Niagara-on-the-Lake Enforces Contraventions of Emergency Orders Relating to COVID-19

For Immediate Release April 1, 2020

-Niagara-on-the-Lake- On Friday, March 27th, Town Staff received a letter from the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, and Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing informing that police resources have been stretched by COVID-19 and that police services have requested that other enforcement personnel provide assistance enforcing the Provincial Emergency Orders.

In an effort to assist with enforcing Emergency Orders, a ministerial designation under the Provincial Offences Act was made to authorize the Town’s By-law Enforcement Officers to enforce Emergency Management and Civil Protections Act Orders. This action positions the Town to ensure that the Orders set out by the Provincial government are adhered to.

Effective immediately, community members looking to report a business or individual(s) operating in contravention of Emergency Orders, are asked to contact Niagara-on-the-Lake By-law Enforcement by email (covidcomplaints@notl.com), phone (905-468-3266), or online complaint form.

DO NOT call 911 to report these concerns. After hours complaints or urgent issues can be reported by calling the Niagara Regional Police Services non-emergency line at 905-688-4111.

To date, the Province has issued fifteen (15) Emergency Orders, all of which may be viewed online at, https://www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-information#emergencyorders.

Three (3) noteworthy Emergency Orders, enforceable by Niagara-on-the-Lake’s Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers, include:

- Closure of Public Places & Establishments
- Prohibiting Events & Gatherings of More than Five (5) People
- Prohibiting Unfair Pricing on Necessary Goods

Offences and set fines available to enforcement personnel include:

- Fail to comply with an emergency order $750.00
- Obstruct any person exercising a power in accordance with an Order made during a declared emergency $1,000.00
- Obstruct any person performing a duty in accordance with an Order made during a declared emergency $1,000.00

To review all Town updates related to COVID-19, read answers to frequently asked questions, and see up-to-date information on the status of Town services, please visit www.notl.com/COVID-19, or call 905-468-3266. Phones are being answered between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday to Friday, and online service requests remain available at www.notl.org/content/service-request. Town Staff will continue to assist and serve citizens online and over the phone.

Visit www.canada.ca/coronavirus for the most up to date information from the Federal Government.

For more information, please contact:

Sheldon Randall, Interim CAO
905-468-3266