

Media Release

Date: July 16, 2020

Mayor's Message

Dear residents of Pembroke,

As we are about to enter into Stage 3 of the provinces' plan for reopening along with many other areas in Ontario, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our essential workers and members of the public for coming together as a community and remaining vigilant to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

In partnership with all Eastern Ontario Health Units, our local health unit has introduced [mandatory mask measures](#). I encourage residents to follow the [directives of the Renfrew County & District Health Unit](#) and wear a mask or face covering when in a public indoor space. However, it is essential that we remain kind and considerate of people who are unable to wear a mask or face covering. Now, more than ever, we need to show kindness to our community.

[Stage 3 of the province's plan](#) comes into effect on July 17 and we will see the reopening of most businesses and facilities. In Pembroke, this means that more local businesses can reopen such as fitness facilities, more retail shops, some recreation facilities and some places of entertainment.

Under Stage 3, the City is excited to be opening all playgrounds as of 10:00 am on Friday, July 17. All equipment will be sanitized prior to reopening. The City encourages members of the public to follow safe social distancing guidelines and practice proper hygiene while using the playground equipment and other City of Pembroke amenities. Other amenities that are open in the City of Pembroke include the Pembroke Marina, Riverside Park beach, the Pembroke Bark Park, splash pads at both Riverside and Rotary Park, Tennis Courts at Rotary Park, and the Riverside Park Campground for self-contained units.

Last week, we launched our [Shop Local Pembroke](#) campaign. We know how difficult this pandemic has been on local businesses. Now that we are entering into Stage 3, it is more important than ever to support our local business community. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing tips and tricks on how you can support local businesses. One such example would be to rate and review a business on Facebook or Google. This is a free way to support one of your favourite businesses. On Tuesday, Council made the decision to extend our free parking pilot, allowing for free two hour parking at meters and in City lots. We hope this makes it easier for you to shop local during this difficult time.

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I am also happy to announce that Council passed a By-Law to introduce a new category of funding into our [Community Improvement Plan](#). This will provide funding to businesses for the cost of construction or signage to adapt to health and safety measures as they relate to COVID-19. This category of funding should be open later in August and eligible businesses can apply for up to \$2,500. If businesses have already spent money on these measures, we are encouraging them to keep their receipts. We also know that the Business Development Fund that launched earlier in the summer with Enterprise Renfrew County received an overwhelming number of applications. Reviews are currently ongoing and successful applicants will be notified when they are complete.

Summer may look a little different this year for many of our residents, with no large events and limited travel. This is the perfect time to explore our own backyard here in Pembroke and the Ottawa Valley. I encourage residents to subscribe to [Pembi's Picks](#), a weekly e-newsletter with information on things to do for the upcoming week. Stay tuned to the [City's Facebook page](#) where we share things to do locally, and visit the [Ottawa Valley Tourist Association website](#).

We would not be in the place we are today without the tireless work of all frontline workers. I would like to send my deepest thanks to all essential workers in our community who are keeping us safe. As a community, we can be proud of how we have handled this pandemic and taken public safety seriously. Thank you to everyone for doing your part to keep our community safe.

There are plenty of positive developments under this new stage of opening, but it is important to remain vigilant. As the Renfrew County and District Health Unit reminds us, practise physical distancing by staying two meters (or six feet) apart from others when you are out in the community, wear a mask in indoor public spaces, and wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, often. Social circles remain capped at 10 people under Stage 3 guidelines. These measures will continue to help keep you, your loved ones and your friends and neighbours safe during this pandemic.

For regularly updated information on the pandemic from a local, provincial, and federal level, please visit the City's [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) webpage](#).

Thank you, and be well.

Mayor Mike LeMay

For further information on COVID-19, please refer to the following sources:

[The City of Pembroke COVID-19 Updates and Info](#)



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[The City of Pembroke COVID-19 Business Resources](#)

[Renfrew County and District Health Unit](#)

[Ontario Coronavirus Self-assessment Tool](#)

[Health Canada](#)

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