

# What's opening next? Kawartha Lakes plans for playgrounds, gyms, arenas

*Sarah Sobanski*

Now that the province has green-lighted Phase 3 re-openings, Kawartha Lakes is drawing up plans to ramp up its services.

The city is opening its playgrounds and gym, dialing back COVID-19 measures at splash pads and wants to see demand from the public to open all its arenas come the fall.

## ***Playgrounds***

While the city's 55 playgrounds will open at the end of this week (July 17), and pools at the Lindsay Recreation Complex will open July 20, other openings will be staggered into August and September.

Playgrounds have been roped off and stamped with COVID-19 warnings for the duration of the pandemic. Mayor Andy Letham said that signage is coming down and playgrounds are being inspected for opening this week.

Letham said playground play will be up to discretion of parents. The city won't be stationing anyone to enforce social distancing at parks nor cleaning them regularly.

## ***Splash pads***

Parents should also note that COVID-19 measures at city splash pads are loosening as of Aug. 4.

Letham said fencing meant to help enforce gathering restrictions is coming down and the city won't be shutting down splash pads every few hours for additional cleaning. That said, splash pads will still be kept up to non-pandemic public health standards.

## ***Libraries***

The rest of the city's libraries — except for Little Britain, Dalton, Dunsford and Coboconk — will be opening for curbside pickup as of July 20 as well. Letham said the library board is working to get some physical locations opening over the course of August.

## ***Community centres and halls***

Fenelon Falls, Emily/Omemee, Little Britain and Lindsay community centres with ice pads will be opening Aug. 4. The city will work with volunteer committees of other community halls to help them open with pandemic measures in the coming months.

Kawartha Lakes' state of emergency has been extended in line with the province until July 24. The Victoria Park Armoury remains on standby to support the hospital if needed until Sept. 1.