



Township to gradually reopen some community amenities in line with the Province of Ontario's Stage 2 announcement

BADEN, ON – Thursday, June 11, 2020 - In alignment with Phase 2 of Ontario's framework for reopening the Province, and the June 8 provincial announcement permitting the opening of additional Township amenities and facilities, the Township of Wilmot will gradually reopen some facilities in the days and weeks ahead.

As the Ontario government lifts restrictions, the reopening of amenities and facilities across the Township will be gradual and phased. Staff have been working to prepare for the reopening of permitted facilities. It is important to note, given the complexity of some reopenings, the need to initiate certain maintenance activities and inspections, staffing limitations, financial constraints and the need for heightened safety protocols, it is not possible to reopen all facilities at once.

“While I certainly understand the desire to return to our daily activities, it’s very important we do this gradually and skillfully,” said Mayor Les Armstrong. “Reopening will be a step by step process to ensure that all of the sacrifices and progress we’ve made to protect the health and safety of our community over the last two months isn’t wasted by a spike in cases caused by opening too quickly.”

As amenities gradually reopen in the coming weeks, residents will experience significant changes in service levels at facilities and how they will operate. Residents should expect new safety measures which will include: hand washing, passive screening, reduced capacity at facilities to ensure physical distancing and they will be encouraged to wear a mask when attending any public facility. They can also expect time limits on how long they can use a facility in order to allow access for as many as possible. The need for appointments, traffic flow signage and physical distancing requirements will be required at Township facilities as per public health guidelines.

In the next few weeks, the following Township facilities and amenities are set to reopen.

Administration Complex

Beginning Monday, June 15, the Wilmot Administration Complex will reopen for in-person appointments and for drop-ins for select Township services that cannot be delivered online or by phone. Residents can request an in-person appointment, online, through the Township’s website or by calling (519) 634-8444. Updates as to what services are available by drop-in or appointment are listed on the website. The building will be open to the public with measures in place to ensure that public health and safety objectives are met.

Recreation Facilities

As per the province’s announcement that outdoor sports fields could be reopened for skill development but no scrimmages or games, the Township will be accepting bookings and reopening fields as of Friday, July 3. Soccer fields will not be lined this season. Physical distancing measures and groups of 10 or less will apply.

Township staff have also begun recovery planning required for the reopening of amenities including splash pads, arenas, the Wilmot Aquatic Centre, and community centres. Given the complexity of these operations, and the prioritization required, they will take more time to reopen and on a staggered schedule. Staff will prioritize facility re-openings to ensure that they are safe for public access, can be adequately staffed, and that the additional costs are considered in the context of the Township's deficit projections for 2020 due to COVID-19 pressures.

Castle Kilbride

Committed to the social responsibility of providing a safe and welcoming environment, and due to the complexities of reopening a National Historic Site, Castle Kilbride will remain closed for now as staff explore options to ensure the safety and wellbeing of visitors and staff. While visitors are unable to venture into the museum just yet, Castle Kilbride will continue to deliver select online programming to allow patrons to engage with the museum from the safety of their homes. Visit: www.castlekilbride.ca

The Township's Emergency Control Group has been working on a reopening framework to guide the gradual and phased reopening of Township facilities and the resumption of programs and services. The framework, which proposes a gradual reopening of facilities and amenities, is based on direction from the Province of Ontario and Waterloo Region Public Health.

To stay up-to-date on what's open and closed, and Township services, please visit: www.wilmot.ca/coronavirus.

- 30 -

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