



Media Release

Date: August 7, 2020

Mayor's Message

Dear residents of Pembroke,

We are well into a beautiful summer here in Pembroke as we continue to battle COVID-19. In Pembroke, and the County more generally, we are faring quite well, keeping our total number of cases low. It is wonderful to see residents enjoying the outdoors and beginning to visit businesses in the community.

[Mandatory mask measures](#) were introduced a month ago, and being out in the community, it is evident how many of us are remaining vigilant. I encourage residents to continue to follow the [directives of the Renfrew County & District Health Unit](#) and wear a mask or face covering when in a public indoor space. I would however like to stress that 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 others.

We are now a few weeks into [Stage 3 of the province's plan](#) for reopening. The City's playgrounds are now fully open, along with our splash pads, which are operational daily from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. We have also been able to bring back the Rotary Park Splash & Play program. The program is open for socially distanced crafts and games from Tuesday-Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the month of August. We encourage members of the public who are participating to follow safe social distancing guidelines and practice proper hand washing. To enter the clubhouse, participants must wear a mask. Many other recreational amenities are now open, such as the Riverside Park beach, staffed by lifeguards daily from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

I would like to strongly encourage residents to support local businesses during this difficult time. Under Stage 3, we have seen the reopening of many more businesses, and restaurants can now offer indoor seating. We have launched our [Shop Local Pembroke](#) campaign in order to share tips and tricks on how you can support local businesses. We have also launched a weekly [Business Spotlight](#) series where we highlight a local business and the changes they have made in the business over the last few months. So far, we have highlighted [Ullrich's](#), [Little Things Canning Company](#), and [White Pine Yoga](#). If you know a local business who is adapting, let us know!

The new COVID-19 category of our [Community Improvement Plan](#) should open up for applications on August 14, 2020. 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. Businesses can apply for up to \$2,500 for 50% of costs. If businesses have already spent money on these measures, we are encouraging them to keep their receipts.

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Yoga in the Park is back, with a 100-person maximum at the waterfront on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To register, create an account with [MindBody under White Pine Yoga](#). The class is free and open to anyone. If yoga is not your thing, 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](#).

During this time, we know that many of our non-profits are facing challenges with funding. I'm happy to share that the Ontario Trillium Foundation has introduced the [Resilient Communities Fund](#). This fund supports the non-profit sector in recovery and rebuilding from the impacts emerging from COVID-19 so they can effectively meet the needs of their communities. The deadline to apply is September 2, 2020.

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. Please continue to follow the guidelines of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit: practise physical distancing by staying two metres 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.

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](#)

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

[Renfrew County and District Health Unit](#)

[Health Canada](#)

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