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MEDIA RELEASE

May 1, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO KEEP SAFETY TOP OF MIND THIS VICTORIA DAY

Woolwich, ON – May 1, 2020 – The Township of Woolwich, along with area municipalities across the Region of Waterloo, wish to remind residents to keep safety top of mind this Victoria Day.

To meet physical distancing guidelines, public firework displays will not be permitted and public events have been cancelled across the region for the May long weekend (May 16-18). Fireworks cannot be set off in municipal parks, sports fields, laneways, or on school board property.

Additionally, residents are encouraged to exercise caution with private backyard firework displays. This is due to provincially-imposed limitations on gatherings of more than 5 people not part of the same household as well as the possibility of tying up emergency resources.

Residents are asked to keep celebrations small and only to those within their household and consider the possibility of celebrating the holiday in different ways this year. Please note that municipal by-law officers will be enforcing current public health restrictions.

“Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks - devastating burns, other injuries, fires, and even death.” says Woolwich Fire Chief Dale Martin. “That’s why I and other Fire Chiefs in Waterloo Region are urging residents to keep their celebrations low key. We do not want to put additional pressure on emergency responders and hospitals.”

Leading up the long weekend, Woolwich Township will be sharing ideas to mark the long weekend on our Stay Home, Stay Active website at Woolwich.ca/StayActive. Or we can suggest celebrating by ordering a special meal or shopping locally. You can find restaurants and businesses still open on our website or in the Local Eats and Shop Local section of the Observer newspaper.

Anyone selling fireworks requires a license from their respective municipality in line with the municipality’s fireworks by-law. For full details on firework by-laws and safety, please contact your municipality directly or visit the website. Fireworks cannot be sold to anyone under the age of 18.

For full details on the Woolwich Township Fireworks By-law and safety, visit Woolwich.ca.

For additional information, please contact:

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