

## TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY

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# Press Release

**To: All Media and Neighbours of the Township of Georgian Bay**

**From: Mayor Peter Koetsier**

**Date: Friday, April 3, 2020**

**Subject: COVID-19 – Please stay at your Primary Residence**

**Pages: Two**

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One week ago, the Township of Georgian Bay declared an emergency and encouraged our residents to modify their behaviour in line with Federal, Provincial, and Board of Health guidance on how to respond to the challenges of COVID-19.

Today we are updating and reinforcing these guidelines.

Since last week, our Premier has further emphasized the seriousness of this pandemic in Ontario, including strongly encouraging everyone to remain at their primary residences. This afternoon, after releasing very sobering projections, he strongly stated:

### **PLEASE STAY HOME.**

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, has also urged Canadians to stay home, and not travel to their cottages. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has implemented a Restricted Fire Zone from our Township north to ensure emergency response capacity during the COVID-19 outbreak.

**I am asking you to please listen to these leaders who want only to keep all of us safe.**

In Georgian Bay, many of our marinas are not yet open, and any activity on site is because they are working hard to get ready for spring. Our operators are facing record high water levels if they are on Georgian Bay, and low levels on inland lakes.

Spring has come earlier this year. Naturally, many of you would want to get to your cottage as soon as possible.

**But please don't.**

Please understand that our first responders team is very concerned about their ability to reach remote and water-access only residences at this time of year. They are already stretched to their limits due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please understand that all residents are doing their best to minimize COVID-19 infection in our communities, including physical distancing and staying home as much as possible.

This afternoon, Premier Ford, after significantly reducing the list of essential services, pleaded "**Please stay home.**"

As of tomorrow, marinas are no longer deemed an essential service except to the extent they enable individuals to reach their **primary place of residence.**

In other words, **going to your cottage is not worth risking lives.**

This is not about you. This is about our first responders and our medical personnel, this is about our seniors and our more vulnerable members of our communities, and this is about all of us and our families.

Please always remember, every single person is a possible carrier of COVID-19.

Please stay safe. Please stay home. For the sake of everyone.

Thank you.

Mayor Peter Koetsier

For municipal information that matters to you, please visit our website at [www.gbtownship.ca](http://www.gbtownship.ca).

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We are on Facebook @Township of Georgian Bay Muskoka  
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#muskokacovidready

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