

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 17, 2020

TITLE: TOWN OF PETROLIA FACILITIES CLOSURES/CANCELLATIONS
NOTICE EFFECTIVE 4:30 p.m., TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020



Petrolia – We are closely monitoring developments around coronavirus (COVID-19), and we continue to look to the Public Health Agency of Canada, Public Health Ontario, and our various municipal health experts for recommendations, guidance, and direction. Given recent discussions with Lambton Public Health, and the County of Lambton the decision has been made to close the Town of Petrolia Municipal Office to the public effective 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Regular hours will continue from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Staff will be available to respond to resident needs and requests by telephone to (519) 882-2350 or by e-mail to the specific staff member you require or to our general inbox at petrolia@petrolia.ca. Please also follow the Town of Petrolia on Facebook, Twitter and check our website (www.town.petrolia.on.ca) for regular updates. We have a mail slot available for anyone that wishes to drop any correspondence or payments off at the Municipal Office to be processed by staff. At this time, the Municipal Office closure to the public will proceed until further notice.

All essential services will be maintained including water, wastewater, curbside waste collection and recycling collection and cemetery services. The staff of the Town of Petrolia are dedicated to maintaining the level of service that is expected from residents.

“We understand that this may be challenging for some residents, but for the health and safety of our community we are encouraging social distancing and limiting all non-essential contact. The wellness of our community is of paramount importance. Please stay home if you are able and take care of yourself and your families” Said Mayor R. Brad Loosley.

The Petrolia Town Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Victoria Hall has been cancelled. All Committee Meetings have been cancelled until further notice. At this time, the Tuesday, April 14, 2020 Petrolia Town Council Meeting will proceed as scheduled at 7:00 p.m.

The “Green Leader Program” deadline will be extended to April 22, 2020 with the announcement of successful applications to be celebrated at a date to be confirmed. Those interested in the program are asked to visit <http://town.petrolia.on.ca/resident-notice-advisory/> for details.

The Victoria Playhouse Petrolia Box Office will be closed to foot traffic until further notice and ticket holders are asked to wait for a call from the staff regarding the postponed

performances of the PETROLIA COMMUNITY THEATRE production of "Sandy Toes and Salty Kisses". The new dates for this event are April 14-18, 2021. Staff ensure that all ticket holders will be contacted during the closure period and exchanges/refunds will be provided. Ticket sales for future performances will still be available online at www.thevpp.ca and by telephone to (519) 882-1221 or 1-800-717-7694. Any outstanding rentals of Victoria Hall scheduled until April 25, 2020 have been cancelled or postponed.

From the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia: Our patrons are the heart of our theatre and during this difficult time we are going to take care of them. Given the uncertainties of what the next couple of months will look like, we have rearranged our season to be able to present a thrilling summer of live entertainment. In doing so, we have decided to postpone the opening of our 2020 season until June 2, 2020 with **ON GOLDEN POND** (June 2-21). **DYNAMIC DUOS** will now be considered for our 2021 season, and the much anticipated **THE ROARING TWENTIES** will now run in its place, July 7-26. The remaining three shows will continue, as scheduled.

Understanding there are many different situations for our box office staff to face as we take care of our patrons, we ask that *they wait for us to call them*. Our calls will be completed by the end of March. Please be patient as we work through our telephone calls. We want to speak to each patron individually, to best assist in any ticket exchange, performance change, or other necessary matters pertaining to existing order(s). We are here to make this as seamless as possible. All updated calendars will be found on our website www.thevpp.ca.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner scheduled for March 31, 2020 at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 216 Petrolia has been postponed, and a new date will be provided once it has been confirmed.

The Petrolia YMCA will remain closed through April 5, 2020. All bookings, classes and programs have been cancelled.

For those with scheduled swimming lessons or current memberships, the Petrolia YMCA will provide further information following this temporary suspension of activities regarding fees paid to the organization. Please understand that all members will be taken care of and that we will follow up with more information once we are able.

The Greenwood Recreation Centre is ending the ice season effective immediately and will not have any further ice available until the fall of 2020.

Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer, Rick Charlebois said, "...Residents are asked to consider their elderly and vulnerable neighbours, please check in on them and offer them assistance with tasks such as grocery shopping and provide social interaction. This is the time that we need to take care of one another."

Mayor R. Brad Loosley said, "We thank you for your assistance and understanding as we navigate this constantly changing challenge. We will continuously assess our procedures and policies as more information becomes available and provide updates. Please take extra care to work together, share kindness and remain calm. Please think more about spending money in Petrolia to support our friends and neighbours. The continued health and safety of our residents and staff is of utmost importance, so we thank you for your efforts to stay home during this time. We wish you all continued good health and thank you for showing compassion and caring for one another. We would also like to thank our front-line medical staff for their efforts and for their guidance."

Residents that have symptoms or concerns related to COVID-19 are asked to refrain from calling 911, but to instead visit the Ontario Government's Self-Assessment Tool at www.ontario.ca/coronavirus, or contact Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Lambton Public Health is available for all residents who have returned to Canada from abroad AND are experiencing symptoms (fever, coughing or difficulty breathing) by visiting <https://lambtonpublichealth.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus/> NOTE: All travellers returning to Canada from abroad are asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days, whether they have symptoms or not. If you develop respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing within 14 days of your return, contact Telehealth Ontario at [1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000) or the Health Unit at [519-383-8331](tel:519-383-8331) for further assessment and guidance. All travellers with symptoms should notify their healthcare provider prior to visiting any healthcare facility.

SUMMARY OF CANCELLATIONS AND CLOSURES:

- Petrolia Municipal Offices will be closed to the public effective 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 17, 2020 with a re-opening date to be determined. Staff will still be available by telephone (519)882-2350 and by e-mail direct to staff members or to the general inbox petrolia@petrolia.ca
- Petrolia Council Meeting scheduled for Monday; March 23, 2020 is cancelled.
- Petrolia Volunteer Appreciation Dinner scheduled for March 31, 2020 has been postponed
- Victoria Hall/Playhouse Box Office will be closed to the public from 5:00 p.m., March 17, 2020 with a re-opening date to be determined. Staff will be contacting ticket holders effected by any cancellations. Tickets for future performances are available by purchasing online at www.thevpp.ca or by calling (519) 882-1221 or 1-800-717-7694.
- The Petrolia Community Theatre production of "Sandy Toes and Salty Kisses" has been postponed until APRIL 14-18, 2021. Box Office staff will call all ticket holders for exchanges/refunds.
- Petrolia Advisory Committee Meetings are cancelled until further notice.
- The "Green Leader Program" deadline will be extended to April 22, 2020 with the announcement of successful applications to be celebrated at a date to be confirmed. Those interested in the program are asked to visit <http://town.petrolia.on.ca/resident-notice-advisory/> for details.
- Existing rentals of Victoria Hall lobby are cancelled until April 25, 2020.

- The Victoria Playhouse will postpone the opening of our 2020 season until June 2, 2020 with **ON GOLDEN POND** (June 2-21). **DYNAMIC DUOS** will now be considered for our 2021 season, and the much anticipated **THE ROARING TWENTIES** will now run in its place, July 7-26. The remaining three shows will continue, as scheduled.
- The Greenwood Recreation Centre is ending the ice season effective immediately and will not have any further ice available until the fall of 2020.
- The Petrolia YMCA will remain closed through April 5, 2020 at this time.

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For more information:

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