



TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

May 1, 2020

Message from the Mayor



I write to you today, on behalf of all members of Council, who care deeply about the health and well-being of those who live and work in Wilmot.

Life in the Township has changed dramatically as we all struggle to deal with the uncertainty and challenges brought about by this pandemic. Many of you have lost work and face significant financial hardship; and all of us feel the

loss of social connection with friends and family.

It has been heartbreaking to learn that the Coronavirus has caused the passing of one of our residents, and our sincere condolences goes out to their family and friends. The health of our residents and essential service workers continues to be our top priority. Over the last month various Emergency Management Committees have been activated, senior staff have been putting business continuity plans in place while keeping core services running, and we are coordinating with multiple agencies that support our most vulnerable. We are working with senior levels of government on these emerging issues, and the economic impact that will be very real for many people.

We offer special thanks to those who risk their own well-being to ensure that essential services continue—those in health care and public safety, those who greet us at the check-out counter, those who look after our most vulnerable seniors, and so many others.

Wilmot Township is a very special place, known as much for its sense of community as it is for its unique rural and urban environment. We are stronger together, and it is this resilience that will get us through the crisis. In the coming weeks we will continue to find new ways to support one another. In the meantime, take good care of yourself.

Yours in health,
Mayor Les Armstrong

State of Emergency declared in Wilmot Township

On March 25, the Township of Wilmot joined with the Region of Waterloo and other local municipalities and declared States of Emergency. This declaration not only stresses the critical nature of the pandemic, but alters the focus of municipal priorities. It ensures that municipal governments can continue to act and respond quickly to the pandemic and any other events that arise in the weeks ahead. In addition, it provides the Mayor with the authority to protect Wilmot residents while increasing the ability to share resources, personnel and equipment.

Although it has been just over a month, we need to remind ourselves that our community remains in an emergency situation and that the declaration should not be taken lightly. It is imperative that we continue to work together to prevent the spread of the virus.



**KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE
CAN SAVE LIVES**

Important reminders during COVID-19

"We appreciate the public's cooperation in respecting and adhering to all restrictions." Mayor Armstrong



Although there is no current burn ban in effect for Wilmot, the Fire Department will not be issuing any new burn permits. Valid permit holders are allowed to have backyard fires. However, it is the owner's responsibility to understand and follow the current [burn by-law](#). During the pandemic, there will be zero tolerance for non-compliance and the Township will be laying charges and/or billing response to calls where guidelines were not followed. The number of calls need to be reduced to limit firefighter interaction so we can keep our firefighters safe and healthy when they must respond to critical emergencies.



In response to the Province of Ontario's order issued March 30 under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, all Township of Wilmot outdoor recreation amenities were closed to help stop the risk of community spread of COVID-19. This action was taken by all municipalities within Waterloo Region.

The order prohibits the use of amenities such as playground equipment, picnic tables, benches, gazebos, shelters, exercise equipment, multi-purpose pads, and courts, located in any park or on property owned or operated by the Township of Wilmot. The order also closed all municipally-owned or operated sports fields and the off-leash dog park. Township **trails and open spaces remain open for public use**, provided users are doing so in accordance with physical distancing measures and are in groups of 5 people or less. Additionally, other previously-closed facilities continue to remain closed to the public until further notice, including: the municipal administrative office; arenas; pools; community centres; museum; public libraries; playgrounds and skateboard park. For further information and current updates, visit Wilmot.ca.



Physical distancing means keeping a distance of 2 metres between yourself and others when you leave your home as well as limiting the number of people you come into close contact with when you are out.

- Avoiding non-essential trips.
- Maintaining a distance of 2 metres (two arms' length) between yourself and others.
- Avoiding all gatherings of people who are not in your immediate family/household.
- Connecting with family and friends by phone, video chat or social media.
- Working from home where possible.

For more info visit [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Region of Waterloo](https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/COVID19)

For COVID-related concerns:

Wilmot By Law Officers can be reached at 519- 634-8444 x.257 (Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm);

Weekends call Regional By Law 519-575-4400.

After hours during week days/ or weekends contact Waterloo Regional Police at 519-570-9777.

Notices & Updates

Property Taxes & Utility Bills

At a special meeting of Wilmot Township Council on April 2, 2020, Council approved the following financial supports to help residents and business owners during the COVID-19 outbreak:

- Waive penalty and interest charges on property taxes for the months April and May
- Waive late payment charges on utility bills and miscellaneous receivable invoices for April and May
- Suspend collection activities until May 31 and;
- Waive Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF) fees on customer accounts for the months of April and May.

The Township will continue to process pre-authorized payments for taxes and water on their regular billing schedule. Those that wish to be removed from pre-authorized payments should contact tax@wilmot.ca. Ratepayers that are able to continue to pay their property taxes and water bills are strongly encouraged to do so. This assistance is intended for Wilmot residents who are not able to pay at this time, due to COVID-19 impacts. These rate supports will continue to be reviewed as timelines for COVID-19 become more clear. For questions please call or email tax@wilmot.ca

Public Works

In an effort to keep the Township clean and tidy, please refrain from dumping garbage on the roadside. And, to keep our wastewater system working properly, do not flush non-flushable products.

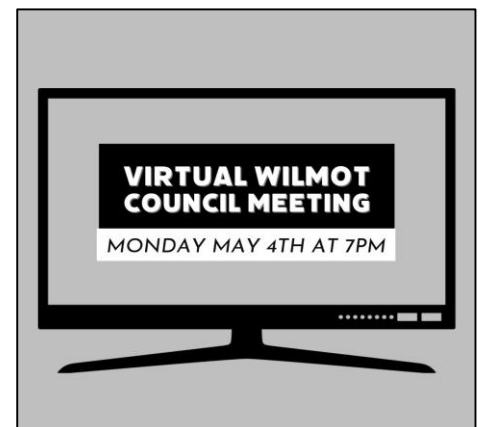
Support for Business and Agriculture (BESTWR)

Waterloo Region's civic leaders, along with Waterloo Economic Development Corporation and other local and area partners, [have created the Business and Economic Support Team of Waterloo Region \(BESTWR\)](#) to help businesses of all types and sizes address COVID-19-related challenges. The Township of Wilmot is an active participant and strong supporter of this new initiative. BESTWR updates, and links for business support, can be found at Wilmot.ca/ecdev.

Need help bringing your Agri-Business online? Grants up to \$5,000 are available from [OMAFRA](#) to expand your marketing channels, increase online sales and provide consumers with greater access to more local food!



Private well water testing is the responsibility of the home owner to ensure the water coming out of their private water well is safe to consume and meets or exceeds provincial standards. Due to COVID-19, the Region has resumed a temporary plan to offer free testing. Instructions (including testing specifics and kit pick-up and drop-off of samples) can be found at regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/drinking-water.aspx or 519-575-4400.



Join Wilmot Township Council on **Monday May 4** at 7:00 P.M. for another virtual Council Meeting. Subscribe to the Township of Wilmot YouTube Channel or tune in at the time of the meeting. For further information, visit wilmot.ca

**Join Us
LIVE!**

We're in this together Wilmot!



Residents are strongly encouraged to continue taking precautions to protect themselves and others. Stay home, stay safe, and only venture out to buy essential supplies. As we navigate through the uncertainty of COVID-19, it is important that we also look after our mental health. We are encouraged to stay connected with friends, family and community – but from a distance. Let's ensure we stay healthy inside and out!

Below are links of resources for residents of all ages to explore right in our own community! If you would like to add to our growing list, [email us](#) and we would be happy to include it!

Visit www.wilmot.ca to link to [#RecFromHome](#) to stay active with fun activities posted daily. This keeps your mind and body moving!

Follow Castle Kilbride on [Facebook](#) or visit [Castle Kilbride Museum \(#MuseumFromHome\)](#) for daily posts that highlight all things heritage and culture in Wilmot Township.

Join the fun of a digital scavenger hunt with the [Wilmot Treasure Hunt](#) created by the Teskey family of New Hamburg.

Follow [Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp](#) on Facebook for craft tutorials, stories, cooking... and even a campfire singalong!

Teachers, parents and kids, visit [Wilmot's Prime Ministers Path](#) for online educational resources and activities.

For high school students (current, future or alumni), follow Waterloo Oxford on Instagram [@wocarpediem](#) for guaranteed smiles.

[Centre Stage Dance Studio](#) and [Innovative Dance](#) have online dance challenges and techniques to explore.

[Girl Guides](#) and [Scouts](#) Canada have great resources too for kids that focus on each age group.

For our mental health, the following organizations provide support to residents of Wilmot, and offer assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic:

[Interfaith Community Counselling](#)

[Community Care Concepts](#)

[Wilmot Family Resource Centre](#)

Other Local Sources of Information

- [Township of Wilmot](#)
- [Region of Waterloo Public Health COVID-19:](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Health \(Sector Specific Guidance documents related to COVID-19\)](#)

When seeking online information, we encourage you to ensure the sources of information are credible. If you are ever in doubt, please contact our Township office at 519-634-8444 for support.

The businesses and organizations of Wilmot have adapted so they can continue to serve our community during this difficult time. Their goal is to help local residents, businesses and organizations continue to support each other. Visit [Wilmot Stronger Together](#) or follow them on [Facebook](#) for a growing directory. [#WilmotStrongerTogether](#) also now has merchandise available with proceeds donated to Wilmot Family Resource Centre and Interfaith Community Counselling. Many thanks to the volunteers who created this valuable resource!





Wilmot Council shared a special message during National Volunteer Week to thank all volunteers who donate their time, skill, creativity and enthusiasm to help our Township. This message of support continues on, especially now.

To continue the spirit of volunteerism, the Region is currently working with area municipalities and the Volunteer Action Centre to develop a pandemic volunteer program. Until the program launches, people interested in volunteering can [sign up for the Volunteer Action Centre e-newsletter](#) to receive updates.



*Accessible formats are available upon request, please email clerks@wilmot.ca or call 519-634-8444 for assistance

