

TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY

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Press Release

To: Residents, Media, Neighbours of the Township of Georgian Bay
From: Mayor Peter Koetsier
Date: Friday, May 8, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 – Marina and boat launch ramp restrictions to be lifted
Pages: Two

This morning, I was advised by both Premier Ford and Minister Vic Fedeli that the list of essential services provided by marinas would be expanded, through the simple dropping of one word, to now include:

“Any other services that may be required to: i. enable individuals to access their place of residence”.

In other words, your residence no longer needs to be ‘primary’.

While we have not yet received written confirmation, I was assured this would be effective as soon as documents were signed – which they said would be today.

Consequently, staff have been instructed to open up the boat launch ramps that are used for access to residences, consistent with our resolution of April 14, 2020.

Now all residents will be able to get to their properties. Fairness has been restored.

However, this does NOT mean things are back to normal. Marinas would still not allowed to serve recreational boaters and non-residents. Everyone is still strongly encouraged to follow the health and safety guidelines issued by the Province.

Everyone’s health should remain our top priority.

Please – maintain physical distancing. The next few weeks, including the Victoria Day weekend, are not the time for family gatherings, fires, guests, or social events. Please behave as though you are an asymptomatic carrier of COVID-19.

Please - respect all the guidelines and procedures put in place by your marina, for their safety as well as yours. And please be patient – marinas have not had time to launch most boats, and they have had significant extra work due to the record high spring water levels and the storm surges.

Please – understand that contractors and other businesses in our area are still under restrictions and doing their best to stay safe. They may not be able to serve you as well or as quickly as you might wish. Again, please be patient.

On a more personal note, **thank you** to our District Chair, John Klinck, and our M.P.P., Norm Miller, for their support in getting access for all residents in front of the Province. Certainly, **thank you** to our Premier, Doug Ford, who clearly heard my plea during the Mayors’ teleconference discussion Wednesday afternoon, and who called me this morning with the news. Also, a sincere **thank you** to those who wrote or called in regard to their concerns about the marina restrictions.

Please stay safe. Please stay respectful. Do everything you can to stop the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve.

Thank you. *Peter*

Mayor Peter Koetsier

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We are on Facebook @Township of Georgian Bay Muskoka

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#muskokacovidready

For Further information, please contact

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