

## Mayor's Blog – July 17, 2020

There have been zero active COVID19 cases in Zorra for many weeks, and very few in Oxford as a whole. That is why, as part of the Southwestern Public Health region, we have proceeded to stage 3 of reopening businesses and municipal services. You have been doing a fantastic job for your community!

Now, and as this continues, Zorra Staff will consult with Southwestern Public Health and make informed judgements about how to safely re-open, please follow Township social media, website, and signs. Remember that all the controls have been to flatten the curve, NOT to prevent any and all transmission, that is not possible. If we all follow the rules about gatherings and physical distancing, and the recommendations about washing hands, and wearing face coverings when you can't physically distance, then the infection rate will remain low, businesses and services can stay open, and more can open. If we don't follow the rules and there is significantly increased transmission or need for enforcement, then businesses and services will be shut down again.

Public Health experts are preparing for a potential "second wave" and face coverings will probably be a key part of preparation for that.

Mandatory wearing of face coverings shouldn't be a decision made by politicians. We have Public Health experts we should rely on for their expert advice.

I want businesses and services that have opened to stay open, I want more to open.

I want people to be able to go back to work, and kids to go back to school.

I want my community to be safe.

I can't tell if I have Covid, I could be pre-symptomatic, or asymptomatic.

Our public health experts tell us there is growing evidence from around the world that face coverings can reduce the spread.

So, from now on when I'm out in shops or closed spaces where I can't physically distance...I'm doing my part by wearing a face covering to protect my community.

On July 8th the Provincial Government introduced the "COVID- 19 Economic Recovery Act" which is of general interest obviously, but is of particular interest to Zorra residents because it promises to "provide more local say on future landfill sites". Specifically, the proposed legislation says "New section 6.0.1 in Part II requires a proponent of an undertaking to establish a landfilling site to obtain municipal support for the undertaking in accordance with that section. An equivalent section is included in Part II.3 with respect to projects to establish landfilling sites." Basically, if passed, it will give all Ontario municipalities the choice as to whether they want to host a private landfill or not. This has been a long-standing position of Zorra Township Council and we have made many presentations to our local MPP and the Minister of the Environment requesting this right. This bill is not yet passed and is not yet law, but it has a very high probability of being passed this summer. Please continue to submit comments to Walker at [walker.com](http://walker.com).

For over a year I have been involved in discussions within Oxford and with our municipal neighbours who received provincial grants for trial bus transit systems and there is a great opportunity to have a system that could serve Zorra residents. In Middlesex there is a potential Woodstock-Ingersoll-Thamesford-Dorchester-London route and in Perth a potential Stratford-Embro-Tavistock-New Hamburg route and beyond to develop a

regional bus transit system. The intent is that the reach of those systems would have links to other systems.

The Oxford Drive-in is open! And yes, this is a Zorra business! What a challenging time to open a business, but also just what we all need right now. Please consider going out and supporting local by enjoying a movie!

Please continue to do your part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Practice physical distancing by staying at least 2 metres apart
- Wear a face covering when you can't physically distance
- Wash your hands
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue
- Dispose of tissue immediately and wash your hands
- Keep surfaces clean and disinfected

If we all do our part, we can reduce the spread of infection.

As always, follow the advice of Southwestern Public Health:

<https://www.swpublichealth.ca/content/community-update-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

As always, please feel free to contact me on any issue:

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