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For immediate release

Elgin County beaches preparing to open as soon as Monday, June 22nd, 2020

COUNTY OF ELGIN – Opening of public beaches in Elgin County, including those in Port Burwell, Port Bruce and Port Stanley, could be open as soon as Monday, June 22nd, 2020 if current conditions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Elgin County continue to be maintained. “We know that people are eager for our beaches to open as soon as possible” stated Elgin County Warden Dave Mennill. “Opening of our beaches is imminent and will occur as soon as June 22nd if our successful efforts to date to contain COVID-19 continue but we do ask for the public’s patience as we take the time to properly prepare these beaches for a safe re-opening.”

Planning for the re-opening of public beaches in Elgin County is proceeding under the following considerations and regulations:

- Signs will be posted to remind visitors of the need to practice social distancing of at least 2 metres with those who do not reside in the same household. Observing this is a shared responsibility.
- Public washrooms will be open and will be cleaned on a regular basis but visitors are urged to review safety guidelines issued by Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) prior to visiting, and to bring their own provisions for hand sanitation.
- Gatherings of more than ten people are prohibited according to the Province of Ontario’s emergency order in response to the pandemic.
- The Ontario Provincial Police and Municipal By-law Enforcement will be conducting regular patrols of all Elgin County beaches.

“Crowded beaches where physical distancing is not observed will only result in closed beaches and no one wants that. We all have a shared responsibility to use public spaces wisely given that the threat from COVID-19 remains real” stated Warden Mennill. Circumstances are subject to change based on on-going advice from the Province of Ontario and SWPH. SWPH will be leading a communications campaign to educate the public on safe and responsible use of beaches throughout the summer. Stay informed on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Elgin County by visiting the **SWPH website**.

For additional information, please contact:

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