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WELCOME
There are many things happening in the City of Belleville and we continue to find ways to share this information with our community. The City publishes the BELLEVILLE magazine which is mailed to all Belleville residents and posted on the City website. We believe this newsletter may help to provide you with additional ongoing information. Welcome to the April edition of Belleville Updates!

WHERE TO LOOK FOR COVID-19 UPDATES
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, the City of Belleville is taking action to ensure that the safety of our residents is at the forefront. We would like to reiterate to our residents that these are preventative measures. Efforts like these are being taken across the Province and the more we can do to reduce potential exposure, the better. We continue to follow the lead of our local health officials and our governments to ensure we are doing all that we can to protect our community. For up-to-date information on the governments’ response to COVID-19, please visit the federal and provincial governments’ websites. For ongoing COVID-19 updates in our community and ways to best protect you and your family, please visit Hastings Prince Edward Public Health’s website. Hastings Prince Edward Public Health continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic locally and beyond. For information on testing, ways to protect yourself, local cases and more, please visit their 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) page. On April 23, they launched an online dashboard to provide residents with case-specific details as they track them. Every effort is being made to update the list daily by 11 a.m.
For impacts to City of Belleville services, visit our COVID-19 information page at: belleville.ca/residents/page/covid-19

APRIL SAFETY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CITY
The closure of the City of Belleville’s parks and outdoor recreational amenities is mandatory in alignment with the Ontario Government’s emergency order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act to close all outdoor recreational amenities. This order closes all communal or shared, public or private, outdoor recreational amenities everywhere in Ontario. These closures include Meyers Pier, Victoria Harbour and the public boat launches at George Street and Herchimer Avenue.

The public is asked to respect these changes. Signage has been posted throughout the City indicating the closures. City bylaw officers are working in cooperation with Belleville Police Service to ensure the rules are being followed and will issue fines or more severe penalties to anyone not doing so.

We understand the importance of being outdoors and exercising for both our physical and mental well-being. The waterfront trails remain open at this time, providing the opportunity to be outdoors and exercise but you need to respect the signage along the trails and ensure you maintain physical distancing.

Many of the trails pass through park spaces and it is important residents understand it is the trails alone that are open, not the parks. Where ever possible playgrounds, picnic areas and enclosed spaces, such as the Corby Rose Garden, have been fenced off with signage indicating the closures. It is not physically possible to cordon off every park space within the City, but fenced or not, they are closed.
Parking and Transit
With the extended provincial restrictions regarding COVID-19, the City will extend residents’ March parking and bus passes until the end of May. Those with March parking permits and transit passes may continue to use these passes through until the end of May at which time the situation will be assessed and further action determined.

Garbage Bag Tags
The City will still be collecting up to two bags without tags at this time to ease the impact of COVID-19 on residents. However, tags can be purchased for any additional bags online. Please note that garbage bag tags must be purchased in sheets of 10. Once purchased online, the tags will be mailed to the purchaser. Please plan ahead and allow 3-5 business days for delivery. Attach tags as you regularly would to any additional bags for collection.

Bulky Item and White Goods Collection
Furniture, appliances, or other bulky items cannot be put out for regular weekly pickup. Items such as couches, chairs, desks, etc. require a special pick up service available for a fee, as do white goods such as stoves, bath tubs, air conditioners, etc. The cost for this service varies based on the item type. Information on pricing is available on the Bulky Item Collection webpage on the City’s website.

Pick-up service for these items can now be purchased using an online form. Once residents have made their purchase before 3 p.m. on Thursday, they can place their item out for pick-up that Friday. No tag or further proof of purchase is required at the curbside as collection drivers will be provided with the addresses for all customers who have paid for this service.

Those looking to arrange for bulky item and white goods pick-up who do not have access to our online services are asked to contact Public Works at 613-967-3275.

Curbside pickup is not provided within Thurlow Ward. All bulky and white goods must be taken directly to the Thurlow Landfill.

Green Bin
Please do not include loose tissues and paper towel in the green bin. For the safety of collectors, we encourage residents to use a liner for their compost bins and bag all waste that you put in the green bin. Paper and compostable liners are available from most grocery retailers.

Recycling
Residents are reminded that only clean, recyclable materials are accepted in the blue box program. If any of the following items are in your blue box, it will NOT be collected: Kleenex | Tissues | Sanitary wipes (i.e. baby wipes, alcohol wipes) | Medical waste of any kind (sharps, gloves, face mask, medication) | Food waste

A reminder to residents that our Leaf & Yard Waste Depot at 75 Wallbridge Cres. remains open to the public. Please remain at home if you feel unwell and remember to practice physical distancing at all times. Curbside collection dates will remain the same. For more information, visit: bit.ly/leafandyardwaste

The Hazardous Waste Depot will be closed until further notice.

The City of Belleville offers a number of payment options that do not require in-person payment. Details: https://belleville.ca/news/details/belleville-parking-services-to-extend-march-parking-passes-until-end-of-apr

Temporary washroom facilities are installed at the following locations for public use while City facilities are closed: Salvation Army, Grace Inn Shelter, Gleaners Food Bank and Bridge Street United Church.

City Hall is still ready to serve you and we encourage residents to conduct business via telephone or online instead of in-person. Please contact customer service at 613-968-6481.

During this time, residents are encouraged to access online City services:

- QSWC Fit Breaks
  QSWC.CA
- Belleville Public Library Resources - https://bellevillelibrary.ca/
- Property Tax Portal and Utilities Portal - https://my.city.belleville.on.ca/
- Building Permit Applications - https://building.belleville.ca/cityviewportal
- Bylaw Complaints - https://building.belleville.ca/cityviewportal
- Public Works Concerns - https://belleville.ca/problem-reporting
- Council and Planning Advisory Committee Livestreams - https://citybellevilleon.civicweb.net/portal/
- Parking Ticket Payment Portal - https://www.belleville.ca/parking
- Marriage License, Death and Birth Certificates - https://www.belleville.ca/city-hall/page/licensing-and-certificates
- Other Payment Options - https://belleville.ca/residents/page/payment-options

All programs, facility rentals and services taking place at City Hall, Quinte Sports and Wellness Centre, Belleville Public Library, John M. Parrott Art Gallery, Community Archives, Parkdale Community Centre, Hillcrest Community Centre and Glanmore National Historic Site have been suspended until further notice.
REMEMBER: The three remaining 2020 tax instalment payment dates have been deferred. The first interim instalment due date was paid on Feb. 26. The second interim instalment due date originally scheduled for April 28 is now due June 26. The first final instalment due date originally scheduled for June 26 is now due August 27. The second final instalment due date originally scheduled for Sept. 28 is now due Oct. 28. Those with monthly payment plans who are concerned about payment at this time are asked to contact the City directly.

All property tax and water bill administrative fees, late payment fees or interest charges will be waived during this time.

Other Payment Options
The following options are available for property taxes, water utility bills, accounts receivable invoices, parking tickets and dog tags:

- Financial Institution Payments – Telephone / Online Banking
- Pre-authorized Payment Plans
- Online Services - Credit Card Payments
- Mail
- Drop Box

The City implemented changes that have enabled important capital projects to continue during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Bell Boulevard widening project is underway. Gordon Barr Ltd. began construction at the Jenland Way intersection. City staff was able to accommodate the contractor’s request to start construction by implementing remote work arrangements. A field office has been established so that Project Managers and inspectors can work remotely on-site to observe physical distancing requirements.

In addition to the Bell Boulevard project, remote work arrangements and onsite inspection protocols have been established to allow several other significant capital projects to proceed. The Sagonaska Bridge rehabilitation project (on Pinnacle Street) is underway and lane reductions have been implemented.

The Moira Street West watermain replacement project is in progress with work between Yeomans Street and Howard Street.

You will find a list of common planning related inquiries and resources to help better serve you during this time at: bit.ly/2U3ANbj

Assessment Centre
Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board and Quinte Health Care have partnered to open portions of Quinte Secondary School in central Belleville temporarily as an assessment centre.

Individuals who have been pre-screened for COVID-19 and who meet certain criteria are being directed to the temporary assessment centre for further testing. It is important for the public to know that it is not a walk-in clinic.

The City was a major contributor by providing supplies and equipment, as well as providing expertise for traffic flow, fire prevention and planning.

This year 11 proposals were submitted for Pop-Ups on the Bay. It is an exciting variety of businesses that are interested in opening in West Zwick's Park. Work is being done to ensure these operations can be set up respecting physical distancing separation in the event they are able to open this summer. Watch for exciting updates and stay tuned to the Pop-Ups Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/popupsboq/

The City of Belleville has re-opened our Parkdale Veterans Park Playground Online Open House. Review the proposals online at belleville.ca/parkdaleplayground and take the survey at the bottom of the page to have your say. Those who have already cast their vote are encouraged to revisit the site with the new entry and re-vote before the survey closes on May 14.
**BELLEVILLE updates**

**WORK IN BELLEVILLE PROGRAM STILL WORKING**

If you’re an employer needing staff to help during this difficult time, please contact the Economic Development office of the City of Belleville to obtain resumes that may help you fill your labour needs. If you’re a resident in need of work, please send your resume to the Economic Development office. All emails should be sent to ecedev@belleville.ca – for more information on the program, please call 613-967-3238. By submitting your resume you are agreeing to its possible distribution to local employers. Additional information on this program is available at: https://belleville.ca/city-hall/page/employee-data-base-program

**OLG MAKES FOURTH-QUARTER PAYMENT**

Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) issued a fourth quarter (January 1 to March 31, 2020) non-tax gaming revenue payment of $656,284 to the City of Belleville for hosting Shorelines Casino Belleville. These payments are made under the Municipality Contribution Agreements using a prescribed formula consistently applied across all sites in Ontario that is based on a graduated scale of gaming revenue at the hosted site or sites. City Council carefully allocates these funds to select projects. Due to the temporary closure of all gaming sites, this quarter’s payment was impacted by approximately 15 days’ worth of revenue and OLG expects the July 2020 payment will also be impacted.

**NEW LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

The City is pleased to announce the appointment of a new leadership team in the City’s Engineering and Development Services department. Brett Forrestell has been appointed Chief Building Official and Kevin Kehoe as Deputy Chief Building Official.


**CITY SUPPORTS NOVA SCOTIA**

During the week of April 20 the flag at City Hall was lowered by the City of Belleville in memory of the lives lost in the tragic shooting in Nova Scotia. We extend our deepest condolences to the residents of Nova Scotia and members of the RCMP.

**SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS**

Many of you will have noticed a series of campaigns on the City’s Facebook and Twitter. ‘Think of Us When’ is a campaign designed to let residents know that even though facilities may be closed to the public, City employees continue working hard behind the scenes to serve Belleville residents.

‘It’s Just the Right Thing to Do’ is a shop local campaign, encouraging residents never to assume businesses are closed as many have adapted to the current situation and are offering curbside pick-up or delivery. Make the call and see if they are still providing services and shop local whenever possible.

#BellevilleCares Have you noticed any particularly great acts of kindness happening in our community lately? We want to hear about it! Share your story by tagging us and using the hashtag #BellevilleCares in your post. Details: bit.ly/39oNtOv

**WHO’S MAKING DINNER?**

To support the restaurant sector in our community, the City of Belleville has created two GIS-based platforms to enable residents to quickly determine which restaurants are open for business and where they are located within the city. The first is an online map, where people will be able to search for restaurants near their location. The second is a storyboard, where restaurants will be listed alphabetically.

Online Map: http://www.belleville.ca/restaurantmap
Storyboard: http://www.belleville.ca/restaurantlist

Although taking every measure possible, the City of Belleville cannot guarantee the completeness or accuracy of this list. Restaurants missed or those no longer in operation, are encouraged to contact: whatisopen@belleville.ca and the list will be updated as promptly as possible.

**SHOP LOCAL**

Things you need? Call your favourite local businesses & see if they’re offering curbside pick-up or delivery.
It’s Just the Right Thing to Do!
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TRANSIT TAKING OVER SPECIALIZED SERVICE
Starting June 1, Belleville’s specialized transit service will be operated entirely in-house using City resources. Transit would like users to know that this transition is expected to be seamless with no impact on those currently accessing the service.

Riders will be able to book rides by phone at 613-962-1925 or by email at bellevilletransit@belleville.ca. All bookings currently in the system will automatically be carried over to the new system with no interruptions. Those who have pre-booked rides will not need to re-book.

Dispatching hours will be increased to 12 hours a day from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., seven days a week. There will also be after-hours service in which users will be able to speak with someone about the service outside of these extended hours. Users can not book rides after-hours, however on-call staff will relay all information to dispatchers first thing each morning.

Service will still be offered seven days a week, however all calls after the transition will be completed by a City of Belleville employee in a City of Belleville specialized service bus. This means that taxis will no longer be used for service on Sundays.

Formerly operated by Parkhurst Transportation, the service was designed for those with mobility challenges or disabilities that would interfere with using public transit.

E-COMMERCE SPECIALIST ASSISTANCE
The City of Belleville is contracting the services of an e-commerce specialist to provide advice to Belleville businesses on the development or enhancement of their e-commerce platforms.

A Request for Proposal is available at: belleville.bidsandtenders.ca/Module/Tenders/en for any businesses or individuals interested in providing this service.

Beginning May 11, 2020, the e-commerce specialist will advise and contribute to the creation of strategies to enhance the e-commerce capabilities of Belleville businesses and be available to assist individual businesses by assessing their current e-commerce needs, capabilities and platforms, and advise and direct them on developing and/or enhancing their capabilities and e-commerce presence.

The contract will run until August 7, 2020.

Between our phones, tablets, laptops, and televisions, some form of screen time is happening almost 24/7. That’s why it’s become more imperative than ever for us to unplug and head out into the great outdoors. Getting out into nature doesn’t have to be a big event. Go out for a jog or a brisk walk—without your phone! Take in the sights and sounds of your surroundings - just remember to maintain that physical distancing.
Our Parks and Open Spaces department is busy ensuring you'll be greeted by all kinds of beautiful!

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Belleville has great fortitude and astounding resilience. In these unprecedented times we will do what we can and what is asked of us. We do this for our neighbours, friends, families, healthcare workers, first responders and front-line workers. Thank you for staying strong together.