

Mayor's Message

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte

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Hi North Kawartha,

Mayor Carolyn Amyotte here with another video update. It's been awhile, however I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to what will be a very different kind of summer in North Kawartha. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us in so many ways and it is an on-going learning process as we navigate the road to recovery and the new normal. I hope that everyone received the mail out newsletter from council in late April. We wanted to ensure that all residents were aware of how the Township is managing through this crisis, and how to access the correct information, rules and guidelines.

That being said I have had several conversations with seasonal residents expressing great fear, anxiety and concern about their return to North Kawartha. They wanted to know if they were still 'banned' and when they would be allowed to come back to their cottages and summer homes. As your Mayor, I find these conversations to be troubling and upsetting for me. I am offended by the thought of any North Kawarthan being made to feel unwelcome in their own community! I believe I am one of the few 'cottage country' Mayors that never said "Cottagers please stay away".

Let's face it. We all know what the rules and guidelines are regarding COVID-19 and that they apply to **EVERYONE**, not just certain segments of our community. There is no law or rule that prevents any resident from attending to their property. What I ask of all residents is that they exercise caution, patience and common sense. Many of our businesses and organizations have adapted their way of doing business in order to serve everyone safely and efficiently. However not every business will be in the same place of readiness nor will they all implement the same procedures and protocols. In my other life operating 2 small

seasonal businesses- I had to let my customers know that 'just because the Province says we are ok to open up, does not mean that we are ready or in a position to do so.'

I encourage everyone to reach out to our local businesses, contractors, service groups and organizations to find out how they have adapted to serve you. A great resource to use is the North Kawartha Community Directory published annually by our local library. Currently you can find links to it on either the Township or Library website. I understand the printed version will be out soon. Take moment to contact our local businesses and ask what their protocols and procedures are. Find out how you can patronize them in a manner that is safe and appropriate. We want your business and we need your support.

It's important for all of us to be reasonable in our expectations of both ourselves and each other. We need to be respectful and understanding as we are all feeling the pressure and stress of how this global pandemic has changed our lives. By working together we will not only survive, but thrive. I have said it before but it bears repeating. The greatest asset of our community is its people- young, old, local, cottager, retired, working, businesses, volunteers. North Kawartha would not exist without the cooperation and support of ALL residents. The collaborations and adaptations that I have seen and continue to see within our community make me so proud to be your Mayor. Please know this: The message that you see on the Township signs on our roadways is meant for all North Kawarthans: WELCOME HOME. I am incredibly grateful for every single member of our community. Thank you.

