

Fire Chief Ron Jenkins briefing to Council – Sept. 9, 2020

On Aug. 12, Council was advised that no other waterfront beaches, parks or parking lots would be opened with the exception of De La Salle Beach and Park. The measures and the efforts put into the reopening were a success. Physical distancing was maintained and the number of beach attendees was controlled with no significant issues.

Labour Day has come and gone, and as such, De La Salle Park will see a reduced level of staffing from now through to the end of the Thanksgiving Weekend (Oct. 12.) The portable toilets will be removed this week and the fast fencing will be tentatively removed the week of Sept. 14.

Beginning the week of Sept. 8 through to Friday, Oct. 9, all other waterfront parks, beaches and parking lots will be reopened in a staged and measured process. Operations will be removing fencing, installing signage, removing barriers and padlocks within parking lots, opening playgroup equipment, and replacing waste receptacles and portable toilets (if necessary – portable toilets will be placed in areas that would normally have had a portable toilet for the season – which ends after Thanksgiving weekend). Dates are tentative and subject to change if required and weather dependent.

Pefferlaw Park Dam, Mill Pond and Virginia Wharf will be the first areas to be reopened in the first phase starting Sept. 8.

EOC approved the implementation of the marriage licence pilot project which was initiated on Sept. 3. All necessary protocols and procedures have been put into place to ensure the safety of staff and the applicants.

As communicated on Aug. 25, the use of garbage bag tags will be reinstated the week of Sept. 28. On Sept. 3, Communications issued a social media post and updated the Town's website.

The roadway digital signs are to be removed after Sept. 18.

Beginning the week of Sept. 12 through to Dec. 15, with the exception of the Civic Centre, the reopening of facilities and amenities will be implemented in a staged process. Communications issued a news release on social media on Sept. 8, directing residents to the Town website for more specific details on the facilities to be opened and the tentative reopening dates. The first areas to be reopened will be the Georgina Ice Palace (Sept. 14); the Link (Sept. 19) and Georgina Public Library (all branches) (Sept.

22.) Current bookings from the Georgina Ice, Minor Hockey Association, figure skating and third-party users are being met through the use of the two ice pads at the Georgina Ice Palace.

The reopening of all three branches of Georgina Public Library is scheduled for Sept. 22. All three branches will have consistent but reduced hours of operation. Further information will be provided and communicated as we move closer to the reopening dates.

As we move into the new school year I want to remind our residents to be vigilant on maintaining physical distancing, the wearing of masks and hand washing.

We have entered a new phase with the reopening of schools and activities moving more indoors. It will take time to determine what the impact if any this will have on the number of COVID cases. The province announced yesterday, Sept. 8, that it will not be relaxing any further public health measures for the next month.

We must continue to do our part to control the spread of this virus. By following public health guidelines, maintaining physical distancing, wearing of a mask if unable to maintain physical distance as well as frequent hand washing and maintaining your social circle.