



# Media Release

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Date: January 11, 2021

## Mayor's Message

Dear residents of Pembroke,

I am writing to wish everyone a very Happy New Year! I hope that all of our residents had a safe and peaceful holiday season. While I am certain the holidays looked much different for everyone, we can all rest assured that we are in this together.

While we have turned the calendar to 2021 and are moving forward in the fight against COVID-19, we are unfortunately still in the middle of a pandemic. As we all know, the Government of Ontario has issued a provincewide shutdown until January 23, 2021. Under this shutdown, you should only be interacting in-person with members of your household and most in-person shopping is prohibited. Additionally, the province has extended online learning for both elementary and secondary schools until January 25. This is an incredibly difficult time for everyone and I encourage teachers, parents, and students to be patient with each other and yourselves as you navigate these next few weeks.

As we see COVID-19 numbers climb provincewide, it is more important than ever to follow public health guidelines — wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and maintain physical distancing with those outside of your home. As Dr. Cushman of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit has said, symptoms of COVID-19 can mimic many other illnesses, so if you are sick, stay home, and let health professionals make your diagnosis.

Due to the provincewide shutdown, we have closed Kinsmen Pool, the Pembroke Memorial Centre, and Pem Ice II until further notice. Outdoor amenities remain open to encourage you to stay active and get fresh air during this time. The outdoor rinks at both Kinsmen and Rotary Park are open daily from 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. and there is a limit of 10 users at any given time. Masks or face coverings are mandatory while using the rinks, and we encourage you to limit your time on the rink to 30 minutes.

Our Parks and Recreation Department has started up their Snowshoe Lending Program again. To borrow a pair of snowshoes, call the department at 613-735-6821 ext. 1501 or email [recreation@pembroke.ca](mailto:recreation@pembroke.ca). Once booked, you will be assigned a curbside pickup time to get your snowshoes and you can keep them for up to one week.

I was so encouraged before Christmas driving down Pembroke Street, seeing so many of our residents lined up to support our local business community. Many of our local businesses have now had to close their doors during the shutdown. I would like to remind everyone that many of these businesses offer online shopping, curbside pickup, and delivery. There are so many ways to support local during this time such as rating

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and reviewing your favourite local business online, ordering takeout from your favourite restaurant, or purchasing a gift card to use later. This pandemic has not been easy on our local business community, so I strongly encourage everyone to shop local and support our businesses in a safe manner.

I am pleased to share that we are now seeking applications from residents to join the newly created Diversity Advisory Committee. Applications can be found on the City's [website](#) and in-person at City Hall. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021. Individuals who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or a person of colour (BIPOC) and/or a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and two-spirited (LGBTQ2+) community are strongly encouraged to apply to the Committee. I am grateful to the individuals who have been active participants on the Mayor's Diversity Roundtable thus far and look forward to our next step with the official creation of a Diversity Advisory Committee.

In closing, I would like to emphasize how important it is to remain vigilant to combat the spread of COVID-19. We are faring well in Pembroke so far and the credit belongs to our essential workers and residents for continuing to be diligent. Please continue to follow the guidelines of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit and remain patient with one another, as the only way to get through this is together.

For COVID-19 testing dates and times, visit the Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (VTAC) [testing schedule](#) or call VTAC at 1-844-727-6404 to book an appointment for testing. 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 wishing you the best for 2021.

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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