



Office of the Warden

Dear Residents,

On behalf of our Council, I want to reach out to each of you during what has become uncharted territory for us. I hope that you and your families are doing ok and are finding ways to cope with our new reality. Although in recent memory we have had to deal with viruses like SARS and Zika, among others, none have come close to having an impact like the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on our daily lives. For the most up to date information please visit novascotia.ca/coronavirus. For more information on the MODG Pandemic Plan and our Controls and Measures Document, please visit <http://www.modg.ca/residents/news/covid19>

As a Municipality, the provision of our essential services, such as water and sewer, waste collection and landfill services, fire protection, emergency measures operations, etc. are operating as per normal. Following the implementation by the Province of the State of Emergency, all provincial and municipal parks, playgrounds, trails, and outdoor recreation facilities are closed to the public. As you are probably aware, all of our municipal buildings are closed to the public although the buildings are staffed during regular working hours. To ensure business continuity, we have staff working on a shift system of two days on and two days off, for the foreseeable future.

Please note that although regular waste collection continues, the 'end of month' bulk garbage collection and the Spring Bulk Container programs have been suspended until further notice, and additionally the Waste Management Facility is closed on Saturday's.

On March 16th, your Council adopted the Municipal Budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. More than three years ago, Council implemented a five year budgeting process, and that alone, helped us immensely in dealing with a loss of commercial taxes from the gas industry that exceeds \$3,000,000.00 per year. We have had to re-invent the way we do business, but Council is happy to report that there will be no tax increases in this fiscal year, and no loss of services to our residents. Tax and utility bills will go out in early April, and residents and businesses will have until the end of August to pay without interest being charged. Interest will continue to be charged on overdue bills from last year. Additionally, given the fact that our offices are closed to the public, starting on April 1st and going until August 31st, residents will be able to pay their bills using Visa, Mastercard, or American Express, along with online banking or by mail.

Finally, as part of the Budget for this year, Council was very pleased to announce a donation of \$100,000.00 to help build a home for the Guysborough and Area Food Bank. We plan on holding an event in the future to seek everyone's help in building the facility and in helping to stock the shelves. We have titled the event "[Raise the Roof for the Guysborough and Area Food Bank...and stock the shelves](#)". More details to come. And given the current added strain that our volunteers face with the Coronavirus, Council made a contribution of \$10,000 to the Foodbank to help those who are finding it a little tougher right now to stock their own shelves.

Stay Safe, Social Distance yourself, Self-Isolate as required, and be Kind to your Neighbour.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (902)-533-3705.

Take Care,

Warden Vernon Pitts