



TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT

June 1, 2020

Message from the Mayor



Hello everyone,
It seems like a lifetime ago since the pandemic started, but June marks a brand new month as weather improves and days grow longer.

It is encouraging news that the Province of Ontario has given the green light to proceed cautiously with Phase 1 of reopening and recent news about Phase 2. We are now able to enjoy select park amenities and local businesses are slowly able to reopen. Thank you for doing your part to support the health of our Township and making this possible. It is with collective efforts, best practices and personal responsibility, that we can make a difference. There is little question now that physical distancing, proper hand washing and avoiding touching your face have all been measures that work.

I'm hearing incredible things that are being planned for the upcoming virtual Canada Day in Wilmot celebration! It will be a two-hour FREE event using 'augmented reality.' Councillor Hallman, along with the Canada Day in Wilmot Committee, are working incredibly hard to make this unique event possible. Thank you to the entire committee for their efforts. It is greatly appreciated! Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, we will still have great fun on this special day.

Staff continue to work long hours to enable the Township to safely and efficiently operate during this time. Along with other local and regional collaborative committees, the Emergency Control Group continues to meet twice weekly to make required adjustments to the delivery of essential services.

I urge everyone to remain diligent and tolerant. We have many positives to reflect on and will get through this together.

Yours in health,

Mayor Les Armstrong

The Ontario Government's phase one plan for recovery of the province.

In May, the Township of Wilmot, along with other municipalities in the Region of Waterloo, relaxed some of the restrictive measures in parks, on trails and in open spaces as part of a careful approach to expand access to the outdoors amid the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.

Township parks, trails and greenspaces are now open for some recreational purposes. Please remember that some amenities remain closed in alignment with the Provincial Order. (See further details under *Updates about COVID-19*).

As the [Ontario Government](#) continues to announce more places and businesses that may reopen, please continue to take steps to reduce exposure to the virus and protect your health.

Learn about preventative tips to protect you from [COVID-19](#) such as wearing a [face mask or covering](#) when physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

Updates About COVID-19

Some restrictions lifted on outdoor spaces.



While restrictions are still in effect limiting groups to no more than five people and requiring a two-metre physical separation (unless members are from your own household), residents can now use parks and open spaces with limitations. It is critical that residents continue to follow best practices to limit the spread of COVID-19. In alignment with the Provincial Order, please note the following amenities in Wilmot that remain closed: play structures, washrooms and splash pads.

Do:

- Play catch, throw a Frisbee, kick a ball, fly a kite or similar activities
- Use sports fields, basketball and tennis courts
- Use BMX/skate parks
- Individual activities such as yoga
- Visit our parks or trails, but limit visit to under 1 hour
- Leave the location if it's too crowded
- Keep your dogs on a leash at all times

Don't:

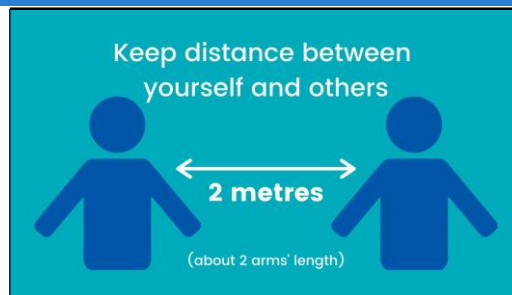
- Do not use play structures, including splash pad
- Do not play group activities such as team sports
- Do not visit or gather as a group of more than 5 people

Bylaw Enforcement will continue to enforce rules regarding groups of people larger than five, dogs that are off-leash, and anyone using park amenities that are still closed. Should you have any questions contact:

Weekdays (8:30am-4:30pm) call Wilmot ByLaw at 519-634-8444 x 257.

Weekends call Regional ByLaw at 519-575-4400.

After hours weekdays/weekends contact Waterloo Regional Police at 519-570-9777.



Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to warn of the broad circulation of COVID-19 in our communities. Residents should assume COVID-19 transmission can occur anywhere. Residents are still required to practice 2m physical distancing; wash hands often with warm water and soap or use an alcohol-based sanitizer; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth; avoid contact with people who are sick; stay home if you are sick; or wear a mask if you are unable to maintain physical distancing. For more info visit [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Region of Waterloo](#)

COVID-19 Updated Safety Warning

Protect yourself and others

Courts and park amenities (benches, fields) **except playgrounds** are now **open**. Please follow physical distancing!



Other tips on how to stay safe:

- Park benches and amenities are NOT sanitized.
- Gatherings of 5 or less are permitted.
- Sports like baseball or soccer are only allowed with residents from the same household.
- Share the space - plan short visits (less than 1 hour)
- Leave if the park or trail becomes crowded.

For more information

www.wilmot.ca 519-634-8444



Township Notices & Updates

Property Taxes & Utility Bills

At a special meeting of Wilmot Township Council on May 12, 2020, Council approved the following financial supports to help residents and business owners during the COVID-19 outbreak:

- Waive penalty and interest on property taxes for the month of June 2020;
- Waive late payment charges on utility bills and invoices for the month of June 2020;
- Waive non-sufficient fund (NSF) charges for the month of June 2020

In addition, Council approved additional relief and support for residents and business including:

- An application-based property tax deferral program. This new program, will allow residents and businesses to apply to extend 2020 final property tax bill due dates by 60 days;
- The suspension of utility disconnection and collection activities up to and including August 31, 2020.

The Township will continue to process pre-authorized payments for taxes and water on the 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 and businesses who are not able to pay at this time, due to COVID-19 impacts. For more information on this program or to apply, please visit wilmot.ca/taxes. These rate supports will continue to be reviewed as timelines for COVID-19 become more clear. For questions please call 519-634-8444 x 223 or email tax@wilmot.ca.

Upcoming Road, Water and Sanitary Work

Construction projects and maintenance activity is generally business as usual with a small number of Public Works and Engineering services suspended at this time. To see the status of projects and operations activity, including Wilmot Street/Church Street reconstruction, asphalt work, surface treatment and concrete sidewalk maintenance works [click here](#).



Attention Wilmot business owners and operators!

You are responsible for the water quality in your building. The longer the building has low water usage, the higher the risk for water quality issues and health risks. When re-opening your business, please review this important [fact sheet](#) or contact [Wilmot Utilities](#) for further resources or assistance.

Due to COVID-19, the Region has resumed a temporary plan to offer free well water 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. Please note, the Wilmot Township bottle drop-off service has been discontinued until further notice. Testing of private well water is the responsibility of the home owner to ensure that water quality is safe to consume and meets or exceeds provincial standards.



Township Notices & Updates



The Wilmot Township Fire Department would like to remind residents of important fire safety considerations as we prepare to not only celebrate Canada Day, but enjoy the summer season.

Backyard Fires are permitted only for those that hold a valid contained site permit. 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 for fire department responses to calls where guidelines are not being followed. It is crucial to reduce the number of calls and limit firefighter interaction so we can keep them safe and healthy for when they must respond to critical emergencies.

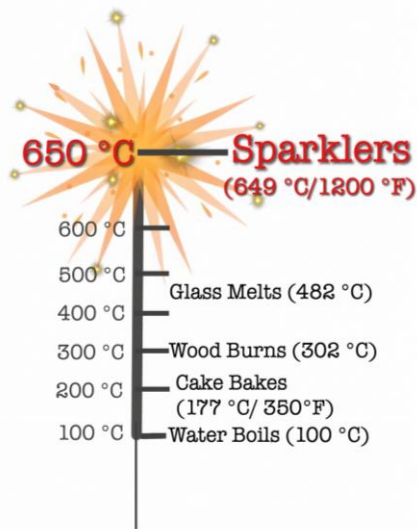
Fireworks Safety: If you choose to have a family fireworks display, please review the Wilmot Township By-Law regulating the use of fireworks. Do not set off fireworks in public areas such as parks, sports fields, laneways or on school board properties as you could face fines for this prohibited activity. These times are stressful for some, so take extra care, be respectful of your neighbours and their property, and keep celebrations a positive experience for everyone.

For further information about fireworks safety, visit Wilmot Fire News & Updates.

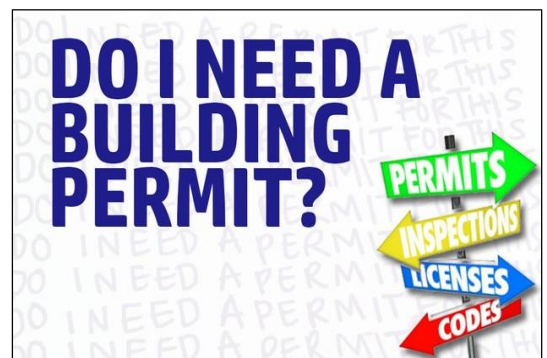
How well do you and your children understand Fire Safety? Try these online games with Sparky to find out! Looking for more activities? Visit www.sparky.org for great educational resources.



HOW HOT DOES A SPARKLER BURN?



Essential Building and Planning services have continued throughout the pandemic. With the recent expansion of essential services, all permits may now be issued and all inspections completed - including occupied spaces. The only difference is that the processing of building permits and planning approvals is now completed electronically through the Building and Planning applications portals. Have any questions? When in doubt, email building@wilmot.ca or planning@wilmot.ca to get the answers you need.



Prior to starting a new construction project (inside or outside), remember that you must first determine whether you require a building permit or not. Visit Do I Need a Permit to see an extensive list of projects that require permits. A list of projects that do not require a permit are also listed for additional reference. Should you have questions, always feel free to contact building@wilmot.ca for assistance or call 519-634-8444.

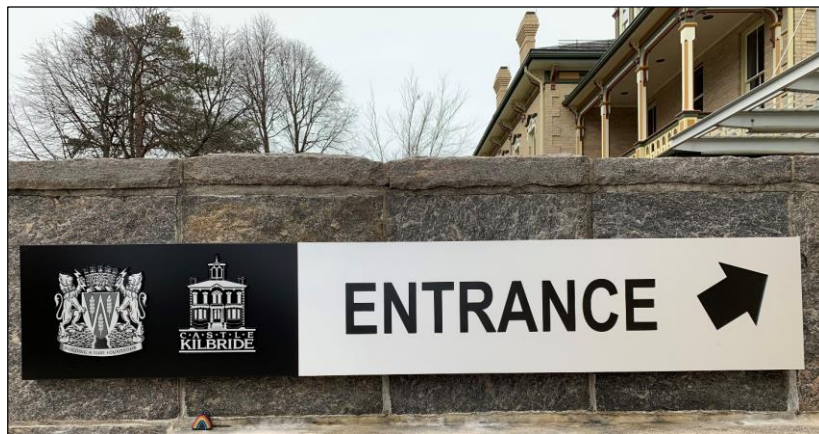
Stay Connected!



Join Wilmot Township Council virtually on **June 8 and June 22 at 7:00 P.M.** for a Council Meeting. Meetings are open to the public and available through an online platform. Please subscribe to the [Township of Wilmot You Tube Channel](#) to watch the live stream or view after the meeting.

Delegations must register with the [Information and Legislative Services Department](#). For more information, visit [Appear as a Delegation at Council](#).

Please note, that during the Emergency Declaration, we will not be scheduling any delegations for matters that are not already on the Agenda. Items on the Agenda during the Emergency will be COVID-19 related or items that are time sensitive due to legislative requirements. For further information, visit [wilmot.ca](#).



Once the province proceeds with Phase 2 of the recovery plan, the municipal office will tentatively re-open to the public mid-June. For up to date information including new municipal government business practices that affect our changing environment, visit [www.wilmot.ca](#) or call 519-634-8444.

If you would like to be added to our list, [email us](#) and we would be happy to include your link on [www.wilmot.ca](#)!

Stay up to date with Canada Day plans and follow [@CanadaDayInWilmot](#) or visit [www.canadadayinwilmot.com](#)

Watch the [Northern Lights show](#) on Parliament!

Try out a [Treasure Hunt in the Centre Block!](#)

How well do you know The Senate? Take this [pop quiz challenge](#).

Try [The Great Brain Workout!](#)

Connect with nature at home with the [GRCA](#) activities.

For online yoga, follow Wilmot fitness enthusiast Beth Martin at [BeEnergized](#)

Take a [virtual roller coaster ride](#) at Canada's Wonderland!

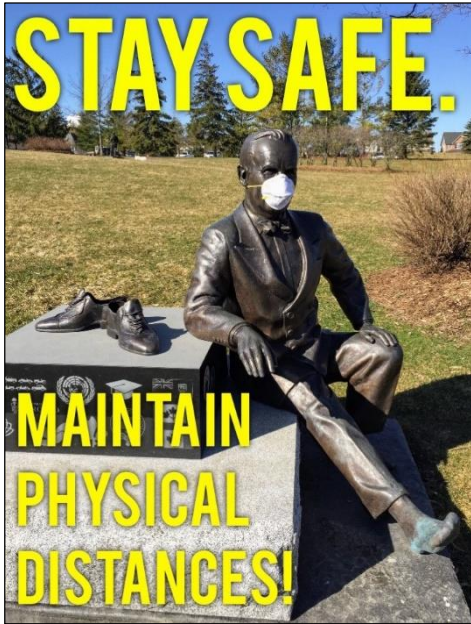
Curious about Wilmot's heritage? Visit [Heritage Wilmot](#) or the [Wilmot Heritage Fire Brigades](#)

See daily posts for [#MuseumFromHome](#) and [#RecFromHome](#)

Interested in volunteering? [sign up for the Volunteer Action Centre e-newsletter](#)

Visit [Wilmot Stronger Together](#) or follow on [Facebook](#) for updated information.

Staying Strong!



Oh Canada!



Planning for the first-ever virtual [Canada Day in Wilmot](#) event is currently underway and residents will have a celebration like no other! Wilmot, put on your red and white and get ready for a two-hour FREE virtual “augmented reality” event. This type of technology provides the viewer with an altered version of reality that you won’t want to miss. This Canada Day show promises to be jam packed full of excitement and includes celebrity appearances.

Here is a peek at what is planned so far: world renowned mentalist [Ryan Edwards](#) will not only be the MC but will be showing some tricks he has up his sleeves too! Wilmot’s own mother-daughter duo [Charlene](#) and [Ella Nafziger](#), will sing O Canada. Appearances by musician [Papa Thom](#), Billboards Top 30 [Avery Raquel](#), children’s entertainer [Erick Traplin](#), Alternative-Pop singer and song writer [Mikalyn Hay](#) and the list doesn’t end there! Follow [@CanadaDayInWilmot](#) or visit [Canada Day in Wilmot](#) as they announce more details.



Coordinating a virtual event such as this takes great effort, creativity and dedication. THANK YOU Canada Day in Wilmot Committee for making this event possible!



Happy
Canada Day

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

