



April 2, 2020

For immediate release

Elgin County encourages residents to avoid heading to seasonal residences

COUNTY OF ELGIN – The County of Elgin is urging all residents and cottagers to avoid any non-essential travel, including heading to rural cottages and seasonal/secondary residences such as condominiums and trailer parks. The County of Elgin recognizes that while people might like to socially distance themselves at their cottage and/or seasonal residence during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, now is not the right time. Non-residents of Elgin, who are usually welcome in Elgin County, are being asked during this time to refrain from staying at their seasonal home and to consider the impacts a higher, unexpected presence can have on rural populations.

“We must work together during these times to maintain our community’s strength and resiliency,” said Warden Dave Mennill. “Normally we welcome seasonal friends. During this time we are encouraging cottagers, and seasonal property owners, to stay safe at home where supplies are much more easily accessible and medical treatment facilities are better equipped to handle higher volumes.”

For those who are already at their cottage, condominium, rural property or seasonal residence, the [Federation of Ontario Cottagers](#) has the following advice:

- ✓ Make sure you have obtained several weeks worth of provisions before leaving your community. Should you need anything urgent such as prescription medications, call ahead and see if there are options for a safe delivery or pick-up;
- ✓ Continue to maintain social distancing;
- ✓ Consider where your health needs can be best met in an emergency situation.

On March 29, 2020, Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, noted “Urban dwellers/Cottagers should resist the urge to head to the cottage and rural properties as these communities have less capacity to manage COVID-19.”

On March 27, 2020, Ontario Premier Doug Ford also asked residents in urban areas to avoid heading to their cottages and rural properties across the province during the Coronavirus pandemic, adding that rural areas may have more difficulty replenishing essential items if there is an added demand.

To stay informed on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Elgin and Oxford Counties, please visit the Southwestern Public Health website at: www.swpublichealth.ca or Elgin County’s dedicated COVID-19 website at: www.elgincounty.ca/covid-19-information

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