



NEWS

Kawartha Lakes officials urge public to adhere to provincial orders or face consequences

Mayor Andy Letham cautions orders will be enforced should violations, such as not following restrictions on non-essential travel, masking and holding public and private gatherings, occur

By [Catherine Whitnall](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week
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Kawartha Lakes Mayor Andy Letham is encouraging residents to continue to be diligent to reduce the amount of “carnage” expected as the COVID-19 pandemic rolls on, and the province declares a second state of emergency and issues a stay-at-home order.

Letham cautioned the orders will be enforced should the public violate them, including restrictions on non-essential travel, masking and holding public and private gatherings.

“Obviously we don’t like the way things are going in the province and Kawartha Lakes,” said Letham. “But we have the confidence we’ll get through this just fine as long as everyone gets on board.”

Letham said the emergency operations centre group continues to meet bi-weekly to keep on top of changes and make informed decisions as “things progress.” It has been suggested a vaccine may arrive in the Kawartha Lakes in February and the city is prepared to assist the Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit with distribution. Front-line health-care workers and long-term-care homes are a priority.

“I know they’re struggling with the rollout worldwide ... but once it (the vaccine) does arrive, that will be one less area that we have to worry about,” said Letham.

During the stay-at-home order, in place until at least Feb. 11, city buildings will remain closed with all staff able to work from home continuing to do so. Landfills are currently open and essential services such as garbage pickup will continue.

Letham is concerned about local businesses, noting the last lockdown hit many hard; some have been “hanging on by a thread.”

“There’s going to be some carnage coming out of this,” said Letham, stating some businesses have spent 30 years “getting to where they were before all this.”

He worries some will never fully recover, while others may not survive.

The municipality also expects to be hit financially in 2021. Despite having made some “good financial decisions” last year, Letham said staff are keeping track of the bottom line, but “obviously we will see a loss of revenue.”

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“We’re taking it day by day, month by month right now. We’ll have to wait and see how it all plays out,” continued Letham.

In the meantime, the city is hoping to continue moving forward.

Large construction projects, such as the third phase of Lindsay’s downtown reconstruction and similar project scheduled for Fenelon Falls this year, will continue to progress.

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