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TOWNSHIP OF
Southwold



Municipality of
Dutton Dunwich



MUNICIPALITY OF
West Elgin



May 15, 2020

For immediate release

Some outdoor spaces such as parks remain closed for the May long weekend

COUNTY OF ELGIN – As the first long weekend of the season approaches, the County of Elgin would like to remind all Elgin County residents, seasonal residents, cottagers and valued visitors to act responsibly and continue to avoid all non-essential travel. Travelling of any kind increases the chance for the spread of illness.

Historically, the May long weekend marks the beginning of a busy season in Elgin County. “We know this weekend is usually the kick-off to the summer season where we welcome visitors to enjoy our local establishments, parks, campgrounds and beaches” said Elgin County Warden, Dave Mennill. “However, the on-going global pandemic requires us to continue to be cautious. If we follow health recommendations and do this right, soon we will be able to return to the Elgin County that we know and love.”

The following remains in place:

- Gatherings of more than five people are not currently permitted anywhere in Ontario, excluding families who live together.
- People in Elgin County are both allowed and encouraged to go outside every day for exercise and fresh air, as long as they keep two metres away from anyone they don't live with.
- Municipal parks remain closed except for walk throughs. This means that playgrounds, tennis courts, off-leash dog parks, outdoor exercise fixtures, benches and anything else cordoned off by yellow tape or fencing is off-limits. Municipalities reserve the right to close parks and amenities in the interest of public safety.

Cottagers or those with secondary residences who are considering relocating to their Elgin County properties or are already there, are asked to consider the following:

- Local stores, beaches, municipal parks and trails and many local services remain closed.
- Physical distancing recommendations outlined by Southwestern Public Health officials are still in place including; maintaining a 2-metre distance from others at all times, avoiding crowds or gatherings of any kind, engaging in group activities or visiting popular destinations.
- All non-essential outings should be avoided including; day-tripping to local communities, and socializing with people not in your own household.

Those seeking to utilize marinas, private parks and private campgrounds should consult with owner / operators regarding specific operating requirements and must also follow all health protocols such as physical distancing. Aylmer Police, OPP and law enforcement agencies will be actively enforcing all provincial laws and orders throughout the weekend.

Circumstances are subject to change based on on-going advice from Southwestern Public Health. Stay informed on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Elgin County by visiting the **Southwestern Public Health website**. “Please do not put yourself or your loved ones or neighbours at risk of exposure. Be safe and stay healthy,” said Elgin County Warden, Dave Mennill.

For additional information, please contact:
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