



March 26, 2020

### **Statement from the Mayor and Council RE: Trailer Parks in Haldimand**

There is much concern regarding the opening of Trailer Parks in Haldimand. Let me provide some rationale behind the decision. I do truly appreciate the different views on this.

Firstly whether it be Haldimand or the rest of Canada, the Prime Minister has been clear on bringing every Canadian, back from the rest of the world. These snowbirds are no exception, some of them come back to Haldimand where from April to Oct, it is their home. They do not have any other place of residence and due to the travel restrictions they cannot stay with friends or family.

The parks as per by-law would be allowed to open on April 15th and yes it is not deemed an essential service and so conditions on opening would be the expectations that it is not for daily use and/or weekend camping for holidays or for those that use the park as a secondary home.

We decided after discussion with Dr. Shanker Nesanthurai and management team that it would be best to allow them to open to give the snowbirds a place to stay and isolate. Out of compassion for their situation I believe it is the best solution for all of us and I expect that the park owners and the snowbirds will respect the spirit of our intent and also manage themselves under the same strict rules that we are applying to ourselves.

For your information, all provincial parks such as Byng, still remain closed to the public. All private parks will not be allowed to host camping for any period of time. We believe that we have some of the best camp operators and they will not risk their reputation or integrity and only allow on their properties those in NEED and not those that want it. We will be monitoring to ensure that they are compliant.

Recently a front line employee of Haldimand County tested positive for COVID-19 as a result of travel. The individual tested in their community, not here in Haldimand and has been in isolation. I can tell you that the individual has re-tested negative and is now waiting for the second test before they can resume their duties. The H-N health unit has been in close contact and any potential contacts has been ruled out of potential contamination. There is no risk to the broader public here in Haldimand County and there is nothing to be alarmed regarding this situation.

The Dunnville arena is being set up for secondary use in the event the demands on our hospitals exceed the number of available beds. At this time we do not have a need for this nor do we expect it but as part of our emergency operations plan, we must put in place plans for the worse case. We do however continue to believe that we are managing ourselves for the best and that the arena will not be needed.



Let me reassure you that everything we do, we are doing it with careful consideration and discussion with our Chief Medical officer, the health unit, the senior staff of Haldimand County and while it may seem things are taken lightly, we measure all options that are available to us.

Again, I cannot say enough about the strength of the people you have working on your behalf here in Haldimand. They are an extension to the strength of the people of this community, people that are compassionate, that are giving, that truly care about this County.

Mayor Ken Hewitt

Haldimand County Council

Stewart Patterson

John Metcalfe

Dan Lawrence

Tony Dalimonte

Rob Shirton

Bernie Corbett