



Township of St. Clair

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March 11, 2021

Mayoral Message to the Residents of St. Clair Township in regards to the Covid-19 Situation

Prime Minister Trudeau declared today, March 11 as a Day of Observance and to Honour the loss of over 22,000 Canadian lives over the past year. St Clair Twp will join with the rest of Canada by lowering our Flags today.

As you may know, we in St Clair Twp and the County of Lambton are still in a State of Emergency because of the Covid 19 pandemic. It has been a very difficult year for everyone as we walk in territory that we have never experienced in our modern world!

As we continue today in the "Red" Zone of Provincial Designation for restrictions, please take time to remember those that have physically left us because of the Covid 19 Virus, think of so many that have recovered, but most importantly be thankful for the many Heroes that walk amongst us, ensuring that we are cared for medically! The unselfish acts of kindness that they and so many others that make life work for us on a day to day basis that they continue to show. Everyone in the Twp has had to look at and work at things differently.

It has been difficult to constantly be in a State of Emergency, with so many restrictions to try to help us stay healthy. It has put a new test on how we as a society react to each other, our families and those we work with, as well as those we count on for the daily necessities of life.

I know everyone has packed extra patience, extra kindness and the willingness to sacrifice, to help get us through this pandemic. With the roll out of the vaccines, we cannot let our guard down as we are only in the 6th inning of this pandemic and we need to continue to stay extra vigilant until we get to the end of the vaccination process. We have been working with the MOH to have our residents vaccinated close to home and hopefully soon we will hear of where vaccinations may occur here in St Clair Twp as well as the main site in Point Edward. Please get vaccinated for the protection of

yourself, your family and friends as they become available. We will need to continue to be patient! The arrival and type of the vaccinations will dictate how quickly the additional vaccination sites will be put in place. Soon we will look back at this pandemic as a time of unity as a community and have a new appreciation for so many people that have helped us make it through this time, providing our needs as if each day was just another day as any other ones that occurred prior to the pandemic.

For all of us on Council, it has been a difficult year, dealing with something that we have never dealt with before. We have tried to make sure that the residents of St Clair have been protected the best we can and keep everyone's lives as close to normal as possible. We continue to work with and follow our Provincial legislation in regards to the services we provide to our community. Nothing that we could do would happen without the dedication and sacrifice that all of our staff have demonstrated. They continue to give freely of their time, resources and mental strength for the betterment of our community. It seems like the toughest for all of us have been the starting and stopping of our Recreation Services, the things that add the icing on our lives....Staff have done a great job trying to ensure we keep everyone safe, follow the guidance of the Province and our MOH.

Be assured that critical supply chain infrastructure such as the water and sewer systems, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and other commercial venues will continue to stay open for business and be able to supply the needs of our residents throughout this time. Patience is the key for all of us. Our Emergency Response Personnel, Fire, Police, Paramedics and Public Works will also continue to provide assistance as they are needed.

The Twp office and most of our facilities continue to be closed to the public. However, Staff can be accessed by appointment for planning needs that are urgent.

On behalf of all of us on Council, I say thank you to everyone for doing their part to defeat the Virus. I also want to publically thank all our Senior Management Team for their leadership, the Employees of the Twp for their care and concern for the health of those around them. They continue to complete their work diligently and safely in a very concerning and stressful time. They, like everyone else are balancing so many emotions and responsibilities during this time and I ask that all of us be respectful and patient when you call and discuss issues with them. I also ask the members of the Public to call the MPPs office in regards to issues caused by restrictions that are in place or for clarifications of any legislation that is affecting us during this Virus Crisis. They are the ones that control the openings and all legislation dealing with the response to Covid.

I just want to once again say thank you to everyone for their patience and willingness to do whatever is necessary to bring us out of this situation stronger and more resilient than ever before. I would like to encourage everyone to pack their patience when you are out and about. Please show your hearts kindness and be pleasant with each other, we need to nourish each other and not be critical at this time. I know it has been a long journey and yet we are now able to see the tide shifting with the local administering of the vaccines.

Be sure to thank (indirectly of course) all those around you that are serving us all so well and unselfishly.

On behalf of all of us in St Clair Twp please take time to wash your hands often, look out for each other, wear a mask and above all else stay safe, stay home as much as possible, stay socially distant and get the vaccine when as becomes available.....know also, that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you! I am optimistic that we will soon experience a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2021!!



Mayor Steve Arnold