



July 3, 2020

Statement from Mayor Ken Hewitt & Council

For the numbers today go to:

<https://hnhu.org/health-topic/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I hope everyone had a wonderful Canada Day and was able to enjoy time with friends and family. As we continue to return to a new normal – while many are returning to work & some are starting summer holidays – the COVID virus still lingers around us all and we must continue to be vigilant in our behaviours.

I have received many questions regarding residents, businesses and public spaces. Let me start by saying that local government and OPP cannot manage all the choices that people make. That responsibility rests with all of us. If you see a business putting yourself and its employees in danger, I would ask that you contact the owner with some advice and/or concerns. If it persists then I would not continue to do business there. If your neighbours are behaving in such a way that you feel is dangerous, call the public health hotline. Do not engage them and stay away to be safe. In public spaces, the County is trying its best to protect the people and ensure that everyone can enjoy them.

Please understand that By-law officers cannot be everywhere and simply put, they are not the answer to manage the bad behaviour of some. That said, they are trying and I would ask if you do approach them, thank them as well. They are human and they do not deserve the constant language being thrown at them. OPP are there to assist as well but know that while your issue is important to you, there may be other ones that the OPP must prioritize and therefore cannot always respond as efficient as we would all like.

I have been asked about the County adopting a mask bylaw. We continue to look for direction from Public Health, but my first thought is that everyone should be wearing a mask inside public spaces. I believe, however it should be the business owners deciding on those rules and effectively managing them.

I do not believe logistically that it can be policed from a government perspective and a by-law would only give people a false expectation that it can.

Pools and splash pads protocols are currently being reviewed by staff with pools opening first. We will be opening splash pads thereafter but must be certain that we can protect the kids using them.



Staff have been busy pushing through licensing patios for our businesses and will continue to assist the owners who desire to extend or add patios to their establishments.

Recently we met with legal counsel regarding Skydive Cayuga and have filed a formal complaint to Transport Canada and are waiting for a response. Meanwhile, we are sending a letter to our local MP Diane Finley and TC asking for them to come to Council to explain the rules and regulations regarding the Aerodrome and what expectations we can all have regarding the operation of this business.

In Hagersville, we continue to wrestle with the issue surrounding individuals illegally using the quarries. It is a tremendous drain on our by-law resources and we have asked staff to explore several other options to take the pressure off the community and staff.

The Port Maitland Pier is also a challenge for us in providing peace for the local residents and also keeping it open for respectful people to enjoy. We have asked staff to look at the idea of a fee for use and bring back some ideas on that.

As we move forward, it is our hope to keep a positive outlook and continue to support our business community as well to protect our residents in Haldimand.

Protecting the community is paramount and if required, through the Public Health Unit or the County, we will do everything possible including closing public spaces. Ensuring that should a second wave arrive, Haldimand County is positioned well to meet it.

If you are a business that can to open under the new rules, the provincial website link is:
<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/health-and-safety-association-guidance-documents-for-workplaces-during-the-covid-19-outbreak.html>

Stay Safe,

Mayor Ken Hewitt