



What's Happening in Southgate During COVID-19

519-923-2110 • www.southgate.ca

Administration Business Continuity

The Southgate Administration Office has been closed to the public until Provincial COVID-19 Emergency Declaration has been lifted. Staff continue to work through today's challenges, provide customer service, maintain essential services, support a healthy community and ensure public safety. Please be patient when calling in as phone lines are experiencing high traffic volumes. We will respond back to you as soon as we can. Incoming mail, payments and tenders can still be dropped off at the Municipal Office at Hopeville, between the front doors during our regular office hours (Monday to Friday 8:30am-4:00pm) and will be collected by staff and processed following 72 hours of isolation. Please continue to monitor our website COVID-19 Information page for updates and communication from staff.

Future Council Meetings

Council meetings are able to resume electronically. Two Special Council Meetings have been called on April 1, 2020 @ 9:00 AM and April 8, 2020 @ 9:00 AM. Meetings will be held in a conference call setting and members of the public can listen in by calling **1 (647) 497-9373** and entering access code **# 990-730-221**. For public access it is best to wait until the start time of the scheduled meeting to dial in. If an electronic connection or quorum of Council cannot be established in the first 15 minutes of the meeting, it will automatically be postponed and will begin at 7:00 PM on the same day. If you have any questions regarding Council meetings please direct them to Lindsey Green, Acting Clerk at **lgreen@southgate.ca** or by calling 519-923-2110 and leaving a detailed message at extension 230.

Property Taxes & Other Municipal Payments

At this time, the 2020 tax instalment due dates remain unchanged. Staff will be reviewing options with Council to provide relief. At this point in time we will not be adding penalties or interest charges to property taxes or water billings. Once we have the opportunity and the powers to meet with Council to discuss as well as address ratepayer billings issues, a decision will be made that is consistent with other Grey County municipalities.

Tax Sales

The Property Tax Sales scheduled for April 2, 2020 have been cancelled. The Township will restart the process and re-advertise after the Provincial Emergency Declaration has been lifted.

Tenders

The opening of the Lawn Maintenance, Water & Wastewater Rates Study and Hot Mix Paving Tenders will be delayed until April 9, 2020 @ 1:00 PM. This however DOES NOT CHANGE THE CLOSING DATES. Tenders must be submitted by the advertised date and time. Bidders and members of the public can listen in via a conference call line or watch live video streaming through our "Go To Meeting" link. If you wish to attend via telephone, please call **1-647-497-9373** and enter access code **866-804-557** or through this "Go To Meeting" link to live access the tender opening process **<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/866804557>**

Fire Department

The Fire Department is still fully operational and will continue to respond to emergency calls. Anyone who calls 9-1-1 be advised you will be asked a couple of standard screening questions from the operator. Residents are asked to answer these questions truthfully so all responders can take precaution if needed to provide the best service possible.

Building Department

The Building Department is continuing to perform all mandatory inspections, using current COVID -19 safety precautions for staff and clients. Please be patient when requesting inspections/permit applications as staff are working separately from remote locations and the process may take a little longer; advanced notification is advised. For building concerns continue to call 519-923-2110 extension 242, or email **cmaltais@southgate.ca**.

Municipal Planning

The Township's Planning Department is still available for public inquiries during regular office hours. To contact the planner please call 519-923-2110 ext. 235. The best way to receive a quick response from the planner is via email at **cstredwick@southgate.ca**. The Province of Ontario with its emergency legislation has still not enabled local municipalities to hold public meetings under the Planning Act. Until this is rectified, we are unable to hold any Public Planning Meetings.

Recreation

All recreational facilities have been closed and programs cancelled until the Provincial COVID-19 Emergency Declaration has been cancelled. The health and safety of our patrons – especially children – is a top priority for Southgate Parks. We are still seeing social distancing not being adhered to in our playground areas and sports courts in Dundalk. **Effective today we will be closing all Southgate playground areas and sports courts** to the public access and signs will be posted as soon as possible. Parklands and trails are still open for walking and exercise, but we urge you to practice social distancing to protect your family.

Library Services & Programs

Until further notice the library will be closed to the public and all programs are cancelled. Patrons can access e-books and e-audiobooks through Overdrive and the Libby App. Tumblebooks has offered free access to e-books and e-audiobooks until August. All

information and links can be found in the e-library section of southgate-library.com. For any questions regarding these resources leave a message at 519-923-3248 or email **lrussell@southgate.ca**. Staff will respond as quickly as possible. Library books can be returned to the outside book drop. Fines will be waived for items due during this closure.

Roads Department

Roads staff have been cutting trees with social distance practices in place. This work in preparation for the reconstruction of roads in 2020 and 2021. We also have staff patrolling our roads, pavement patching and grading gravel roads as weather conditions permit.

Waste Collection

Waste curbside collection continues to proceed as scheduled. The Dundalk and Egremont Transfer Stations remain open, with the only changes being that payment is not being collected and residents will be invoiced at a later date. For the protection of our staff and social distancing the Reuse Centres at both sites are closed.

Water Operations

Water Operators continue with our daily inspection routines, as well as our daily and weekly drinking water sampling and testing protocols continue to meet the Ministry of Environment Conservation & Parks regulations. The Wastewater collection systems is functioning normally, and treatment plant is in it's annual seasonal turnover condition with influent waters being held in the lagoons. Water Operators are each working independently and distancing when it comes to travel, equipment operations and performing their site duties. An important note for the public is we please ask you to only flush toilet paper down the toilet at any time to avoid pipeline blockages on your property and pumps clogging at the treatment plant. Both can be very expensive to you as a property owner and to municipal wastewater operations, which you also pay for as well in your water bill

Township of Southgate – Emergency Declaration Updates

To the Community of Southgate:

I want to personally reach out to each of you on behalf of the Council and staff for the Township of Southgate to inform of the impact of COVID-19 on our Community.

This is a very challenging time for all of us. In the last 14 days we have seen increased Federal and Provincial restrictions and rules imposed on each of us, that will speed up the process to flatten the curve of the virus spread in time. Our lives have been changed, but we all must be patient and do our part. We will get through this, but please do everything we are told to stop the spread of COVID-19. We have information on our website under COVID-19 or you can contact the Health Unit for support. The health of our citizens and our community is of the utmost importance.

Further to the press release from the Township of Southgate on March 16, 2020, we want to provide another update on what the Township is doing and how the municipal services are operating during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As part of this messaging release we have provided an update on the status of future Southgate Council meetings, present municipal operations and rescheduling information for tenders and the tax sale process.

We are at the ready today, to support you and deliver the essential services we all require as a community. We also need to be prepared and ready when the Provincial Government lifts their Emergency Declaration to get back to work and our regular way of life. It may take a while, but patience and working together with social distancing and precautions will get us there in time. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely
Mayor John Woodbury
Township of Southgate

Post Council Meeting–Emergency Question & Answer

In order to keep close contact with our community members, our Mayor and Southgate staff are offering a Conference Call Question and Answer session after each council meeting where members of the community can call in and discuss concerns with the COVID-19 situation within the community and ask questions they have at this time. This call is meant as an additional tool for people that need more information or have concerns specifically related to the COVID-19 situation. To access the Council Meeting and/or the Southgate Q & A session you call **1-647-497-9373** and enter the access number **990-730-221**.

Contact Information

Here are resources for COVID-19:

If you have symptoms or need medical answers: Call your primary care giver, Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000 or South East Grey Community Health Centre 519-986-2222

If you have general questions about COVID-19 or updates:

Grey-Bruce Health Unit: 519-376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456

Ontario website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Canada Website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html2>

Township of Southgate's Website: <https://www.southgate.ca/en/local-government/covid-19-information.aspx>

Emergency Declaration

On March 27, 2020 at 12:00 PM Township of Southgate Mayor John Woodbury declared a municipal wide state of emergency in accordance with the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. This declaration aligns with the Government of Ontario's Declaration of Emergency made March 17, 2020.

This declaration is a precaution being taken by the Township in order to access additional Provincial and Federal resources and funding to help control the spread of the virus should the need arise.

Declaring an emergency authorizes the Municipality to take action or make orders, which are not contrary to law, in order to protect the residents in our community.

This declaration is **NOT** to further instill fear and panic in our residents, and you are not required to take any further action or response as a result of this declaration. Please continue to practice safe social distancing and self-isolation as per Public Health's directives.

COVID-19 Information

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) causes a respiratory infection that originated in Wuhan, China.

The symptoms of COVID-19 Include:

- Cough
- Fever
- Difficulty Breathing



Anyone that begins to feel unwell with these symptoms should return home and self-isolate immediately. If you think you could have the virus, call your primary care provider or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

This virus is spread mainly from person to person through close contact. The following remain the best measures for preventing illness:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Sneezing and cough into your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoid contact with people who are sick and stay at home if you are sick
- Clean and disinfect high-touch objects and surfaces frequently
- Practice social distancing including person-to-person contact, no group gatherings, keeping 6 feet/2 metres distance from each other