



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MEMORANDUM

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TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: COVID-19 UPDATE

DATE: MAY 4, 2020

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update regarding COVID-19. The memorandum will replace the PowerPoint presentations that have been completed in the past weeks.

Overview of Current Status

There are currently 318 confirmed cases of COVID-19 including 166 recovered, 8 hospitalizations and 20 deaths in Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit area. The doubling rate is now at 32.9 days which is a positive sign of the slowing of transmission.

The COVID-19 Assessment Centre at 490 Huronia Road is open 7 days/week. It will be changing its hours and will be open from Monday to Friday it is open from 8 am to 6 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays, it is open from 10 am to 4 pm. Wait times are generally 15-20 minutes with less individuals attending the Centre on the weekends.

The Royal Victoria Regional Health Care Centre is still seeking donations of masks. For those wishing to donate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), please visit www.ppeforrvh.ca for specific needs and guidelines.

Updates related to City Services

As identified in a separate memorandum, Recreation and Culture Services have been working with Access Barrie to develop an initiative, ***Together at Home***, which is an assortment of online content to provide residents with weekly jam-packed activities to beat boredom and lift spirits. The online content will be available as of Monday May 4th at Barrie.ca/recreation.

Similar to many other municipalities, Barrie's 2020 Canada Day fireworks will be cancelled due to COVID-19 and the restrictions on large gatherings. Canadian Heritage is planning a virtual show that would allow Canadians to watch performances by Canadian artists and other programming remotely on July 1. Additional details regarding the Canadian Heritage virtual Canada Day program will be provided once they are announced.

In recognition that residents staying home during the COVID-19 pandemic may be generating increased amounts of garbage, the City began offering three free garbage tags for eligible households. As of May 1, 2020, 5,987 requests for free tags had been submitted, with 4,851 of the tags mailed out. As a reminder, the City asks that **only one additional bag (with a tag) be used per garbage collection week**. Many items can be diverted to your green bin and recycling bins.

Financial hardship applications are available on the City's website for elimination of the fixed charge on next water and wastewater bill. As of May 4, 2,320 applications for elimination of the fixed charge have been received. Residents are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as there is limited funding available for this program. Landlords are required to pass the water bill relief on to tenants if water charges are included in their rent.

The City of Barrie has launched Community Heroes, an online campaign to showcase appreciation for the many acts of kindness that members of the community have experienced during this unprecedented



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time. #BarrieHeroes is a way for residents to share photos and stories about the many different heroes that emerge in a time of crisis: those that have gone to work so most can stay home, the essential workers on the front lines, and the people who've shown strength of character helping others. To submit a story and share a picture visit barrie.ca/heroes or use the #BarrieHeroes on social media.

Although City Hall and other facilities are closed to the public at this time, business is continuing. Service Barrie continues to be available to help with service requests, applications, payments and more. Residents may visit them online at barrie.ca/contact or phone them at (705) 739-4242.

COVID-19 Enforcement Volumes

On April 3, 2020, the City of Barrie set up a dedicated COVID-19 Enforcement Line for the public to report instances of non-compliance with the COVID-19 emergency orders. Members of the public can call the COVID-19 Enforcement Line at 705-739-4241 or email at enforcement.services@barrie.ca.

The level of Municipal Law Enforcement weekly activity for the period of April 27 to May 3, 2020 is as follows:

There were 818 total instances including 633 from routine patrols. 462 of the instances from routine patrols did not have a violation. Of the 154 violations, the majority related to dogs off leash, children playing on playground equipment, and use of closed sports fields, as well as non-COVID-19 related matters such as smoking in parks.

Municipal Law Enforcement received 74 general enquiries about COVID-19 related matters, with 19 via email and 55 phone calls.

The following is a breakdown of the nature of 111 of complaints received:

- Gatherings – 66
- Park equipment use - 17
- Businesses – 16
- 2 metre distance – 12

2 charges were laid last week for entering park areas/amenities where the area was closed.

The total number of instances addressed by Municipal Law Enforcement related to COVID-19 since March 16 is 3,837.

The Provincial announcement of the re-opening of certain businesses and workplaces on May 4th, 2020, subject to proper health and safety guidelines, will increase the calls for service for enforcement. There will be added complexity for enforcement agencies associated with interpreting whether a business or workplace is permitted to open and if so, whether the strict safety guidelines have been met. This is expected to increase the amount of staff time required to address enquiries and complaints.

Service Level Impacts

Due to extended cancellation of several non-essential services and resulting financial impact, the City temporarily laid off additional positions and redeployed other positions. In total, over 500 City staff positions have been affected since the outbreak of COVID-19.

As noted in a past presentation, a reduced work week (by 1 day per week) has been implemented for most of the Corporation in addition to the redeployments and lay offs. The reduced work week is intended to prevent a significant number of additional lay offs, however, further lay offs will continue to be contemplated.



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It is important to note that it will take several weeks or longer, to ramp service levels back up once Province announces openings. This is due in part to the fact that the way services operated in the past will likely need to be adjusted to address physical distancing requirements or other health and safety matters for the public and staff. In other areas, service levels may look very different in 2020 then in previous years due in part to the reduced staff complement.

Advocacy work is underway with the Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) with respect to securing much needed financial aid from the Federal and Provincial government.

With spring in the air, residents are reminded that the Provincial order is still in effect and all associated measures on physical distancing, and maximum gathering sizes of 5 or less are still in place. Playgrounds, sports fields and all other amenities remain closed to the public. Public health is asking for continued adherence to these orders or else our hard work will have been a waste.

Initial planning is underway anticipating the re-opening at some point of city programs, facilities and services. However, all direction on how this will happen, and the timing is subject to direction from the Province and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health unit. It is anticipated that this will occur slowly, and it will not be "business as usual".

Should you have any questions regarding the information included in this memorandum, please feel free to contact me directly.