



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

## **Township to gradually reopen some community amenities in line with Province's Stage 2 announcement**

WOOLWICH, June 11 – In alignment with Phase 2 of Ontario's Framework for re-opening the Province and the June 8 provincial announcement permitting the opening of additional Township amenities and facilities, the Township of Woolwich and other local municipalities will gradually re-open some facilities in the days and weeks ahead.

As the Province lifts restrictions, the reopening of amenities and facilities across the Township will be gradual and phased. Township staff have begun the work to prepare for the phased reopening of permitted facilities. It is important to note, however, that given the complexity of some re-openings, the need to initiate certain maintenance activities and inspections, staffing limitations due to the number of employees on unpaid designated emergency leave, financial constraints and the need for heightened safety protocols, it is not possible to reopen all facilities and programs at once.

“With the announcement by the Premier earlier this week, we are all excited at the opportunity to get back to some of our everyday activities. In most cases, this will be gradual and will take some time,” said Woolwich Mayor Sandy Shantz. “The Municipality only learned about the specifics included in this new stage on Monday and, while staff have initiated the necessary preparations to bring facilities back online, there are a number of considerations we have to take into account. Above all, we want to reopen safely and ensure that we're not putting anyone at risk.”

As amenities gradually reopen in the coming weeks and months, residents will experience significant changes in service levels at facilities and how they operate. Residents should expect new safety measures which will include: reduced capacity at facilities to ensure physical distancing, time limits on how long they can use a facility in order to allow access for as many as possible, in some cases the need for appointments, traffic flow signage and physical distancing requirements. A framework for phased reopening of a number of facilities and amenities is being prepared and will be presented to Township of Woolwich Council on Tuesday June 16th.

In the next few weeks, the following facilities and amenities are set to reopen, with others reopening following a phased approach to ensure the safety of all.

### **Township Administration Building**

Beginning Monday, June 15, the Township Administration Building will reopen for select services that cannot be delivered in a virtual manner, online or by phone. Only select Township services will be available and the public is encouraged to complete services with staff via telephone or on-line and when this is not feasible to book appointments with staff in advance of attending the administration office in person in order to ensure that public health and safety objectives are met and staff are available to provide assistance.

### **Sports fields**

As per the Province's announcement that outdoor sports fields could be reopened for team practices, the Township will reopen fields as of Monday June 29th. Physical distancing measures will apply.

Township staff have also begun the recovery planning required for the re-opening of other amenities including the Splash pad, outdoor washrooms, aquatic facilities and community centres but, given the complexity of these operations and the prioritization required, they will take more time to re-open. Staff will make recommendations to Council about the prioritization of further re-openings to ensure that they can be adequately staffed, and that the additional costs of reopening are considered in the context of the Township's deficit projections for 2020 due to COVID-19 pressures.

When these other amenities do reopen, residents can expect reduced capacity, timed entry, physical distancing, and other safety measures in place, based on direction from the Province of Ontario and Waterloo Region Public Health.

To stay up to date on reopening details and current closures, visit [www.woolwich.ca/COVID19](http://www.woolwich.ca/COVID19) and Township of Woolwich social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for details. Updated information will be provided via the Township's website and social media accounts following the June 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. We thank the public in advance for your patience and understanding as we work to comply with the Provincial requirements and Public Health protocols.

---

For additional information, please contact:

Val Hummel, Township of Woolwich,  
Township of Woolwich Phone: (519) 669 - 6005  
Email: [vhummel@woolwich.ca](mailto:vhummel@woolwich.ca)