Niagara-on-the-Lake Moves Forward to Address Key Areas of Concern

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2020

Following the declaration of a state of emergency, the Town’s Emergency Control Group continues to actively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next step is to reallocate resources to address several key areas that are significantly impacted by this rapidly changing situation.

- **Financial Relief**
  - As of Tuesday, March 25, 2020, the following will be waived until June 30, 2020:
    - Penalty or interest charges related to current 2020-year taxes, water charges and accounts receivable;
    - Non-sufficient funds (NSF) fee charged by the Town for any returned items;
    - Penalty or interest charges related to parking tickets from March 15 to June 30;
    - Expired permit parking passes; and,
    - No penalty for opting out or taking a pause from the pre-authorized payment program.
  - Fees for the use of metered parking spaces are suspended until further notice.

- **Migrant Worker Support**
  - Town Council and Staff are providing assistance throughout the community to safely integrate incoming migrant workers and inform existing migrant workers of the importance of social distancing. Additional initiatives include:
    - Assisting in providing important messaging and support to both workers and their host organizations
    - Working with public health agencies to provide support and assistance to incoming migrant workers that aligns with Provincial and Federal recommendations

- **Economic Action**
  - Town Council and Staff are working to identify immediate and long-term actions to support local businesses, workers, and residents. Initiatives include:
    - Coordinating recommendations and measures to support business and resident relief efforts
    - Identifying and assessing required support, stimulus and recovery measures
- Collaborating with the Regional Economic Rapid Response Team (ERRT) across Niagara to provide assistance to those businesses impacted by COVID-19

- **Community Outreach**
  - Town Council and Staff are engaging community volunteers and aiding in coordinating assistance to help support “essential workplaces”
  - Staff is ensuring that all messaging is communicated clearly, consistently and in alignment with the efforts of the Provincial and Federal public health agencies

Updates will be provided as progress is made on these key areas. For more information regarding the Town’s response to COVID-19, please visit [www.notl.com/COVID-19](http://www.notl.com/COVID-19).

**For more information, please contact:**

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