Town of Fort Erie is asking that you take some precautions to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Remember, if you do have a garage sale:

1. Limit the number of individuals (including yourself) to five at any given time during the sale.
2. Ensure the ability to practice physical distancing.
3. Limit the physical touching of items for sale.
4. Have handwashing or sanitizing available.
5. Have items clearly priced, minimizing the need for personal interaction.

6. Request exact change whenever possible.

Short-term rentals still under strict restrictions

A friendly reminder that people who provide short term rentals can only provide accommodations to those who either booked prior to April 4, 2020, or require immediate emergency housing. This does not apply to hotels, motels and student residences. Failure to comply may result in a \$750 to \$1,000 fine.

If you're aware of a short-term rental (also known as a Bed & Breakfast, Air B&B, Country Inn, Cottage Rental, and Vacation Apartment) operating in contravention of the Provincial order, please advise Fort Erie's By-law Enforcement immediately. Enforcement can be reached via phone (905-871-1600) or through an online complaint form at www.forterie.ca

While we understand that discontinuing the operation of short-term rentals may cause additional financial strain during an already difficult time, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for doing your part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

For more information regarding these changes please visit the Government Ontario's website at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>

Essential businesses list expanded

The Provincial government has announced that certain businesses and workplaces are permitted to begin operations on Monday, May 4 by complying with strict public health measures and operate safely.

Businesses include but are not limited to automated and self-service car washes, lawn care and landscaping services as well as marina and golf course pre-season preparation (**not open to the public**).

For the list of businesses permitted to begin operations, please visit www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/05/certain-businesses-allowed-to-reopen-under-strict-safety-guidelines.html