



# Media Release

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Date: October 15, 2021

## Mayor's Message

Dear residents of Pembroke,

Many of us will have celebrated a Thanksgiving this past weekend that looked more like how things were prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. What an exciting feeling that is! This is thanks, in large part, to the high vaccination rates in Ontario and in Renfrew County.

Since vaccines became more readily available for everyone 12 and older this summer, our area has done well to take advantage of the supply. As of Tuesday morning, 87.4% of the local population 12 and older had received at least one dose, and 82.8% had received two. Vaccines are our most effective tool in fighting the spread of COVID-19. I thank everyone who has gotten vaccinated for their efforts in keeping our community healthy. I urge anyone who is eligible and hasn't yet gotten vaccinated, to get vaccinated. Pop-up clinics are available throughout the area each week. Many pharmacies also have vaccines available. Schedules and more information are available on the [Renfrew County and District Health Unit's Vaccine Rollout](#) page.

Ontario is currently in Step Three of the Roadmap to Reopening. This means our local businesses and amenities are open, with some restrictions. Just last week, the Ontario government announced the capacity limitations on certain indoor such as theatres, cinemas or arenas have been lifted. We expect the government to announce a plan next week for further lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. This comes with the recent introduction of proof of vaccination requirements for certain indoor venues.

For the City, proof of vaccination is required for those 12 and older at the Pembroke Memorial Centre, Pembroke and Area Community Centre and Kinsmen Pool. Proof of vaccination is required in other private settings as well, such as at cinemas or at restaurants for indoor dining. Today the government announced people can start downloading the new enhanced proof-of-vaccination certificate with secure QR code. Businesses can also download the Verify Ontario app in order to start scanning the QR codes now, ahead of the original October 22 launch date.

I remind everyone that no matter what you think of the proof-of-vaccination policies, to always be kind to the staff you encounter at these businesses having to enforce them. Businesses are doing what they have to in order to stay open and survive. As always, I celebrate your support for our local business community – and hope that your support comes with kindness and compassion.

It is exciting to have more access to activities and group events again! The City's Parks and Recreation Department has a busy fall schedule of fun for you to enjoy. [Public](#)

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[skating](#) kicked off this week, as well as [daytime and evening walking](#) at the PMC. If you're looking for a stretch, join in the [chair yoga sessions](#) on Thursdays. Swimming lessons at [Kinsmen Pool](#) are underway, with new registration starting the week of November 1.

The City also once again partnered with the Township of Laurentian Valley to host the free Spooky Movie Night October 16 at Skylight Drive-In. This event sold out quickly, but you can put your name on the waitlist through the [registration link](#). What an amazing show of community partnership!

An important event also coming up this month is the [Renfrew County Indigenous Population Community Needs Analysis](#). Indigenous peoples of the area are invited to participate in a virtual meeting October 21 at either 10 a.m. or 5 p.m. in order to better understand the needs of the Indigenous population by listening to the voices of those who live, raise their families and work in our local communities. Based on this analysis, the partnering organizations and communities will seek to improve existing services and develop new initiatives to support the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Renfrew County. If you aren't able to attend the virtual session, paper copies of the survey will be available at City Hall and the Pembroke Public Library for you to fill out as well.

Finally, I'd like to again note my gratitude to all the people in our community keeping things going as we continue to navigate COVID-19. Thank you to all our healthcare workers, to all our frontline workers, to everyone following masking and distancing protocols, and to everyone who has been vaccinated. You are seen and appreciated.

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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