



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 31, 2020

Town of Smiths Falls closes outdoor recreation equipment due to COVID-19

Smiths Falls – In response to an updated directive from the Government of Ontario issued last night, the Town of Smiths Falls has closed all outdoor recreation equipment, including playgrounds and sports fields, until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Walking, jogging or biking along pathways, trails and sidewalks is permitted, but residents must respect [physical/social distancing](#) by keeping a two-metre distance from others.

“Dr. Paula Stewart has confirmed an increase in the number of people in the broader community who have tested positive for COVID-19, which reinforces the importance of staying home where possible and keeping a two-metre distance from others,” said Shawn Pankow, Mayor of Smiths Falls. “While playground and park equipment are closed to help limit the spread of the virus, we are committed to keeping paths, sidewalks and trails open so that residents can continue getting much needed exercise and fresh air.”

All shared and public outdoor amenities, including slides, play structures, outdoor exercise equipment, sports fields, the off-leash dog park, skateboard park, Senators/Gerry Lowe rink, bocce ball courts, beaches and tennis/pickleball courts will remain closed until further notice.

As previously announced, all other Town facilities remain closed to the public, including Town Hall, the Heritage House Museum, the Memorial Community Centre, the Public Works Office on Air Care Drive, the Water Treatment Plant, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Library, and the Senior’s Centre.

Town staff are available and will continue to interact with the public by phone and/or email. [A staff directory is available on our website](#). In addition, the Town is maintaining its commitment to deliver essential services to the community. Garbage and recycling

will continue to be collected as usual and collection employees are taking extra precautions to ensure their own health and safety, and the health and safety of residents.

The Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 6, will proceed as planned to ensure time sensitive matters move forward, however, Council members will participate from their homes using Zoom video conferencing. Residents and media will be able to watch the proceedings of Council via YouTube. The link will be provided when the agenda is distributed later this week.

For additional information on COVID-19, please contact the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or visit their website at healthunit.org/coronavirus.

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For further information, please contact:

Malcolm Morris, CMO
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Smiths Falls
77 Beckwith St N, Box 695
Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2B8
613-283-4124 ext. 1104
mmorris@smithsfalls.ca