

HERE'S HOW TOWN IS COPING WITH COVID-19

#ESSENTIALSERVICES ARE STILL OPEN IN HALTON HILLS

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THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY – SO, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN AND WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Effectively, Mayor Rick Bonnette and chief administrative officer Brent Marshall can make decisions without the approval of council. This allows the town to quickly react to rapidly evolving directions from the provincial and federal governments.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR COUNCILLORS?

Though the mayor and CAO don't require approval, they provide daily briefings to councillors, who in turn are able to update the town on new developments from their ward.

DO I STILL NEED TO PAY MY PROPERTY TAXES?

Yes, you will still need to pay your property taxes. However, residents who need to are able to defer their municipal tax payments between April 1 and June 30, without incurring penalties or late fees.

WHAT TOWN OF HALTON HILLS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE STILL OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

In short, none. Recreational facilities have been closed until at least June 22. The extended facility closure includes the Acton Arena and Community Centre, Mold-Masters SportsPlex, Gellert Community Centre, Cedarvale Community Centre, Acton

Lion's and Georgetown Indoor Pools, Cultural Centre and John Elliott Theatre, Hillview Active Living Centres (Georgetown and Acton) and Halton Hills Youth Centres (Georgetown and Acton).

IF I CAN'T USE THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, CAN I GO OUTSIDE?

Yes, though certain activities are being discouraged.

"Please know that we still want to encourage use of the open spaces, but only to area residents," said Halton Hills CAO Brent Marshall. "Parks are no longer places of destination. Stay home as much as possible and enjoy the use of local parks for taking walks."

Snow fencing has been placed around some outdoor amenities, and barricades have also been placed at park entrances to discourage people from congregating in parks.

These outdoor closures include skateboard parks and playgrounds.

Gazebos and basketball courts could also be closed off if improper use continues.

I DON'T CARE, I'M STILL GOING TO THE PARK.

Residents who fail to adhere to the province's emergency orders surrounding coronavirus could be fined or served a summons.

Halton Regional Police Service (HRPS) and Halton Hills bylaw officers are

able to enforce the orders.

However, only HRPS can enforce the federal quarantine orders under the Quarantine Act when directed by a quarantine officer or a health officer.

The HRPS and bylaw officers have no legislative authority to enforce non-compliance of physical distancing recommendations.

I SEE PEOPLE BREAKING THE RULES. WHAT CAN I DO?

Residents can report incidents of non-compliance with the Quarantine Act to the HRPS COVID-19 hotline at 905-825-4722.

Officers will collect relevant information and dispatch bylaw enforcement officers to followup. Enforceable orders include:

- Closure of non-essential businesses
- Prohibiting gatherings of five or more people
- Closure of public places and establishments
- Closure of all recreational amenities and parks

MY NEIGHBOUR IS HAVING A FIRE IN THEIR BACKYARD, WHO SHOULD I CALL ABOUT THAT?

Residents can call the fire department to report concerns about backyard fires. The Halton Hills Fire Department can be reached at 905-873-2600.

IF BYLAW OFFICERS ARE STILL OUT, COULD I STILL GET A TICKET FOR PARKING ON THE STREET?

Bylaw officers will still address issues that may impact the safety of residents, but street parking



Torstar file photo

Here's what you need to know in Halton Hills during the coronavirus pandemic.

rules have been relaxed during this period. As well, fees for parking in municipal lots are also being waived.

WHAT IS THE TOWN DOING TO AFFORD THIS PANDEMIC?

On April 5, the Town of Halton Hills declared a number of the municipality's part-time staff would be placed on emergency

leave. Staff will be brought back once the state of emergency ends.

In addition, the town has deferred two construction projects scheduled for 2020, including the Acton Youth Centre and 22 Sideroad from Elizabeth Street to Highway 7.

Construction is now planned for the spring of

2021.

The construction deferrals and emergency leave have a combined savings impact of \$4 million.

WILL MY CHILD'S SUMMER CAMP STILL BE OPERATING?

No decision has been made on summer camps yet. The spring session, April 4 to June 22, has been cancelled.

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