



April 9, 2020

## Mayoral Message in regards to the Covid-19 Situation

It's been a couple of weeks since I published a community note and I wanted to offer some thoughts in regards to what we are doing, where to find information, to offer encouragement and support to everyone in our community.

We have had a number of inquiries in regards to what is legislated and what is not. There are only three public compliance orders that have been issued by Provincial or Federal legislation for individuals. The hope is that through education and reminders that individuals will comply. However if not, individuals could be fined or even receive jail time if non-compliance persists in these areas:

- 1) Not self-quarantining for 14 days when returning to Canada, reporting is done by calling 1-888-502-9060
- 2) Being open for business when you are not deemed an essential service--reporting is done by calling 1-888-310-1122 - Provincial
- 3) Group gathering of more than 5 people not from the same household--reporting is done by calling 1-888-310-1122 - Provincial

Social distancing or staying home is not legislated but a strong recommendation from our Public Health Officials. It has been shown that these responses to the COVID-19 Virus are very successful in slowing and eventually eliminating the transmission. We understand how difficult it is for everyone as many open businesses have long lineups outside and limited access. We hope that everyone will continue to pack their patience before leaving to shop and maintain their distance. I am very pleased that everyone I have seen are practicing social distancing very well and I know it is appreciated very much by others.

Your Council and the Emergency Control Group are trying to balance the needs and safety of our residents. We all need to be able to get outside of our homes, to drink in the spring sunshine and smell the dawn of new life in nature. That is why we want to keep our trail system, passive aspects of our parks and boat launches open and available. These things will continue to stay open for everyone to enjoy unless the Province instructs us to close them. We

have been assured that there will be no further closures of these types of activities unless there is a Provincial concern that people are not practicing safe distancing when they are out enjoying them.

We have set up a Q&A document on the COVID-19 section of the Township website which will have the most up to date information that we have. These are really unprecedented times for all of us. We are deeply concerned about the health and safety of our Residents, both younger and older, as well as our Staff in regards to the impact of COVID-19. We have been working with the Township and County Emergency Control Group as well as taking leadership and direction from our Medical Officer of Health Dr. Ranade, as well as both the Province and the Federal Governments. We continue to monitor the situation here locally and have put in place a number of local preventative measures to help slow down the spread of COVID-19 virus.

Be assured that critical supply chain infrastructure such as the water and sewer systems, grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and other commercial venues will 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 Township office continues to be closed to the Public and will remain so until this Bio Hazard Virus has run its course. For those that have immediate planning needs, they are to be done through Lambton County.

We conducted our first electronic meeting last Monday for Council, it was different for sure, but we completed a number of business items such as tender awards to keep our infrastructure upgrades moving forward. It is one activity that the Province has deemed essential. We are also sensitive to projects that may impact Internet learning or disrupt water and sewer servicing and Staff are developing plans on how to complete the work without major impact to our residents.

I just want to 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. Be sure to thank (indirectly of course) all those around you that are serving us all so well and unselfishly at this time, look out for each other, above all stay safe, stay home as much as possible and stay socially distant as we navigate through this COVID-19 Emergency Situation... know also, that with the Easter Season upon us that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you and trust that we will be back to normal soon.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Arnold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a distinct "A".

Mayor Steve Arnold