

Town Crier, May 16, 2020

# Stratford Town Crier

## Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedules

### **VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City of Stratford Administration Offices will be closed on Monday, May 18, 2020.

### **LANDFILL SITE HOURS**

Closed Monday May 18th, 2020 for Victoria Day Holiday.

### **CURBSIDE RECYCLING, GREEN BIN and GARBAGE SCHEDULE**

There will be **no change** in the Recycling, Green Bin or Garbage Collection programs on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please ensure materials are to the curb prior to 8:00am on collection dates.

### **RETAIL CLOSINGS ON VICTORIA DAY**

Shoppers and merchants are reminded that under the *Retail Business Holidays Act*, Victoria Day – Monday, May 18, 2020, is among the holidays when most stores must be closed.

The *Retail Business Holidays Act* provides limited exceptions for retail outlets that may be open, including stores that sell handicrafts and book or magazine stores that are less than 2,400 square feet with a maximum of three employees, pharmacies under 7,500 square feet, flower shops and gas stations. Stores may also remain open in locations established as tourist areas by specific municipal by-laws. Businesses should contact their municipal offices for information.

Minimum fines for opening businesses on prohibited days of retail operation are \$500 for the first offence, \$2,000 for a second offence and \$5,000 for a third or subsequent offence. Retail outlets may be fined up to \$50,000 or the total amount of gross sales for the holiday, whichever is greater. Stratford's designated tourism season is May 1 to November 12 each year and includes the Victoria Day Holiday.

Stratford City By-law 149-92 permits certain retail establishments in Stratford that meet the tourism criteria established by the Province and that provides goods and services primarily to tourists in Stratford, may open for business on Victoria Day under the following provisions:

- The retail business establishment does not open prior to 10:00 am and does not remain open after 4:00 pm;
- The number of persons engaged in the serving of the public does not at any time, exceed four (4);
- The total area used for serving, selling or displaying goods or services to the public inside the establishment is less than 278.71 m<sup>2</sup> (3000 square feet).
- Certain larger retail business establishments listed in Schedule "A" to By-law 149-92 as amended, may also open on Victoria Day between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm

Enforcement of the *Retail Business Holidays Act* in Stratford is the responsibility of Stratford Police Services. To find out which retail operations are exempted by the Act, call the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services toll-free at 1-800-889-9768. For more information visit [www.sse.gov.on.ca](http://www.sse.gov.on.ca)

### **FIREWORK SAFETY – VICTORIA DAY AND CANADA DAY**

City of Stratford Fireworks By-law 73-2006 provides that fireworks can only be set off on Victoria Day and Canada Day **between 8:00 pm and 12:00 midnight**. In the event of weather conditions such as rain, fog, smog or wind on Victoria Day or Canada Day, fireworks may be set off the day before or the day after Victoria Day or Canada Day.

**Sale of Fireworks** - Fireworks can be sold in Stratford only for a period of 14 calendar days prior to Victoria Day and Canada Day.

#### **Fireworks may not be set off:**

- On any city street or highway.
- In any park or other public place.
- In any building or vehicle.
- In areas containing dead undergrowth or trees.

**Firecrackers** - which are different than fireworks, cannot be sold or set off anywhere in Stratford.

#### **When setting off Fireworks:**

- Use fireworks outdoors only;
- Choose a clear, open area;
- Check wind direction and speed;
- Always have an adult present;
- Have water handy;
- Read and follow label directions;

- Keep spectators away from launch area

Flying lanterns (the small paper hot air balloons propelled by an open flame) are not permitted for sale or use in Stratford.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Stratford would also like to remind residents to follow the guidance of public health officials and the provincial emergency order this Victoria Day. That includes practicing safe social distancing, and limiting public gatherings to no more than five people.

Please enjoy the holiday safely.

### **FLUSHING OF FIRE HYDRANTS**

Beginning April 20, 2020 and continuing for approximately five weeks, flushing of fire hydrants will take place within the City of Stratford. Customers could experience some discoloured water. Water quality is not affected by this colouration. Discoloured water will clear, but before doing laundry, please check to see that water has cleared. If you have any questions, please call the City Water Division at 519-271-0250, ext. 281 during business hours.

### **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS - DESTROY NOXIOUS WEEDS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all property owners in accordance with the WEED CONTROL ACT OF ONTARIO, that unless noxious weeds growing on their lands within the Municipality of Stratford are destroyed by June 1, 2020 and throughout the season, the Municipality may enter upon said lands and cause the noxious weed or weed seeds to be destroyed, charging the costs against the land in taxes as set out in the Act.

In the interest of public health, the noxious weeds requiring eradication include Giant Hogweed, Ragweed and Poison Ivy. Other noxious weeds requiring eradication include European Buckthorn, Thistles, Jointed Goatgrass, and others as designated under the above Act.

Enquiries and complaints should be directed to the Infrastructure & Development Services at 519-271-0250 ext. 345.

Weed Inspector, City of Stratford

### **RECYCLING DEPOT AT ROMEO STREET LANDFILL SITE RE-OPENED**

The City of Stratford has re-opened the recycling depot at the Romeo Street landfill site during regular weekday hours.

The depot has been closed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 through the handling of recycled items. New bins have now been installed that will eliminate the need for direct contact with the materials by staff.

Please remove all recycled materials from plastic bags before depositing them into the bins.

If you are dropping off cardboard, use the large bins marked "Cardboard Only" located next to the bins in which you dump your garbage.

And please note that the e-waste and textiles dropoff areas at the landfill are still not available at this time.

The landfill site is open Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We encourage all residents to continue to make use of our curbside collection of waste and recycling.

### **MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR CITIZENS, BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

For many people, the COVID-19 pandemic has created feelings of stress, anxiety, uncertainty and fear, and the City of Stratford would like to highlight some of the mental health supports available to our community.

The City of Stratford Social Services Department works in partnership with Family Services Perth-Huron to make a variety of counselling services available to its clients, including support for mental health and wellness. Information about those services is available at <http://familyservicesperth-huron.ca/>

For local business owners and entrepreneurs hit hard by COVID-19, help is available through investStratford, the Perth Community Futures Development Corporation and the Stratford Perth Community Foundation, and also made possible through financial donations from Orr Insurance and Hyde Construction. Those partners have funded a project with the United Way Perth Huron to connect local entrepreneurs to the team at Family Services Perth-Huron, who will provide mental health and wellness support and counselling to businesses in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County.

Referrals to the program are made through the mentorship teams at both the Stratford-Perth Centre for Business (<https://www.stratfordperthbusiness.ca>), and Perth Community Futures (<https://www.perthcfdc.ca>).

The United Way Perth-Huron and the Stratford & Perth County Community Foundation are also providing support and services to individuals, organizations and families affected by COVID-19. Information is available at <http://perthhuron.unitedway.ca> and [https://spccf.ca/](https://spccf.ca)

Choices for Change remains open but has moved to providing services via phone or video conference. New referrals are being taken and those interested can call 1-877-218-0077 to speak to someone and make an

appointment. The Addiction Medicine Clinics with Dr. Datema are open but the Huron clinic has been temporarily moved to Monday and Thursday in Stratford.

The CMHA-Huron-Perth after-hours response line continues to be available at 519-274-2848 or Toll-Free: 1-888-875-2944, 0 for reception.

The mental health services contact number for Huron Perth Health Care Alliance is 519-272-8210 Ext. 2205. Their office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-3:30 hours.

Huron-Perth Centre for Children and Youth - remains open for business via phone during regular business hours, Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. For Services contact any one of the offices:

CLINTON OFFICE  
Phone 519-482-3931  
Text 719-3134

STRATFORD OFFICE  
Phone 519-273-3373  
Text 719-2350

LISTOWEL OFFICE  
Phone 519-291-1088  
Text 719-3766

Huron Perth Helpline & Crisis Response Team – for 24/7 Service - Call the helpline 1-888-829-7484 for immediate mental health and/or addiction support.

Other Service Providers that offer Mental Health & Addiction Services:

Family Health Teams & Community Health Centres – Providing mental health services by phone. This includes mental health counselors, physicians, and nurses. Please contact your local primary care clinic for information between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

School-based Services – these services are provided by a number of community partners remain available to meet the needs of students and their families by phone as per usual. Each School maintains a listing of the services available to their students.

Family Services Perth-Huron – open for counselling and supports by phone. Call 519-273-1020 or 1-800-268-0903. Please visit their website [www.familyservicesperth-huron.ca](http://www.familyservicesperth-huron.ca) for available resources.

Optimism Place (Perth) – “Open & Operational” – for all services, please contact 519-271-5550.

And all residents can access support through the Province of Ontario's mental health supports including:

- **ConnexOntario:** Adults and frontline workers who are dealing with the realities of COVID-19 can call ConnexOntario at 1-866-531-2600 for mental health, addictions and problem gambling support.
- **BounceBack:** A free, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) program that provides guided mental health self-help supports for adults and youth 15+. Call 1-866-345-0224.
- **Kids Help Phone:** Children and youth 18 and under who need to talk to someone about their mental health can call Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868, for 24/7 virtual, phone and text support.
- **Good2Talk:** A phone and texting service that provides confidential support to post-secondary students. Call 1-866-925-5454 or text GOOD2TALKON to 686868.

## **BAG TAG DELIVERY DETAILS**

Stratford residents who would like to have garbage bag tags delivered to their home can do so by calling City Hall at 519-271-0250 Ext 237 to place an order.

Please note:

- Minimum order is 3 tags (at regular rate of \$3.50/tag)
- Payment is by credit card only
- Tags will be delivered to your home by the next business day

Bag tags are still available to purchase at some local grocery stores and other retail outlets in Stratford. For a complete list visit the City's website.

**Telephone: 519-271-0250 [www.stratford.ca](http://www.stratford.ca) TTY: 519-271-5241**