



July 8, 2020

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Community cooling centre opening at Smiths Falls Legion, 7 Main St. East

Smiths Falls – In anticipation of current and upcoming heat alerts, the Town of Smiths Falls is announcing the opening of a cooling centre at the Royal Canadian Legion Smiths Falls to provide protection for residents from the current heat wave.

The cooling centre at 7 Main St. East will be open Thursday, July 9 and Friday, July 10 between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Legion will offer a cool location for residents to cool off from the heat. Water and public washrooms will be available.

COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed at this location. Staff will be on hand to ensure users of the cooling centre are screened prior to entering the centre. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be referred to an assessment centre for evaluation. Residents will be required to sign in prior to entering the centre.

Physical distancing restrictions will also be in place for visitors to the centre. Visitors from different households will be required to maintain a two-metre separation from others. Residents will also be required to sanitize their hands before entering the centre and upon leaving.

As of July 7, 2020, the use of face coverings in enclosed spaces has been deemed mandatory by the Leeds Grenville Lanark Health Unit. Visitors to the centre will be required to wear a face covering; some masks will be available at the door.

Residents are asked to be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat stroke and take measures to keep cool while drinking plenty of water and avoiding caffeine. In Smiths Falls, residents and families can cool off at the beach at Murphy Park or the splash pad at Lower Reach Park. Shaded areas at Centennial Park and alongside the Rideau

Box 695, 77 Beckwith St. N., Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 4T6

Phone: 613-283-4124 Fax: 613-283-4764 Website at www.smithsfalls.ca.

Canal will offer some respite from the heat.

For more information about avoiding heat stroke and ideas for keeping cool, please visit the Leds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit website: www.healthunit.org/heat-warning.

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For further information, please contact:

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