

For Immediate Release

## **Municipality of Brockton COVID-19 Update on Municipal Orders, Facilities and Events**

**Brockton, ON, May 15, 2020** – The Municipality of Brockton continues to remain vigilant in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the numbers of reported COVID-19 cases in Grey and Bruce Counties are declining, residents are reminded to respect physical distancing requirements and avoid gatherings of more than five (5) people.

### **Walkerton Centennial Pool Closure:**

Unfortunately, the Municipality of Brockton was faced with the difficult decision to close the Walkerton Centennial Pool for the 2020 season due anticipated operating restrictions related to Covid-19 as well as delayed timelines for completing necessary capital repairs. The Splashpad and Washrooms at the Walkerton Centennial Pool may be opened in the coming months depending on the orders lifted by the Province of Ontario

### **Brockton Burn Ban:**

The Chief Fire Official for Brockton has lifted the open air burn ban as of 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2020 in accordance with Bruce County Fire Chiefs. The burn ban was issued on April 2, 2020 in an effort to avoid additional demands on first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residents wishing to enjoy a small open-air fire must continue to follow the [Municipality of Brockton's Open Air Burn By-Law 2017-034](#), as well as all provincial orders under the authority of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* to restrict social gatherings. These changing orders will restrict the number of people gathering at a fire. Please check current restrictions at [Ontario.ca/Coronavirus](https://Ontario.ca/Coronavirus) or [PublicHealthGreyBruce.on.ca](https://PublicHealthGreyBruce.on.ca).

Fire departments remind residents of the following open-air burning safety precautions:

- Remove all vegetation and other material that could spread the fire prior to burning
- Burn only clean, dry wood (burning of waste is prohibited)
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Keep the fire on a non-combustible surface and away from other combustibles
- Have an adequate supply of water available to extinguish the fire

**Residents are reminded that the Open Air Burn By-Law prohibits burn barrels and incinerators at all times.**

Please call the Municipal Office at 519-881-2223 to obtain an agricultural burn permit. Permits are not required for recreational campfires.

Fireworks are not recommended at this time for health and safety and fire response reasons.

### **Brockton Community Garden Reopened:**

As of today, the Brockton Community Garden, located on Jane Street in Walkerton will reopen with certain restrictions. On April 25, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced that Community Gardens could reopen provided appropriate physical distancing could be maintained. The Municipality of Brockton has implemented a safe plan with increased protocols to reopen the Community Garden to ensure that no more than five (5) plot owners may visit the garden at one time.

### **Order Prohibiting Garage Sales:**

On May 8, 2020 Mayor Peabody issued an Order prohibiting residents from participating in or visiting garage sales in the Municipality of Brockton based on recommendations made by the Grey Bruce Health Unit. Garage Sales pose health risks as there is limited ability to reduce the number of visitors to less than five (5) and most transactions that occur require using cash.

### **Brockton Doors Open Event Cancelled:**

The Brockton Doors Open Event was originally scheduled for September 2020 to showcase Brockton's historical buildings, private homes and interesting landmarks. The Doors Open Event has been postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 related risks associated with touring private homes. The cancellation of the event complies with Provincial Orders restricting gatherings over five (5) people, physical distancing, and ensures the safety and protection of our residents. We must continue to remain vigilant to protect all residents in our community.

### **Further Information:**

The Municipality of Brockton will continue to obtain information and updates from the County of Bruce, The Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Province of Ontario and other health agencies and will provide new information to residents when available. The Municipality of Brockton will continue to take all steps necessary to maintain essential services for our residents and local businesses. Please visit [Brockton.ca/COVID19](https://Brockton.ca/COVID19) for updated information for residents and [Brockton.ca/BusinessRecovery](https://Brockton.ca/BusinessRecovery) for updated information about businesses, or call the municipal office at 519-881-2223.