



News Release

For immediate release

Mayor Facio's Message to Residents

April 23, 2020

Dear Residents:

On behalf of Council, we hope that you are keeping healthy and trying to maintain a sense of normality in these difficult times. From what I've observed throughout the Village, I have been impressed and thank you all for maintaining your physical distance from one another.

I would like to emphasize that the Province is under a State of Emergency and the Provincial Health Officer has the authority at this time to provide guidance and orders to municipalities on how we move forward during this COVID-19 situation.

As you all must appreciate, Hot Springs Road is a Provincial Highway which runs through the community and travels east on Lillooet Avenue. I have received requests to close the highway at the intersection of Highways 7 and 9 or to block access to the Village at Hot Springs Road and McPherson Road. This is not possible for many factors, including emergency vehicle access, District of Kent residents who live on Rockwell Drive, traffic from logging roads and general deliveries. The measures that have been put in place to discourage non-essential travel to the Village are working. How long we continue to block access to beachfront parking and maintain facility closures will depend on the actions and advice coming from our Provincial Health Officials.

The messages have not changed:

RESIDENTS: IF YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GO OUT, STAY AT (OR NEAR) HOME.

VISITORS: STAY AWAY FROM SMALL COMMUNITIES AND DO NOT TRAVEL.

EVERYONE: REMEMBER TO LOOK OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER

I am in touch with all fourteen resort municipalities and we are all very much in the same position and communicating the same message to visitors.

It has come to my attention that an independent person or group has fabricated a document that contains a quote from a recent Village news release. It also stated that the Village Bylaw Enforcement Officers are on duty and that license plates are being recorded. These misleading documents were placed on vehicle windshields to deter people from parking on streets. This notice did not come from

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the Village and is not consistent with our messaging or practices. To those who did this, please discontinue this practice.

The business community needs our help and it is important for the whole community that they are able to reopen and have a comeback. Please shop local whenever possible. There is a current list of businesses that are open on the Tourism Harrison website: <https://www.tourismharrison.com/stakeholder-updates>.

As of Tuesday, April 21st, Dr. Bonnie Henry mentioned that certain types of businesses, including restaurants, may be able to open later in May. They will likely still be required to limit capacity to no more than 50 people and maintain the physical distancing rule. With this virus is changing every day, communities (not just ours) find themselves in a waiting game trying to gauge how to move forward. I appreciate your patience and understanding.

There are many resources available for those who are needing assistance at this time. Please do not hesitate to contact the Village office if you are looking for information or visit our COVID-19 Information page: <https://www.harrisonhotsprings.ca/covid-19-information/>
For those who are able, please donate to the food bank with food items or cash.

To Dr. Henry, all our frontline workers, truck drivers, grocery store workers and those working at food banks and other support agencies. thank you for all that you are doing. To our Village staff and crew, thank you for keeping the operations of the Village functioning smoothly.

This week, the Canadian flags throughout the Village were lowered to show our respect for those who lost their lives in Nova Scotia and to show our deep condolences for their grieving families. God bless them all.

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