



Hastings Highlands

Beautiful By Nature

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MEDIA RELEASE

22 May 2020

Hastings Highlands COVID-19 Recovery Plan- Phase 1

Maynooth, ON – We are excited to announce Hastings Highlands COVID-19 Recovery Plan - Phase 1. This plan is conditional on public health and government direction and is subject to change at any time. The plan itself is a fluid plan that responds to changing conditions as they relate to providing safe municipal services.

PHASE 1 - May 20 to June 22, 2020

Phase 1 will include:

Hastings Highlands buildings and facilities will undergo renovations to create a safer and more secure working environment for staff delivering essential services.

New screening protocols will be created for all individuals entering municipal buildings and facilities.

Additional online payment options will be rolled out to citizens via the municipality's website.

A new Hastings Highlands Centre office layout design will be created to optimize space for programming and service delivery needs.

Hastings Highlands staff will be outfitted with supplies and additional technology so that electronic meetings can be made available to individual stakeholders.

New Hastings Highlands staff practices and controls that comply with Provincial Health and Safety Association Guidelines will be created.

Hastings Highlands staff will be trained on Health and Safety practices and controls that comply with Provincial Health and Safety Association Guidelines through electronic training sessions.

Hastings Highlands staff presently working from home will be given an opportunity to return to work when it is safe to do so.

Fire and Emergency Services will be reviewing preliminary methods to resume training and drills for volunteer firefighters



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Hastings Highlands Buildings and Facilities

Following the guidance of Provincial Health information and orders, the municipality of Hastings Highlands will extend the closure of all public facilities and the cancellation of programs and events until **June 22, 2020**.

All municipal buildings, facilities, playground structures, outdoor recreational spaces, including sports fields, community centers, outdoor rinks and picnic shelters will be closed until **June 22, 2020**.

Municipal Waste Sites

All Waste Sites will remain open and will operate in accordance with their normal schedule. Additional measures have been put in place to protect staff and guests.

Hastings Highlands Meetings

Hastings Highlands Council meetings will continue to be held by teleconference at least until the provincial government has lifted the emergency declarations. When it is safe to do so, an alternative meeting solution will be implemented through the Clerks department.

Conclusion

As new actions are taken by other levels of government and new information surfaces, the Recovery Plan will be modified accordingly. The protection and the health and safety for staff and our community is paramount and has guided all the decisions made in this phased approach to the municipality's COVID-19 recovery plan.

The Municipality of Hastings Highlands has created a separate COVID-19 information page on the homepage of the municipality's website www.hastingshighlands.ca. This page is the municipality's source of credible information that is available in one location to website guests. Hastings Highlands continues to use corporate social media as a vehicle to disseminate the municipality's COVID-19 planning and communications information to followers.

The Municipality will continue to provide services to support the community via telephone and email, wherever possible. Municipal staff are available to help by calling (613) 338-2811 or emailing info@hastingshighlands.ca.

We will continue to provide updates to assist with keeping everyone informed.

- Vic A. Bodnar, Mayor of Hastings Highlands

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