

Mayors Message

I wish to extend my gratitude to all essential workers, local businesses and citizens that have made considerable sacrifices and been impacted throughout this State of Emergency. The flexibility, perseverance and community strength that has been exhibited throughout the last seven (7) months is highly commendable. I know that once we collectively overcome COVID-19, we will look back on this event not only as a time of tragedy and challenge, but also as one of growth, innovation, and triumph.

With this being said, it must be reinforced that overcoming COVID-19 is our collective responsibility and not something that can be undertaken without the support of the entire community. With the rising case numbers in Ontario and ongoing direction that has been provided to municipalities from Southwestern Public Health and the Province, I was disappointed to hear about the event that took place this past weekend in Aylmer. It should be noted that while a gathering took place for a period of time on Town property, this event was not endorsed or permitted by the Town in any capacity. As other Members of Council, Staff and myself have made clear from the outset of this pandemic, the Town acts in accordance with direction and recommendations provided by Southwestern Public Health and the Province. I have a great deal of respect and appreciation for the expert and professional decision-makers that provide this valuable direction to municipalities in a truly unprecedented time.

One of the main reasons that I and many others choose to live in a small community is because we stand together and look out for each other. This cultural aspect of "small town life" is now more important than ever, with the consequences of ignoring public health and Provincial direction being life threatening to certain members of our community, disruptive for our local businesses and damaging to our overall community profile and strong reputation. Whether it is an immunocompromised individual, an elderly neighbour or a local business, it is critical at this time that we place the needs of others above our own and continue to follow all public health and Provincial direction.

The Town's Emergency Control group continues to meet on a regular basis to keep our staff and Council up to date with this evolving situation. If you have any questions about Town programs or services, please contact our staff by email or telephone. The Municipal Office is open to the public with social distancing measures in place. If you are able to, community members are encouraged to communicate with Town Hall using alternative methods such as email or telephone.

We are working closely with Southwestern Public Health and if you have any health questions or concerns please contact them by phone at 519-631-9900 (Toll Free: 1-800-922-0096) or by email info@swpublichealth.ca. Further and on-going health related information and instructions can be found on their web site at www.swpublichealth.ca.

Please reach out to your neighbours and friends by phone or send them an electronic message to see how they are doing and if they need anything.

Sincerely,



Mary French, Mayor