



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2020

Information Bulletin No. 6: COVID-19

Wasaga Beach – Today, members of council approved implementing a number of steps to make life easier for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We recognize that this is a challenging time for everyone in Wasaga Beach. People have lost their jobs, non-essential businesses are closed, other businesses have substantially changed or limited their operating model, our schools have closed, and financial markets are struggling,” Mayor Nina Bifulchi said. “These measures today aim to help people as we go forward together through these uncertain times. And, if needed, we will consider additional ways to help our residents and businesses in the future.”

Council approved suspending a number of fees and charges, effective April 1, 2020 with most in place to Sept. 30, 2020.

The following is a list of **suspended fees and charges**:

- Bus passes and cash fares. *Transit is free starting April 1 to April 30.*
- Payment Transfer fees.
- Reprint of Tax or Water Bill or Account Statement.
- Returned Cheque Charge.
- Business Licensing – Late Renewal Fee.
- Penalties and interest will not be applied on the March 15 and May 15 property tax billings for the period April 1 to September 30, 2020.
- Penalties and interest will not be applied on 2020 water and wastewater utility bills, for the period of April 1 to September 30, 2020.

The Personal Authorized Payment Plans will continue with the present scheduled payment periods. If you do not want to pay per these scheduled payment periods, you will need to opt out of the program and return to the regular installment program. Residents who wish to opt out are asked to call the town at 705-429-3844, ext. 2234 or e-mail taxes@wasagabeach.com.

“Your municipal government is here to support you,” Mayor Bifulchi said. “We will help you get through this period.”

Meetings of council are continuing to ensure continuity of town business. Steps are now in place to permit video participation by members of council as required. The public can view council meetings [here](#).

We recognize that online viewing is not the same as attending a meeting in person and as soon as the health professionals indicate that gatherings are appropriate we will encourage people to join us in the council chamber.

Staying in touch with our community

Communication with the community remains a top priority. To date we have carried out the following steps:

- Six Information Bulletins.
- One e-newsletter.
- Regular information posts to social media channels.
- Messaging through The Sun newspaper.
- Two Economic Development e-newsletters for the business community, offering support and resources.
- Specific social media messaging to the business community, highlighting a variety of supports and services.
- A dedicated COVID-19 information page on the town website with information updated regularly.

It is important that for accurate information about town services you visit our website at www.wasagabeach.com. Our COVID-19 page is [here](#). You can also access reliable information from our town social media channels.

County of Simcoe information

Residents can access pandemic-related information from the County of Simcoe [here](#). This includes details about landfill sites, social services, and LINX Transit.

Government of Canada

The federal government is providing billions in financial aid for Canadians. This includes additional support through the Canada Child Benefit, as well as a one-time special payment by early May through the GST credit for low and modest-income families, plus the creation of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, and a moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for six months.

To learn more about the Government of Canada's response to the COVID-19 pandemic see [here](#).

Government of Ontario

The province has established a special website called Ontario Together. It welcomes businesses and organizations who can supply emergency products and innovative solutions to support the response to COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).

Queen's Park has rolled out Ontario's Action Plan, Responding to COVID-19, and it includes additional resources for the health care system and direct support for people and jobs. The plan will also make available funds to support people and businesses through tax and other deferrals to improve their cash flow.

Learn more [here](#).

Health information resources:

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

[Click here](#)

Ontario Ministry of Health

[Click here](#)

Town of Wasaga Beach Facilities – updated March 26, 2020

Facility	Action
Arena	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
RecPlex/YMCA	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
Youth Centre/Seniors Active Living Centre	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
Town Hall	Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours. Monday to Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Library	Closed – all programs and rentals cancelled
Public Works	Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours.

Transit	Operational
Fire Halls	Closed to the public – but staff onsite and working during regular business hours. 9-1-1 services operational.
Parks and Trails	Parks are open with the exception of the dog parks. Playground equipment is off limits. Trails are open.

For media requiring additional information, please contact:

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