

Message from the McKellar Emergency Management Committee:

We need to Stay at Home and Stop the Spread.

These are difficult and trying times. We are all struggling with worries about the COVID-19 virus and we are all doing our part to self-isolate and follow social distancing practices. We all love this area and we understand that our Summer Residents want to be here and we want to see you all as well. You are an important part of our Community and after a long winter we miss you.

But, these are difficult and trying times and life is not as usual. We have a deadly virus that is spreading though our Country and we all need to do our part to contain the spread and flatten the curve. We are asking our Summer Residents to delay their annual return to the cottage to keep the virus from spreading from community to community.

This advice is coming from the highest levels of Government. On March 29, 2020, Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada said:

*“Urban dwellers/Cottagers should RESIST THE URGE to head to the cottage and rural properties ...”*

The Government of Ontario has further reduced the list of essential services and has removed marinas, except for servicing those who need to access their **primary residence**. So that means:

Marinas are closed with very few exceptions.

Our access points and ramps are closed.

Cottage Service Businesses are closed.

The Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations are pleading the same message they remind members.

*... that our rural communities have reduced capacity to accommodate sudden changes in supply demands. Many of us wouldn't ordinarily open the cottage until nearer to the May long weekend. As we already know from our local grocery experiences, parts of the supply chain are under strain.*

*Additionally, rural hospitals have limited capacity and resources, and you should consider where your health needs can best be met, in an emergency situation.*

If your primary residence is at the cottage and you are coming here from another country, FOCA advises:

*Provision yourself for several weeks (with food, drinks, gas, hardware supplies, prescriptions) before leaving your off-season community, so that you will not need to make stops along the way. This is not the time for our usual credo to "buy local" in cottage country. As you would do anywhere at this time, should you urgently need anything from a retailer or pharmacy you should call ahead to see if there are options for safe pickup or delivery.*

As we approach the Easter Long Weekend you must maintain Self-isolation and Social Distancing. The virus is starting to spread rapidly in Ontario and this is not the time to let down our guard - It is the time to increase our efforts.

Do your part and stay home! We want to be able to get to the end of this Crisis with our Municipal Family intact.

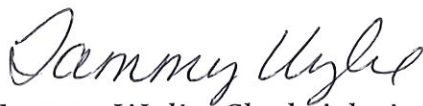
Respectfully,



Peter Hopkins, Mayor



Ed Bier, Fire Chief/CEMC



Tammy Wylie, Clerk Administrator



Greg Gostick, Public Works Superintendent