

VIDEO: Mayor encourages residents to participate in Earth week safely

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Kawartha Lakes Mayor Andy Letham reached out to residents on Earth Day to encourage them to participate in Earth Week — even though the week isn't happening as it normally would.

The mayor pointed out this year's Earth Day is the 50th on record. He asked residents to “do a little extra” for the environment.

“Normally, we would help organize community clean up events but obviously this year nothing is normal,” he said.

“If you're out for a walk, and you see litter on our trails or at the side of the road, please consider carefully picking it up, with a clear bag and gloves, and disposing of it properly,” he added.

“With the extra bag of garbage allowance take advantage and help keep Kawartha Lakes clean. Even better, don't litter in the first place.”

That said, the mayor asked residents to use "common sense" if they were going outside reminding them of social distancing measures. He said he knew people wanted to get out and enjoy the nice weather, but the city was not “out of the woods” when it came to the pandemic.

“However, the focus should not be on what we can't do, but rather on what we can do to continue stopping the spread. Thank you to everyone who is following health and safety guidelines and doing their part,” he said.

The mayor also took a moment to thank administrative staff who'd been working hard through the pandemic to help keep essential services operational, as a part of Administrative Professionals' Day.