



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2020

Town of Smiths Falls Taking Additional Steps to Prevent Spread Of COVID-19

Smiths Falls – As of today, there continues to be no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Smiths Falls and Lanark County, however, we are taking additional proactive measures to curb possible transmission of the virus.

The Town has already taken several steps, including closing all municipally owned facilities to the public such as the library, daycare centres, the Memorial Community Centre and Town Hall. These buildings remain closed until further notice. Staff continue to be available to assist residents and businesses, and can be reached by phone or email.

In addition, our fire department and building services staff will temporarily suspend building inspections in occupied spaces. Inspections of unoccupied spaces (such as new construction) and outdoor facilities will continue as usual. Inspections for burning permits will be determined on a case by case basis.

Construction projects including Town Hall and Beckwith Street will continue as planned, with contractors taking extra safety precautions to protect their staff. Contractors who are entering town facilities will now be required to respond to a short screening questionnaire regarding their travel and health history.

The Council meeting scheduled for Monday March 23 will proceed as planned to ensure time sensitive matters move forward. Your TV will be on site live streaming the meeting, and residents and media are encouraged to view the livestream on Cogeco. Committee of the Whole meetings will also proceed, but all other committee meetings have been suspended until further notice.

We are committed to the continued delivery of key town services and major projects. As such, waste and recycling collection will continue as usual.

For new development projects, plans and applications can be dropped off at Town Hall, or arrangements can be made with staff. No inspections will be made of occupied premises.

Any payments to the Town of Smiths Falls can be made using the drop box in front of Town Hall. Water bills, property taxes, and parking tickets can be paid online. Local Banks can only receive water bill and property tax payments.

To register to pay utility bills, tax bills, parking tickets and Town of Smiths Falls invoices online, or to register for ebill, please access the Town of Smiths Falls website at www.smithsfalls.ca. Payments can be made via credit card or PayPal. You may also pay online through your banking institution by adding the Town as a payee.

Town staff remain available and will continue to interact with the public by phone and/or email. [A staff directory is available on our website](#). If you need assistance in finding the right employee for your question, please call customer service at 613-283-4124.

We all have a responsibility to do our part. The community is reminded to practise social distancing and proper handwashing to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 and to keep our citizens safe.

For additional information on COVID-19, please contact the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit at 1-800-660-5853 or visit their website at www.healthunit.org/coronavirus.

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For further information, please contact:

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