ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CITY

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.

Things to Know:
Effective this Saturday, March 28, Belleville Transit will be temporarily moving to On-Demand Services only. There will be no scheduled fixed-route service until further notice as we continue to work through the COVID-19 situation. As a result of COVID-19, Belleville Transit ridership has decreased by 80%. We would like to thank all passengers for practicing physical distancing and only using the bus for essential travel. As a result of this ridership decrease, Transit will be reducing the number of buses operating each day. Service will continue to be provided from 5 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Sunday.

We ask that passengers continue to use our services only for essential trips (employment, groceries, pharmacy, etc.) and that all nonessential trips (social-based trips) are avoided.

For further details visit: https://belleville.ca/news/details/belleville-transit-to-temporarily-transition-to-on-demand-services-only

COVID-19 UPDATES

For ongoing COVID-19 updates and ways to best protect you and your family visit: https://hpepublichealth.ca/. Hastings Prince Edward Public Health will be updating this page daily at 2 p.m. with the most up-to-date information.

Ongoing updates and impacts to City services are available on our COVID-19 Response page at: https://belleville.ca/residents/page/covid-19. The page will be updated on a regular basis.

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 March edition of Belleville Updates!

CHALLENGING TIMES
Belleville residents have always been resilient and compassionate and during the past few weeks our community has been tapping into these strengths like never before. COVID-19 has altered our personal lives, our work environments and the economy. We need to continue to adjust and adapt while navigating through this unfamiliar territory. There are some concrete things we do know and Hastings Prince Edward Public Health has made these facts very clear for our safety:

• Wash your hands with soap and water thoroughly and often.
• Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Dispose of tissue immediately and wash your hands.
• Practice ‘Physical Distancing’ by avoiding crowds and maintaining a distance of 2 meters from those around you.
• Stay at home whenever possible.

There is so much information circulating regarding COVID-19. We encourage residents to ensure they are receiving factual information from HPEPH at https://hpepublichealth.ca/
Belleville Updates

Things to Know: (continued)
Residents have been cautioned to practice physical distancing as much as possible. It is important to remember this precaution applies to all ages, not just adults. It is recommended that a minimum of two metres be kept to prevent the spread of the virus. This, in combination with the inability to properly sanitize playground equipment, determined the decision to close all City playgrounds during this time for the safety of children within our community. Details: [https://belleville.ca/news/details/city-playgrounds-closed-for-childrens-safety](https://belleville.ca/news/details/city-playgrounds-closed-for-childrens-safety)

The City of Belleville’s Leaf and Yard Waste Depot located at 75 Wallbridge Cres. will now open March 30.

Curbside collection dates will remain the same. However, this new opening date has been put in place for residents keeping busy with yardwork during this time.

Residents are reminded to practice physical distancing as much as possible while dropping off their yard waste. Please visit our Leaf & Yard Waste page for hours of operation.

Due to the closure of City facilities, Belleville Parking Services is extending the use of March parking passes until the end of April. Permit holders may use their March parking pass until April 30, 2020. Enforcement will be focused on ensuring public safety is maintained for access of facilities. No interest will be charged on parking tickets or municipal fines.

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](https://belleville.ca/news/details/belleville-parking-services-to-extend-march-parking-passes-until-end-of-apr)

Temporary washroom facilities have been 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.

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 will be suspended until further notice.

Garbage
In an effort to promote physical distancing and further ease the impact on residents, garbage will now be accepted with or without bag tags. Residents are reminded to follow the maximum lifts per week as well as our rules & guidelines for garbage collection. Residents are asked to bag all waste and not place loose materials in your garbage bin.

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

Quinte Waste Solutions is asking that residents in self-isolation either store recyclables until the isolation period has ended or carefully place all material into garbage bags and utilize their regular garbage collection day for disposal.
The **Hazardous Waste Depot** will be closed until further notice. This includes all Quinte Waste Solutions Mobile Events planned for April.

**Bulky item collection** will continue as usual each Friday. Please note this service is separate from regular garbage collection and is NOT FREE. Tags can be purchased by phone at 613-967-3275 no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday.

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

**Facility Closures**

- City Hall
- Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre
- Belleville Public Library including John M. Parrott Art Gallery and Community Archives
- Glanmore National Historic Site
- Public Works Building
- Belleville Water Building
- All Community Centres

Residents are encouraged to conduct business via telephone or online instead of in-person. Please contact customer service at 613-968-6481.

Recognizing the importance of keeping the construction industry moving forward, the City has implemented changes that will enable important **capital projects to continue** during the COVID-19 crisis. The City has moved quickly to implement physical distancing requirements and cautionary measures during the COVID-19 crisis to allow capital projects to proceed.

Equipment is on site and construction of the much anticipated Bell Boulevard widening project has begun. Gordon Barr Ltd. began construction at the Jenland Way intersection. City staff has been 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 reduction will soon be implemented. The Moira Street West watermain replacement will start soon with work between Yeomans Street and Howard Street.

A construction tender for the Avondale Road reconstruction project has been issued.

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

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**POP-UPS ON THE BAY**

Belleville City Council approved moving forward with up to six pop-up shops to be located at West Zwick’s Park this summer. The importance of boosting positive activity coming out of COVID-19 is essential and Council feels the Pop-Ups will be one of those business and tourism opportunities that can do so. Staff are proposing up to six pop-up vendors and possibly two food truck vendors in the park, opening mid-June and running until Labour Day. A formal request for proposals will be issued in the next week and proposals can be submitted electronically. Please watch the City’s website for more details.
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 ecdev@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

CITY REACHES OUT TO LOCAL MANUFACTURING AND HOSPITALITY SECTORS
In addition to the action taken by City Council to ensure the continued operations of the City of Belleville, businesses that employ residents have also been consulted with. City officials and staff held conference calls with two local business sectors which employ thousands of residents – manufacturing and hospitality. This initiative was conducted to determine what the City can do to continue supporting these businesses during these challenging times.


BURN BAN IN EFFECT
Belleville Fire has implemented a complete burn ban until further notice due to the dry ground cover and foliage at this time.

Furthermore, the City of Belleville has suspended the selling of Burn Permits due to implemented measures regarding COVID-19 and will notify the public when sales resume at a later date.

IN CLOSING
Although we love to travel and socialize, now is not the time. Use this quiet period to enjoy an e-read through the Belleville Public Library for yourself and your children. Step back in time and explore our amazing history on the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County website: CABHC.CA or check out the photo gallery at BELLEVILLE.CA. Call or message friends living on their own. Thank our front-line workers. And most importantly, if at all possible, stay home, be safe and plan for better days ahead.

Thank you to everyone for working together!