

Media Release

Date: June 18, 2021

Mayor's Message

Dear residents of Pembroke,

I hope that everyone is having an enjoyable start to the summer and taking advantage of Ontario's lessening COVID-19 restrictions. Presently the most important thing I can ask everyone to do is get vaccinated. In Renfrew County, nearly 70% of residents over the age of 12 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

With regards to vaccines, the Health Unit has asked that as much as possible residents use their [online booking system](#) for vaccine appointments. They have received an overwhelming number of calls and aim to provide all information required on their [website](#) to make things easier and quicker for residents. There is also now a [weekly extra dose sign-up sheet](#) available to those who have not yet received their first does or are eligible for an early second dose. When booking appointments, please keep in mind that vaccines are a precious commodity so do your best to keep your scheduled appointment or cancel your appointment through the online booking system if you are unable to attend.

We are now in Step One under the province's [Roadmap to Reopen](#). This means that local businesses are able to open their door with limited capacity and our local restaurants can have their patios open. As we know well, these businesses have been through a lot and your support is essential to their successful reopening. I am looking forward to even more businesses opening as we enter into further steps under the provincial plan.

At the City of Pembroke, many of our outdoor amenities are open including outdoor sports courts, the Rapids Skate Park, the Pembroke Marina and Riverside Park Campground. The younger Pembroke residents can cool off at our splash pads which are now open and the Kinsmen Wading Pool which opens on June 19. We encourage residents to enjoy the many outdoor recreational amenities that Pembroke has to offer while being safe and abiding by currently regulations of the RCDHU.

There is plenty to celebrate this month as June is both Indigenous History Month and Pride Month. We were able to fly the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan flag outside City Hall for the first half of the month prior to moving it inside to Council Chamber and now you can find the Pride Flag outside of City Hall. We are working as a municipality to make sure that Pembroke is a welcoming place for everyone, and the flying of these flags is just a small show of our support. On June 21 at 10:00 a.m., our Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with The Circle of Turtle Lodge to present "The Anishinabe Migration," a presentation that will follow the migration on the Anishinabe over 20,000 years to the heart of the Ottawa Valley. The presentation will be hosted by Aimee

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Bailey, a citizen of The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Spokesperson for The Circle of Turtle Lodge – an Indigenous not-for-profit and registered charity. Registration for the event is free and can be done [online](#). Pembroke Pride will be hosting online events later this month and postponing the Pride Walk to later this summer, check out their [Facebook page](#) for details.

As it is summer, I would be remiss if I did not discuss construction. We are excited to have a number of small and large construction projects going on throughout the City this season. Work on the reconstruction of Nelson Street is currently underway with a planned sidewalk on the South side of the street and it is anticipated that this will wrap up in August. We will also be moving along with our Pembroke Street West repaving and updates from Crandall Street to Reynolds Avenue which is anticipated to begin in July. Many side streets have been repaved around the area to prepare for detours. These are just two of the many projects that our operations team and their contractors anticipate completing this year. While delays and detours can be frustrating, I urge everyone to use caution as be patient as we continue to improve our infrastructure.

Finally, the further we are into this pandemic, the clearer it is how much essential workers affect our lives. Thank you to all of healthcare workers in our area who are working diligently to ensure as many residents as possible are vaccinated. To the many other essential workers, thank you for ensuring that we can carry on with our lives as best as possible. We can be proud of how we have handled this pandemic so far and the end is in sight. Remember to remain vigilant as we hopefully wrap up this chapter in history soon.

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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