

Town Crier, May 2, 2020

# Stratford Town Crier

Public Information, Notices and Meeting Schedules

## **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.

## **HELP DO LOCAL GOOD SITE LAUNCHED**

The City of Stratford has partnered with the United Way Perth-Huron on a “caremongering” initiative to bring those who have been most affected by COVID-19 together with those who are willing to lend a hand.

A new website has been launched at <http://helpdolocalgood.ca/> to provide information on how to help, and how to receive help.

There is a link on the site to donate to an Urgent Needs Fund that has been established to support to individuals and organizations who need assistance coping with the fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak.

The site also has a link to volunteer information for those who are able to contribute their time and energy to helping others in the community. For those who need help, the site provides links to community resources, including the 211 community information line.

And an associated Facebook group called Huron-Perth Covid 19 Resource Group - Help is Close to Home has been set up to provide information and support for people helping people during these challenging times. Those who do not use Facebook but want to help can contact [reception@perthhuron.unitedway.ca](mailto:reception@perthhuron.unitedway.ca) or call 519-271-7730 to leave a phone number and briefly describe how and where you can help.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE – INITIATIVES TO ASSIST RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES**

At the April 1, 2020, Special Council meeting, Council approved the following initiatives to provide for the immediate relief and flexibility of residents and businesses in the City of Stratford:

- Waive penalty and interest related to the April 9th property tax installment due-date and stop all progressive collection activities until August 30, 2020,
- Waive penalties, interest, late payment charges and other fees related to water and sewer billing and suspend all progressive collection activities until August 30, 2020,
- Suspend any water meter disconnections until August 30, 2020,
- Suspend the transfer of overdue water accounts to the property tax account to assist landlords,
- Provide free parking until May 31, 2020 or the commencement of the Festival Theatre season,
- Waive interest on any general invoices from the City until May 31, 2020,
- Suspend the non-sufficient fund administration fee for returned payments until May 31, 2020,
- Provide credits or refunds for cancelled city-run community programs and services,
- Provide free transit until August 30, 2020.

## **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/>

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.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

**May 5** Special Council Meeting 3:30pm Electronic Participation

Given the COVID-19 Pandemic, the declared emergency and the closures of the building to the public, Rogers will be posting the video of the Regular Council meeting through their service and on their website. The City will also be posting a video to our website once available. Agendas can be accessed from the City's website. The Town Crier is also posted on the City's website.

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