

PELHAM NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Volume 4 • Issue 4

COVID-19 has changed the way people do business, interact with their municipality and one another. The Town of Pelham has closed all its facilities, playgrounds, and cancelled programming. More information can be found at www.pelham.ca/covid19.

Town of Pelham declares State of Emergency A message from Mayor Marvin Junkin

Residents of Pelham,

On April 3, 2020, in coordination with the Region of Niagara and all Niagara municipalities – save for Niagara-on-the-Lake who has previously declared – I have declared a State of Emergency in Pelham.

Taking the step to declare an emergency is not made without thoughtful consideration and productive conversation with trusted advisors and health experts. This step symbolizes the very real situation we are in and the absolute necessity of adhering to guidance and orders issued by all levels of government and health units.

Each municipality in Niagara is unique, with its own challenges, demographics, and services. A declaration of a state of emergency, though equally important regardless of community, is done with its residents in mind.

The Town of Pelham has a high population of seniors, a demographic that has been strongly urged by the provincial government to stay at home and self-isolate regardless of health. I, too, encourage those who are 70 years old and older to stay home. We want to keep this group, and everyone, safe.

The Town also has many residents who work in the health care industry and travel outside of Pelham to perform critical and essential service. Keeping these front-line workers

healthy and offering support is paramount. If these people become ill, who will we depend on to keep us healthy?

Many of you understand the gravity of this pandemic and are complying with requests to self-isolate, stay home, and physically distance. Thank you.

There are some, however, who have still not fully appreciated these messages, and I call on you now to re-evaluate your decisions to gather in groups or to go out for non-essential reasons. It is not too late to change your behaviour. Your friends, family, and community depend on you.

It is more critical now than ever to obey mandatory directives:

- Stop all gatherings of more than five people (this includes private gatherings of extended family)
- Avoid all outdoor recreational amenities, including parks, playgrounds and sports fields
- Close all non-essential businesses
- Stay home as much as possible and only leave the house once a week if required



- Self-isolate for 14 days if you have symptoms or have returned to Canada from being outside the country
- Practice physical distancing and wash hands frequently

We can and will get through this, but we can't do it alone, we have to do it together.

If you need or want to learn more, visit the Town of Pelham website at www.pelham.ca/covid19 for updates, information, and more about this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Mayor Marvin Junkin

www.pelham.ca/covid19



This newsletter is designed to provide you with news, updates, information, and more regarding what happens at Town Hall and in the community. Primarily, this will be an electronic communication, though hard copies will be available in limited quantities at Town Hall, the libraries, the Community Centre, and Nick's Cleaners, usually within a few days after the online version is posted. You are encouraged to subscribe online by visiting: www.pelham.ca/newsletter and clicking the subscribe button.

Home methods of controlling gypsy moth this season

Gypsy Moth is in the egg stage between early September and late April. Egg masses can be found on tree trunks, branches, buildings and on objects around the house. As one egg mass contains about 300 eggs, by destroying them you significantly reduce the number of caterpillars that emerge in spring.

Scrape off egg masses with a dull knife and place them in soapy water for a few days before discarding them in the garbage. If they fall to the ground crush them with your shoe.

Late April to Late May

Place sticky barriers, or bands on the tree trunk. Wrap duct tape around the tree trunk and apply a thin coat of sticky material (commercially available at most garden centres) to the duct tape. Alternatively, you may use a double band of duct tape, the outer band with the sticky side out. This band will prevent smaller caterpillars from climbing the tree.

Mid-May to Early June

Spray with bacterial insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* ssp. *kurstaki* (Btk). The primary objective is to protect vulnerable trees from moderate to severe defoliation. Reducing the nuisance factor caused by the presence of gypsy moth is an additional benefit of this treatment. Consider having your trees sprayed with Btk by a licensed pesticide applicator if:

- There are a high number of egg masses that cannot be removed mechanically from the trees.
- Large numbers of egg masses are on susceptible tree species, primarily on oaks, birches, beeches and spruces.
- If damage that is caused by gypsy moth feeding is severe for at least one or two previous years, another severe defoliation event may cause the decline or death of the host tree.

Late May to August

Replace sticky bands with burlap (cloth) bands. Trap and destroy caterpillars by placing burlap (cloth) bands on trees. Wrap burlap that is approximately one metre wide around the tree trunk, tie it at the middle with a rope and fold it. Caterpillars feed at night and find shelter from the heat during the day. They will congregate under the burlap.

Destroy caterpillars from under the burlap every late afternoon before they crawl back to the canopy to feed. Caterpillars can be killed by squishing them or placing them in soapy water. Use this method until all the caterpillars finish their life stage, usually in August, and turn into cocoons and later into adult moths.



How to make water or tax payments during COVID-19

In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 to both the public and Town Staff, the Town has closed all of its facilities to the walk-in public until further notice. During these closures, Town Staff continue to be available to assist the public, Monday - Friday, 8:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. by phone at 905-892-2607 or by email.

Town of Pelham Council voted March 23, 2020, to initiate a temporary change to the interest and penalty charged on taxes and water/wastewater accounts. This decision was made as an effort to mitigate impact on residents affected during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

The Town is waiving penalty and interest charged on April 1, 2020 for tax and water/wastewater balances outstanding on March 31, 2020, at which time further assessment will be reviewed and further recommendations made as necessary. Learn more.

Tax payment information

- Payment through any financial institution
- Pre-authorized automatic withdrawal
- Cheque Payment (mail or drop box)

All payments of Town accounts must be received by the Town by 4:30pm on the due date. Any payment received after this time is processed the next business day. Late fees will apply.

Pre-authorized automatic withdrawal

Pre-authorized automatic withdrawal payment plans offer an easy, hassle-free payment option. Payments are always made on-time, avoiding any late payment charges and Town residents do not have to wait in line to make payments.

Payment through any financial institution

Payment of Town accounts can be made at financial institutions or by Internet through on-line banking. Please note that all payments must be made within 2 business days of the date due to ensure that the payment is received by the Town before late payment charges accrue.

Cheque payments

Cheques can be mailed or dropped off in the drop box at Town Hall at:

Town of Pelham, 20 Pelham Town Square, PO Box 400, Fonthill ON L0S 1E0

Email Victoria Emslie (vemsle@pelham.ca) Taxation Clerk, or contact by phone at 905-892-2607 x338.

Water payment information

- Payment through any financial institution
- Pre-authorized automatic withdrawal
- Cheque Payment (mail or drop box)

Water Accounts

Notice of water amounts owing are made available to account holders before the due date. On the due

date indicated on the water bill, the Town of Pelham will automatically withdraw the amount due from the banking institution indicated on the application form.

Penalties

All rejected payments will be charged a fee of \$30.00. This includes NSF payments and stopped payments. The Town may cancel continuation in the plan chosen as a result of this default at its discretion; however two rejected payments within a twelve month period will result in automatic plan cancellation.

How to Enrol

Fill out the Application for Pre-Authorized Payment. Follow the instructions on the application.

How to Withdraw

Provide 30 days written notice to the Town of Pelham Finance Department.

Cheque payments

Cheques can be mailed or dropped off in the drop box at Town Hall at:

Town of Pelham, 20 Pelham Town Square, PO Box 400, Fonthill ON L0S 1E00

For more information

Email Krysten MacLeod, Water Clerk, at kmacleod@pelham.ca or contact by phone at 905-892-2607 x334.

Don't flush wipes: be mindful of what you flush during COVID-19



While wipes might look a bit like toilet paper, there are major differences. Wipes are made from a very tough material, and are often infused with cleansing chemicals, disinfectants and cosmetic scents.

Wipes behave very differently in sewers than toilet paper which is

designed specifically to disintegrate in water.

When in sewer pipes the wipes do not break down and have a tendency to entangle with other wipes or waste to create blockages.

Blockages can cause the sew-

age to back-up into your home or may lead to back-ups throughout your neighborhood as a result of flushing wipes or other items down the toilet.

For more information on what cannot and should not be flushed, visit: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/sewage/not-a-trash-can.aspx>